



APPROACH – ANSWER: G. S. MAINS MOCK TEST - 2343 (2024)

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks. **12.5X20=250**

1. *India has a very rich and long tradition of paintings. Discuss with special focus on mural paintings.*

Approach:

- Substantiate the given statement with examples.
- Discuss with examples the tradition of mural paintings from various parts of India.
- Conclude appropriately

Answer:

India has one of the greatest traditions of painting. It has developed through time accommodating different religious beliefs, cultural and regional traditions, social and political aspirations of rulers and masses.

Indian painting tradition goes back to the paleolithic age to the rock paintings of Bhimbetka, and Lakhudiyar. These rock paintings were represented by lines and geometric patterns. **Vishnudharmottara Purana** has a chapter named **Chitrasutra** (5th century AD), which presents specifics about the traditions of paintings. It should be considered as a source book of Indian art in general and painting specifically. The painting tradition later developed from mural paintings to miniature paintings, portrait paintings, imperial paintings etc. These different styles of paintings got patronized by different rulers and regions leading to development of different schools of paintings as Rajasthani School, Gujrati School, Pahadi School etc.

Mural paintings, which are drawn directly on walls are among the most distinguishing features of Indian art and painting tradition. Following are a few examples of mural paintings that can be found from across India.

- **Ajanta murals:** Ajanta is the only surviving example of painting of the first century BCE and the fifth century CE. The subject matter of these paintings is almost exclusively Buddhist, mostly associated with the Jataka. Notable painting of this cave is of **Padmapani**, which is a beautifully ornamented life size image of the Bodhisattva.
- **Ellora murals:** Paintings drawn on the ceiling of Kailashnath Temple dedicated to lord Shiva are impressive illustrations of excellence of craftsmanship of that time. It was developed under the patronage of Rashtrakuta king Krishna I.
- **Sittanavasal murals:** These are intimately connected with Jain themes and symbolism. The contours of these paintings are firmly drawn dark on a light red ground. Notable art includes a decorative scene of great beauty, a lotus pool with birds, elephants, buffaloes and a young man plucking flowers.
- **Chola murals:** Under Raja Raja Chola, the paintings were executed on the walls of Brihadeshwara temple, they show various narrations and aspects related to Lord Shiva.
- **Vijayanagar murals: The Virupaksha temple at Hampi** have paintings on the ceiling of its mandapa narrating events from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Walls of **Lepakshi temple** are fine examples of evolved pictorial language of Vijayanagar tradition wherein the faces are shown in profile and figures and objects in two-dimensional.

- **Kerala murals:** Kerala painters have combined traditions from Nayaka and Vijayanagara Schools. These murals have an element of local tradition of kathakali, Ramayana, Mahabharat and kalam ezhuthu. Murals are drawn using vibrant and luminous colors, representing human figures in three-dimensionality. It can be seen at Krishnapuram palace, Padmanabhapuram palace, Trissur Vadakkunathan temple etc.

The long and rich tradition of Indian painting needs to be preserved and promoted. Initiatives like the Wall of Peace, modern mural art on the 700-feet long compound wall at Cherpulassery (Kerala) is a step in this direction.

2. *Bring out the main contributions of the Mauryan empire to Indian culture and heritage.*

Approach:

- Write a brief introduction about the Mauryan empire.
- Bring out the contributions of the Mauryan empire to Indian heritage and culture.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

By the fourth century BCE, **Chandragupta Maurya**, with the help of **Chanakya**, overthrew the **Nandas** and established the rule of the **Mauryan Dynasty**. Mauryan Empire made immense contributions to Indian heritage and culture which is given below:

- **Spread of material culture:** The Mauryan Period witnessed rapid development of material culture in the Gangetic basin which was based on an intensive use of iron, plenty of punch marked coins, abundance of beautiful pottery called Northern black polished ware, and above all the rise of towns in India.
- **Contribution to Architecture:**
 - **Pillars:** The Mauryan pillars are rock-cut pillars thus displaying the carver's skills. Such pillars were erected to disseminate the Buddhist ideology and court orders in the entire Mauryan empire. For instance, Pillar edict I deals with Ashoka's principle of protection of people and Pillar edict IV deals with the duties of Rajukas (officers).
 - **Stupas:** There were numerous stupas constructed earlier but new additions were made during this period. Apart from the circumambulatory path, gateways were added. Gradually narrative became a part of the Buddhist tradition and thus events from the life of the Buddha, **the Jataka stories**, were depicted on the **railings** and **toranas** of the stupas.
 - **Caves:** Mauryan period also saw the earliest known examples of rock-cut cave architecture in India. These caves contain a beautifully decorated façade, rectangular caves with circular chambers at the back, and polishing inside the cave. For ex., **Lomas Rishi cave** at Barabar hills near Gaya in Bihar.
 - **Inscriptions:** Inscriptions are unique in their style and content, and form a rich source of information on Ashoka's political ideas and practice. These inscriptions throw light on some aspects of Ashoka's administration and on his relationship with Buddhism.
- **Contribution to Art:**
 - **Sculpture:** The work of local sculptors illustrates the popular art of the Mauryan Period. The distinguishing elements of this period are the polished surfaces, full round faces, and physiognomic details. For ex., a life-size standing image of a Yakshini from Didarganj.
 - **Pottery:** Mauryan period consists of many types of wares but the most highly developed technique is **Northern Black polished ware (NBPW)**, which was the hallmark of the preceding and early Mauryan Periods. It is made of finely levigated alluvial clay with peculiar luster and brilliance.
- **Religion:** The Mauryans' tolerant approach helped to flourish three diverse religions in India: Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism. Jainism and Buddhism flourished under the Maurya empire as these religions received royal patronage from **Chandragupta Maurya** and **Ashoka** respectively. Under Ashoka, Buddhism was widely propagated and spread to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

Thus, the Mauryan Empire made an indelible contribution to the culture and heritage of the Indian subcontinent.

3. *Enumerate the ways in which the art and architecture of the Indus Valley Civilization shed light on the daily lives of its people.*

Approach:

- Give a brief introduction about Indus Valley Civilisation.
- Provide a brief account of the daily lives of the people with the help of excavated artforms and architecture.
- Give a brief conclusion.

Answer:

The Indus Valley Civilization is one of the earliest and most advanced civilizations. Although much about their life, language and culture remains a mystery, the art and architecture of the Indus Valley Civilization provides insights into the daily lives of its people in the following ways:

- **Clothing:** The figurines and sculptures depict people wearing a variety of garments. For example - a bust of a bearded man in soapstone, interpreted as a priest, is draped in a shawl coming under the right arm and covering the left shoulder.
- **Ornaments:** The art of bead making seems to have been well developed as evident from the factories discovered at Chanhudaro and Lothal. The beads are in varying shapes—disc-shaped, cylindrical, spherical, barrel-shaped, and segmented, which hints that the people decorated themselves with ornaments.
- **Animal figures:** The bronze figure of the buffalo with its uplifted head, back and sweeping horns and the goat coupled with the copper dog and bird of Lothal provides an idea about the ecosystem in which people lived.
- **Insights into the religious system:** The repetition of a few figurines of bearded males (with coiled hair, posture rigidly upright, legs slightly apart etc.) in exactly the same position suggest that he was a deity. For instance, the Pashupati seal with a figure in the centre and animals around it.
- **Usage of Identity card:** Square or rectangular copper tablets, with an animal or a human figure on one side and an inscription on other, or inscription on both sides appear to have been amulets. Thousands of seals, mostly made of steatite, are discovered which are also believed to be used as amulets, carried on the persons of their owners, perhaps as modern-day identity cards.
- **General household equipments:** Pottery for household purposes is found in as many shapes and sizes as could be conceived of for daily practical use. For example - **Perforated pottery** includes a large hole at the bottom and small holes all over the wall, and was probably used for straining beverages.
- **Food Storage system:** The remains of their **granaries and storage facilities** suggest that they had a sophisticated system of food storage and distribution,
- **Planned cities:** The well-developed urban planning system is observed by their **wide streets, public spaces, and buildings made of baked bricks**, giving us a glimpse into their cities.
- **Recreational activities:** **Toy carts** with wheels, whistles, rattles, birds and animals, **gamesmen and discs** were also rendered in terracotta. The **Bronze sculpture of the dancing girl** gives a glimpse of their cultural life.
- **Economic life:** The art of **pottery making, metal working, ornament making, weaving** etc. provides insight into the economic life of the people, their skills and abilities, and the tools and techniques they used in their work.
- **Sense of hygiene and engineering skills:** Their elaborate drainage and sewage systems shows the adoption of technological and engineering skills along with their sense of cleanliness.

Overall, the art and architecture of the Indus Valley Civilization provides significant insight into the daily lives of the people of the time, their culture, beliefs, and practices, as well as their relationship with the natural world.

4. *The Persian and Greek invasions from 6th BC to 4th BC in the Indian sub-continent had significant impacts on Indian art and culture. Discuss.*

Approach:

- Give a brief introduction about Persian and Greek invasions.
- Discuss their significant impacts on Indian art and culture.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

The Persian and Greek invasions of India began in the sixth century BC when Cyrus invaded the Indian sub-continent. Further, the contact between the Greeks and ancient Indians can be historically ascertained after the Greek invasion of Achaemenid empires under Alexander in 326 BC. Several principalities of the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent were annexed in this invasion and were handed over to Seleucus Nicator, a Greek general.

Impacts of Persian and Greek invasions on Indian art and culture:

- **Sculptures:** The influence of Persian and Greek art can be found in the development of Indian sculptures. For instance, **Gandhara School of Art** had a combination of Indian and Greek styles, while **Mauryan pillars and rock edicts** reflected Persian influence, as they had polished motifs, inscribed proclamations, etc.
- **Architecture:** Greek and Persian influence can be found in the development of Indian architecture as well. For example, the **palace of Chandragupta Maurya** was inspired by the Achaemenid palaces at Persepolis in Iran.
- **Literature and history:** The **Kharoshthi script** (Indo-Bactrian script) was used in some of the Ashokan inscriptions belonging to the third century A.D. Further, valuable information about the socio-economic conditions of India of that time is known from the Greek accounts left by **Arrian, Nearchus, and Megasthenes**.
- **Astrology:** The Greeks had some influence on Indian astrology as well. The concept of the Zodiac has been taken from the Greeks and the Greek term Horoscope has been translated to Horashastra in Sanskrit.
- **Coinage:** The Persian silver coins were known for their refined minting and elegant looks. This had an impact, as Indian rulers adopted similar techniques to mint their coins on the Persian model. Further, beautifully designed gold and silver coins, along with the name and images of kings, were influenced by the legacy of the Greeks.

The Persian and Greek invasions had a profound impact on Indian art, culture, politics, and society. They introduced new techniques, styles, and ideas to the Indian sub-continent, which enriched and influenced Indian art and culture. The invasions also brought about political and administrative changes and facilitated cultural exchange and economic growth.

5. *State the contributions of the Mughals to the Indian painting tradition.*

Approach:

- Introduce by giving brief details of Mughal paintings.
- Discuss the contribution made by the Mughals to the Indian painting tradition.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

Generally made as miniatures either as book illustrations or as single works, Mughal paintings inspired and resonated in subsequent schools and styles of Indian painting. The Mughals were patrons of various art forms. Most Mughal successors, with the exception of Aurangzeb, based on their taste and preferences, contributed to the Indian painting tradition in the following ways:

- **Manuscript illustration:** Chronicles narrating the events of a Mughal emperor's reign contained, alongside the written text, images that described an event in visual form.
 - Among the important illustrated Mughal chronicles, the Akbar Nama and Badshah Nama are the most well-known.

- **Patronage of artists:** The Mughal emperors employed many talented painters to create works for their courts. For instance, Emperor Humayun brought Persian artists Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdus Samad to Delhi.
- **Divine light:** The Western influence on Mughal painting became more pronounced during Jahangir's period and the use of nimbus behind the heads of the emperors in the paintings came in vogue.
- **Adoption of new symbols:** A number of symbols were created for visual representation of certain ideas. For example, the favourite symbol for the idea of justice was the motif of the lion and the lamb (or goat) peacefully nestling next to each other.
- **Diverse subjects and themes:**
 - Mughal paintings under Akbar's patronage depicted a variety of subjects, including detailed political conquests, seminal court scenes, secular texts, portraits of important men along with Hindu mythologies, and Persian and Islamic themes.
 - The beauty of nature, in the form of plants, animals and birds, became an important subject during the time of Jahangir. He promoted calligraphy and also introduced portrait painting.
 - During Shah Jahan's reign, painting got a new romantic flavour and love, romance, portraits and the 'darbar' scenes became the common themes. The artists portrayed the romances of Laila-Majnu, Shirin-Farhad and Baz Bahadur-Roopmati.
- **Sophisticated techniques:**
 - New techniques such as the use of light and shade and the use of atmospheric effects were introduced under Akbar in the paintings.
 - Under Jahangir's patronage, Mughal painting achieved naturalism and scientific accuracy of the highest degree. The paintings involved minute details and refined rendering of lavish court scenes, aristocracy, royal personalities, as well as, character traits, and distinctiveness of flora and fauna.
- **Foreign influence:** The peak of Mughal painting presented a highly sophisticated blend of the Islamic, Hindu and European visual culture and aesthetics. Given this diverse yet inclusive nature, the affluence of the artworks produced in India during this period surpassed the conventional and indigenous Indian and Iranian paintings of that time.
 - Moreover, arts became more formalised as there were workshops and many artists were brought from Iran, which resulted in a harmonious blend of Indo-Iranian styles. For example, Humayun founded the Nigaa Khana (painting workshop).

The Mughal painting gradually went into oblivion with the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739 A.D. and the exodus of artists from Delhi to other parts of the country. Still, the Mughal School of Painting is regarded as a watershed moment in Indian painting history.

6. *The work of Kalidasa was the crowning jewel of Gupta literature. Discuss.*

Approach:

- Introduce with the context of literature during Gupta period.
- Give reasons for why works of Kalidasa are often considered as the crowning jewel of the Gupta literature.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

The Gupta period is considered as the **Golden Age of art and literature** and the greatest of all the poets was Kalidasa who lived in the court of **Chandragupta II in the fifth century AD**. The works of Kalidasa are often considered as **crowning jewel of the Gupta literature** due to following reasons:

- **Diversified works:** Kalidasa is one of the authors of the classical tradition who wrote plays as well as poems. Most of the classical authors specialized in one or the other. For e.g., he wrote plays like **Malavikagnimitra**, **Vikramorvasiya** etc. and poems like **Meghadutam**, **Ritusamhara** etc.
- **Reflects culture of Gupta Empire:** Kalidasa's ideals of conservatism and harmony as well as his practical innovations appear to reflect closely the ideals and practice of the Gupta emperors. His religion also, both in its nostalgic and its creative aspects, seems to be closely related to the ideals of the Gupta age.

- For e.g., In **Kumarasambhavam**, Kalidasa talks about the courtship of lord Shiva and Parvati reflecting the widely prevalent religion of Gupta Empire.
- **Style of writing:** His style of writing is pure, simple, genuine, and brief. An unaffected simplicity of expression and easy flowing language are the markings of his writings, which makes him different from other poets in Sanskrit literature.
- **Deep meanings in works:** His works mainly focus on the suggested meaning rather than the literal meaning. Suggested meaning is said to be the best expression of sentiment in poetry. Hence, Kalidas's works fall under the category of '**uttamakāvya**' on the basis of Indian poetics.
 - For e.g., **Meghadutam**, which means **the Cloud Messenger**, is a beautiful work as the descriptions given in it are so vivid that one visualizes what the poet wants to convey.
- **Use of Sanskrit & Prakrit in works:** The notable feature of his works is that the characters of higher caste speak in Sanskrit while those of lower caste and women speak in Prakrit.
- Kalidas's works are known for their triple qualities like, **a sense of beauty, a capacity for appreciation of the aesthetic values and a reflection of traditional culture.**
 - For e.g., **Abhijnanashakuntala** which literally means **the Recognition of Shakuntala** is a drama where Kalidasa refashions an episode from the Mahabharata, magnificently dramatizing the love story of **Shakuntala**, a girl of semi-divine origin, and **Dushyanta**, a noble human king.

However, apart from Kalidasa, there were also other famous dramatists who have flourished in this period like the **Shudraka**, writer of **Mrichchhkatikam**, **Vishakhadatta** who authored **Mudrarakshasa** etc., but besides others, what has made the Gupta period particularly famous is the work of Kalidasa and for that he is significantly known as '**Kavikulaguru**'; i.e., '**magnificent among poets**'.

7. *Despite the adverse circumstances existing around the time, the launch of the Quit India Movement became inevitable due to various reasons. Discuss.*

Approach:

- Highlight the adverse circumstances existing around the launch of Quit India Movement.
- Analyze the reasons, which made its launch inevitable.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

The prevailing conditions in India before the launch of Quit India Movement marked widespread discontentment and disillusionment against British rule.

However, the circumstances at the time were not conducive for a popular movement due to following reasons:

- **Opposition to fascism:** Leaders like Gandhi and Nehru were not in favor of causing any internal trouble for the British government who were engaged in WW-II. They felt that they were fighting for a just cause against the fascist forces. Any popular movement would mean an indirect support to fascism.
- **Draconian measures:** Using the justification of war, **the Defense of India act 1939** was imposed which effectively declared martial law in India. It provided for punishment including death or transportation for life if the intent was to assist any State at war against Britain. It provided for Special Courts against whose verdict nobody could appeal.
- **Suppression of basic civil rights:** Pre-censorship was imposed and amendments were made to the **Press emergency Act** and **Official Secrets act**. The Defense of India Act also provided for the acquisition of land for purposes of defense.
- **A virtual ban on any political activity:** Govt. empowered itself with an elaborate **Revolutionary Movement Ordinance** according to which however peaceful and legal any political activity would be, it was termed as illegal and revolutionary.

The reasons, which made Quit India Movement (QIM) inevitable:

- **Failure of the Cripps Mission:** Britain's rigidity to offer a workable solution and advancing a constitutional mechanism as evident by the empty gesture of the **Cripps Offer**. Even Gandhi and Nehru who were in support of keeping in check any sentiments that can hurt anti-fascist war efforts were disillusioned by the offer.
- **News of allied reverses:** The return of the wounded soldiers due to British troops withdrawal from South East Asia and Burma was fueling the speculation of an imminent British Collapse.
- **Japanese aggression:** As the Japanese forces advanced in South-east Asia, concerns were ripe that this may demoralize masses and in the event of Japanese invasion, they might not resist at all. It was quite a necessity to boost their morale in order to build up their capacity to resist.
- **High handed actions of the Government:** On one hand, there was a popular discontent due to rising prices and wartime shortages and on the other hand government's action by seizing the boats in Bengal and Orissa to prevent them from being used by the Japanese further fueled the anger among the masses.
- **Impatience among leadership:** The British betrayal in the form of evacuating only the white residents from Malaya and Burma, leaving the Indian subject at the mercy of dreaded Japanese, raised concerns among the leaders of the national movement that the same may be the behavior of the British in India.
- **Quickly eroding faith in British Rule:** The popular faith in the stability of British rule tanked, as evident from the run-on banks, withdrawal of deposits, hoarding of gold, silver and coins.

Thus, in August 1942, the Quit India resolution was ratified at the Congress meeting at Gowalia Tank, demanding an immediate end to British Rule in India. Gandhi, who was named the leader of the struggle, gave a *mantra*: **Do or Die**.

8. *The 19th century social reformers in India led powerful movements to improve the position of women. Discuss with special reference to the contributions of Raja Ram Mohun Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.*

Approach:

- Provide a brief background about the poor condition of women in the 19th century.
- Briefly highlight various socio-religious reform movements aimed at improving the position of women.
- Discuss the contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and I C Vidyasagar.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

During the 19th century, the position of women in the Indian subcontinent was very poor, maligned with unequal opportunities in social and political sphere. Society was highly biased against women and social inequalities were manifested in the form of evils such as sati, lower or no education to women, child marriage etc.

Various socio-religious reform movements have taken place in the 19th century for the upliftment of women. Reformers like **Jyotiba Phule** through **Satyashodhak Samaj** spearheaded for the education of girl child, **Swami Dayanand Saraswati** through **Arya Samaj** promoted female education and advocated abolition of child marriage, etc. However, the contributions made by **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** were immense as highlighted:

- **Gender Equality:** Raja Ram Mohan Roy is often called as the **father of Indian Renaissance** and maker of modern India. He was first to recognize the plight of women subjected to social injustice. He demanded that men and women should have equal status and rights in society.
- **Abolition of Sati:** He started his anti-sati struggle in 1818 and cited religious texts to prove that no religion sanctions burning of widows alive. He organized vigilance groups and filed petitions with the government for the abolition of sati, and finally the government passed **Bengal Sati Regulation 1829** which made the practice of Sati illegal in all of British India.
- **Women's Education:** He was a great supporter of women's education and declared that women were not inferior to men, morally and intellectually. In 1822, he founded the **Anglo-Hindu school**

where both boys and girls could study together. He founded **Brahmo Samaj (1828)**, which did immense work for the propagation of women's education and encouraged families to send their girls to school.

- **Against Polygamy:** He realized that practices like polygamy are adversely impacting the overall wellbeing of women. He helped spread awareness about its ill effects and called for its rejection.

Contributions made by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar:

- **Widow remarriage:** Vidyasagar filed a petition in the Legislative Council to allow widows to remarry. Despite opposition from the Dharma Sabha, the Government legalized widow remarriage through **Hindu Widow Remarriage Act, 1856**.
- **Women's Education:** Vidyasagar's contribution towards providing education to women and changing their status is commendable. In order to provide education to girls, he established and ran many schools at his own expense. In order to support women's education, he started a fund called **Nari Shiksha Bhandar**.
- **Stood Against Polygamy and Child Marriage:** He persuaded masses against child marriage and polygamy by making them aware of the ill effects of such practices. His efforts eventually culminated in the passage of the **Age of Consent Act, 1891**.
- **Against social injustice:** He made immense contribution to the upliftment of the women by eradicating blind superstitions and tortures in the name of rituals.

Reforms taken up by these leaders paved the way for better position and opportunities for women in freedom struggle in 20th century and post-independence modern India.

9. While tracing the evolution of the working class, discuss its involvement in the Indian freedom struggle.

Approach:

- Give a brief background of beginning of working-class activity under the British rule.
- Trace the evolution of the working-class.
- Discuss their involvement in the Indian freedom struggle.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

The working class appeared in India in the second half of the 19th century with the growth of modern industry under British rule. The process of growth of an organized, self-conscious, all India working class is inextricably linked with the growth of the Indian national movement.

Evolution of Working Class in India

- Destruction of the traditional village economy due to the free trade policy of Britishers led to displacement and migration of a section of impoverished workers in rural areas to the urban areas for employment, which **later evolved into the working class in India**.
- The demand for cheap labor due to factory production in Calcutta and Bombay led to the **emergence of the industrial working class**, though **unorganized** and **sporadic** in nature. And because of this, industrialists were able to exploit them, especially women and children. However, due to **First Factories Act 1881**, and **Factories Act 1891**, the condition of workers was relatively improved.
- Working class got more **professional and organized** afterwards, as there was a shift from purely economic to wider political issues. They used to conduct strikes and protests over different issues like wages, bonus etc. which increasingly began to involve more and more workers. For ex., the Ahmedabad mill strike.
- The **emergence of trade unions** after the First World War led to consolidation of the working class in the 1920s. For ex., All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was formed in 1920.
- During the 1920s and 30s, the **communist ideology**, deriving from the theories of Marx and Lenin, assigned a central place to the working class. However, there was a split in the working class due to divergence between the nationalist and communist opinions.

Involvement of Working Class in Freedom Struggle

- **Participation in various movements:** Working class actively **participated in all major national movements** such as Swadeshi and boycott movement, Non-Cooperation movement, Civil Disobedience movement, Quit India movement etc. For e.g., railway workers protested in support of the Rowlatt agitation.
- **Strikes and Hartal:** The workers organized **strikes and hartals on various occasions throughout India** to press for their economic as well as political demands which complemented the cause of the national freedom struggle. For example, strikes in Government press, railways, textile mills etc.
- **Critique of Imperialism:** **Lala Lajpat Rai, president of AITUC**, was among the first in India to **link capitalism with imperialism** and emphasize the role of the working class in fighting this combination.
- **Formation of Trade Unions:** Trade unions were formed all over India during 1919-20 to further involve workers in national political movements.
- **Worked with Congress:** Prominent leaders like **C R Das, Subhash Bose, J Nehru etc. became closely associated with AITUC**. Also, AITUC in its manifesto urged workers to intervene in national politics.
- **Left Movement:** A **strong communist/leftist movement** emerged in India in 1927-28 but it was suppressed by the British using the **Public Safety Act and Trade Disputes Act**. But the communist group reemerged again and played an important role during the post-World War II period in **INA trials (1945)** and **mutiny of the naval ratings (1946)**.

Though the arrival of the Communists with their radical agenda for the working class led to inconsistencies between the working class and the Congress, it played an important role in the freedom struggle through all its phases.

10. *It was Individual Satyagraha that played a key role in sustaining the national movement between the August Offer and the Cripps Mission. Discuss.*

Approach:

- Briefly discuss the scenario, which led to the August Offer and Cripps proposal by the British Government, and difference between the approaches of both offers.
- Discuss how these offers did not fulfill India's demand.
- Discuss how Individual Satyagraha sustained the national movement during this time.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

During the Second World War, when France temporarily fell to the Axis Powers and the Allies were suffering many reverses in the war, the British government was keen to get Indian support. In this atmosphere, the then Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow made a set of proposals called the '**August offer**'. For the first time, the **right of Indians to frame their own constitution was acknowledged**. It also proposed the expansion of the Executive Council, dominion status, advisory war council, etc. However, there was no clarity in the offer and it also provided a veto power to the minorities whose consent was necessary for the adoption of the new constitution. **This proposal was rejected both by the INC and the Muslim League.**

A concrete offer was given by the British only when Britain suffered many losses in Southeast Asia and Japan's threat to invade India seemed real for them.

- The Cripps Mission was sent to India which offered the responsibility of **framing the Constitution solely to the Indians**. The structure of the Constituent Assembly was **clearly specified**.
- Dominion status was proposed, along with immediate reorganization of Viceroy's Executive Council and transfer of important ministries to Indians.
- **INC rejected the Cripps Mission** as well, because India's demand was of **complete independence** now and it feared that the acceptance of such proposals may lead to division of the country on communal lines.

However, in between these two proposals, India refrained from taking advantage of the situation by declaring a mass-struggle against the British or joining hands with their rivals.

India believed that the Allied causes were just. INC instead advocated toning up the Congress organization for further struggle, carrying on political works among masses and negotiating until all possibilities of negotiated settlements were exhausted. Therefore, at the **Ramgarh Congress session** in May 1940, Gandhiji agreed to launch civil obedience, but on an individual scale, and it was called **Individual Satyagraha**.

- Gandhiji believed that a 'mass movement' may turn violent and he did not like to see Great Britain embarrassed by such a situation.
- He carefully selected the Satyagrahis to set **non-violence as the centrepiece of the Individual Satyagraha**.
- The Satyagrahis were to use **freedom of speech** to oppose the war by issuing an anti-war declaration.
 - If the government did not arrest the Satyagrahi, he or she would repeat the action in villages and march toward Delhi (**Delhi Chalo Movement**).
- The first Satyagrahi selected was **Acharya Vinoba Bhave**, who was sent to jail when he spoke against the war. Second Satyagrahi was **Jawahar Lal Nehru**. Third was **Brahma Datt**, one of the inmates of Gandhi's Ashram. They all were sent to jails for violating the Defense of India Act.

The Individual Satyagraha demonstrated that nationalist patience was not the result of weakness. It expressed **people's disinterest in the war** and drew a distinction between **Nazism and the double autocracy** that ruled India. It basically gave the British government another chance to accept the demands of Congress peacefully, and sustained the national movement in between August Offer and Cripps Mission. Only after the failure of Cripps Mission did Gandhiji called for a 'Do or Die' action and launched the **Quit India Movement**.

11. Bring out the innovative methods used in the Swadeshi movement. Do you think the movement was successful in achieving its desired objectives?

Approach:

- Introduce by briefly discussing the background of the Swadeshi movement.
- Highlight the innovative methods used in the movement.
- Bring out the success as well as the limitations of the movement.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

The Swadeshi movement of 1905 was a nationalist movement sparked by the announcement of partition of Bengal by the colonial government. The partition divided Bengal into two administrative units and was seen by many Indians as a ploy to weaken the nationalist movement.

Innovative methods used in the Swadeshi movement:

- There was **boycott of foreign goods**, public burning of foreign cloth, boycott of foreign-made salt, refusal by priests to ritualise marriages involving exchange of foreign goods, etc.
- **Public meetings and processions** emerged as major methods of mass mobilisation.
- **Corps of Volunteers or Samitis** such as the Swadesh Bandhab Samiti of Ashwini Kumar Dutta emerged as a very popular and powerful means of mass mobilisation.
- The movement witnessed **imaginative use of traditional popular festivals and melas** for reaching out to the masses and spreading political messages. For example, Shivaji and Ganapati festivals in Maharashtra were organized by Lokmanya Tilak.
- **Emphasis was given to self-reliance or 'atma shakti'** through social reform and campaigns against caste oppression, dowry system, consumption of alcohol, etc. Further, the swadeshi spirit also found expression in the establishment of swadeshi textile mills, soap and match factories, etc.

The movement attained **success in achieving certain objectives**, such as:

- The **social base of the anti-British struggle widened** significantly with the participation of women and students. Further, it was the first pan-India freedom movement, as it moved beyond Bengal. For instance, it was led by Lala Lajpat Rai in Punjab, H.S. Rao in Madras, and Tilak in Maharashtra.
- **All the major trends of the national movement**, from conservative moderation to political extremism, from revolutionary activities to incipient socialism, from petitions and prayers to passive resistance and non-cooperation, **emerged** during the Swadeshi Movement.
- The movement **encompassed art, literature, science and industry**. For instance, artists like Abanindranath Tagore broke the domination of Victorian naturalism over Indian art and took inspiration from Mughal, Ajanta and Rajput paintings.
- **Boycott of British-controlled schools and colleges** led to the establishment of Bengal Technical Institute in 1906 as well as many national schools and colleges in various parts of the country. The National Council of Education was set up to organize a system of education—literary, scientific and technical—on national lines and under national control.

However, the movement also faced a number of **challenges** that prevented it from achieving its full potential, which include:

- It led to a **divide within the Congress** between the Moderates and Extremists, which eventually led to the **Surat Split** in 1907.
- Many Indians, particularly the upper classes, were **still attached to British products and lifestyles**.
- The movement largely remained **confined to the upper and middle classes and Zamindars**, and failed to reach the masses, especially the peasantry. Further, non-cooperation and passive resistance remained mere ideas.
- Evoking Hindu festivals and mythology for inspiration **led to the exclusion of Muslims**.

Overall, the Swadeshi movement played an important role in shaping India's struggle for independence. Further, though annulment of the partition of Bengal in 1911 was not a direct result of the Swadeshi movement, the movement played a significant role in creating the conditions that led to the decision.

12. Why did Gandhiji choose salt as symbol of protest during Dandi satyagraha? Also, discuss the impact of the Dandi march on the national movement.

Approach:

- Introduce by giving brief details of Dandi satyagraha.
- Enlist the reasons for Gandhiji choosing salt as a symbol of protest during Dandi satyagraha.
- Briefly explain the impact of Dandi satyagraha on the national movement.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

The **Dandi Satyagraha** was a mass civil disobedience movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi against the salt tax imposed by the British government in India. He led a large group of people from **Sabarmati Ashram on 12th March 1930 till Dandi**, a coastal village in Gujarat, to break the salt law by producing salt from seawater.

Gandhiji chose salt as symbol of protest during the Dandi Satyagraha because of the following reasons:

- **Salt was indispensable** to every Indian household irrespective of caste, religion, and region, yet people were forbidden from making salt even for domestic use, compelling them to buy it from shops at a high price. Mahatma Gandhi tried to reason that it was **sinful to impose tax on salt**.
- Indians had been making salt from seawater free of cost until the passing of the Salt Act, 1882 that gave the **British monopoly over the production of salt** and authority to impose salt tax. The state monopoly over salt was deeply unpopular, and by making it his target, Gandhiji hoped to **mobilise a wider discontent** against the British rule.

- Gandhiji tried to **channelize the daily struggle** of the masses by targeting a commodity that essentially **symbolized an oppressive capitalist superstructure**.
- The **salt tax accounted for 8.2% of the British Raj revenue** from tax and Gandhiji knew that the government could not ignore this.

The Dandi Satyagraha marked a new era in the freedom struggle and had the following **impact on the Indian freedom struggle**:

- **Similar regional movements:** Dandi Satyagraha led to similar protests in other regions of the country, including:
 - **C Rajagopalachari** led a similar march on the south-east coast from Trichy to Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu.
 - **K Kelappan** led a march in the Malabar region from Calicut to Payyanur.
 - **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan** led similar protests in the North-West Frontier Province region.
 - There were similar marches and salt was produced illegally in Assam and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Mass participation:** The movement was more widespread than the previous movements. Mass participation including the peasants, workers, students, urban elements like merchants, shopkeepers, etc. provided the **Congress a new all-India status**.
- **Participation of women:** Women participated in massive numbers and gave a true mass character to this march. For instance, Sarojini Naidu led the Darshana Salt march.
- **Global recognition:** It garnered the world's attention to the problems faced by Indians. The **American magazine "Time"** covered the salt march in detail and created awareness of Indian problems on a global platform.
- **Path to self-governance:** Salt satyagraha helped the Indians assert their right for self-governance more intensely and the British realized an imminent end to their domination over the country. To offer a solution, a series of Round Table Conferences were held, which ultimately led to some sort of Indian participation in provincial administration as envisaged under the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Dandi Satyagraha pushed India on a track from where retreat was not an option and the only option was to go forward and achieve full independence.

13. *Tribal movements in India were a response to the colonial policies of the British. Discuss.*

Approach:

- Write a brief note on tribal movements in India.
- Discuss how the majority of these movements were a response to the colonial policies of the time.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

The tribal movements in India started in the late 18th century and lasted till independence. The tribes can be divided into two main divisions i.e. non-frontier tribes and frontier tribes. The non-frontier tribes constituted around 89% of the total tribal population and were confined to Central India, West-Central India and Andhra region. Among the tribes that participated in the movements were Khonds, Savaras, Santhals, Mundas, Oraons, Koyas, Kols, Gonds and Bhils. The frontier tribes belonged to the North-Eastern frontier states and included Khasis, Nagas, etc.

The following colonial policies were the major reasons for tribal revolts in the country during the British rule:

- **Imposition of land revenue settlement:** The British introduced the Zamindari system in the tribal areas along with a new system of land revenue and taxation on tribal products thus eroding tribal ownership over land and creating socio economic differentiation in the egalitarian structure of the tribal society. The **Munda rebellion** was a direct result of the land policy of the colonial government.
- **Exploitation by outside economic agents:** Large numbers of moneylenders, revenue farmers and traders were introduced by the British, who over time, took control of the tribal land and trapped them in a debt burden. This reduced the tribals to the status of the labourers, share-

croppers, and tenants on their own land. This was one of the major factors behind the **Santhal rebellion**.

- **Control over forests:** The Forest Act of 1865 and the Indian Forest Act of 1927 declared forests as state property and restricted the rights of the tribal people to access and use the forest resources. This led to the eviction and displacement of tribal people from their ancestral land. The **Kol, Bastar and Rampa rebellions** were in response to this policy of restricted land use in their respective regions.
- **Christian missionaries in the tribal areas:** It was perceived as a direct threat to the culture and the way of the life of the tribal people. These missionaries exploited the poor people and denigrated their culture. During his movement, **Birsa Munda** also attacked the churches.
- **Civilising mission of the British:** The British considered the tribals to be uncivilised and criminals and their culture and system were looked down upon by them. Thus, they interfered in tribal regions, which was one of the reasons for revolts by tribals.
- **Oppressive system:** The Zamindars, police, and justice system together formed a combined system of extortions, oppressive extractions, forcible dispossession of property, abuse and personal violence and a variety of petty tyrannies upon the tribals. Other noteworthy rebellions against the British policies were by the Khonds, Bhils, Kolis, Ramosis, Khasis, and Nagas.

Although tribal revolts led to death and displacement of the tribal people, they also led to awareness and recognition of tribal rights, emergence of tribal leaders, land reforms and redistribution, and development of tribal identity. All these were to find a significant place in the freedom struggle and determine the development path after independence.

14. Bring out the changes that took place after the Revolt of 1857 in the administration and army of the British colonial government in India.

Approach:

- Give an introduction about the Revolt of 1857.
- Elaborate on the changes in the administration and army of the British colonial government after the Revolt.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

The Revolt of 1857 gave a severe jolt to the British administration in India and made its reorganisation inevitable. It marked a significant turning point in the history of British colonialism in India. There was a drastic change in the British approach, which was witnessed immediately after the Revolt was suppressed.

Changes in the administration:

- **Transfer of power:** An Act of Parliament in 1858 transferred the power to govern from the East India Company to the British Crown and Queen Victoria was declared as the sovereign of British India.
 - While authority over India was previously under the Directors of the Company and the Board of Control, now this power was to **be exercised by a Secretary of State for India aided by a Council**.
 - Under the Act, the government was to be carried out as before by the Governor General, who was also given the title of **Viceroy**.
- **Provincial administration:** Prior to the Indian Councils Act of 1861, the government had been concentrating power and control over India, but afterwards, it began to distribute authority more widely to local governments and officials.
 - The Act stipulated that Legislative Councils, similar to the one at the Centre, should be set up initially in Bombay, Madras, and Bengal, followed by other provinces.
- **Local bodies:** Financial difficulties led the government to further decentralised administration by promoting local government through Municipalities and District Boards.
- **Reorganisation in public services:** Before the rebellion, the Indian Civil Service was an exclusively British body. However, after the rebellion, the **Indian Civil Service was opened up to Indians, and Indians were allowed to sit for the competitive examination**.

Changes in the army:

- **Enhanced role of the Europeans:** The army was reorganised to prevent the outbreak of another revolt.
 - The **proportion of Europeans to Indians in the army was raised** and European troops were kept in key geographical and military positions.
 - The crucial branches of the army like artillery and, later in the 20th century, tanks and armoured corps were **put exclusively in European hands**.
- **Division among Indian recruits:** Organisation of the Indian section of the army was based on the policy of "balance and counterpoise" or "divide and rule" so as to prevent its chances of uniting again in an anti-British uprising.
 - **Discrimination** on the basis of caste, region, and religion was practised in recruitment to the army.
 - **Communal, caste, tribal and regional loyalties were encouraged** among the soldiers so that the sentiment of nationalism would not grow among them. For example, **caste and communal companies were introduced** in most regiments. Thus, the Indian army remained a purely mercenary force. Moreover, every effort was made to **keep it separated from the life and thoughts of the rest of the population**.

These conservative reactions by the Britishers made the British empire more autocratic and it began to deny the aspirations of the educated Indians for sharing power. In the long term, this new British attitude proved counterproductive for the empire and the rising frustration of the educated Indian middle class gave rise to modern nationalism.

15. *Lord Ripon was a relatively progressive Viceroy of India. Elucidate.*

Approach:

- Briefly give an introduction about Lord Ripon.
- Discuss how Lord Ripon was relatively progressive in his approach.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

Lord Ripon took charge as the Viceroy of India from 1880 to 1884, when India was gripped by severe famine, regressive revenue taxation, and anti-imperialist sentiment due to legislations such as the Vernacular Press Act, 1878, etc.

Though it has been argued that other Viceroys/Governor Generals such as William Bentick, Metcalfe etc., undertook various reforms to improve the conditions of Indians, such as abolition of sati, the passing of the Press Act in 1835 (which revoked the repressive Licensing Regulations of 1823), etc. but, the reforms initiated by Lord Ripon were considered more progressive and encompassed the social, economic and political spheres.

Reforms instituted by Lord Ripon:

- **Passing of the First Factories Act (1881) to improve labour conditions:** The Act prohibited the working of children below seven years and limited the number of working hours for children below 12 years. This Act also made provisions for one hour of break during the working period and four monthly holidays for employment.
- **Repealing of the Vernacular Press Act, 1878:** Proposed by Lord Lytton, the then Viceroy of India (who governed during 1876–80), the Act intended to prevent the vernacular press (i.e., non-English publications) from expressing criticism of British policies, notably, the opposition that had grown with the outset of the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878–80). Lord Ripon opposed the Vernacular Press Act, 1878, and repealed it in 1882 in order to provide freedom to the newspapers published in vernacular languages.
- **Economic reforms:** Lord Ripon was a follower of financial decentralization. He divided the sources of revenue into three categories: i.e. Imperial, Provincial and Divided. The provinces were given different sources of revenue so that they could maintain their control over spending. It was

also determined that the Centre's and Province's financial agreements would be revisited every five years. The Ripon financial agreement lasted until 1904.

- **Establishment of local self-government:** He introduced the Resolution of 1882, which provided a framework for the establishment of elected local Councils in India, and helped lay the foundation for local self-government in India. The motto of local self-government was to train the Indians to manage their problems themselves.
- **The Ilbert Bill:** Initially proposed by Lord Lytton to compensate for the criticism that followed the Vernacular Press Act, the Bill was later introduced in 1883 by Viceroy Ripon, who actually desired to abolish the racial prejudice from the Indian Penal Code by giving the Indian judges and Magistrates the jurisdiction to try British offenders in criminal cases at the district level.
- **The Hunter Commission (1882):** The Commission emphasised on the responsibility of the British government towards improving the state of education in India and expansion of primary education.
- **Efforts towards land and tenancy reforms:** To address the demands of Bengal ryots who were agitating for long against the exploitation of Zamindars and Taluqdars, Lord Rippon appointed the Rent Commission in 1880. Based on its recommendation (1882), the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, was passed after the end of Lord Ripon's tenure.

Due to the humane gestures of Lord Ripon towards the Indians, his working for the betterment of the Indian community and his efforts to reform the internal administration of India, he was regarded as a progressive Viceroy of India.

16. What were the factors responsible for the decolonisation of the countries in Asia and Africa after the end of World War II?

Approach:

- Briefly introduce with the context of decolonisation at the end of Second World War.
- Mention the factors responsible for the emergence of independent nations in Asia and Africa after WWII.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

Decolonisation is the process by which dependent countries (colonies) became independent of a colonial or imperial power. The period after World War II saw the emergence of most of the countries of Asia and Africa as independent nations. Though the colonial powers were not willing to give up their hold over the colonies, multiple factors were at play that led to decolonization of countries of Asia and Africa as given below:

- **Rise of Nationalism:** Nationalist movements in various colonies got strengthened due to the rise of nationalism and popular mass support. This played a significant role in hastening the decolonization process. For example, movements led by **Mahatma Gandhi in India and Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana**, mobilized their people against colonial rule.
- **Weakening of Imperialism:** The economies of many imperialist countries had suffered badly due to World War II and the anti-colonial forces within the imperialist countries had grown stronger.
- **Spread of Democratic ideals:** Freedom and democracy were the main aims for which Allied powers were fighting against the fascist countries like Germany, Italy and Japan. The fulfillment of these aims could not be confined to Europe only and thus, further spread to Asia and Africa.
- **Support from rival blocs:** The US and the Soviet Union were willing to provide **support to anti-colonial movements** in order to gain influence in newly independent countries. For e.g., their role in the **Korean peninsula and Indo-China**.
- **Strengthening of Socialism and Communism:** The movements of socialism and communism, which had grown powerful the world over, including in the colonial countries also supported the independence movements in the colonies. For example, the withdrawal of the French from Algeria.

- **International Opinion:** At the international forums like the United Nations, the cause of the independence of the colonies began to gain popularity. For example, the UN Charter affirmed the **right of self-determination** for all peoples, and it established a **Trusteeship Council** to oversee the process of decolonization.
- **Unity among colonies:** Unity among the colonies played an important role in the achievement of independence by the countries of Asia and Africa. For example, one of the major objectives of independent **India's Foreign Policy was to support the cause of freedom in African countries.**

These factors, among others, created a global environment that was conducive to decolonization, leading to the independence of numerous Asian and African countries in the decades following World War II.

17. It is often argued that the reforms initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev ultimately led to the disintegration of the USSR. Do you agree with this view? Justify with logical arguments.

Approach:

- Give a brief introduction about Mikhail Gorbachev.
- Mention the reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev.
- Discuss how the reforms introduced by him led to the disintegration of the USSR.
- Bring out the other possible factors that perpetuated the disintegration of the USSR.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

Mikhail Gorbachev was the leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 until its disintegration in 1991. He intended to modernize and streamline the Communist Party, to transform and revitalize the USSR after sterile years post Khrushchev's fall.

Reforms initiated by Gorbachev:

- **Perestroika (restructuring):** Perestroika, was Gorbachev's program of economic, and social restructuring of the Soviet Union. It attempted to transform the stagnant, inefficient command economy of the Soviet Union into a democratized market-oriented economy. Economic controls were decentralized and the involvement of party leadership reduced.
- **Glasnost (openness):** Glasnost aimed to increase political openness and transparency. This included allowing more freedom of speech, relaxing censorship laws, and allowing a more independent media to function. Gorbachev also allowed more freedom of religion and initiated discussions on democratization of the Soviet political system.
- **Political reforms:** Gorbachev called for democratization within the party. Members of local Soviets were now to be elected not appointed. The Supreme Soviet was replaced by the Congress of People's Deputies and reserved seats for Communist party were abolished.

It is argued by many experts that the reforms initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev ultimately led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union because:

- Restructuring of the economy through Perestroika led to **shortages, inflation, and economic instability.** Many state-owned enterprises struggled to compete in a more open market, and the government struggled to control prices and manage the economy.
- Reforms under Glasnost allowed for greater openness and transparency, but also **gave rise to nationalist movements and demands for greater autonomy in the Soviet republics.** These movements challenged the authority of the Central government, leading to growing unrest and tensions within the Soviet Union.
- Gorbachev's additional reforms, which allowed for the creation of political parties, **weakened his own base of support** as the Communist Party lost its monopoly on political power in the vast Soviet Union.
- Furthermore, the hard-line Communist Party officials and military leaders opposed Gorbachev's reforms, believing that they **threatened the Socialist principles** of the Soviet Union. This opposition contributed to the instability and divisions within the Soviet Union.

However, apart from the reforms initiated by Gorbachev, **there were other factors that perpetuated the disintegration of the USSR**, for instance:

- **Economic problems:** The Soviet economy was struggling even before Gorbachev came to power due to lack of investment, outdated technology, and inefficiencies in the centrally planned economy.
- **Nationalism and ethnic tensions:** The Soviet Union was a multi-national state with different ethnic groups and nationalities. Nationalism and ethnic tensions had been suppressed under Soviet rule and there were many revolts for the disintegration of Poland, Ukraine, Baltic states, etc. since the reign of Stalin and other Soviet leaders.
- **Corruption and bureaucracy:** The Soviet Union, long before the reign of Gorbachev, was plagued by corruption and bureaucracy, which hindered economic growth and innovation.

Overall, the disintegration of the USSR was the result of a complex interplay of economic, political, and social factors as well as international events. While Gorbachev's policies played a significant role in these developments, they were not the sole cause of the Soviet Union's collapse.

18. While the causes of the French Revolution were domestic in nature, its impact was felt beyond the borders of France. Discuss.

Approach:

- Introduce by giving a brief account of the French Revolution.
- Enlist the internal causes that led to the Revolution.
- Briefly mention its effects on the French society and the world.
- Conclude on the basis of the above points.

Answer:

The French Revolution was a significant event in the history of the world that brought about the enlightenment principles and the concept of democracy at the forefront and focused on creating a rational and egalitarian society. It started in 1789 and ended in 1799.

The French Revolution occurred due to the following reasons:

- **Political causes:** The French king, Louis XVI was a despotic ruler and his indiscreet policies led to loss of French colonies and defeat in the Seven Years' War. Further, the king and the rest of the nobility led extravagant lifestyles, which commenced through the treasury. This caused anger among the masses.
- **Social causes:** The French society was split into **three categories**. The first and the second estate were the privileged class and the third was the exploited one, which increased the discontent among the third estate.
- **Religious causes:** There was **religious discontent** as churches held more than 40% of the total land while the poor were running out of land for agriculture. Also, the public was aggrieved as a religious tax called 'Tithes', which was voluntary, was collected forcibly.
- **Economic causes:** These included the grave expenditure of warfare (like Seven Years' War), corruption, overbearing taxation on third estate, and the extravagant life of monarchy. Further, the 10% interest in the war debts kept increasing and pressurized the French government to increase the tax rates in the country.
- **Demographic causes:** The population of France rose from 23 million to 28 million between 1715-1789 thus increasing the demand for food. The situation often got worse due to climatic disasters such as droughts.
- **Effect of Enlightenment:** The philosophers and writers in France like Rousseau awakened the French society by glorification of ancient traditions of France and exposed the fault lines of the old authorities to remake the society along rational lines.

The Revolution resulted in the end of social hierarchy and declaration of equality for all. Moreover, it brought an end to monarchy and led to the establishment of parliamentary democracy, rule of law and adoption of the Constitution.

However, though the causes for the French Revolution were domestic in nature, it had an immense impact beyond the borders as well, as can be discerned from the following:

- **Human rights:** The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which was adopted by the National Assembly during the French Revolution in 1789, became a landmark document in the history of human rights.
- **Impact on the colonies:** Colonised people reworked the idea of freedom from bondage into their movements to create sovereign nation states. For instance, the Haitian Revolution, independence movements in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in South America, etc.
- **Revolutionary ideas:** The Revolution gave birth to the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity. Tipu Sultan and Raja Rammohan Roy are examples of individuals who were inspired by the ideas coming from revolutionary France.

The French Revolution was a landmark event, as it not only swayed the socio-economic and political life of France but also affected the rest of the world.

19. *The Great Depression was caused by a combination of factors and the tremors of the crisis in one part of the world were quickly relayed to the other parts, including India. Discuss.*

Approach:

- Introduce by writing about the Great Depression.
- Mention the factors responsible for it.
- Discuss the impact of Great Depression, including on India.
- Conclude briefly.

Answer:

The **Great Depression began around 1929** and lasted till the mid-1930s. During this period most parts of the world experienced catastrophic declines in production, employment, incomes and trade. The exact timing and impact of the depression varied across countries.

Factors responsible for the great depression:

- **Stock market crash of 1929:** The major reason for the stock market crash on New York Stock Exchange in October 1929 was **unmitigated speculation** in absence of effective market regulation. This resulted in one of the greatest economic crises in US economic history.
- **Banking panics and monetary contraction:** The withdrawal of US loans, due to panic among US overseas lenders, affected much of the world, though in different ways. For ex., in Europe it led to the failure of some major banks and the collapse of currencies such as the British pound sterling.
- **Oversupply and overproduction problems:** Agricultural overproduction remained a problem leading to falling agricultural prices. As prices slumped and agricultural incomes declined, farmers tried to expand production and bring a larger volume of produce to the market to maintain their overall income. This worsened the glut in the market, pushing down prices even further.
- **Low demand, high unemployment:** During periods of economic recession, consumers stop spending, which forces companies to cut production. With less output, companies start laying people off, raising the unemployment rate.
- **Decreased international lending and tariffs:** In the late 1920s, lending by U.S. banks to foreign countries fell, partly because of relatively high U.S. interest rates. The drop-off contributed to contractionary effects in some borrower countries, particularly Germany, Argentina, and Brazil.

Driven by these factors, devastating effects were seen in both rich and poor countries with **falling personal income, tax revenues, and rising unemployment**. In a short period of time, world output and standards of living dropped precipitously. As much as one-fourth of the labour force in industrialized countries was unable to find work in the early 1930s. Not only this, the tremors of the crisis in one part of the world were quickly spread to India as well which is given below:

- **Impact on trade:** The depression immediately affected Indian trade. India's exports and imports nearly halved between 1928 and 1934. As international prices crashed, prices in India also plunged.
- **Impact on peasants:** Peasants and farmers suffered more than urban dwellers. Though agricultural prices fell sharply, the colonial government refused to reduce revenue demands. Peasants producing for the world market were the worst hit.
- **Rising debt:** Across India, peasants' indebtedness increased. They used up their savings, mortgaged lands, and sold whatever jewellery and precious metals they had to meet their expenses
- **Impact on urban class:** The depression proved less grim for urban India. Because of falling prices, those with fixed incomes, like town-dwelling landowners who received rents and middle-class salaried employees now found themselves better off, as everything cost less.

In general, countries abandoned the gold standard or devalued their currencies or otherwise increased their money supply in order to recover from the depression. Fiscal expansion, in the form of **New Deal jobs** and **social welfare programs** and **increased defence spending** during the onset of World War II, presumably played a key role in economic recovery from the depression.

20. Discuss the reasons behind England becoming the first country to experience modern industrialization.

Approach:

- Briefly discuss the phenomena of the Industrial Revolution in the introduction.
- Highlight the political, social and economic reasons that made England suitable for modern industrialization.
- Conclude by highlighting the impacts of industrialization on the British society.

Answer:

Modern industrialization refers to the period of industrial development that began in the late 18th century and continued through the 19th and 20th centuries. It was characterized by the widespread use of advanced technology and machinery in the production of goods, which greatly increased productivity and output. The Industrial Revolution, which began in England in the late 18th century, is often seen as the start of modern industrialization.

The conditions in England were conducive for modern industrialization due to the following reasons:

- **Political factors:** Britain was politically stable since the 17th century, with England, Wales and Scotland unified under a monarchy. The kingdom had common laws, a single currency and a market that was not fragmented by local authorities levying taxes on goods that passed through their area, thus, increasing their price.
- **Money and demand of goods:** By the end of the 17th century, money was widely used as the medium of exchange. By then, a large section of the people received their income in the form of wages and salaries rather than in goods. This gave people a wider choice for ways to spend their earnings and expanded the market for the sale of goods.
- **Agriculture revolution:** During the **Enclosure Movement**, bigger landlords bought small farms near their own properties and enclosed the village common lands, thus creating very large estates and increasing food production. The surplus of food production freed up labour that could be redirected to other industries.
- **Cheaper transportation:** In England, water transportation improved with the creation of a network of canals, or human-made waterways. Further, steam engines and railways were used, which became efficient means of transportation of raw materials and finished goods to the market.
- **Emergence of London as a trading centre:** By the 18th century, the centre of global trade had shifted from the Mediterranean ports of Italy and France to the Atlantic ports of Holland and Britain. London replaced Amsterdam as the principal source of loans for international trade.

London also became the centre of a triangular trade network that drew in England, Africa and the West Indies. The companies trading in America and Asia also had their offices in London.

- **Access to capital:** The centre of the country's financial system was the Bank of England (founded in 1694). By 1784, there were more than a hundred provincial banks in England, and during the next 10 years their numbers trebled. By the 1820s, there were more than 600 banks in the provinces and over 100 banks in London alone. The financial requirements to establish and maintain big industrial enterprises were met by these banks.
- **Availability of raw material:** The coal and iron ore, the staple materials for mechanisation, were plentifully available in England, as were other minerals – lead, copper and tin – that were used in industry.

Modern industrialization had wide-ranging impacts on the British society. It led to massive urbanization, improvements in living standards, introduced new forms of work, such as factory work and opened up new opportunities for social mobility.