

Syllabus Essentials



English

Weekly Compilation
[6th-12th April, 2025]

Zonal Councils

- **Type:** Statutory (Extra-constitutional) body.
- **Established Under:** States Reorganisation Act, 1956 (7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956).
- **Objective:** Promote cooperation and coordination among States, Union Territories (UTs), and the Centre.

Zones & Councils

Divided into Five Zones:

- Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, Southern
- One Zonal Council for Each Zone

Nature of the Body

- **Function:** Deliberative and advisory
- **Recommendations:** Not binding
- **Meeting Frequency:** At least twice a year

Composition

Chairman: Union Home Minister

Members:

- Chief Ministers of all states in the zone
- Two other ministers from each state in the zone
- Administrator of each UT in the zone



Doctrine of Lapse

About

- A policy devised by **Lord Dalhousie**, Governor-General of India (1848–56).
- Used to regulate succession in **Hindu Indian princely states**.
- Part of the larger **Doctrine of Paramountcy**, asserting British supremacy.

Key Principle

- According to **Hindu law**, rulers without natural heirs could adopt sons.
- Dalhousie claimed the **British right to approve or reject** such adoptions.
- In absence of a natural or approved adopted heir, the state would be annexed by the British.

Motive Behind the Policy

- Dalhousie believed **Western (British) rule** was superior and should be extended.
- Aimed to **expand British territories** by taking over "leaderless" states.

States Annexed Under the Doctrine

- **Satara (1848), Jaitpur & Sambalpur (1849), Baghat (1850), Chota Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853) and Nagpur (1854).**



Causes of Mughal Downfall

Weak Rulers

- Later Mughals were ineffective and neglected administration.

Succession Disputes

- Wars of succession weakened the empire.

Noble Degeneration

- Internal conflicts among nobles hurt the empire.

Decline of the Army

- Weakened military power contributed to downfall.

Overexpansion

- The vast empire became hard to govern.

Aurangzeb's Religious Policy

- Alienated Rajputs, Sikhs, Jats, and Marathas.

Failure in Deccan

- Aurangzeb's Deccan campaign drained resources.

External Invasions

- Invasions by Irani and Durrani kingdoms weakened the empire.



Archaean Rock System

Period of Formation: Formed around **4 billion years ago**, during the cooling and solidification of molten magma.

Features:

- **Azoic** (no fossils).
- **Crystalline** (volcanic origin).
- **Foliated** (thin sheet-like layers).
- **Contorted and faulted** due to tectonic forces.
- Often formed as **plutonic intrusions** (deep volcanic rocks).

Major Rocks:

- **Gneiss:** Covers two-thirds of **Peninsular India**, with mineral compositions varying from **granite** to **gabbro**, exhibiting foliated or banded structures.
- **Schists:** Mostly **crystalline** rocks.

Location:

- **Himalayas, Central and Southern Peninsular India**
Orissa, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh,
Chotanagpur Plateau (Jharkhand), Bundelkhand.

Significance:

- Contain important **minerals** like **mica**, **talc**, **hornblende**, **chlorite**.



Dharwar Rock System

Period of Formation: Formed over 3 major cycles between 3,100 million years ago to 1,000 million years ago.

Features:

- Formed by **metamorphosis** of Archaean gneisses and schists.
- The most ancient **metamorphosed sedimentary rock system**.

Major Rocks:

- Hornblende, Schists, Quartzites, Phyllites, Slates, Crystalline Limestones, Dolomites.

Location:

- Dharwar-Bellary-Mysore belt (Karnataka), Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Himalayas.

Significance:

- Economically important for **minerals** like iron ore, manganese, copper, lead, gold, etc.





Stay Tuned!