

Approach to Answer Writing GS PAPER-I

Q. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone. (2020, 10M, 150W)

Structure of Answer:

- Introduction: Define Circum-Pacific Zone
- Body: Discuss the Geographical Characteristics
- Conclusion: Conclude highlighting the importance of region

Model Answer

Circum-Pacific zone is the region encompassing the coast of Asia, Australia, and North America, South America circumventing the Pacific Ocean. It stretches from Bering strait in Siberia to New Zealand and coast of Chile to Alaska.



Geophysical characteristics Circum-Pacific Zone are:

- Convergent zone
- Fold Mountains
- Archipelagos
- Wadati-Benioff zone (Shallow focused earthquakes)
- Ring of fire (Volcanism)

It's Geophysical characteristics:

- Tsunamis
- Hot Spots
- Geothermal Processes- Hot springs and Geysers
- Trenches

Thus, Circum-Pacific zone is a source of study to determine orogenesis process such as continent formation, earthquake activities, volcanic activity etc. Hence, it is very important to study and understand distinct features of the world.

Approach to Answer Writing GS PAPER-I

Q. Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj (2021, 15 M, 250 W)

Structure of Answer:

- **Introduction:** Socio-Religious Movements in brief.
- **Body:** rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements & Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj contributions
- **Conclusion:** Conclude by highlighting its impact on the society.

Answer

Socio-religious reform movements arose in India during 19th century to reform caste-ridden, Orthodox and rigid society as a reaction to colonial rule. Various reformers like Raja Rammohun Roy, Ishawarchandra Vidyasagar, Swami Dayananda Saraswati persuaded people to give up orthodox age-old traditions like Sati, child marriage, polygamy, female infanticide etc. by adopting a new way of life.

The rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements in India can be traced in following points:

1. Modern English education
2. American war of Independence, French Revolution, Russian Revolution inspired the intellectuals.
3. Work of Missionaries → Modern democratic values
4. Orientalism & Colonial support etc.

Contribution of Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj:

Brahmo Samaj:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy (*father of Modern India's Renaissance*) founded **Brahmo Sabha in 1828**, whose main aim was the **worship of the eternal God**. However, it was against **priesthood, rituals and sacrifices**.
- The greatest achievement in the field of social reform was the **abolition of Sati in 1829**.
- He advocated the **abolition of polygamy** and **wanted women** to be educated and given the **right to inherit property**.
- This led to the **emergence of rationalism and enlightenment in India** which indirectly contributed to the nationalist movement.
- It was the **forerunner of all social, religious and political movements of modern India**.

Young Bengal:

- Henry Vivian Derozio joined the **Hindu College of Calcutta** as a teacher.
- He promoted **radical ideas** through his teaching and by organizing an association for debate and discussions on **literature, philosophy, history and science**.
- He inspired his **followers and students to question all authority**.
- They cherished the ideals of the **French Revolution (1789 A.D.) and the liberal thinking of Britain**. Derozio died of cholera at the young age of 22.

Apart from attacking social evils like Sati, Child marriage, Untouchability, superstition, purdah system etc., the social and religious reform movements also helped in **dealing with Social inequalities, illiteracy and racism perpetuated by the colonial rule**. This eventually led to the development of **self esteem and nationalism** against the British Government.