

UPSC Mains Model Questions [September 1-15, 2026]



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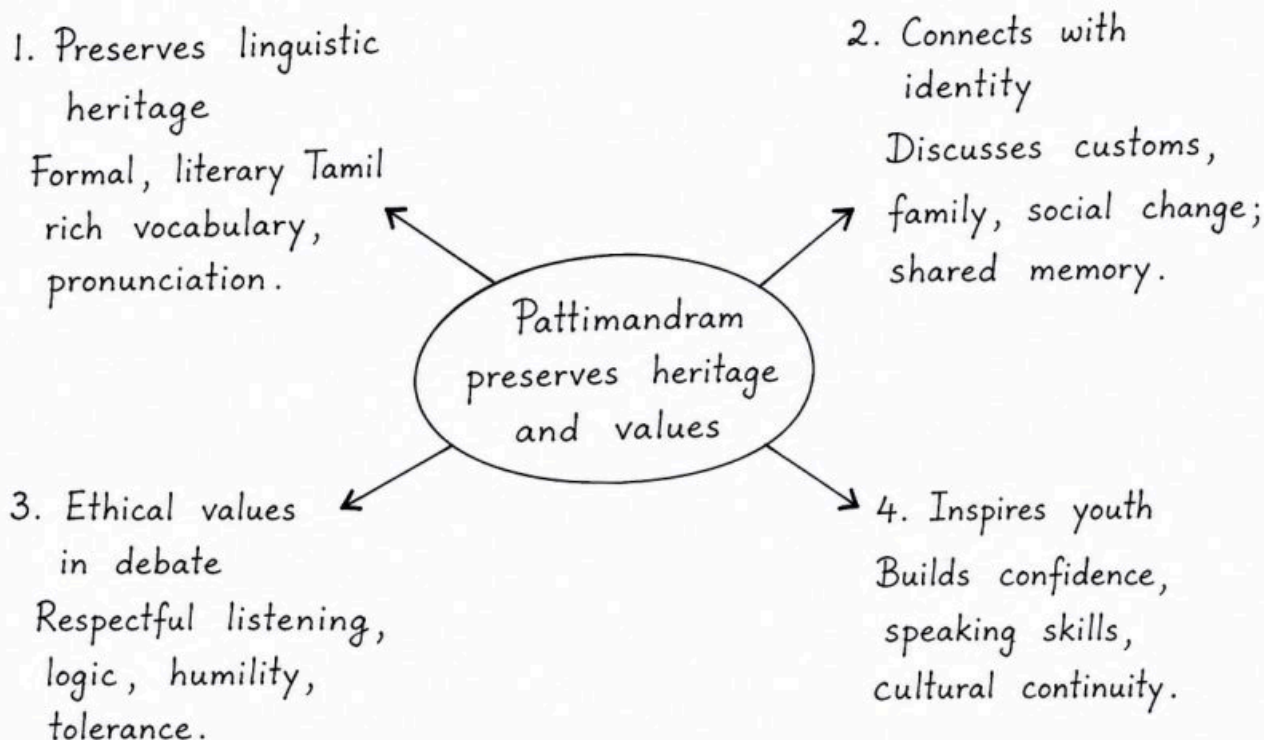
Contents

GS-I: Indian Art, Culture & Heritage	3
1. Critically analyse how Sangam literary descriptions of ports like Kaveripoompattinam align with underwater archaeological findings. Explain the historical significance of this correlation.	
2. How do traditional oral debate formats like Pattimandram preserve regional linguistic heritage and ethical values in contemporary society? Explain with suitable examples.	
3. Critically discuss the challenges of preserving the historical integrity of UNESCO World Heritage mountain railways in India while balancing the demands of modern tourism and safety.	
4. Explain why traditional lime mortar is preferred over modern cement in the restoration of historic masonry. How does it ensure the longevity of heritage structures?	
5. Examine why the preservation of manuscript heritage like Kangyur and Tengyur is vital for maintaining the living heritage of Himalayan monastic communities.	
6. Explain how traditional ritualistic performance arts like Gondhal and Bharud served as powerful tools for social reform and community cohesion in Maharashtra.	
7. How did the shift in architectural focus from the sanctum tower (Vimana) to monumental gateway towers (Gopurams) reflect the changing political dynamics of medieval South Indian dynasties? Discuss.	
8. Taking the example of traditional games like Kabaddi, explain how the globalization of indigenous sports helps in preserving cultural heritage. Critically discuss.	
GS-I: Modern Indian History	13
9. How did the colonial design of the Police Act of 1861 shape the post-Independence police administration in India? Underline the challenges of decolonizing the state police mindset.	
10. Critically discuss the strategic and geopolitical implications of the 19th-century Dogra military campaigns in the trans-Himalayan region. How did they shape India's modern northern borders?	
11. Explain how the transition from colonial military decorations to post-independence Indian gallantry awards reflected the nation's sovereign and republican identity.	
GS-I: Indian Society	17
12. Critically examine how Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) can mitigate the challenges of unplanned urban sprawl in rapidly expanding Tier-II Indian cities.	
13. Critically analyse how the rise of para-sports in India helps deconstruct deep-rooted societal prejudices and stigma associated with physical disabilities.	
14. Critically examine how the growth of regional cinema strengthens regional identities while simultaneously fostering a sense of national integration and Indianness.	
15. With suitable examples, discuss how the digital divide in tribal areas impedes social mobility. Why do standard digital education models fail in these remote regions?	
16. With suitable examples, discuss why unpaid care work continues to limit female labor force participation in India despite rising educational attainment.	
GS-II: Polity & Constitution of India	23
17. Critically examine how the evolution of the collegium system through the Judges Cases has impacted the balance of power between the executive and the judiciary in India.	
18. Underline the need for transparency in the judicial appointment process. How can the current collegium system be reformed without compromising the independence of the judiciary?	
19. Critically examine how the President's regulation-making power under Article 240 impacts democratic decentralization in Union Territories without legislatures. What are its constitutional limitations?	
20. Explain how the unique security and developmental challenges of the North-Eastern region necessitated a distinct	



2. How do traditional oral debate formats like Pattimandram preserve regional linguistic heritage and ethical values in contemporary society? Explain with suitable examples. (150 words)

Traditional oral debates such as **Pattimandram** keep Tamil heritage alive by making spoken Tamil vivid, elegant and socially relevant. They turn language into a living cultural practice, not just a written form.



- **Preserving linguistic heritage:** Speakers use formal and literary Tamil, often echoing Sangam ideas like akam and puram. This strengthens vocabulary, pronunciation and confidence, especially among younger listeners.
- **Link with identity:** By discussing Tamil customs, family life and social change, Pattimandram connects audiences to a shared memory and a sense of continuity with the past.
- **Ethical values in debate:** It promotes respectful disagreement, listening and reasoning. Topics often highlight Aram, Maanam, Adakkam and Karpu, keeping moral ideas active in public life.
- **Modern relevance:** TV, festivals and digital platforms have widened its reach, making ethical and linguistic learning accessible across generations.

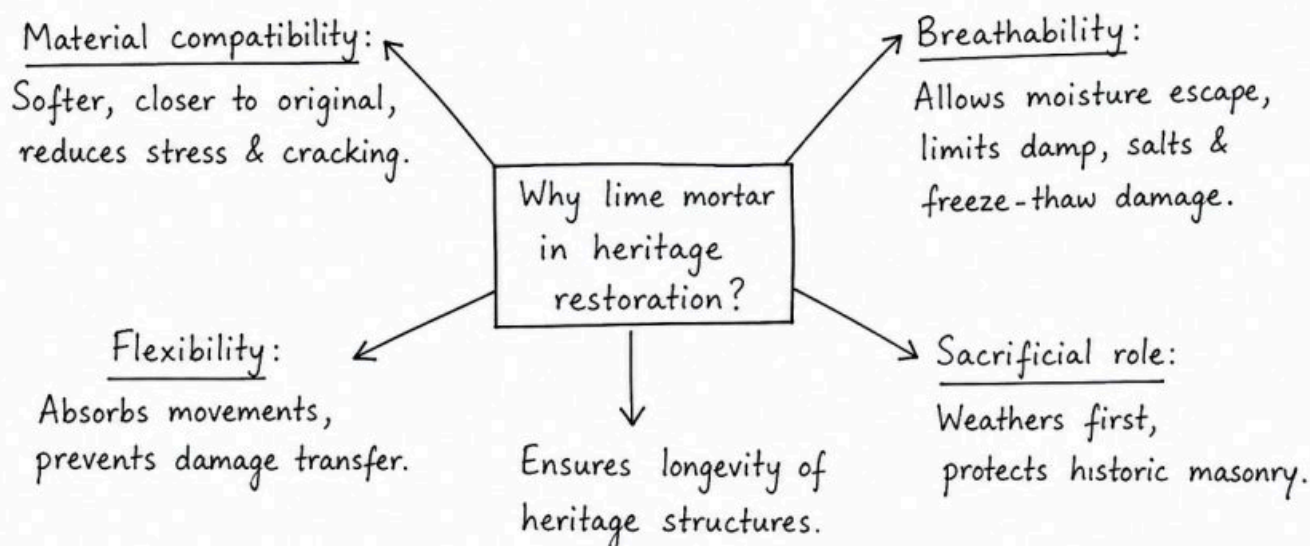
For example, debates on whether the present or previous generation enjoys life more allow social reflection without hostility. Thus, Pattimandram blends language preservation with civic and moral education.

Your Notes:



4. Explain why traditional lime mortar is preferred over modern cement in the restoration of historic masonry. How does it ensure the longevity of heritage structures? (150 words)

Traditional lime mortar is preferred in historic masonry because it matches the behaviour of old brick and stone. Modern cement is harder, denser and less breathable, so it can trap moisture and force damage into the masonry itself.



- **Material compatibility:** lime mortar is softer and closer to original fabric, reducing stress, cracking and spalling.
- **Breathability:** it lets walls release moisture, limiting damp, salt build-up and freeze-thaw decay.
- **Flexibility:** it absorbs small movements and settlement without transferring harmful load to fragile units.
- **Sacrificial role:** the mortar weathers first, protecting costly historic bricks and stones.

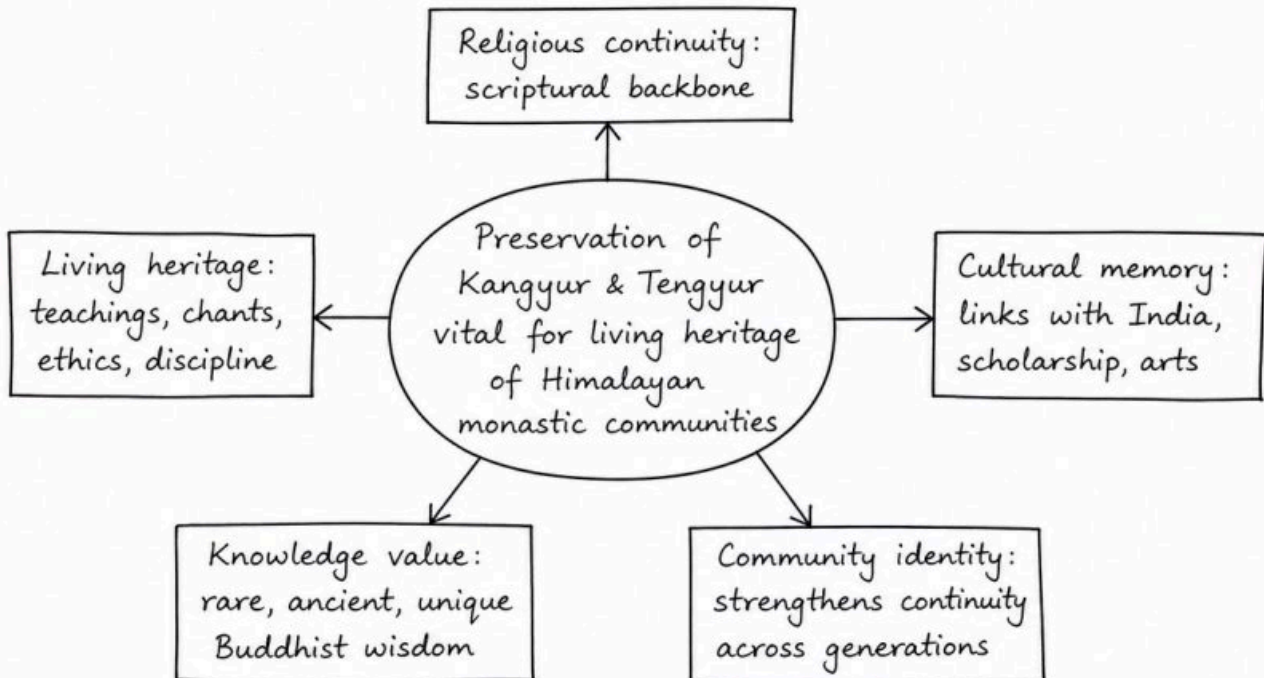
It ensures longevity by managing moisture, preserving structural balance and allowing future repairs without deep loss of original material. Its slight self-healing through continued carbonation further seals small cracks. In heritage work, the aim is not maximum strength, but long-term compatibility and minimal intervention.

Your Notes:



5. Examine why the preservation of manuscript heritage like Kangyur and Tengyur is vital for maintaining the living heritage of Himalayan monastic communities. (150 words)

Preserving manuscript heritage such as Kangyur and Tengyur is essential because these texts are not inert archives; they are the scriptural backbone of Himalayan monastic life. They sustain ritual practice, teaching, meditation and community identity in monasteries across Ladakh, Spiti and other Himalayan regions.



- **Religious continuity:** Kangyur carries the Buddha's teachings, while Tengyur contains key commentaries by Indian masters.
- **Living heritage:** They transmit doctrines, chant traditions, ethics and monastic discipline across generations.
- **Cultural memory:** They preserve historical links with Indian Buddhism, local scholarship and artistic traditions.
- **Knowledge value:** Many rare texts survive only in these collections, aiding research and translation.
- **Protection need:** Fragile materials, climate stress, decay and neglect make conservation urgent.

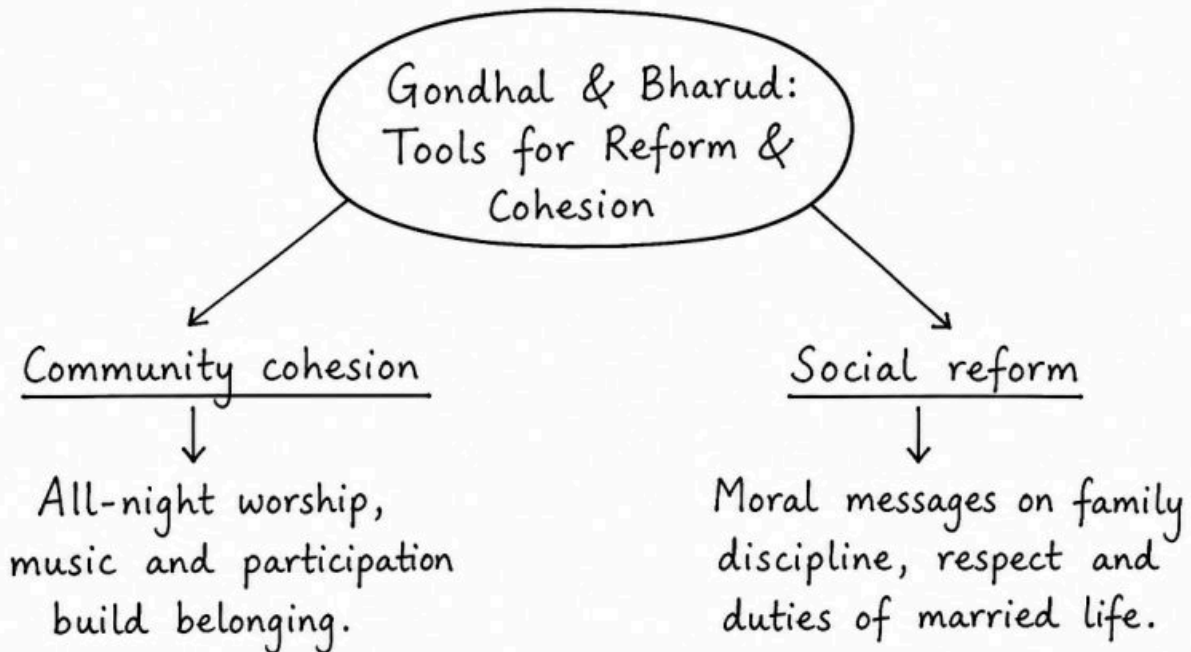
Thus, preserving these manuscripts safeguards both spiritual authority and community identity. It also keeps a living tradition relevant for future monks, scholars and Himalayan society.

Your Notes:



6. Explain how traditional ritualistic performance arts like Gondhal and Bharud served as powerful tools for social reform and community cohesion in Maharashtra. (150 words)

Traditional ritualistic arts in Maharashtra were not mere entertainment; they were tools of collective learning. **Gondhal** and **Bharud** used song, story and satire to reach ordinary people in a language they understood.



- **Community cohesion:** Gondhal brought families and neighbours together during weddings and thread ceremonies, often through all-night worship, music and shared participation. It created a sense of belonging and reinforced social ties.
- **Social reform:** Gondhalis inserted moral messages on family discipline, respect within households and the duties of married life. Their performances educated both rich and poor, making social advice widely accessible.
- **Public pedagogy:** Bharud, popularised by Saint Eknath, exposed superstition, caste prejudice, fraud and hypocrisy. Its humour and satire made criticism acceptable and memorable.
- **Contemporary relevance:** Bharud also addressed female foeticide, farmer distress, corruption and public health, showing its ability to guide society in changing times.

Thus, these art forms united communities while gently reforming behaviour, making culture a powerful instrument of social change in Maharashtra.

Your Notes: