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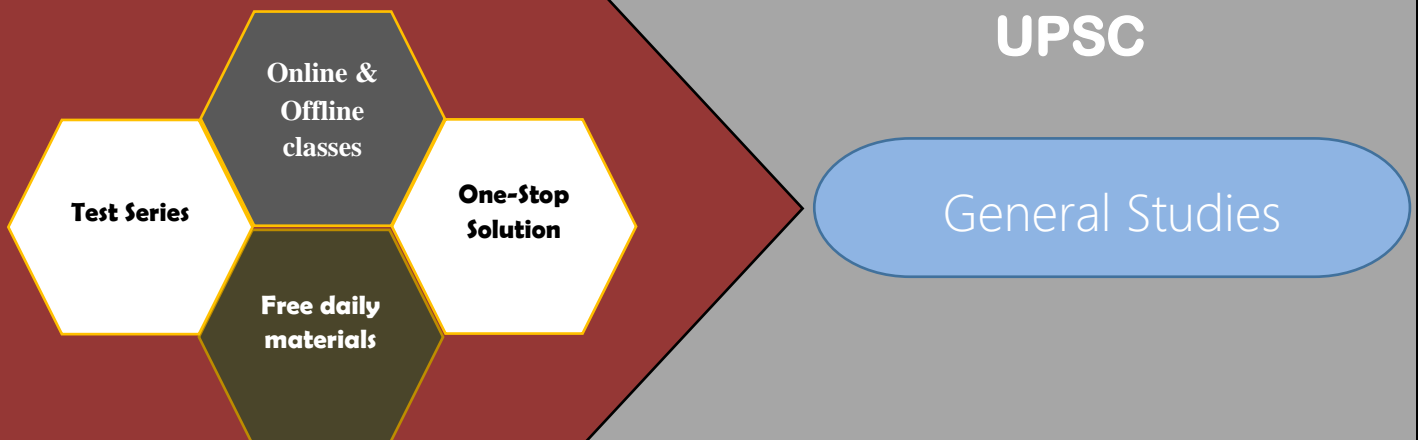
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Surangam System

Notes for civil services preparation



Surangam System

- The Karez System of Afghanistan is in threat whereas a similar system named Surangam in South India is thriving.
- Surangams resemble the karez System both in structure and spread.

Key Points

About Surangams:

- The surangam or suranga is **usually found in northern Kerala and southern Karnataka.**
- Surangam is basically a tunnel dug through a laterite hillock from the periphery of which water and moisture seeps out.
- Surangams are **similar to Qanats** which once **existed in Mesopotamia and Babylon around 700 Before Common Era (BCE)**. By 714 BCE, this technology had spread to Egypt, Persia and India.
- **Qanats** are underground tunnel systems that bring infiltrated groundwater, surface water, or spring water to the earth's surface using only gravitational force.
- This system has been very effectively **used for domestic and agriculture purposes in dry areas of northern Malabar.**
- Some people believe the surangam is indigenous and a likely origin of the suranga system refers to **18 Karhada Brahmin families** that had been moved to the Kasargod area from modern-day Maharashtra in the 17th century under duress.

Karez System:

- The karez system is a legacy of its Persian cultural. It has suffered **extensive damage in 43 years of war** and stares at an uncertain future under the **Taliban's** second regime.
- Karez is a **water harnessing technology in which groundwater is brought to the surface** by a tunnel.
- In this system, **no mechanical pump or lift is** Gravity alone brings the water from the underground source.
- The technology originated in **Persia/Iran and was widely used during the medieval period.**

