

Mains Answer Writing

Debates on the origins of Vedic Aryans.

Migrations of Indo-Europeans

Central Asian Steppe (Indo-Iranians)

Iran & Afghanistan

Syria & Iraq

South Asia (Aryans)

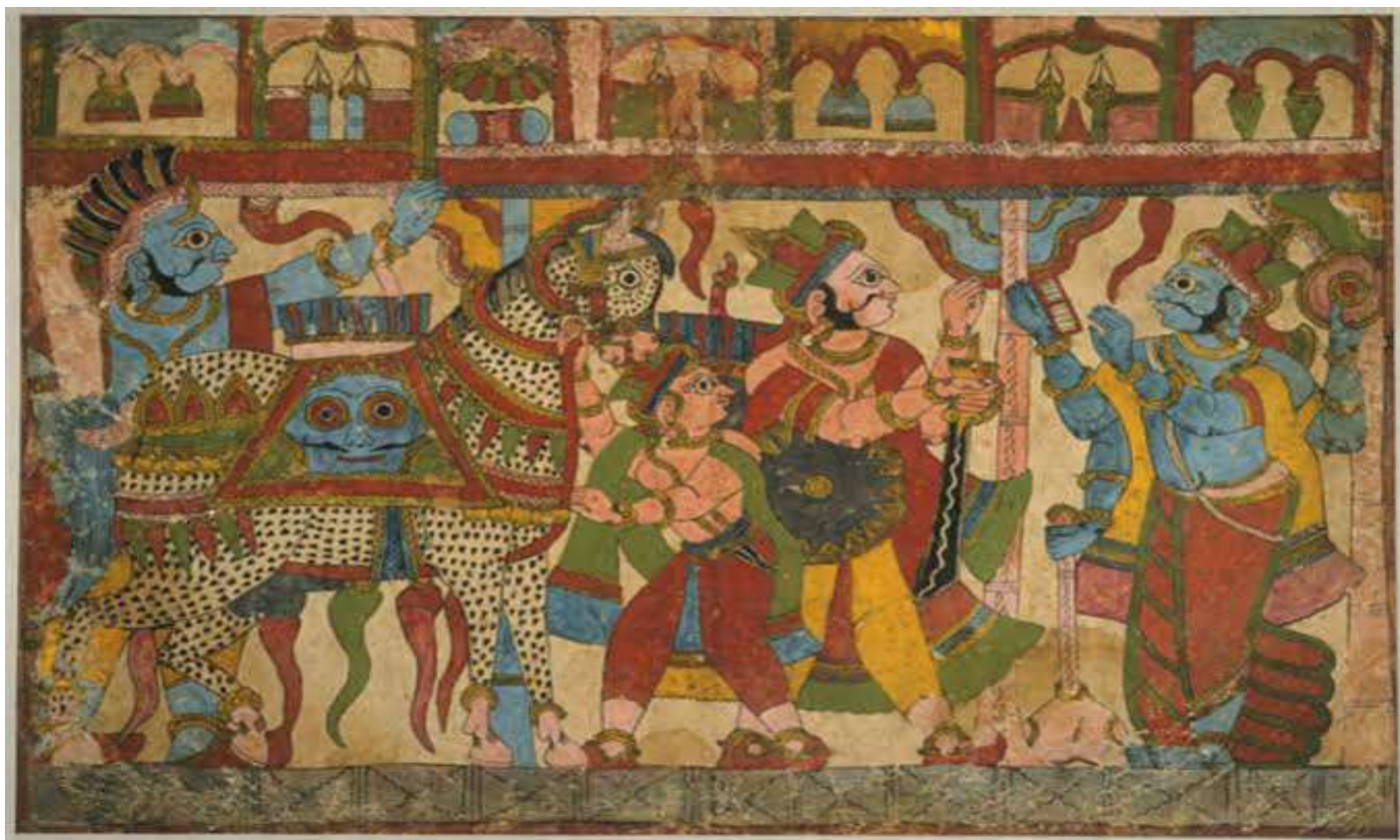


Indo-Europeans

- ↳ Ancient **agro-pastoralists**
- ↳ origins from western Eurasian Steppe but is debatable.
- ↳ Some study says that they are a mix of Ancient European hunter-gatherers, ancient Siberians & NW-Iran farmers.

Aryanization & Sanskritization

- The Indo-Aryans are believed to have brought with them the **Vedic religion** in India.



- Role of horses → Horses were domesticated by the Aryans & brought to India during invasion/migration.
- This Aryan wave created a migration wave that spread into the Ganga valley.
- Aryan hymns were codified as Vedas
- The Kuru Kingdom (Mahabharata)
 - ↳ also incorporated non-Aryan tribes and rituals
 - ↳ This became the Aryan civilization
- Sanskrit and its descendant languages became common in India.
- Idea of four-fold division of society
 - ↳ with Brahmins & Kshatriyas who had spearheaded the Aryan migration taking top position in the hierarchy
 - ↳ These Aryan priests and warriors set themselves as rulers.
- Gradually, Punjab, Ganga valley and further east assimilated the Aryan language and culture

Controversy: Critics point out numerous fallacies in the Aryan Migration Theory.

Those who favor Migration Theory

↳ New Y-DNA studies



R1a haplogroup → distributed all over Europe, Central & South Asia

↳ one subgroup is dominant in India.

↳ Y-DNA (transmitted only from father to son) ⇒ **Male migration to India**.

↳ Subgroup expanded in India ~4500 yrs ago ⇒ **just when IVC was declining**.

Critics of Aryan Migration Theory

• Matrilineal DNA studies

↳ those transmitted only from mother to daughter

↳ **very little external infusion** into Indian gene pool over last 12500 years

• There is **no Aryan Dravidian divide**

↳ First settlements in Andamans & South India → 65000 years ago

↳ **ancient north Indians emerged** later

- ↳ Soon both started mixing
- ↳ This is the population that exists now.
- R1a has origins in India
 - ↳ later it spread to Central Asia & Europe
 - ↳ Chenchus of Andhra & Sahariyas of MP show high proportions of R1a
- Archaeological evidence
 - ↳ No similarity in archeology (artifacts etc) in India and from the region where Aryans are believed to have entered.
- Indus Valley sites (Ghaggar-Hakra river)
 - ↳ Many artifacts correspond to even present day Hindu religion.
 - ↳ Recent discovery of Saraswati River
- Clear evidence of continuous inhabitation of Ganga plains since Pleistocene
 - ↳ No archaeological evidence that agriculture originated elsewhere.
- Presence of domesticated horses validated by recognized archeologists in Harappa/Indus

- Recent finding of a chariot remains in Sanauli, UP (1800-2000 B.C.)

These findings negate Aryan immigration model
 ↳ establish overlap of Indus Valley & Vedic cultures

Conclusion

- The debate has been ongoing since the last 3 centuries.
- Presence of horses in IVC is considered as very rare by supporters of Aryan Invasion Theory.
 ↳ No seals found with horse



M10: Assess the impact of negative Interest Rate policy on Emerging markets like India given the increased global linkage of these markets with rest of the world .

Monetary Policy

Rate hikes \Rightarrow contractionary policy
Rate cuts \Rightarrow expansionary policy

But when rate cuts happen to such an extent that nominal Interest Rates is set to less than zero, this is Negative Interest Rate Policy (NIRP)

Following the 2008 financial crisis

↳ Model of inflation Targeting failed

↳ Central Banks started following Unconventional Monetary Policy (UMP)

UMP

NIRP

↳ followed by Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Hungary & ECB.

QE (Quantitative Easing)

↳ Interest Rates is near zero but not negative to spur growth.
↳ Followed by Federal Reserve (US)

In a NIRP —

- ↳ depositors must pay regularly to keep their money in banks
- ↳ purpose is
 - ↳ Banks should lend more
 - ↳ Individuals should invest or spend.
- ↳ Need for NIRP arises during deflation & stagnation.
- ↳ So to spur growth, Central bank lowers interest rates to below zero.

But there may be some unintended consequences

- ↳ Bank run as customers may withdraw all money.
- ↳ People may start hoarding money instead of spending or investing.
- ↳ Money market fund yields may be negative as well.

Consequences on Emerging Markets (EMs) like India

- Huge capital inflows into EMs
 - ↳ cause currency appreciation in EM
 - ↳ makes them less competitive
 - ↳ Asset price rises.

- Inflationary pressures in EMs
- Depreciation of currency where it is adopted.
 - ↳ so adverse effect on EMs who export to such countries.
- Monetary Policy Divergence
 - ↳ like presently RBI hiked rates to control inflation
 - ↳ but QE/NIRP of other country may causes inflows of capital in India.
 - ↳ defeats the policy objectives of RBI
- May cause rise in cost of debt
 - ↳ as there is QE in US but NIRP in other advance economies
 - ↳ so US dollar appreciates with respect to currency of NIRP countries.
 - ↳ For EMs, US \$ appreciation causes high cost of debt.
 - ↳ Causes rise in credit risks in EMs.

M17: Food inflation has important political economy implications in India. Discuss the recent trends in food inflation in India

Inflation in India is a highly political issue -

- Core inflation is the change in prices of goods & services but does not include those from food & energy.
- Generally, core & non-core inflations move in the same direction.
- But there are times when they move in opposite direction
 - ↳ 'Scissor effect'.
- Eg: Core inflation rises but non core falls
Sellers of ↓ food (i.e. farmers) lose out
Rise in prices of other consumption goods results in a distress for them
Causes lopsided growth while inequality rises.
 - ↳ This was the narrative of the rural distress during 2013-15.

Recent trends in food inflation -

- FAO's Food Prices Index are at their highest levels since 1990
- Reasons are
 - ↳ Russia-Ukraine conflict with both of them being major agricultural producers & exporters
 - ↳ Economic recovery since the pandemic had initially pushed prices.
 - ↳ Pandemic had severely impacted global & domestic supply chains.
 - ↳ Shipping & logistical challenges due to lockdown & safety restrictions.
 - ↳ High fertiliser prices due to rising natural gas prices, export restrictions by China on phosphates.
 - ↳ Export restrictions on food products
 - ↳ like Vietnam on rice; Kazakhstan on cereals, oilseeds etc.
 - ↳ Dry weather in South America.
 - ↳ High crude prices causing more corn,

sugar, palm & soybean oil to be diverted for biofuel.

Trends in India -

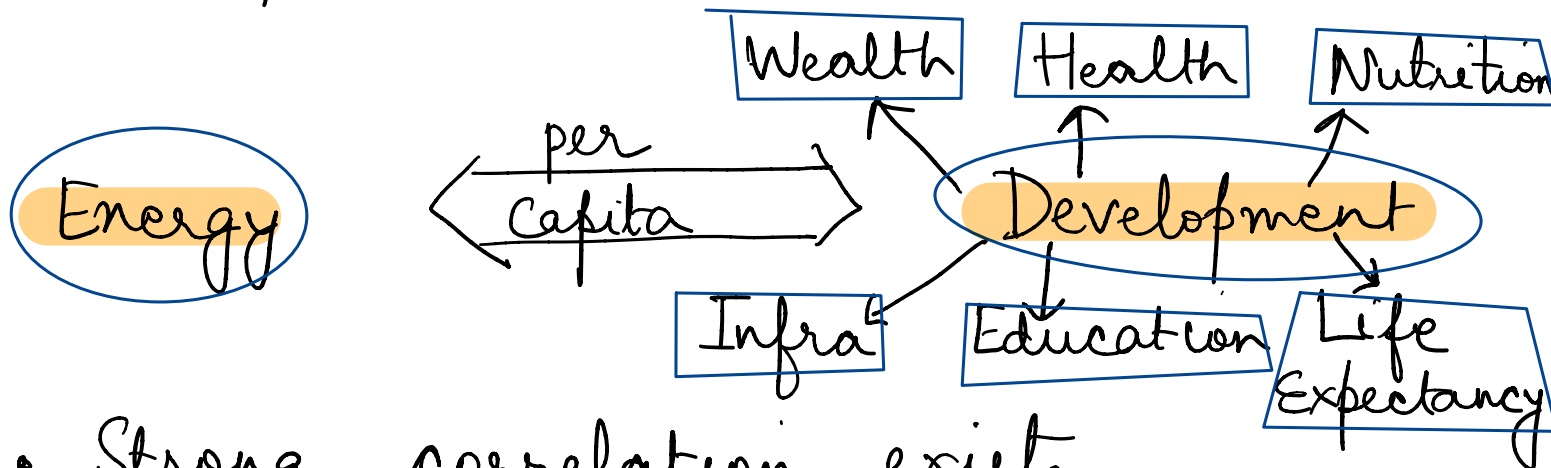
- Global food inflation transmitted to India for edible oils & cotton.
- Food inflation is likely to average 8% y-o-y in 2022 (3.7% in 2021)
- Excessive heat wave in India is also contributing.
 - ↳ caused high vegetable prices
 - ↳ Tomato prices too spiked.
- Wheat prices too were rising
 - ↳ Govt restricted its exports.
- Maize is being sold at above MSP.
- Pulses, sugar, onion, rice etc have seen little to no inflation

Conclusion

The recent food inflation is an "imported" inflation in India as it has been transmitted by the global food inflation.

M18: Energy has always been closely associated with economic growth and development. Discuss the trade offs involved in environmental sustainability and economic growth in India

Energy is one of the most important pre-requisite for economic growth or development.



• Strong correlation exists

↳ per capita GNP & energy consumption

Eg: US has per capita energy consumption 15.5 times than India.

↳ Japan has 8 times than India.

• Energy

↳ helps in industrialization

↳ efficient use of natural resources

↳ Employment opportunities

↳ Infrastructure expands

↳ Income rises.

Trade off between economic growth & environmental sustainability -

(1) Environmental Kuznet Curve Hypothesis

- Generally countries first want to achieve self sufficiency in basic needs.
 - ↳ even at the expense of enviro.
- After becoming rich, countries go for pollution clean up.

(2) It's not possible for a country to maximize both

- ↳ its enviro protection & economic output.

(3) Countries with low per capita GDP

- ↳ like China & India

↳ focus on economic output to satisfy their basic needs

(4) High income countries

↳ may be willing to place greater emphasis on enviro protection.

Critical Analysis

- The Kuznets Curve hypothesis is flawed
 - ↳ Pollutants like CO₂ has not decreased after countries become rich.
 - ↳ There may be irreversible changes to the environment with unpredictable consequences.
- If environment protection is made a part of economic planning from the start
 - ↳ then there may not be any trade offs.
- The world must make progress towards SDG 7
 - ↳ "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable & modern energy for all"

Question + Sample Answer + Detailed Synopsis

M28: : Answer the following questions:

(a) How are Mohenjodaro and Harappa related to each other in the time-space of Indus Valley Civilization. Also note points of differences between the two.

(b) Recent discoveries suggests that the Harappan civilisation was born in Haryana's Ghaggar Basin. Discuss.

(a) The Indus Valley Civilization was first identified in 1921 at Harappa & then in 1922 at Mohenjodaro

↳ The two great cities flourished along the Indus Valley.

↳ It was the similarity in the artifacts discovered at both places that proved that they both belonged to the same time-space.

Many similarities between the two -

(1) Drainage & Sewage System

- Great Bath of Mohenjodaro
- Many wells in Harappa
- Similar pattern of sewage system.

(2) Artifacts

- Same type of Zebu bull, unicorn, pottery

(3) Language

- Though it is still undeciphered.
- **Similar seals** found at both places

(4) Economy

- Both were **Agrarian economies**.
- **Granaries** found at both places

(5) Architecture

- Similar building structures

(6) Religion

- No temples or idols found
- **Swastika** symbols found.

A few differences too exist —

(1) Location

- Mohenjodaro → **Sindh**, Pakistan
- Harappa → **Punjab**, Pakistan

(2) Sculpture

- **Priest King** & **Dancing Girl** at Mohenjodaro
- while Harappa has **red jasper stone** & **grey stone** torso.

(b) Rakhigarhi is the Harappan site located in Ghaggar basin.
↳ Recent excavations done by ASI

Some findings —

- Planned township with proper drainage
- Cylindrical seal with Harappan characters
- Animal sacrificial pits and circular fire altars
- 2 female skeletons with many pottery & jewellery like jasper, shell bangles
- Blades, semi precious stones, Copper etc
- DNA studies
↳ Independent origin.

All these findings suggests that the Harappan civilization peaked in Rakhigarhi

- ↳ also Bhirana in Haryana is the oldest Harappan site
↳ Thus suggesting that the Harappan culture may have originated in Haryana's Ghaggar basin.

M30: : Satavahanas were a predominant force in ancient India post mauryas for 500 years. Discuss the outlook of Satvahanas towards Vedic Brahmanism and Buddhism in India.

Satavahanas

- Rulers of Andhra region & the Deccan from 2nd century BC
- Sakas were a constant threat
↳ thus limited growth of Satavahanas

Gautami-putra Satakarni (106 AD)

- revived fortunes of Satavahanas
- described as destroyer of Sakas, Pahlavas & Yavanas.
- Empire:
 - ↳ Malwa & Saurashtra in North
 - ↳ Krishna in South
 - ↳ Berar in East to Konkan in West
- His grandson was the last significant Satavahana ruler
↳ ruled till 199 AD

Satavahanas indeed were a predominant force in post Maurya India for 500 years.

Religious Outlook of Satavahanas

- ↳ first Indian kings to grant lands to Brahmans & Buddhist monks
- ↳ They revived Vedic Brahmanism in Deccan and consequently were able to cast in stone their Brahmanical credentials.
- ↳ Puranas too describe about them.
- ↳ Asvamedha & Rajasuya Yajnas were performed.
- ↳ Charity and dakshinas to Brahmanas were prevalent.
- ↳ Vaishnava and Shaiva cults too developed during this.
- ↳ Pilgrimage places became important
- ↳ Buddhism too flourished due to the tolerant attitude of Satavahanas.
- ↳ Buddhist caves built; residential quarters for Bhikshus.
- ↳ Many foreigners too embraced Buddhism and Brahmanism.
- ↳ Religious persecution did not exist.

Question + Sample Answer + Detailed Synopsis

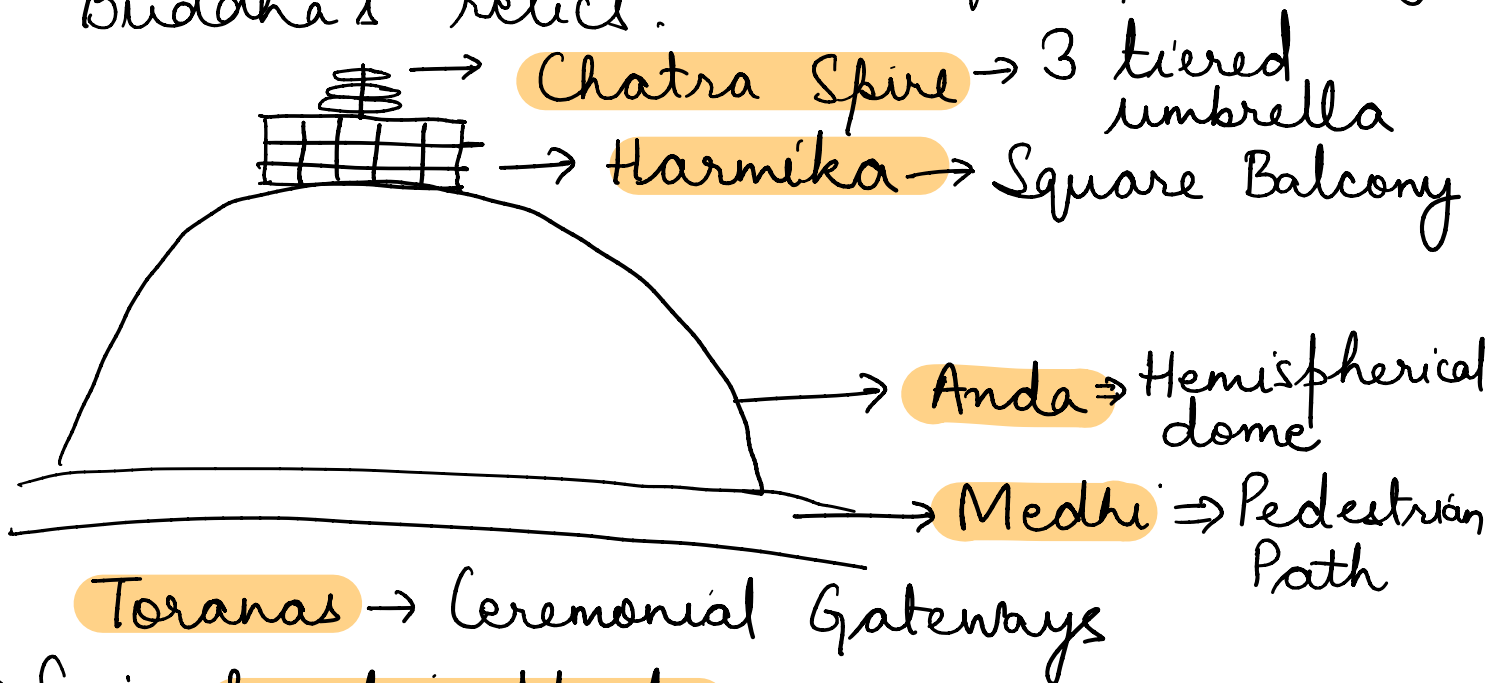
M32: :Enumerate elements of Buddhist architecture in India. Also discuss the differential evolution of Jain temples.

Buddhist architecture developed in the Indian subcontinent, starting from Ashoka's effort during 3rd century BC

Buddhist Structures in India -

(1) Stupas

- Mound like structure for preserving Buddha's relics.



- Eg: Sanchi Stupa

(2) Viharas

- Residential places of Buddhist monks

- Consists of assembly halls, dining chambers, meditation centres & Buddha figures on walls.
- Eg: Nagapattinam Vihara, Tamil Nadu
Ajanta & Ellora Caves
- Ellora Caves represents all 3 - Hinduism, Buddhism & Jainism

(3) Chaityas

- Assembly halls for monks to pray
- Semi circular roofs
- Eg: Barabar Hills (Lomas Rishi caves)
- Karle Caves, Pune
↳ largest Chaityagriha in India

(4) Stambhas

- Inscribed pillars with emblems or animals
- Eg: Sarnath pillar

Jain architecture has features drawn from both Hindu & Buddhist traditions

↳ Initially it was similar

↳ Later, Jains started developing **temple-cities** rather than a temple.

Distinctive evolution of Jain architecture

- **Temple cities**
- Use of **luxurious materials**.
- Abundance of **adornment**
- Exquisitely **carved pillars & roofs**.
- **Sharper domes** or **Shikharas**.
- Generally, carved out of rocks
↳ **Bricks** were **rarely used**.
- Named after one of the **24 Tirthankaras**
- **Jain Viharas** do not have cells surrounding prayer halls with extremely **tiny doors**.
- Eg: **Dilwara temple, Mt. Abu**
Shri Sammed Shikharji, Giridih

Though Jain temples evolved from Hindu & Buddhist forms, but later distinct **temple cities on hills** were built based on notion of **mountains of immortality**

M37: : Who were the Tanjavur Marathas? Discuss their contribution in the fields of Art and Architecture.

Tanjavur Marathas

- ↳ a **Bhonsle** dynasty Kingdom
- ↳ in Tamil Nadu's Tanjore area
- ↳ between 17-19th century AD

Conquests in Tanjavur

↓
Cholas (till 13th century AD)

↓
Pandyas

↓
Invasion of **Malik Kafur**

↓
Later conquered by Vijayanagara Empire

↓
Many internal squabbles

↓
Maratha General Venkoji captured Tanjore in 1675.

Architectural Contributions :

- Built many temples, palaces, complex fortifications, rest houses, bridges etc

- Sarfoji II took keen interest in architecture.
 - ↳ Town planning
 - ↳ Many big buildings constructed in colonial style as the British had helped him get the throne.

• Features

- ↳ architectural style was a fusion of diverse features
- ↳ Triangular shaped buildings.
- ↳ Use of bricks rather than stones
- ↳ Use of vault roofs
- ↳ Islamic tradition of raising long rows of pillars also followed.

• Saraswathi Mahal by Sarfoji II is a unique ex: of architecture of Tanjavur Marathas.

- Many Temples too were constructed
 - ↳ Vaidyanath Swami Temple
 - ↳ Ganesh temple inside Brahedeswara Temple complex.

Sculptures

- Bronze image of Ammari Amma (wife of Pratapsinh)
 - ↳ one of the masterpieces.
- Mostly are engraved on single stone

Paintings

- Mural paintings in front of mandapa in Brahadewara temple.

Conclusion:

- The Tanjavar Marathas were a foreigner in the lands they ruled, but they quickly adopted Tamil culture, art and architecture.

M38: : Who were the "nabobs" as distinct from the "nawabs" during rule of East India Company? How did Company's trading activities lead to wars?

Nabobs → refers to an anglicised version of the Indian word "nawab".

- ↳ During the rule of East India Company, many Company servants amassed huge wealth.
- ↳ Some through corrupt methods.
- ↳ Those who managed to return to Britain with wealth flaunted their riches.
- ↳ They were called "Nabobs" in Britain and seen as social climbers in British society.

India in 17th century & the EIC

- ↳ home to spices, fabrics and luxury goods.
- ↳ Europeans saw India as a land of seemingly endless potential.
- ↳ The EIC in Britain were able to

get royal charter, granting it the sole right to trade with the East.

- ↳ But this charter could not prevent other European powers from entering.
- ↳ By the time EIC came to India, the Dutch, Portuguese and French were already operating.
- ↳ Every power wanted to secure markets.
- ↳ This led to fierce battles between the trading companies.

From trade to war.

- ↳ The royal charter granted the EIC ability to wage war and use military force to protect itself and fight rivals.
- ↳ They sank each other's ships, blockaded routes etc.
- ↳ Arms became necessary for trade and trading posts were protected through fortifications.

↳ This often led to conflicts with local rulers. So it was difficult for the EIC to separate trade from politics.

Nawabs Versus the Company

- After Aurangzeb, Nawabs asserted their autonomy.
- They refused Concessions to EIC, demanded tributes and stopped fortifications.
- The EIC argued using Aurangzeb's farman which gave EIC right to trade duty free.
- All this finally led to the famous Battle of Plassey.

Conclusion:

EIC's trading activities were solely based on the monopolies it was enjoying.

Any competition it faced was removed by resorting to wars.

M42 : The Indigo Commission in 1860 noted "not a chest of indigo reached England without being stained with human blood". With respect to above statement answer the following questions-

(a) What were the causes of the Indigo Revolt or the Nila Bidroha?
(b) Discuss the reasons for success of the Revolt.

Indigo Revolt or Nila Bidroha

- ↳ A peasant uprising of indigo farmers against Indigo planters in 1859 in Nadia, Bengal.
- ↳ In 1859-60, it spread to other parts of Bengal.

(a) Causes of Indigo Revolt

(1) Indigo Cultivation - An oppression

- highly profitable for the planters due to high demand of indigo in Europe.
- But growing indigo was not profitable for the farmers
 - ↳ planters paid 2.5% of market price
- Farmers were lured into growing indigo as they fell in a debt trap set by the planters.
- An Act of 1833 gave planters free

hand in dealing with the ryots

(2) Planters made a system of advances

↳ This system passed on the debt from fathers to sons.

↳ Compelled to grow indigo and no other crops could be grown.

↳ Exercise of physical force on ryots by planters.

↳ Some who resisted were beaten up and kidnapped

↳ Those who fell into the system were never afterwards a free man.

(3) Immediate Cause -

• H.C. Kar, the DM of Kalaroa

↳ published a proclamation to the police that in cases of disputes, the Indigo ryots shall retain possession of their land and shall sow whatever they want.

• Initially, farmers used peaceful demonstrations and petitions to get rid of Indigo planters.

- But in 1859, one planter sent a band of 100 lathials to attack ryots of Govindpur village in Nadia.

↳ The ryots under leadership of Digambar and Bishnu Biswas organised a counter-offensive armed with lathis and spears.

(b) Success of Indigo Revolt was due to-

- Cooperation, organisation and discipline among the farmers

- Complete Hindu-Muslim unity

- Leadership provided by wealthier ryots, petty zamindars, moneylenders and even former planter employees.

- Role of Bengali intelligentsia.

↳ supported the peasants

↳ HC Mukherji (of Hindoo Patriot) regularly published reports on planter oppression etc.

↳ Neel Darpan (by Dinbandhu Mitra) portrayed oppression of the planters.

- Christian Missionaries too supported the peasants
- British Govt had just recovered from the horrors of 1857 Revolt and Santhal uprising.
 - ↳ so its response was measured
 - ↳ it set up the Indigo Commission

Conclusion :

The Indigo Revolt or the Nila Bidroha was a huge success as the govt. announced that ryots could not be forced to grow Indigo, and planters closed all their factories in Bengal.