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INDIAN SOCIETY

MAINS VALUE ADDITION MATERIAL

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Salient features of Indian Society

"If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India."

- **Romain Rolland (French Nobel Laureate)**

"India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border."

- **Hu Shih (Chinese ambassador to the US)**

"So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone, either by man or nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his rounds. Nothing seems to have been forgotten, nothing overlooked."

- **Mark Twain (American writer)**

"We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made."

- **Albert Einstein (German Physicist)**

Introduction

Covering a span of almost five thousand years since the existence of its first civilization, **the Indian Society is extremely old and complex in nature.** It is primarily characterized by the existence of varying **castes, faith, ethnicity, communities, tribal identity**, etc., which together produce a unique culture prevalent not only in India but almost across the entire Indian subcontinent. Traditionally, social relations were often based on caste, ethnic group, race, etc. with extended family, village community and caste system being the three primary societal structures.

Characteristics of Indian Society

• **Multi-ethnic society** - Indian society is multi-ethnic in nature due to **co-existence of wide variety of racial groups** in India. India is home to almost all the racial profiles prevalent in the world,

• **Multilingual society** - Across the length and breadth of the country, more than **1600 languages** are spoken. Among them the major languages are **Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali** etc.

• **Multi-class society**- Indian society is segmented into multiple classes. This division can be on the **basis of birth** as well as **financial and social achievements** during one's lifetime.

• **Patriarchal society** - Indian society is largely a **patriarchal society where men tend to enjoy greater status than women**. However, some tribal societies are matrilineal societies where women have the dominant decision making power.

• **Unity in diversity** - This is an **inherent feature of Indian society**. Diversity in India exists at various levels in different forms. However, **beneath this diversity, there is fundamental unity in social institutions and practices.**

• **Co-existence of traditionalism and modernity** - Traditionalism is upholding or maintenance of core values. Whereas modernity refers to questioning the tradition and moving towards **rational thinking, social, scientific and technological progress.** Due to the spread of education and technological advances, modern thinking among Indians has increased. However, **the family life is still bound by traditional value and belief systems.**

• **Balance between spiritualism and materialism** - Spiritualism's main focus is to promote an individual's experience with God. Whereas materialism is a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important

than spiritual values. **Indian society is largely possess spiritual orientations**. However due to **increased Westernisation, materialistic tendencies have also become quite visible.**

• **Balance between Individualism and collectivism** - Individualism is a moral, political or social outlook that stresses human independence, self-reliance and liberty. Whereas collectivism is the practice of giving a group priority over each individual in it. There exists a fine balance between them in Indian society.

• **Blood and kinship ties** - Blood relations and kinship ties enjoy a stronghold over other social relationships. They continue to govern the **political and economic spheres of life**.

Features of Indian Society

a. Caste System

Caste can be defined as a **hereditary, endogamous group**, having a common name, common traditional occupation, common culture, relatively rigid in matters of mobility, the distinctiveness of status, and forming a single homogenous community.

It has **origins in ancient India** and was transformed by various ruling elites in medieval, early-modern, and modern India, especially the Mughal Empire and the British Raj.

India's caste system is among the world's oldest forms of surviving social stratification.

The caste system consists of two different concepts, **Varna and jati**, which may be regarded as different levels of analysis of this system.

Characterstics of the caste system in India

- **Segmental division of society** – It means that **social stratification is largely based on caste**. Membership to a caste group is acquired by birth, based on which people are ranked relative to other caste groups.
- **Hierarchy** – It indicates that various castes are categorized **according to their purity and impurity of occupations.** Just like a ladder, castes are ranked from higher to lower positions. Pure caste is ranked at the top, and impure is ranked at the bottom.
- **Endogamy** – Members of a particular caste have to marry within their caste only**. Inter-caste marriages are prohibited**. However, **in urban areas, the phenomenon of inter-caste marriage is increasing**.
- **Untouchability** – It is the practice of ostracizing a group by segregating them from the mainstream by social custom. **Untouchability was a corollary of the caste system**, wherein the untouchables (those belonging to the lowest caste groups) were deemed impure and polluted.
- **Civil and religious disabilities** – These comprise restrictions based on **contact, dress, speech, rituals** etc. and are placed on every caste group. It was done in order to **maintain the purity of specific caste groups**. For example, lower-caste groups had no access to wells, they were restricted from entering temples etc.
- **Manual scavenging** – **Manual scavenging eventually became a caste-based occupation**, which involves the removal of untreated human excreta from bucket toilets or pit latrines. It has been **officially abolished by the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013.**
- **Caste-based violence in India** – The increasing trend of **caste-based violence are related to instances of inter-caste marriage and assertion of basic rights by Dalits** including land rights, freedom of expression, access to justice, access to education etc.
- **The policy of caste-based reservation** – The system of caste-based reservation in India comprises of a series of **affirmative action measures, such as reserving access to seats in the various legislatures, to government jobs, and to enrolment in higher educational institutions**. For E.g. Scheduled Caste groups are given 15% reservation in government services and educational institutions.
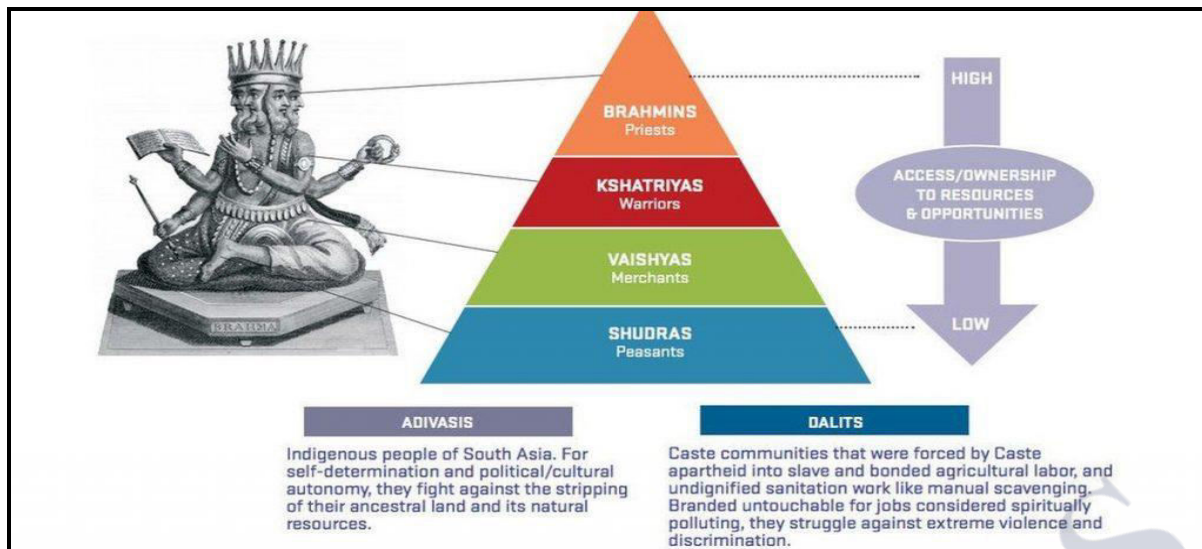
Changes in the Caste system

• **Trends for inter-caste marriage**: Purity of blood was one of the main aim of the caste system. As a result, inter-caste marriages were socially forbidden. Due to **economic and social necessities, inter-caste marriages on western lines are being performed at increased frequency.**

• **Challenge to orthodoxy**: Orthodox practices of the caste system such as **child marriage, ban on widow re-marriage, ban on conversion, insensitiveness of superior class towards the low caste people** are being challenged in the wake of urbanization.

• **New food habits**: Due to frequent mixing of the people at meetings, conferences, seminars etc., food habits have changed. Moreover, people have adapted to new social norms such as eating at the same table, accepting food prepared by low caste people without any reservations etc.

• **Changes in occupation**: **Occupational mobility has become the new feature**. Leaving behind their traditional roles, Brahmins have become traders whereas Vaishya's have joined teaching and so on.

• **Improvement in the position of lower caste**: Due to steps initiated by the government, position of lower castes have improved economically as well as socially.

Factors Affecting the Changes in Caste System

• **Sanskritisation**: Sanskritisation as a process of change is the **mobility concerned with positional change in the caste system**. By changing the customs and rituals such as by **adopting vegetarianism and teetotalism,** people belonging to the low castes are claiming a 'higher' position in the caste hierarchy.

• **Westernisation**: Due to changes in the spheres of education, food habits, dressing sense, style of eating, manners etc., **westernization has brought occupational changes cutting across the caste barriers**.

• **Modernisation**: It is a process which primarily relies on **scientific outlook, rational attitudes, high social mobility, mass mobilisation and specialisation in work**. It has made caste system more flexible. For instances, in the **urban areas, castes are gradually becoming classes**. The emergence of middle class with a rational outlook and goal orientation is a testimony to the fact.

• **Industrialisation and urbanisation**: With the growth of industrial towns and cities, migration has spiralled up. Unlike the source regions, destination areas witness fewer adherences to caste rules.

• **Democratic decentralisation**: The **reservation** provided in the **Panchayati Raj system** has given the opportunity for the lower castes to empower themselves.

• **Caste and politics**: They both are closely linked to each other. In fact, the link has led to an empowerment among the lower castes since they ventilate their feelings through elections and power lobby. **Dalit politics is one such example, where Dalits are trying to assert their identities and have become successful in capturing power in various states.**

• **Legislative measures**: A variety of social legislations have been introduced in the post-independence era which aim to safeguard the interests of the down-trodden, to **eradicate untouchability and to facilitate the social and economic development of the depressed castes**. For instance, **Untouchability (offences) Act, 1955 provided for punishment against the practice of untouchability.**

Significance of castes system	Limitations of caste system
⊙ **Job security**: Caste system set hierarchy and fixed hereditary based occupation. This ensures security of jobs	⊙ **Against meritocracy**: This can limit social and economic progress, as those who are most qualified may not be given the opportunities they deserve.
⊙ **Social recognition**: It gives social recognition to the individual indicating their utility in society.	⊙ **Against the idea of equality**: Caste is responsible for evolution of untouchability.
⊙ **Socialization tool**: It imparts the societal culture and values to the individual.	⊙ **Restricts social mobility**: Caste system restricts the social mobility in the society. Caste System discourages social change due to rigid caste rules.
⊙ **Work Specialization**: It ensures specialization in occupations as occupations are inherited by their respective caste.	⊙ **Disrupts the progress of development**: The tension created by caste hatred or caste appeasement by political parties hinders the progress of the nation.
⊙ **Interdependent interaction**: It creates sense of fraternity and cooperation within the society.	
⊙ **Pressure group**: It raises the voice against the exploitation by the upper castes.	

Kinship, Marriage and Family

b. Kinship

Kinship system refers to a **set of persons recognized as relatives either by virtue of a blood relationship or by virtue of a marriage relationship**. According to the Dictionary of Anthropology, kinship system includes society recognized relationships based on supposed as well as well actual genealogical ties. These relationships are the result of social interaction and are recognized by society.

Kinship system represents one of the basic social institutions. **Kinship is universal** and in most societies plays a significant role in the socialisation of individuals and the maintenance of group solidarity, It is **supremely important in the primitive societies** and extends its influence on almost all their activites - **social, economic, political, religious**, etc.

Types of Kinship

• **Affinal Kinship:** The **bond of marriage is called 'affinal' kinship**. When a person marries, he establishes relationship not only with the girl whom he marries but also with a number of other people in the girl's family. Moreover, it is not only the person marrying who gets bound to the family members of the girl but his family members also get bound to the family members of the girl. Thus, a host of relations are created as soon as a marriage takes place.

• **Consanguineous Kinship**: The **bond of blood is called consanguineous kinship**. The c**onsanguineous kin are related through blood whereas the affinal kin are related through marriage**. The bond between parents and their children and that between parents and their children and that between parents and their children and that between siblings is consanguineous kinship.

Regional differences regarding kinship systems and marriage in North and South India

• **North India:** In North India, there are mostly **patrilineal groups, with descent traced in the male line from father to son.** Members of a patri-lineage cooperate in in ritual and economic activities**. Caste endogamy is strictly practiced**.

Further, marriage is **prohibited within the same gotra or clan and village exogamy is commonly preferred**. Thus, marriage prohibitions tend to bar marriage over a wide area in terms of kinship as well as space.

• **South India:** The Southern zone presents a very complicated pattern of kinship system and family organization. While there is **dominance of patrilineal and patrilocal system, but simultaneously matrilineal (descent from maternal line) and matrilocal systems also exist**. Rules of marriage also vary in South India.

c. Marriage

Marriage is an important social institution. It is a **relationship, which is socially approved and sanctioned by custom and law**. It is also a **set of cultural mechanisms which ensure the continuation of the family**. It is more or less a universal social institution in India.

Structural and functional changes in the marriage system

The marriage system had undergone radical changes especially after independence. Even though the basic religious beliefs associated with marriage have not crumbled down, many of the practices, customs, and forms have changed. **The recent changes in the marriage system are as follows:**

• **Changes in the aim and purpose of marriage**: In traditional societies the **primary objective of marriage is 'dharma' or duty;** especially among Hindus**.** But today the **modern objective of marriage** is more related to **'life-long companionship' between husband and wife.**

• **Changes in the form of marriage**: Traditional forms of marriages like **polygamy, polygyny are legally prohibited** in India. Nowadays, mostly **monogamous marriages are practiced**.

• **Change in the age of marriage**: According to legal standards, the marriageable age for boy and girl stands at 21 and 18 respectively. **Average age of marriage has gone up and pre-puberty marriages have given place to post-puberty marriages.**

• **Increase in divorce and desertion rates**: Relaxed legislative provisions for **divorce have virtually affected the stability of the marriage**, particularly in the urban areas. . It is mainly due to **economic prosperity and internet connectivity**. Internet has exposed people to the different social trends prevalent across the world and has revolutionized the institution in an otherwise conservative Indian society.

• **Live in relationships**: They are on a steady growth rate in India especially among the youth in metropolitan cities. The institution also has legal recognition as **a three judge bench of SC in 2010 observed that a man and a woman living together without marriage cannot be construed as an offence and held that living together is a Right to Life and Liberty (Article 21)**. SC has also acknowledged that children born out of such relations are legitimate and have property rights of their parents under **Section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.**

d. Family in Indian Society

The family is the basic unit of society. It is **the first and the most immediate social environment to which a child is exposed.** It is in the family a child learns language, the behavioural Patterns and social norms in his childhood.

In some way or the other the **family is a universal group**. It exists in tribal, rural and urban communities and among the followers of all religious and cultures. It provides the most enduring relationship in one form or other.

Characteristics of Family

• Family is a **basic, definite and enduring group**.

• Family is formed by the relatively durable companionship of husband, wife who procreate children.

• Family may be limited to husband, wife or only the father and his children or only the mother and her children.

• **Family is generally smaller in size companied to other social groups**, organizations and associations.

• Family can also be large in size in which persons belonging to several generations may live together.

Types of family

1. **On the basis of marriage: Polygamous families** may be described as families in which **either spouse is allowed to have more than one spouse simultaneously**. **Monogamous families** are those families in which the **marriage is limited to one spouse.**

2. **On the basis of residence:**

- **Patrilocal family:** The family in which after marriage wife comes to reside in the family of her husband is known as patrilocal family. The **patrilocal family is also patriarchal and patrilineal in nature**.
- **Matrilocal family:** The family in which after marriage husband comes to reside in the family of her wife is known as matrilocal family. It is just **opposite of patrilocal family**. **This type of family is also Matriarchal and Matrilineal in nature.**
- **Bilocal family:** In this type of family **after marriage the married couple change their residence alternatively.** Sometimes wife joins in her husband's house while at some other times husband resides in wife's house. That is why this **type of family is also known as family of changing residence.**
- **Neolocal family:** After marriage **when newly married couple establish a new family independent of their parents and settled at a new place** this type of family is known as neo-local family.

3. **On the basis of size and structure:**

Nuclear Family: A nuclear family is a family which consists of husband, wife and their unmarried children. The size of nuclear family is very small. It is an **autonomous unit**. There is no control of the elders because newlyweds crate a separate residence for themselves which is independent of elders. It is **also known as primary family.**

Joint or Extended Family: It includes **members of three to four generation**s. It is an **extension of parent child relationship.** This family is based on close blood ties. It is like the **joint family of Hindu Society**. **The eldest male member is the head of the family**. It is characterized by common residence, common kitchen, commensality, sharing of property, performance of ritual bonds, reciprocal obligations and sentiments. Extended family consists of father, mother, their sons and their wife, unmarried daughters, grandchildren, grandfather, grandmother, uncles, aunts, their children and so on. This type of family found to **exist in rural community or agrarian economy**.

4. **On the basis of Authority:**

- **Patriarchal Family:** The family in which all the power remains in the hands of patriarch or father is known as patriarchal family. In other words in this type of family **power or authority is vested in the hands of eldest male member of the family who is supposed to be the father**. He exercises absolute power or authority over the other members of family. He owns family property. After his death authority transferred to the eldest son of family**. In this family descent is known through father line.** In this type of family wife after marriage come to reside in his husband's house. Joint family system among the Hindus is a fine example of patriarchal family.
- **Matriarchal family:** This type of family is just opposite of patriarchal family. **In this family power or authority rests on the eldest female member of the family especially the wife or mother.** She enjoy absolute power or authority over other members of the family. She owns all the family property. In this **family descent is known through the mother. Headship is transferred from mother to the eldest daughter.** Husband remain subordinate to his wife in a matriarchal family. This type of family is found among the **Nayars of Kerala and among the Garo and Khasi tribes of Assam.**

5. **Family on the basis of descent:**

- **Patrilineal family:** The family in which **descent or ancestry is determined through father line and continues through father it is known as patrilineal family**. The property and family name is also inherited through father line. The patrilineal family is also **patrilocal and patriarchal in nature**.

- **Matrilineal family:** Matrilineal family is just opposite of the patrilineal family. **The family in which descent is determined through mother line or continues through mother it is known as Matrilineal family**. The property and family name is also inherited through mother line. This right transferred from mother to daughter. A woman is the ancestor of family. The Matrilineal family is **Matrilocal and Matriarchal in nature.** This type of family found among the **Nayars of Kerala and among tribals like Garos and Khasis**.

Functions of the family

• Primary function

Some of the functions of family are basic to its continued existence.

1. Production and rearing of the child
2. Provision of home
3. Instrument of culture transmission
4. Agent of socialization
5. Status ascribing function
6. Agency of social control

• Secondary function

1. **Economic functions:** With economic advancements, family has become more **consuming unit than a producing one.** Members are engaged in earning wages for ensuring socio-economic well-being of the family.
2. **Educational functions:** Family provides the **basis for the child's formal learning**. In spite of great changes, the family still gives the child his basic training in the social attitudes and habits important to adult participation in social life
3. **Religious functions:** Family is a **centre for the religious training of the children**. The children learn from their parents various religious virtues.
4. **Recreational functions:** Family provides the opportunities to parents and children for engaging in various recreational activities such as playing indoor games, dancing, singing, reading etc.

Structural and functional changes in the Indian family system

With the **advent of industrial civilization with modern technology the structure and functions of the family fatedly changed**. Today most of the traditional activities of the family were transferred to outside agencies; this further weakening the bonds that in the past kept the family together. There occurred a reduction in the educational, recreational, religious and protective functions of the family which have been more or less taken over by various institutions and agencies created for that purpose.

Some of the major changes in the Indian family system are discussed below:

- **Changes in family:** Family which was **a principal unit of production has been transformed in the consumption unit**. Instead of all members working together in an integrated economic enterprise, a few male members go out of the home to earn the family's living. These affected family relations.
- **Factory employment:** It has freed young adults from direct dependence upon their families. This **functional independence of the youngsters has weakened the authority of the head of the house** hold over those earning members. In many cities even women too joined men in working outside the families on salary basis.
- **Influence of urbanization:** Various sociologists have revealed that the city life is more favourable to small nuclear families than to big joint families. Thus, **urban living weakens joint family pattern and strengthens nuclear family patterns.**
- **Legislative measures:** Prohibition of early marriage and fixing the minimum age of marriage by the child marriage **Restraint Act, 1929, and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955** have lengthened the period of education. Even other legislations such as the **Widow Remarriage Act, 1856, Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Hindu succession Act, 1956,** all have modified inter personal relations within the family, the composition of the family and the stability of the joint family.

- **Changes in marriage system:** Changes in the age of marriage, freedom in mate-selection and change in the attitude towards marriage has diminished marriage is not very much considered a religious affair but only a social ceremony. **Modern marriage does not symbolize the superior authority of the family head over other members.**
- **Influence of western values:** Values relating to modern science, **rationalism, individualism, equality, free life, democracy, freedom of women** etc. have exerted a tremendous change on the joint family system in India.
- **Changes in the position of women:** Main factor causing changes in the position of women in our society lie in her **changing economic role**. New economic role provided a new position in society and especially with respect to men.

e. Tribes in India

A tribe is a **social group, usually confined within a definite area, dialect, cultural homogeneity and unifying social organisation.** It can include several sub-groups. In fact, a tribe is a modern term for communities that are very old, being among the oldest inhabitants of the sub-continent. Tribes can be defined as communities which:

- did not practice a religion with a written text;
- did not have a state or political form of the normal kind;
- did not have sharp class divisions; and
- did not have caste and were neither Hindus nor peasants.

There are about **705 Scheduled tribes in the country** and constitute **8.6 per cent of the population of the country,** according to the 2011 census.

However, in India, many of these characteristics are shared by many other castes. This questions the validity in distinguishing them from other castes. Many conceptual attempts have been made to define tribes.

Geographically, the tribes are centered in five regions as follows:

The tribes in the state are dispersed across the state living in different physical environments, exhibiting varied lifestyles, social habits, religious beliefs, and cultural patterns.

Tribes in India	
Himalayan region	Tribes like the Gaddi, the Jaunsari, the Naga, etc),
Middle India	Tribes like the Munda, the Santal, etc
Western India	Tribes like the Bhil, the Grasia, etc.
South Indian region	Tribes like the Toda, the Chenchu, etc.
Islands region	Tribes like the jarawas in Bay of Bengal, the Aminidivi and the Key. in Arabian Sea

Changes bought by changing economic scenario in tribal regions:

- Forest resources have declined, and **forests have been increasingly brought under reservation**. They are no longer the comfort zones of the tribal people except in certain areas of North-East India.
- Tribal people have been compelled to give away a lot of land to more experienced **agriculturists, to industries, and for big projects like hydro-electric reservoirs.**
- Big industries have been established in their areas. So, the bane is they have been displaced by such industries, and the boon is they have been given employment as wage laborers.

- The impact of the market economy has resulted in the tribal's production for the market rather than for meeting their own needs.

Diversity in India

India is a **plural society both in letter and spirit**. It is rightly characterized by its unity and diversity. A **grand synthesis of cultures, religions and languages of the people** belonging to different castes and communities has upheld its unity and cohesiveness despite multiple foreign invasions.

National unity and integrity have been maintained even though sharp economic and social inequalities have obstructed the emergence of egalitarian social relations. It is this **synthesis which has made India a unique mosaic of cultures.** Thus, India present seemingly multicultural situation within in the framework of a single integrated cultural whole.

The term '**diversity' emphasizes differences rather than inequalities**. It means **collective differences, that is, differences which mark off one group of people from another.** These differences may be of any sort: biological, religious, linguistic etc. Thus, diversity means variety of races, of religions, of languages, of castes and of cultures.

Unity means integration. It is a social psychological condition. It **connotes a sense of one-ness, a sense of we-ness**. It stands for the bonds, which hold the members of a society together.

Unity in diversity essentially means "unity without uniformity" and "diversity without fragmentation". It is based on the notion that diversity enriches human interaction. When we say that India is a nation of great cultural diversity, we mean that there are many different types of social groups and communities living here. These are communities defined by cultural markers such as language, religion, sect, race or caste.

a. Religious diversity

In India, religion holds utmost importance, and therefore this is the reason **that India got the title of "Land of spirituality and philosophy" all over the world**

India is a multi-religious country consisting of Hindus (79.9%), Muslims (14.2%), Christians (2.32%), Sikhs (1.7%), Buddhists (0.6%) and Jains (0.41%).

Further, The Hindus themselves are divided **into Vaishnavas, Shaivites, Shaktas, Smartas**, etc. and the Muslims are divided into **Shias, Sunnis, Ahmadiyas**, etc.

However, Religious diversity has posed constant **challenges in the country in the form of communalism and communal violence.**

Religious diversity and religious tolerance are both established in the country by the law and custom; the **Constitution of India has declared the right to freedom of religion to be a FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.**

b. Linguistic diversity
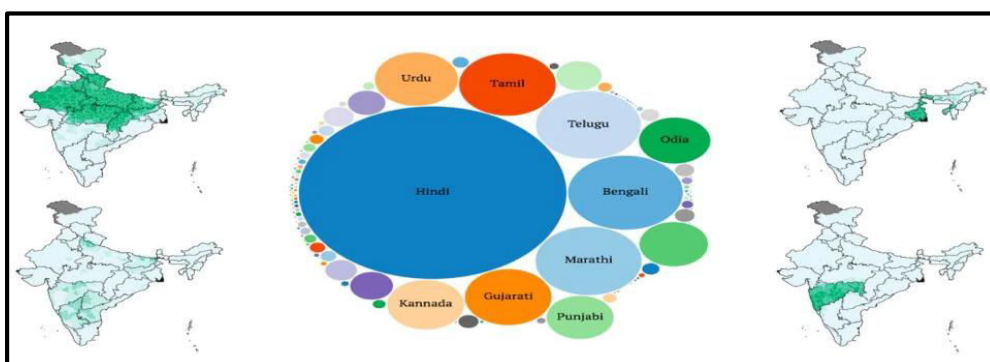
It is the most outstanding feature of India's diversity and, in the past, has been a major source of agitation.

According to the 2011 census, more than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongues. There are 121 languages which are spoken by 10,000 or more people in India. Of these **22 languages have been recognized as scheduled languages under the 8th schedule, and about 197 are endangered.**

However,71% population in the country has one of the 22 scheduled languages as their mother tongue. **India has the world's second-highest number of languages, after Papua New Guinea.**

However, on the other hand, **linguistic diversity has also been a source of conflict**. It has posed many administrative and political problems in India. Recently, **Gorkhaland agitation was one of the recent examples of it.**

Though there is mysterious diversity in languages in India, there is a fundamental unity found in the ideas and expressions in them.

Indian languages are broadly classified under the following families:	
Indo-Aryan language family	Languages like Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Bengali, Kashmiri, Marathi, etc. are part of this family and are spoken in most of the part of North India
Dravidian language family	Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu are the prominent languages under this family spoken in the southern states
Austroasiatic language family	Most of the tribal languages spoken in Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha are part of this family, e.g., Khasi, Santhali, Meitei
Sino-Tibetan language family	Languages of the north-eastern state like Assamese, Manipuri, Bodo, etc. constitute this family
Others	Other languages like Andamanese, Sentinelese are restricted to a small number of speakers and therefore face extinction.

c. Racial Diversity

India is a melting pot of races. **Indian population is constituted of major races of the world**. We find people of different races in India.

The most authoritative and plausible racial classification has been given by B S. Guha, who has titled six major racial elements in India.

Negrito	They are **confined to small provinces in the south, the Kadar, Andamanesa, Angami Nagas, and Bagadi of Rajmahal hills (Bihar).** They were **the first to arrive in India**. They have short stature, black skin, black woolly hair, thick lips, and a broad nose.
Proto-Austroloid	They entered the Indian subcontinent after negritos. The common physical appearance includes Brown skin complexion, short stature, broad nose, curly hair. Central India tribes like **Bhils, Mundas, Santhal, ho, Chenchus** manifest their racial characteristics.

Mongoloid	They are divided into **Paleo Mongoloid** (Present in Nagas of Himalayan regions and northeast India) and **Tibeto-Mongoloid** (Sikkim and Bhutan).
	They have yellow skin, straight hair, prominent cheekbones and almond-shaped eyes with the epicanthic fold.
	Northeastern Tribal group **like naga Khasi, Garo** belongs to this racial group.
Mediterranean	They entered the Indian subcontinent from the Mediterranean region.
	They are characterized by brown complexion, medium nose, medium stature, long and narrow head
	They are **connected to Dravidian languages and culture**
	They spread over the entire subcontinent with a major concentration in south India
Western Brachycephals	**They are classified into the following:**
	1. Alpinoid: North and Western India
	2. Dinaric: Bengal and Orissa
	3. Armenoid: Parsis
	They are characterized by medium stature, straight hairs, round face, prominent nose
Nordic	They were last to arrive in India.
	They spread over the entire subcontinent with major concentration seen in **Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttrakhand.**

d. Caste diversity

India is a country of castes. **The term caste has been used to refer to both varna as well as jati**. Varna is the four-fold division of society according to functional differentiation. Thus, the **four varnas include Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras and an outcaste group.** Whereas **Jati refers to a hereditary endogamous status group practicing a specific traditional occupation**. There are **more than 3000 jatis** and there is no one all India system of ranking them in order and status. **The jati system is not static and there is mobility in the system, through which jatis have changed their position over years. This system of upward mobility has been termed as "Sanskritization" by M. N. Srinivas.**

e. Cultural diversity

Cultural patterns reflect regional variations. Because of population diversity, there is immense variety in Indian culture as it is a blend of various cultures. Different religion, castes, regions follow their own tradition and culture. Thus, there is variation in art, architecture, dance forms, theatre forms, music etc.

f. Geographical diversity

Spanning across an area of 3.28 million square kilometre, India is a vast country with great diversity of physical features like dry deserts, evergreen forests, lofty mountains, perennial and non-perennial river systems, long coasts and fertile plains.

Factors Leading to Unity Amidst Diversity in India

• **Constitutional identity:** The entire country is governed by **one single Constitution**. Even, most of the states follow a generalised scheme of **3-tier government structure**, thus imparting uniformity in national governance framework.

Further, the Constitution guarantees certain fundamental rights to all citizens regardless of their age, gender, class, caste, religion, etc.

• **Religious co-existence:** Religion tolerance is the unique feature of religions in India due to which multiple religions co-exist in India**. Freedom of religion and religious practice is guaranteed by the Constitution itself**. Moreover, there is no state religion and all religions are given equal preference by the state.

• **Inter-State mobility:** The Constitution guarantees freedom to move throughout the territory of India under **Article 19 (1) (d), thus promoting a sense of unity and brotherhood among the masses.**

• Other factors such as **uniform pattern of law, penal code, administrative work**s (eg. All India services) too lead to uniformity in the criminal justice system, policy implementation etc.

• **Economic integration:** The Constitution of India secures the freedom of Trade, Commerce and Intercourse within the Territory of India under Article 301. Further, the **Goods and Service Tax (GST) have paved way for 'one country, one tax, one national market'**, thus facilitating unity among different regions.

• **Institution of pilgrimage and religious practices:** In India, religion and spirituality have great significance. From **Badrinath and Kedarnath in the north to Rameshwaram in the south, Jagannath Puri in the east to Dwaraka in the west** the religious shrines and holy rivers are spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. Closely related to them is the **age-old culture of pilgrimage,** which has always moved people to various parts of the country and **fostered in them a sense of geo-cultural unity.**

• **Fairs and festivals:** They also **act as integrating factors** as people from all parts of the country celebrate them as per their own local customs. Eg. Diwali is celebrated throughout by Hindus in the country, similarly Id and Christmas are celebrated by Muslims and Christians, respectively. **Celebration of inter-religious festivals** is also seen in India.

• **Climatic integration via monsoon**: The flora and fauna in the entire Indian subcontinent, agricultural practices, life of people, including their festivities revolve around the monsoon season in India.

• **Sports and Cinema:** These are followed by millions in the country, thus, acting as a binding force across the length and breadth of India.

Factors that threaten India's unity

• **Regionalism**: Regionalism tends to highlight interests of a particular region/regions over national interests. It can also adversely impact national integration. Law and order situation is hampered due to regional demands and ensuing agitation.

• **Divisive politics:** Sometimes, **ascriptive identities such as caste, religion** etc. are evoked by politicians in order to garner votes. This type of divisive politics can result in violence, feeling of mistrust and suspicion among minorities.

• **Development imbalance**: Uneven pattern of socio-economic development, inadequate economic policies and consequent economic disparities can lead to backwardness of a region. Consequently, this can result in violence, kickstart waves of migration and even accelerate demands of separatism.. For instance, **due to economic backwardness of the North East region, several instances of separatist demands and secessionist tendencies have sprung up in the region.**

• **Ethnic differentiation and nativism:** Ethnic differentiation has often led to clashes between different ethnic groups especially due to factors such as job competition, limited resources, threat to identity etc. E.g. **frequent clashes between Bodos and Bengali speaking Muslims in Assam.** This has been a**ccentuated by son of the soil doctrine,** which ties people to their place of birth and confers some benefits, rights, roles and responsibilities on them, which may not apply to others.

• **Geographical isolation:** Geographical isolation too can lead to identity issues and separatist demands**. The North-East is geographically isolated from the rest of the country as it is connected with the rest of the country by a narrow corridor i.e. the Siliguri corridor (Chicken's neck).** The region has inadequate infrastructure, is more backward

economically as compared to the rest of the country. As a result, it has witnessed several instances of separatism and cross-border terrorism, among others.

• **Inter-religious conflicts:** Inter-religious conflicts not only hamper relations between two communities by spreading fear and mistrust but also hinder the secular fabric of the country.

• **Inter-state conflicts:** This can lead emergence of feelings related to regionalism. It can also affect trade and communications between conflicting states. For instance, **Cauvery river dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.**

• **Influence of external factors:** Sometimes external factors such as foreign organizations terrorist groups, extremist groups can incite violence and sow feelings of separatism. E.g. **Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been accused of supporting and training mujahideen to fight in Jammu and Kashmir and sow separatist tendencies among resident groups.**

Previous Year Questions

2022

1. Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.
2. Given the diversities among the tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category?
3. Salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region, and religion.

2021

1. Examine the uniqueness of the tribal knowledge system when compared to mainstream knowledge and cultural system.
2. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?

2020

1. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?
2. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.
3. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer.

2019

1. Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.

2018

1. "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment.

2017

1. The spirit tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate.
2. In the context of diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.
3. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?

2016

1. Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity?
2. Why are the tribals in India referred to as the Scheduled Tribes? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment.

2015

1. Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.
2. Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste.

Role of Women and Women's Organization

"I believe the rights of women and girls is the unfinished business of the 21st century."

- **Hillary Clinton**

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

- **B. R. Ambedkar**

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."

- **Maya Angelou**

"The glass ceiling will go away when women help other women break through that ceiling."

- **Indra Nooyi**

Introduction

The form and extent of work, political participation, levels of education, state of health, representation in decision making bodies, access to property etc. are some relevant indicators of status of the individual members in a society. However, not all members of a society, especially women, have equal access to the factors which constitute these indicators of status.

Patriarchal norms restrict Indian women's education and employment choices, from the choice to acquire education to the entry into the workforce and to the nature of work.

Let us understand where women, who constitute almost half of the country's citizenry, stand today in the fight for freedom, dignity, equality and representation.

Status of Women

Political Status

Status of women in politics can be **defined as the degree of equality and freedom enjoyed by the women in shaping and sharing of power.**

As of 2018- 2019, some women have served in various senior official positions in the Indian government, including that of the President of India, the Prime Minister of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

With only around **9 per cent women in the upper house and around 11 per cent in the lower house of parliament, India ranks 99th in the world in terms of female representation among MPs.**

It includes **exercising the right to vote, power sharing, membership of political parties, electoral campaigning, attending party meetings, holding party positions, contesting elections, co-decision making, co-policy making at all levels of governance of the state.**

The social and cultural prejudices against the women restrict their participation in the decision-making process which can be seen in political arena as well. **As per the Election Commission of India, 49% of the Indian electorate consists of women. Yet, only 14% of the 17th Lok Sabha members are women MPs, the highest since Independence.**

Although, representation of women has increased only marginally since Independence – from 4.4 percent in 1951 to 11 percent in 2014 – way below the global average of 23.4 percent. At this rate, it would take another 180 years to reach the desired gender balance.

At Panchayat level:

73rd and 74th amendments to the constitution have ensured the participation of women in PRIs with a reservation of 1/3rd for women. This was aimed at empowering women and ensuring their participation in the political process and decision making at grass root level.

Recent Development:

In this regard the Government of India introduced various acts and policies so as to empower the women in India politically.

Through 1/3rd reservation of seats for women in Panchayats and Nagar palikas, they have been able to make meaningful contributions and that the **actual representation of women in Panchayati Raj institutions has gone upto 42.3% i.e., beyond the reservation percentage**. This has led the Government to make 50 percent reservation for women in local bodies.

Economic Status

India has made significant economic progress in recent decades, however such economic growth, has not been matched by progress towards women's equal economic participation.

Financial empowerment is central to the overall empowerment of women, and financial inclusion can play a major role in empowering of women.

According to the World Bank, India ranks 120 among 131 countries in Female Labor Force Participation Rates (FLFPR) and rates of gender-based violence remain unacceptably high.

At 17% of GDP, the **economic contribution of Indian women is less than half the global average**, and compares unfavorably to the 40% in China.

Current Situation in India:

Female Participation in the Labour Market –

Recently UNDP, in association with IKEA Foundation has brought out a report titled "**Female work and labour force participation in India"** which aim to understand the continuing problem of low female labour force participation in India despite massive investments in employment and skill-building initiatives.

Female participation in the labour market is 2 percent compared to 78.8 for men.

Rural women are leaving India's workforce at a faster rate than urban women.

A McKinsey Global study in 2015 found that **India could increase its GDP by 16-60% by 2025 by simply enabling women to participate in the economy at par with men.**

Reasons for low labour force participation-

- **Increased income of men** – As men in the family start earning more income, women tend to cut back their work in the formal economy to concentrate more on household activities. It signals increasing trend of housewifization.

- **Caste factor** – In some communities, notably some upper castes, there may be a **stigma attached to women working outside the home.** It increases **family and societal pressures** to drop out if the men in the household are earning enough to foot the bills.
- **Safety issues and Harassment at the workplace** – Women are more vulnerable to exploitation and harassment at work in developing countries like India. They are also unable to effectively fight against harassment.
- The **nature of economic growth in the country** has meant that jobs were not created in large numbers in sectors that could readily absorb women, especially for those in rural areas.
- **Sexual Harassment at the Workplace:** Around 31% of the firms are not compliant with **the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, which mandates "Internal Compliance Committees" (ICCs) and Local Complaint Committee (LCC) being constituted.**
- **Deep-rooted social norms, lack of agency and gendering of occupation**s often leads to women having little choice in their employment and work decisions.
- Policy failure and the **policy-implementation gap** is also a major reason for low labour force participation.
- The rising incomes of Indian households have enabled Indian women to withdraw from the labor market and focus on their role in "status production"
- **Double burden** or dual responsibility (family and work place)

Maternity Aspect:	- **Many women who join the workforce are unable to re-join after having a child.** - Maternity benefits Act 2016 increased cost for companies and may have discouraged them from hiring women. **The estimated loss of female jobs was between 1.1 to 1.8 million for 2017-18, over and above the usual job loss due to attrition related to maternity.** - **The** non – availability of quality day-care **is one factor which inhibits women from returning to work after their maternity leave.**
Education-Employment Trade-off:	- For salaried work, the probability of being employed steadily increases as a woman's education increases, whereas for casual wage labour and for work in family farms and businesses, women's LFPR decreases with an increase in education. Once they attain moderate levels of education, women do not work in manual labour. - **The decline in women's LFPR with more education is greatest for agricultural and non-agricultural wage work**, even more than for work in family enterprises. It is especially manual work outside the household that is perceived to be below one's educational attainment.

Suggestions to improve Female Labour Force Participation Rate:

- By modifying **outcome metrics for labour market programmes** by including enabling factors such as safety, aspiration alignment and so on.
- Education ecosystem needs to go through a set of system strengthening initiatives, including the **introduction of digital and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education in schools.**
- Using tax policies to incentivize women into the labour market on both the demand and supply side. By introducing tax incentives for enterprises that have **internal complaint mechanisms, gender friendly transport services** and so on.
- By promoting large-scale social campaigns for **changing social norms which break gender stereotypes**, which includes women as well as **redefining the role of men in households Support Services.**
- By providing support to women who migrate in search of work and jobs.
- By providing **arrangements for childcare at training centers**, better stipends for travel, lodging, boarding and other expenses incurred during programme participation.
- By developing **forums for informal and formal mentorship and connections to female role models and women in leadership** which is to be achieved not by tokenism but by increasing the ease of economic and political participation.

Gender Wage gap and Gender Inequality

Gender equality is when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation and decision-making.

However due to unequal treatment, **society's gender norms, the economic status, and financial literacy** among women shows a downward trend.

Gender inequality is a major factor curbing potential candidates from performing where they ought to.

Global Gender Gap Report 2023

Global Gender Gap Report is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). India has made significant progress, rising from 135th (in 2022) to 127th out of 146 countries.

Gender gap was measured across four key pillars- **economic participation and opportunity (42%), educational attainment (4.4%), health and survival (4.6%), and political empowerment (77%).**

Reasons Behind Gender Pay Gap

- Preference for male employees over female employees
- Career breaks of women due to **parenthood duties** and other socio-cultural factors.
- Lack of flexible work policies or extended leave
- Lack of involvement of women in male dominated sectors for example armed forces.
- "**Glass ceiling effect**" faced by women
- **The women are mostly deemed fit for "pink collar jobs' 'only, such as teachers, nurses, receptionist, babysitter, lecturer etc.** which have been stereotyped for women. This denies them opportunities in other fields.

Current trends in feminization of Agriculture

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), women's contribution to Indian agriculture is approximately 32%, while in some states (such as **Hill states, North-eastern states, and Kerala)** contribution of **women in agriculture and rural economy are more than men.**

According to the data of Economic Survey (2017-18), with growing rural to urban migration by men, there is **'feminization' of agriculture sector, with increasing number of women in multiple roles as cultivators, entrepreneurs, and labourers.**

Out of total female main workers, 55% were agricultural labourers and 24% were cultivators (Census 2011).

As per the **10th Agriculture Census (2015-16), the percentage of female operational holdings in the country have increased** from about 13% percent during 2010-11 to around 14% during 2015-16.

Others: Agrarian distress, male migration and poverty are prominent reasons for increasing feminization of agriculture.

Impact of feminization of agriculture:

According to the FAO, if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30%. This could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by up to 4% which would mean a dramatic reduction in hunger.

Research worldwide shows that women with access to secure land, formal credit and access to markets have greater propensity to invest in improving harvest, increasing productivity, and improving household food security and households.

National Women's Farmer's Day (Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas) is celebrated on October 15 for recognizing the multidimensional role of women at every stage in agriculture.

Social Status

- Still a large section of our Indian Society considered the roles of men as taking all the financial responsibilities and work outside. **Gender role stereotyping attributed to women have generally led to prejudice and discrimination against women**. For example, women may be considered to be less reliable as workers because of their child-rearing function
- **Differentiation in the Socialisation Process:** In many parts of India, especially in rural regions, there are still **different socialisation norms for men and women**. Women are expected to be **soft-spoken, calm, and quiet**. They should walk, talk, sit and behave in a certain manner. **Whereas men ought to be confident, loud, and could display any behaviour as per their wish.**
- **Marriage**: Though the status of women in their husbands' home has improved a lot**, women still face domestic violence for dowry or love marriage or inter caste marriage.** It creates a lot of emotional tensions in the family and society at large. They are **regarded as dependent beings** which underline the preference for child marriage, especially among rural and backward communities**. In order to curb child marriages, dowry, domestic violence against women government has implemented various acts like Domestic Violence Act, 2005 so as to eliminate the loopholes in the current system.**
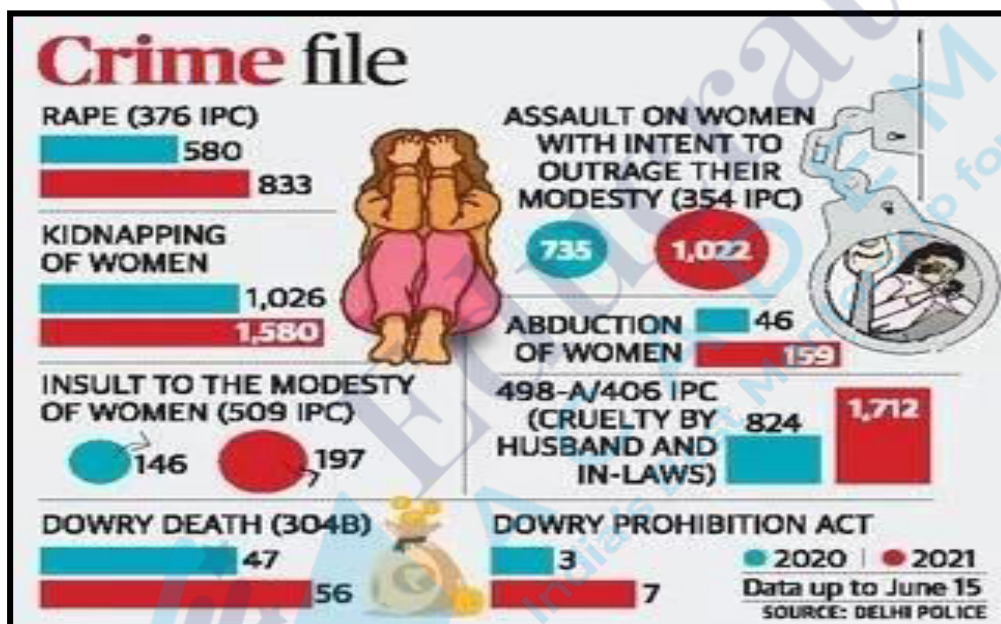
Background: Women's Liberation Movement Social movement:

It is defined as an organized effort by a group of people, either to bring or resist change, in the society.

Objective: Women's movement is a variant of social movement and it aims to bring changes in the institutional arrangements, values, customs and beliefs in the society that have subjugated women over the years.

Origin: British rule led to **spread of English education and western liberal ideology** resulted in a number of movements for social change and religious reform in 19th Century. **Women's movement is linked to both social reform movements and the nationalist movement.**

Social reform movements:

1. **Brahmo Samaj:** It was **founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1825** and attempted to abolish restrictions and prejudices against women, which included **child marriage, polygamy, limited rights to inherit property**. Education was seen as the major factor to improve the position of women.

• **Civil Marriage Act, 1872** was passed, which **permitted inter-caste marriage, legalized divorce and fixed 14 and 18 as the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys respectively.**

• Raja Ram Mohan Roy played an important role in getting Sati abolished

2. **Prarthana Samaj:** It was founded by **MG Ranade and RG Bhandarker in 1867**. Its objectives were more or less similar to that of Brahmo samaj but remained confined to western India. **Justice Ranade criticized child marriage, polygamy, restriction on remarriage of widows and non access to education.**

3**. Arya Samaj:** It was **founded by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875**. Unlike the above two it was a **religious revivalist movement.** It advocated reform in the caste system, **compulsory education for men and women, prohibition of child marriage by law, remarriage of child widows**. It was opposed to divorce and widow remarriage in general.

4. **Social reformers** mentioned above eulogized the position of women in ancient India. However radicals like **Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Jyotibha Phule and Lokhitwadi Gopal Hari Deshmukh** accused the caste system responsible for the subjugation of women in society.

5. **Similar movements began in Islamic community** as well. **Begum of Bhopal, Syed Ahmad Khan and Sheikh Abdullah in Aligarh and Karmat Hussain in Lucknow** spearheaded a movement to improve women's education.

Weakness: Gender equality was never an agenda for any of the movements mentioned above. They had a very limited perspective of changing the position of women within the family through education, as education would improve women's efficiency as housewives and mothers!

Under Gandhi

Gandhiji took interest in collective mobilization of women to fight for political freedom as well as for their social and political rights. He felt that **women were most suited for Satyagraha as they have great qualities appropriate for non-violent struggle**. Women participated in the freedom movement because they were inspired by patriotism and wanted to see the end of foreign rule. It is debatable as to how far this participation liberated them. While women who picketed shops, marched in processions or went to jail or threw bombs did not question male leadership or patriarchal values, it did generate in them a sense of self-confidence and a realization of their own strength. T**he first woman to participate in the nationalist movement during salt march was Sarojini Naidu who later became the first woman president of the Congress**. Women's participation in the national movement helped in **breaking several of the old barriers of tradition and custom.** Women's organization side by side raised their voices for removal of social injustice meted to them, which resulted in passing of the resolution **on Fundamental Right of equal rights for both the sexes at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress in 1930.**

Legislative Acts

Parliament from time to time has passed several legislations to empower women and to provide them a legal basis in their fight for equality and justice. **Some of them are:**

1. **Sati (Prevention) Act 1987 –** The practice of Sati which was first **abolished in 1829**, was revised and made illegal in 1887. It provided for a more effective prevention of the commission of sati and its glorification and for matters connected therewith.

2. **Amendment to criminal Act 1983-** This Act talks about domestic violence as an offence, rape is also made a punishable offence.

3**. Special Marriage Act 1954-** It has been amended to fix the minimum age of marriage at 21 yrs for males and 18 yrs for females.

4. **Hindu Succession Act 1956**- Equal share to daughter from property of father, while a widow has the right to inherit husband's property. **An amendment in this Act in 2005 enabled daughters to have equal share in ancestral properties.**

5. **Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA), 1986**- Suppression of Immoral Trafficking in women and girls Act (SITA) 1956 was amended in 1986 and renamed ITPA. **SITA was enacted to prohibit or abolish traffic in women and girls for**

purposes of prostitution. It was amended to cover both the sexes and provided enhanced penalties for offenses involving minors. However the system has failed to crack the mafia working both at interstate and international levels.

6. **Dowry Prohibition Act 1961**- Now court is empowered to act in his own knowledge or on a complaint by any recognized welfare organization on dowry murder. Indian Evidence Act is also amended to shift the burden of proof to husband and his family where bride dies within 7 years of marriage.

7. **Maternity benefit Act 1961-** An Act to regulate the employment of women for certain period before and after childbirth and to provide for maternity benefits like paid leaves for 6 months.

8. **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971-** Legalize abortion in case if foetus is suffering from physical or mental abnormality, in case of rape and unwanted pregnancy within 12 weeks of gestation period and after 12th week, before 20th week if the pregnancy is harmful for the mother or the child born would be severely deformed.

9. **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986-** This Act prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, and figures or in any other manner and for matters connected therewith.

10. **Domestic Violence Act 2005-** It seeks to determine domestic violence in all forms against women and make it a punishable offence.

11. **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013** – In the **backdrop of Dec 16 gang rape, this Act was passed amending the CrPC.** The new law has provisions for increased sentence for **rape convicts, including lifeterm and death sentence, besides providing for stringent punishment for offences such as acid attacks, stalking and voyeurism**. Through the revised Bill, the government has amended various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Evidence Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Draft National Policy for Women 2016

To create an effective framework to enable the process of developing policies, programmes and practices which will ensure equal rights and opportunities for women in the family, community, workplace and in governance.

Priority Areas

A. Health including food security and nutrition:

• Bring down the **high rates of MMR and IMR**
• Focus on **recognizing women's reproductive rights**, shifting family planning focus also to males
• Address health care challenges related to nutrition/sexual and reproductive health/hygiene of adolescents
• Expansion of health insurance schemes
• Nutritious and safe food through PDS for households especially the unreached women and children with high nutritional vulnerabilities.

B. Education:
• Improve access **to pre-primary and primary education**
• Improve enrolment and retention of adolescent girls
• Encouraging the enrolment of women in professional/scientific courses, by provision of financial assistance, coaching, hostels, child care etc.

C. Economy
• Increasing the participation of women in the workforce
• Addressing **gender wage gap across rural and urban, agricultural and non-agricultural jobs, regular and casual employment**
• **Universalisation of financial inclusion of women**
• Recognizing women's unpaid work in terms of economic and societal value

• Addressing new challenges such as **inter-state migration, changing labour markets, meeting aspirations of the growing literate women workforce, and rapidly changing technology for women in labour force**

• Prioritize women in Government land redistribution, incentivising women farmers' collective farming enterprises

• **Skill development and training for women**, entrepreneurial development, review of labour laws and policies

• Equal employment opportunities with appropriate benefits related to maternity and child care services, address technological needs of women

• Mechanism for monitoring the compliance of mandatory laws like **Maternity Benefit Act and Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act.**

D. Governance and Decision Making:

• Increasing women's participation in all the three branches of the government, administration, civil services, trade unions, political parties, interest groups, professional associations, and businesses/private sector.

E. Violence against Women:

• Address all **forms of violence against women through a life cycle approach**, starting from sex selective termination of pregnancy, denial of education, child marriage to violence faced by women in private sphere of home, public spaces and at workplace

• **Improve Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** through effective **implementation of PCPNDT Act, 1994,** and advocacy through awareness and sensitisation

• Prevention of trafficking at source, transit and destination areas

• Strict monitoring of response of enforcement agencies to violence against women.

F. Enabling Environment:

• Gender perspective in housing and include **safe and gender sensitive infrastructure and facilities**

• Adequate and affordable housing and accommodation to women

• Ensure safe drinking water and sanitation, increase the running water facilities in schools to **improve menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls**

• **Gender parity in the mass media and sports, gender sensitisation and non-discrimination in portrayal of women,** gender parity in induction of sportswomen and trainers

• Efforts towards strengthening social security and support services for all women especially the vulnerable, marginalized, migrant and single women.

G. Environment and Climate Change:

• Address gender concerns during **distress migration and displacement in times of natural calamities** due to climate change and environmental degradation

• Promotion of environment-friendly, renewable, non–conventional energy, green energy sources for women in rural households.

Constitutional Provisions for women in our constitution

1. **Article 14 -** Men and women to have equal rights and opportunities in the political, economic and social spheres.
2. **Article 15 (1)** - Prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc.
3. **Article 15 (3) -** Special provision enabling the State to make affirmative discriminations in favor of women.
4. **Article 16-** Equality of opportunities in matter of public appointments for all citizens.
5. **Article 23-** Bans trafficking in human and forced labour
6. **Article 39 (a) -** The State shall direct its policy towards securing all citizens men and women, equally, the right to means of livelihood.
7. **Article 39 (d) -** Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
8. **Article 42**- The State to make provision for ensuring just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
9. **Article 51 (A) (e) -** To renounce the practices derogatory to the dignity of women
10. **Article 300 (A)-** Right of property to women
11. **73rd and 74th Amendment Act 1992** - Reservation of 1/3rd of seats in local bodies of panchayats and municipalities for women.

Women Organizations

Due to women's movement several legislations were passed like **Equal Remuneration Act, Minimum Wage Act, and Maternity Benefit Act** etc. to ensure equal status to women in society and more importantly at work. However **illiteracy amongst the major women workforce** (87% of women are employed in unorganized sector), **fear of losing employment and lack of awareness of the laws** enacted to protect them, make it difficult for women to benefit from them.

A few organizations are working to give voice to the women workers for improvement in their working conditions:

- **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)-** SEWA is a trade union. It is an organization of poor, self- employed women workers in the unorganized sector of the country. They are the unprotected labour force as they do not obtain benefits like the workers of organized sector. **SEWA's main goals are to organize women workers for full employment.**
- **Working Women's Forum (WWF)-** The forum is **committed to poverty reduction** and strengthening of economic, social and cultural status of poor working women, through **micro-credit, training, social mobilization and other interventions to poor.**
- **Annapurna Mahila Mandal (AMM) -** It works for **welfare of women and the girl child**. It conducts various activities that include educating women on health, nutrition, mother and childcare**, family planning, literacy and environmental sanitation.** It works for the empowerment of women and enables them to take their own decisions and fight for security and rights. The organization also **promotes individual and group leadership**.

Women Empowerment Programs / Schemes by GoI

For empowering the women, various program have been initiated by GoI as below:

- **Gender Budgeting**– This concept **was first introduced in Australia in mid 1980s and India incorporated this in its budget since 2005-06.**
- It is not an accounting exercise but an **ongoing process of keeping a gender perspective in policy/ program formulation**, its implementation and GB involves dissection of the Government budgets to establish its gender differential impacts and to ensure that gender commitments are translated in to budgetary commitments.
  - o **Nirbhaya fund**- In a tribute to the **recent Delhi gang-rape victim of Dec 2012, Government in the union budget 2013-14,announced setting up of a 'Nirbhaya Fund' of Rs 1,000 crore** for safety and empowerment of women.
  - o An all-women bank was also proposed to be set up by October, 2013 with an initial capital of Rs 1,000 crore for the purpose to facilitate women empowerment
- **Working Women Hostel**– The objective of the scheme is to **promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women**, with day care facility for their children, in urban, semi urban, or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.
- **Support to training cum employment for women (STEP)-** Ministry of Women and child development **launched this program in the year 1986**, for training and employment for women below poverty line in traditional sectors like agriculture, small animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries etc where women are employed on a large scale. **Its basic aim is to upgrade skills of women for self and wage employment.**
- **Swayamsidha**– It is an integrated program, seeks to empower women through awareness generation, achievement of economic independence through micro-level income-generating activities and by establishing convergence of various services such as literacy, health, rural development etc. It **also aims at organizing women into Self-Help Groups, developing access to micro credit.**
- **Swa Shakti** – This project aims at **establishment of more than 16000 self-reliant women SHGs** (Self Help Groups) having 15-20 members each and thereby enhance women's access to and control over resources for betterment of their lives. Also to **sensitise and strengthen the institutional capacity of support agencies to pro-actively address women's need**.
- **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh** – It is **a national level mechanism to meet the micro credit needs of the poor and asset-less women in the Informal Sector**. From inception in 1993 till February 2001, total credit worth Rs. 100 crore was sanctioned to benefit more than 400,000 women through 827 NGOs spread over the country. RMK has a very good recovery rate of 90 to 95 per per cent.

- **Swadhar**- This scheme **aims to provide basic necessities to marginalised women and girls who are living in difficult circumstances without any economic or social support.** Under this scheme women are provided with emotional support and the **target group is mainly women who are victim of violence or survivors of natural disaster, trafficked women, and women without no families.**

Previous Year Questions

1. Examine the role of the 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. **(2021)**
2. "Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss **(2019)**
3. What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? **(2019)**
4. 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata. Substantiate your view**. (2018)**
5. How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes? **(2015)**
6. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India? **(2014)**
7. Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. **(2014)**
8. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. **(2014)**
9. Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organization free from gender bias. Comment**. (2013)**

Population and Associated Issues

"The human population can no longer be allowed to grow in the same old uncontrolled way. If we do not take charge of our population size, then nature will do it for us."

- **David Attenborough**

"The raging monster upon the land is population growth. In its presence, sustainability is but a fragile theoretical concept."

- **E.O. Wilson (Entomologist and conservationist)**

"Overpopulation in various countries has become a serious threat to the well-being of many people and a grave obstacle to any attempt to organize peace on this planet of ours."

- *Albert Einstein*

Malthusian Theory of Population Growth

The English political economist **Thomas Robert Malthus** (1766-1834) postulated **that while human population grew in a geometric progression** (i.e., like 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 etc.), **the resources (read agricultural base) grew at an arithmetic progression,** and **hence the resources would never be sufficient to sustain the population growth** and humanity was doomed to poverty, unless some preventive measures were taken to check the population growth. He stated that **natural calamities were actually nature's way of checking this unsustainable rise in human population.**

However, later on, researches did refute his theory stating that resources do not grow in a modest arithmetic progression, but at a much higher rate due to technological innovations. **The experience of European countries provided the most effective refutation of his theory.** In the latter half of nineteenth century, and by the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century**, birth rates declined, and outbreaks of epidemic diseases were being controlled**. Malthus's predictions proved false because both food production and standards of living continued to rise despite the rapid growth of population.

Determining Population Trends

All demographic studies are based on the processes of counting or enumeration – such as **the census or the survey** – which involve the systematic collection of data on the people residing within a specified territory.

The practice of the collection of social statistics by the state is in itself much older, but it acquired its modern form towards the end of the eighteenth century. **The American census of 1790 was probably the first modern census**.

In India, censuses began to be conducted by the British Indian Government between 1867-72 (under British Viceroy Lord Mayo), and regular ten yearly (or decennial**) censuses have been conducted since 1881**. Independent India continued the practice, and seven decennial censuses have been conducted since 1951, the most recent being in 2011. It is **conducted under the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (ORGI) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**

The Indian census is the largest such exercise in the world (China does not conduct regular censuses).

Census: It is **the procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population**. The term is used mostly in connection with 'national population and door to door censuses' taken every 10 years.

For example, the Economic Census in India is a Central Sector Scheme, with 100% Central Assistance and is conducted in all the States and Union Territories of the country, in collaboration with the State/UT Governments. The Economic Census data, over the years, has provided a base for under taking follow up **surveys by NSSO and other governmental and non- governmental agencies** to study the structure and composition of the various industrial sectors and their contribution. It is undertaken by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**

Survey: The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in India is a **unique setup to carry out surveys on socio-economic, demographic, agricultural and industrial subjects for collecting data from households and from enterprises located in villages and in the towns**. It is a focal agency of the Govt. of India (under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)) for collection of statistical data in the areas which are vital for developmental planning.

Population Policy Followed in India Since Independence (Post-1950)

The population policy of the Government of India has passed through the following phases from time to time:

Since the middle of the 20th century:

- After independence, Indian decision-makers also realized the importance and need of population control as early as in 1951-52, though before independence a sub-committee on population was also appointed by Indian National Congress in 1940 under the **chairmanship of renowned social scientist Radha Kamal Mukherjee** to suggest ways and means to arrest the galloping population.
- In 1956, a **Central Family Planning Board (CFPB) was created which emphasized sterilization**. Up till the 1960s, a rigid policy was not adopted to arrest the fast growth of the population. The policy framed in 1951-52 was ad hoc in nature, flexible, and based on a trial and error approach.
- Until the Fifth Plan, **the family planning program concerned itself primarily with birth control but in this plan 'maternal and child health and nutrition services' were also included as an integral part of the family planning program**. Despite all the Five-Year Plans (from First to Tenth) and policies, the population of India is growing at a faster pace and taking the shape of 'population explosion'.
- In 1961-71, the **population growth rate was 25 percent which was highest in any decade after independence**. At present (2001-2011), the population growth rate has declined to 1.50 percent.
- In **April 1976, the First National Population Policy was framed** which suggested a wide spectrum of programs including raising the **statutory age of marriage, introducing monetary incentives, paying special attention to improving female literacy,** etc.
- To check the alarming population growth, an attempt has been made to rejuvenate the National Family Welfare Programme
- It was emphasized that the **population control program would continue purely on a voluntary basis as an integral part of a comprehensive policy package** covering education, health, maternity and childcare, and women's rights and nutrition, including an anti-poverty program. It was made by people's programs based on the welfare approach.
- This revised strategy particularly focused on the provision of family planning strives at the doorsteps of the people. It is with this objective that the age of marriage is proposed to be raised for women from 18 to 20 years as envisaged in the National Population Policy document, 2000,
- As a part of family welfare and population control, the Government has **revised the PNDT Act in 2003, which was enacted in 1994. The main aim of the Act is to check female (embryo) infanticide.**

Plans By Government Of India For Population Control

First Five Year Plan:	**India is the first country in the world** to begin a **population control program in 1952**. It emphasized the use of natural devices for family planning.
Second Five Year Plan:	Work was done in the **direction of education and research** and the clinical approach was encouraged.
Third Five Year Plan:	In **1965, the sterilization technique for both men and women was adopted under this plan**. The technique of copper-T was also adopted. An independent department called the Family Planning Department was set up.
Fourth Five-Year Plan:	All kinds of birth control methods (conventional and modern) were encouraged.

Fifth Five Year Plan:	Under this plan, the National Population Policy was announced on 16 April 1976. **In this policy, the minimum age for marriage determined by the Sharda Act, 1929 was increased**. It increased the age for boys from 18 to 21 years and for girls from 14 to 18 years. Under this Plan, forced sterilization was permitted which was later on given up.
In the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Plans:	Efforts were made to control the population by determining long-term demographic aims.
Ninth Five-Year Plan:	In **1993, the Government had established an expert group under the chairmanship of M.S. Swaminathan** for formulating national population policy.

Determinants of Population Change

1. FERTILITY
2. MORTALITY
3. MIGRATION

a. Fertility

The fertility rate **refers to the number of live births per 1000 women in the child-bearing age group, usually taken to be 15 to 49 years.** But this is a 'crude' rate – it is a rough average for an entire population and does not take account of the differences across age-groups. Differences across age groups can sometimes be very significant in affecting the meaning of indicators. That is why demographers also calculate age-specific rates.

"Replacement level fertility" is the total fertility rate—the **average number of children born per woman—at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, without migration**. This rate is roughly 2.1 children per woman for most countries, although it may modestly vary with mortality rates.

Total Fertility Rate: It refers to the **total number of live births that a woman would have if she lived through the reproductive age group** and had the average number of babies in each segment of this age group as determined by the age-specific fertility rates for that area. Also, it is necessary here to differentiate between the terms 'fecundity' and 'fertility'.

Fecundity refers to the physiological capacity to reproduce. **Fertility**, on the other hand**, refers to the actual reproductive performance of an individual or a group.** While there is no direct measurement of fecundity, fertility can be studied from the birth statistics mentioned above.

Determinants of High Fertility:

As per data given by the Niti Aayog for the year 2016, the TFR for Indian women stood at 2.3. This is high and several factors contribute to the same:

a. Religious Ideologies
b. Universality of the institution of marriage.
c. Early marriage and early child-bearing.
d. Preference for sons ingrained in the Indian culture.
e. Lack of right of self-determination with reference to reproduction.
f. High infant and child mortality rates - (unsatisfactory health, low nutritional status and poverty) also contribute to a large family size.
g. Economic, social, cultural as well as religious value of children in the Indian society.

h. Absence of adoption of methods of conception control.

The recent NFHS 5 report

The Total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 2.2 (reported in 2015-16) **to 2.0 at the all- India level, according to the latest National Family Health Survey of India OR NFHS- 5 (phase 2) released by Union Health Ministry.**

- 1.6 in urban areas
- 2.1 in Rural area
- 2.0 all India

The NFHS-5 (National Family Health Survey) for 2019-2021 was conducted in around 6.1 lakh sample households from 707 districts of the country, covering 7,24,115 women and 1,01,839 men to provide disaggregated estimates up to the district level.

There are 1,020 women per 1,000 men in India according to the recently released Fifth Edition (NFHS-5). Such a sex ratio has not been recorded in any of the previous four editions of the NFHS.

What are the reasons for the fertility rates decline?

Many factors like **education** (mean school years for females), **economy** (Gross Domestic Product), **religious beliefs, contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR), the strength of family planning programs**, etc influence the fertility rates of a country. **These factors play an important role in the current decline in the fertility rate in India also, as listed below:**

- Higher level of education among females
- Increased mobility
- Late marriages
- Financial independence
- Better access to family planning methods/ high contraceptive prevalence rate
- The declining infant mortality rate
- The declining neonatal mortality rate

Future implications:

The low Fertility Rates in India eventually will lead to a decline in population like in developed countries such as **Japan, Germany, and Russia**. Hence, the focus on limiting the family size can be reduced.

The need of the hour now is to divert the attention to other matters like:

- Better employment opportunities so that the limited working population will be skilled in the future.
- Formulate policies to take care of higher medical costs as the population ages and productivity shrinks.
- Provide an **affordable social security system** that provides pensions to the elderly and takes care of their daily needs and medical expenses.
- States with higher fertility rates need to keep working on **improving schooling, income levels, and reducing infant and neonatal mortality rates.**

Implications of High Fertility

Apart from contributing in a big way to the population problem of the country, high fertility affects the family and, in turn, society in many ways.
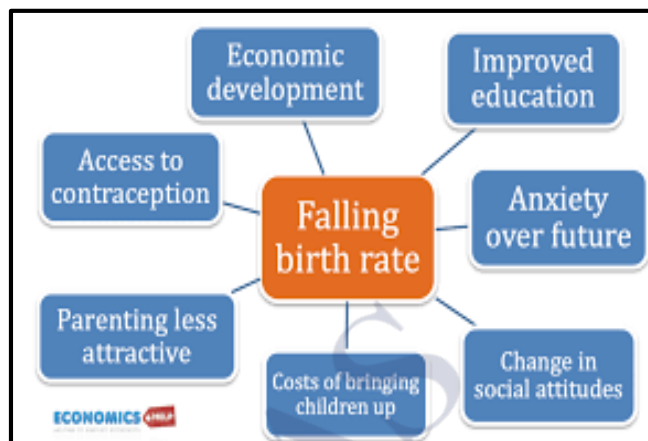
• **Women are tied down to child-bearing and child-rearing for the best years of their productive lives**. They are, therefore, **denied the opportunity to explore other avenues for self-expression and self-development.** This could lead to frustration.

• **Excessive child-bearing affects their health** and that of their children. Looking after a large number of children puts a further strain on the slender physical and emotional resources of such women.

• The burden of providing for a large family sits heavily on the bread-winner of the family. The constant struggle to maintain a subsistence level is exhausting. To escape from the problems of everyday life, men tend to take to drinking. This leads to further **deterioration of the economic and emotional well-being of the family**.

• The children, often unwanted, unloved and neglected, are left to their own to make life bearable. The children in large families often have to start working at a very early age to **supplement the slender financial resources of the family**. They may even **indulge in delinquency**. Hence they are denied the opportunity to go to school and get educated.

• The **girl child is the worst sufferer in these circumstances**. She is often not sent to school at all, or is withdrawn from school at an early age to help her mother in carrying out domestic chores and to look after her younger siblings when the mother is at work. **Early marriage pushes her into child-bearing, and the vicious cycle continues**.

• The children, both boys and girls, in a large family are thus often denied the joys of childhood, and are pushed into adult roles at a very early age.

b. Mortality

If the rate at which people die is more than the rate at which birth occurs, the number of people (population) will decrease and the reverse will occur if the death rate is lower than the birth rate.

Out of many measures, it is sufficient to describe three basic measures of mortality: the crude death rate, the expectation of life at birth, and the infant mortality rate.

Crude Death Rate: It is the ratio of the total registered deaths occurring in a specified calendar year to the total mid-year population of that year, multiplied by 1000.

The expectation of Life at Birth: The average number of years of life which a cohort of new-born babies (that is, those born in the same year) may be expected to live if they are subjected to the risks of death at each year, according to the age-specific mortality rates prevailing in the country at the time to which the measure refers.

An Indian born in 1950 could expect to live for 37 years, whereas today India's life expectancy at birth nearly doubled to 68 years, by 2050, it is projected to increase to 76 years. As a result, India's population will rise from 1.3 billion today to an estimated 1.7 billion by 2050, with a much larger elderly share of around 340 million.

		Trends in Mortality indicators		
	2014	2016	2018	2020
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per lakh live births)	167 (2011-13)	130 (2014-16)	113 (2016-18)	97 (2018-20)
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	39	34	32	28
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	26	24	23	20
Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	45	39	36	32
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate – 0- 7 days (per 1000 live births)	20	18	18	15

Source: Sample Registration System

What Factors Exacerbate Mortality Rates?

- **Malnutrition**: According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) the i**ncidence of anaemia in under-5 children** (from 58.6 to 67%), **women** (53.1 to 57%) **and men** (22.7 to 25%) has worsened in all States of India (20%-40% incidence is considered moderate).
- **Non-institutional Deliveries**: Whether the child is born at home or in a facility also determines the infant's survival rate. **Infection risks are high in the case of a non-institutional birth.** Although the share of India's institutional deliveries increased to 88.6% in 2019-2021 (NFHS-5) from 40.8 % in 2005-06 (NFHS 3), it is still much lesser when compared to the developed countries.
- **Lack of Immunity and Low vaccine Compliance level: Pneumonia, Prematurity, low birth weight, Diarrhoeal diseases, Neonatal infections, Birth asphyxia**, etc. are also the reasons that lead to infant deaths.
- **Lack of Education:** Maternal education increases the chances of mothers being aware of different health issues and thus taking the correct and appropriate steps toward preventing such issues.
- **Age of the Mother:** At the time of birth, the age of the mother plays an important role. For example, there exists an **inverse relationship between the age of mothers and the incidence of anaemia in children.** There are evidence related to the fact that the children of younger mothers are more anaemic.

What can be the Way Forward?

- **Infrastructure & Quality Improvement:** Infrastructure and quality of hospitals also play a crucial role to reduce further the mortality rates. **Quality improvement seeks to achieve predictable results and improve outcomes in terms of healthcare developments.**
- **Urban-Rural Disparities:** There is a need to bring out the systemic changes that are feasible in every part of the country, from the urban to the rural areas that can reduce the socio-economic stress in these areas.
- **Political Will:** The availability of funds (from Centre) as well as its judicious use by the States is vital in effective implementation of the framed policies and overhauling of the required health infrastructure.
- **Integrated Approach:** Concerned ministries can collaborate with each other to ensure better coordination, convergence and holistic integration of different schemes.
- **Need to Focus on all the Indicators:** There is an urgent requirement to look at the situations from the facets of each and every indicator and monitor them very carefully so that the world does not lose any mother or child unnecessarily.
- **Private Player Participation:** The involvement of private players is not an urgent requirement but their sincere engagement and complementing role to the state can ease the burden of the government. The role of the state in delivering health to its people cannot be overemphasised.

c. Migration

Apart from birth and death there is another way by which the population size changes. When people move from one place to another, they move from place of origin to the place of destination.

The place of origin shows a decrease in population while the population increases in the place of destination.

Migration may be permanent, temporary or seasonal. It may take place from rural to rural areas, rural to urban areas, urban to urban areas and urban to rural areas.

1. **Immigration:** Migrants who move into a new place are called Immigrants.

2**. Emigration:** Migrants who move out of a place are called Emigrants.

Migration may be interpreted as a spontaneous effort to achieve a better balance between population and resources. People migrate for a better economic and social life. **There are two sets of factors that influence migration**.

1. **Push factors:-** The place of origin may seem less attractive for reasons like **unemployment, poor living conditions, political turmoil, unpleasant climate, natural disasters, epidemics and socio-economic backwardness**.

2. **Pull factors:-** The place of destination may seem more attractive than the place of origin for reasons like **better job opportunities and living conditions, peace and stability, security of life and property and pleasant climate**.

Migration can be **internal** (within the country) or **international** (between the countries).

Internal migration does not change the size of the population, but influences the distribution of population within the nation. Thus, migration plays a very significant role in changing the composition and distribution of population.

What are the Statistics about Migration?

2011 Census:

- Number of internal migrants (both inter-state and within state) in India at 45.36 crore, making up 37% of the country's population.
- The annual net migrant flows amounted to about 1% of the working age population.
- India's workforce was 48.2 crores strong. This figure is estimated to have exceeded 50 crores in 2016.

Report of the Working Group on Migration, 2017:

- Report under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation** stated that 17 districts accounted for the top 25% of India's total male out-migration.
- **Ten of these districts are in UP, six in Bihar, and one in Odisha.**

SHARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS AMONG TOTAL WORKERS BY MAJOR SECTORS

	RURAL		URBAN	
Sector	Male	Female	Male	Female
Primary	4%	75%	20%	65%
Manufacturing	13%	59%	38%	51%
Public Services	16%	69%	40%	56%
Construction	8%	73%	32%	67%
Traditional Services	10%	65%	29%	55%
Modern Services	16%	66%	40%	52%
Total	6%	73%	33%	56%

Economic Survey 2016-17:

- Relatively less developed states such as **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have high net out-migration**.
- Relatively more developed states such as **Goa, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka reflect net immigration.**
- **The largest recipient was the Delhi region**, which accounted for more than half of migration in 2015-16.
- While **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** taken together account for **half of total out-migrants**.

Migration in India Report 2020-21:

- The report released by **Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation in June 2022, collated numbers for temporary visitors and migrants.**
- 0.7% of the country's population was recorded as a 'temporary visitor' during the July 2020-June 2021 period.

- o **Temporary visitors were defined as those who arrived in households after March 2020 and stayed continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months.**
- o Over 84% of these 0.7% temporary visitors moved places due to pandemic.
- The all-India migration rate was 28.9% for July 2020-June 2021, with a 26.5 % migration rate in rural areas and 34.9% in urban areas.
- o **Females recorded a higher share of migration rate** of 47.9%; 48% in rural and 47.8% in urban areas.
- o Migration rate for males was 10.7%, with 5.9% in rural and 22.5% in urban areas.
- 86.8% females migrated for marriage while 49.6% of the males migrated in search of employment.

What is the Significance of Migration and Migrants?

- **Labour Demand and Supply:** Migration fills gaps in **demand for and supply of labour**, efficiently allocates skilled labour, unskilled labour, and cheap labour.
- **Skill Development:** Migration enhances the knowledge and skills of migrants through exposure and interaction with the outside world.
- **Quality of Life:** Migration enhances chances of employment and economic prosperity which in turn improves quality of life.
- **Economic Remittances:** The migrants also send extra income and remittance back home, thereby positively impacting their native place.
- **Social Remittances:** Migration helps to improve the social life of migrants, as they learn about new cultures, customs, and languages which helps to improve brotherhood among people and ensures greater equality and tolerance.

What are the Challenges Related to Migration?

Issues faced by Marginalised Sections:

- Whereas the people who are poor or belong to a marginalised section do not find it easy to mix up.

Social and Psychological Aspects:

- Many times, **migrants are not easily accepted by the host place** and they always **remain as a second-class citizen.**
- Any person migrating to a new country faces multiple challenges, from **cultural adaptation and language barriers to homesickness and loneliness.**

Exclusion from Political Rights and Social Benefits:

- Migrant workers are deprived of many opportunities to exercise their political rights like the right to vote.
- Moreover, the need to provide **proof of address, Voter IDs and Aadhaar cards**, which is difficult due to the fluidity of their lives, deprive them from accessing welfare schemes and policies.

What are the Government Initiatives Related to Migration?

In 2021**, NITI Aayog, along with a working subgroup of officials and members of civil society, has prepared a draft National Migrant Labour policy.**

- The ramping up of **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) project** and **introduction of the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC), PM Garib Kalyan Yojna scheme and e-Shram porta**l reflected a ray of hope.
- However, the story of migrants is still a tale of distress in India.

Trends in Growth of Indian Population

The growth of Indian population has been witnessing a decreasing trend. It is significant that the percentage decadal growth during 2001-11 has registered the sharpest decline since Independence. It declined from 23.87% for 1981-1991 to 21.54% for the period 1991-2001, a decrease of 2.33 percentage points. For 2001-2011, this decadal growth became 17.64%, a further decrease of 3.90 percentage points.

Similarly, the average exponential growth rate for 2001-2011 declined to 1.64% per annum from 1.97% per annum during 1991-2001. The average annual exponential growth rate during 1981-1991 was 2.16.

The Phases of Population Growth in India

There are four distinct phases of growth identified within this period:

PHASE I

The period from 1901-1921 is referred to as a period of stagnant or stationary phase of growth of India's population, since in this period **growth rate was very low, even recording a negative growth rate** during 1911-1921 (– 0.03%) due to the influenza epidemic during 1918–19 which killed about 12.5 million persons or 5% of the total population of India at that time. (Estimates of deaths vary, and some are much higher. Also known as 'Spanish Flu', the influenza pandemic was a global phenomenon).

Both the birth rate and death rate were high, keeping the rate of increase low. Poor health and medical services, illiteracy of people at large and inefficient distribution system of food and other basic necessities were largely responsible for a high birth and death rates in this period.

PHASE II

The decades 1921-1951 are referred to as the period of steady population growth. An overall **improvement in health and sanitation throughout the country brought down the mortality rate**. At the same time **better transport and communication system improved the food distribution system** (scholars like Amartya Sen and others have shown that famines were not necessarily due to fall in foodgrains production; they were also caused by a 'failure of entitlements', or the inability of people to buy or obtain food).

However, the **most important reason for the decline in the death rate post 1921 was an increased levels of control over famines and epidemic diseases.**

Particularly, before 1931, both death rates and birth rates were high, whereas, after 1931, the death rates fell sharply. This is impressive at the backdrop of Great Economic Depression, 1920s and World War II.

The crude birth rate remained high in this period (it only fell slightly).This is because the **birth rate is a sociocultural phenomenon that is relatively slow to change**. Largely, increased levels of prosperity bring about a fall the birth rates. Once infant mortality rates decline, and there is an overall increase in the levels of education and awareness, family sizes begin to fall.

So, the period witnessed a higher growth rate than the previous phase. Between 1901–1951 the average annual growth rate did not exceed 1.33%, a modest rate of growth.

CURRENT POPULATION SITUATION IN INDIA :

India's population growth during the twentieth century can be classified into the following four distinct phases :

1901-1921 : *STAGNANT POPULATION*

1921-1951 : *STEADY GROWTH*

1951-1981 : *RAPID HIGH GROWTH*

1981-2001 : *HIGH GROWTH WITH DEFINITE SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN*

PHASE III

The decades 1951-1981 are referred to as the period of population explosion in India, which was caused by a **rapid fall in the mortality rate but a high fertility rate of population in the country**. The average annual growth rate touched 2.2 percent during 1961-1981. Since then although the annual growth rate has decreased it remains one of the highest in the developing world.

It is in this period, after independence, that developmental activities were introduced through a centralised planning process and the economy started doing well, ensuring the improvement of living condition of people at large. Consequently, there was a high natural increase and higher growth rate. Besides, **increased international migration from neighbouring countries contributed to the high growth rate.**

PHASE IV: Post 1981 till the present, the growth rate of the country's population though remained high, started slowing down gradually. A downward trend of crude birthrate is held responsible for such a population growth. This

was, in turn, affected by an increase in the age of marriage, improved quality of life, particularly education of females in the country.

According to the Economic Survey 2018–19, India's total birth rate was 22.4, among them rural birth rate was 22.4 and urban birth rate was 17.3. **The highest birth rate in India is of Uttar Pradesh (25.9) and Bihar (26.4), and they will also account for about half (50%) of the additions to the Indian population upto the year 2041**. Uttar Pradesh alone is expected to account for a little less than one quarter (22%) of this increase.

The growth rate of population is still high in the country, and it has been projected by **World Development Report that population of India will touch 1,350 million by 2025**. The analysis done so far showed the average growth rate. But the country also has a wide variation in growth rates from one area to another, which is discussed below

National Population Policy 2000

- GoI launched the National Population Policy in 2000 to improve quality of lives of people of India and to provide them with equal opportunities to be productive individual of society.
- The **basic aim of this policy is to cover various issues of maternal health, child survival, and contraception and to make reproductive health care accessible and affordable for all.**

SDG 3 (3.7) – By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

- **Choices** – It reiterated the government's resolve to push for **voluntary and informed choice and agreeability of citizens to get maximum benefit from reproductive health services**.
- **Framework** – It embarks on a policy outline for the government for next ten years to improve the reproductive and child health needs of people of India which include issues like child survival, maternal health, contraception, etc.
- **Education** – School education upto age of 14, to be made free and mandatory. This will also include plan to check drop-out rate of boys and girls.
- **IMR** – The policy **also aims at curbing the IMR to less than 30/1000 live births.**
- **MMR0** – The Maternal Mortality Rate will also be brought down to less than 100/1, 00,000 live births. **A high MMR is a symbol of economic and social disparity of the fairer sex**. It also points to heightened inequities in terms of healthcare and nutrition.
- **Immunisation** – Another important feature of the policy is to **attain universal immunisation of all children against preventable diseases.**
- **Marriages** – The policy will also **act against child marriage and promote 20 years as the right marriageable age for girls.** The legal age for same is 18 years.
- **Deliveries** – The policy will actively support a target of **80% institutional deliveries and 100 % deliveries by trained persons.**
- It also seeks to achieve **100 % registration of births, deaths, marriages and pregnancies.**
- Preventing and controlling all communicable diseases.
- It will also strive to Integrate Indian Systems of Medicine to provide reproductive and child health services by reaching out to households.
- It thus will seek to integrate and converge all related social sector programmes so that complete family welfare and health can be taken care of and properly maintained.
- NPP 2000 also **emphasizes the role of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddh and Homeopathy (AYUSH)** medicine system to serve the goals of public health.
- The NPP 2000 strived to change the mindsets and behaviour of people from base level. Its intense **focus on women empowerment** has led to improvement in many national statistics.

Critical Assessment of India's Population Policy

India's national population policies have failed to achieve their objectives as we remain world's second largest populated country. The population of India in 1951 was 35 crore, but by 2011, it had increased to 121 crore. **There have been few shortcomings.**

- The NPP have a narrow perspective, give much importance to contraception and sterilisation. **The basic prerequisite of meaningfully controlling population include poverty alleviation, improving the standards of living and the spread of education.**
- On national scale the policy was not publicised and failed to generate mass support in favour of population control.
- We have insufficient infrastructure owing to the lack of trained staff, lack of adequate aptitude among the staff and limited use or misuse of the equipment for population control resulted in failure of the policy.
- The use of coercion during the Emergency (1976-77) caused a serious resentment among the masses. This made the very NPP itself very unpopular.

Population Issues

Population Problems of Underdeveloped Countries

There are underdeveloped countries where the level of technological development inhibits agricultural efficiency and the establishment of industry even though the resources exist in the country. Such countries have additional problems if they are overpopulated like China or India.

Problems of Over-population

• **Rapid population growth:** Large populations increase rapidly especially in the **absence of family planning practices.** This leads to a large population of young people who are dependent on relatively small section of working population. At the same time the large number of young people put extra strain on social services.

• **Unemployment:** In many underdeveloped countries industry is not well established and there are few employment opportunities for unskilled workers. Unemployment is therefore high. On the other hand there is a shortage of skilled workers because there are few facilities for training. **In overpopulated rural areas unemployment or underemployment is also a major problem;** people migrate to towns where it is often even more difficult to find work. Moreover, the towns become overcrowded, making living conditions poor.

• **Poor standards of living:** Standards of health and hygiene and housing are low which leads to health problems and malnutrition and the spread of diseases. Ignorance of people and lack of financial resources further add to the problem.

• **Under-utilization of Agricultural resources**: **Traditional methods of agriculture, outdated or inadequate equipment, lack of financial resources** for improving farms, non-use or misuse of marginal agricultural land, such as highlands, may all help to keep agricultural production much lower than its potential. Difficulties of rationalizing farming techniques and reforming land tenure to give larger, more economic farms are aggravated by lack of capita and by traditional attitudes of farmers who are often slow to adopt new ideas.

• **Slow growth of industry:** Apart from lack of capital which makes the actual exploitation of resources difficult, the population factors are important. The labour force though large in number is unskilled and has no background of industrial employment. Similarly, though a large population should provide a good market for the finished goods, the majority of people are poor and cannot afford to buy the products. To produce good cheaply for a small market mechanized manufacture is most economical but this employs very few workers and does not help the unemployment situation.

• **Traditional attitudes militating against change:** Traditional or religious attitudes may militate against change or may make conditions worse. Birth-control is forbidden by Catholic Church, for instance, and caste restrictions on occupations in India also help to slow down development. Less important is the conservatism of rural people regarding farming methods and the introduction of new crops (e.g. genetically modified crops). The latter attitude can be modified by education but it is often hard to modify the religious attitudes.

Problems of Under-Population

- **Uneven Distribution of Population:** Average population densities for under populated countries are low. Small populations increase slowly, even though birth rates are often high. Immigration is an important source of people but it is usually to the towns and cities rather that rural areas/countryside. At the same time cities with their better living conditions attract people from the already sparsely settled countryside. **Imbalance between town and country is a major problem of under populated countries.**
- **Remoteness**: It is difficult to increase settlement in sparsely populated areas because people are unwilling to forego the amenities of the town. Where there are few people it is uneconomic to provide elaborate communications, health, education or other facilities. This in turn increases the unwillingness of people to settle in such areas.
- **Under Utilization of resources:** Lack of population makes it difficult for a country to develop its resources to the full. Minerals will usually be extracted, especially precious metals and petroleum, because the desire for wealth will overcome other considerations. Agricultural resources are more difficult to develop because they require more and harder work over a long period of years before they show a good return.
- **Slow growth of Industry:** This is due to shortage of labour, especially skilled labour in under populated countries, e.g. in the South American and African countries. Imported skilled labour raises the cost of industrial development. Moreover the small population does not provide an adequate market even where the standard of living is high.
- **Climatic Problems:** Hostile climate or relief conditions make settlement difficult. Such conditions obstruct development and are likely never to be fully overcome.

Population Problems of Advanced Countries

- **Ageing Population:** Due to low birth rate the proportion of young people in the population is relatively small. **Low death rate and high life expectancy mean that there is an ever- increasing proportion of older people in the population**. Many retire from active work in their sixties and then become dependent on the working population. Provisions of pension and other facilities, e.g. health services for elderly people pose financial challenges.
- **Small Work force:** As educational standards improve, children remain longer at school and join the workforce later. This, combined with the low birth rate, means that the labour force expands only slowly while industrial and other employment opportunities continue to multiply. Despite a **high degree of mechanization in most industries many countries are short of workers**. Another problem is that the workforce is generally well educated and skilled and there is a shortage of unskilled workers. Because the majority of workers are skilled and the work force is relatively small wages are high.

- **Rural Depopulation:** Steady movement of population occurs from countryside to towns due to the pull factors of city life. The fewer people in the countryside make it less economical to provide services or do business. This creates disparity between towns and countryside.
- **Urbanization**: As towns expand, the pressure on transport, water supplies, sewage and refuse disposal grows and creates problems. Smoke and chemical effluents from factories produce air and water pollution. Traffic congestion and noise are other problems. A tension created by urban life leads to far higher incidence of mental illness than in underdeveloped countries. **Urban sprawl is another problem**; the expanding towns engulf land which would otherwise be suitable for agriculture and thus reduce self-sufficiency in many countries.

Measures taken to control the population growth of India

On-going interventions
- More emphasis on **Spacing methods like IUCD.**
- Availability of Fixed Day Static Services at all facilities.
- Quality care in Family Planning services by establishing **Quality Assurance Committees** at state and district levels.
- Improving contraceptives supply management up to peripheral facilities.
- Demand generation activities in the form of display of posters, billboards and other audio and video materials in the various facilities.
- National Family Planning Indemnity Scheme' (NFPIS) under which clients are insured in the eventualities of deaths, complications and failures following sterilization and the providers/ accredited institutions are indemnified against litigations in those eventualities.
- **Compensation scheme for sterilization acceptors** - under the scheme MoHFW provides compensation for loss of wages to the beneficiary and also to the service provider (& team) for conducting sterilisations.
- Increasing male participation and promotion of **Non Scalpel Vasectomy**
- **Emphasis on Minlap Tubectomy services** because of its logistical simplicity and requirement of only MBBS doctors and not post graduate gynecologists/surgeons.
- Accreditation of more private/NGO facilities to increase the provider base for family planning services under PPP.

Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh/National Population Stabilization Fund has adopted the following strategies as a population control measure:-

- **Prerna Strategy:** JSK has launched this strategy for helping to **push up the age of marriage of girls and delay in first child and spacing in second child the birth of children** in the interest of health of young mothers and infants. The couple who adopt this strategy awarded suitably. This helps to change the mindsets of the community.
- **Santushti Strategy:** Under this strategy, Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh, invites private sector gynaecologists and vasectomy surgeons **to conduct sterilization operations in Public Private Partnership mode**. The private hospitals/nursing home who achieved target to 10 or more are suitably awarded as per strategy.
- **National Helpline:** JSK also running a call centres for providing free advice on reproductive health, family planning, maternal health and child health etc.
- **Advocacy & IEC activities:** JSK as a part of its **awareness and advocacy efforts on population stabilization, has established networks and partnership**s with other ministries, development partners, private sectors, corporate and professional bodies for spreading its activities through electronic media, print media, workshop, walkathon, and other multi-level activities etc. at the national, state, district and block level.

Previous Year Questions

1. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. **(UPSC 2021)**
2. Empowering women is the key to controlling population growth". Discuss. **(UPSC 2019)**
3. Critically examine whether a growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India. **(UPSC 2015)**
4. Discuss the changes in labour migration trends within and outside India in the last four decades. **(UPSC 2015)**
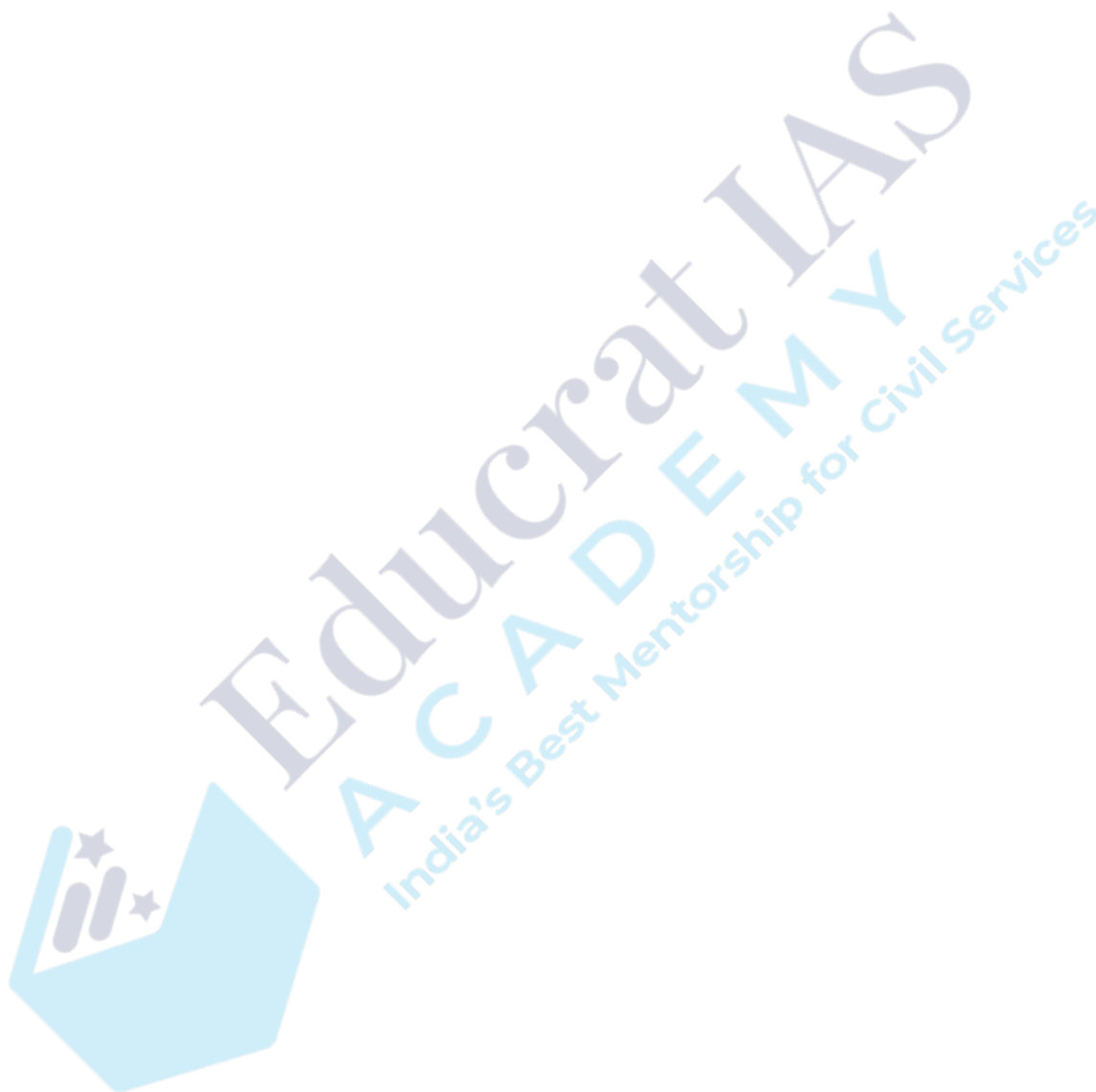
Poverty and Developmental Issues

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron."

- **Dwight Eisenhower (Former US President)**

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."

- **Mahatma Gandhi**

"Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime."

- **Aristotle**

Introduction

According to United Nations (UN), **Poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods.** Its manifestations include **hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, as well as the lack of participation in decision-making**.

• In 2022, around 648 million people of the world were living in extreme poverty (**World Bank defines "extreme poverty" as living on $2.15 or less a day)** and struggling to fulfil the most basic needs like health, education, and access to water and sanitation.

• However, the global extreme poverty rate fell to 9.2 percent in 2017, from 10.1 percent in 2015. That is equivalent to 689 million people living on less than $1.90 a day (as per 2017 World Bank Standards).

• Though global extreme poverty is expected to rise in 2020 for the first time in over 20 years as the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic compounds the forces of conflict and climate change, which were already slowing poverty reduction progress.

Classification of Poverty

• **Absolute poverty** - is a condition where **household income is below a necessary level to maintain basic living standards** (food, shelter, housing). This condition makes it possible to compare between different countries and also over time.

• **Relative poverty** – is a condition where **household income is a certain percentage below median incomes**. For example, the threshold for relative poverty could be set at 50% of median incomes (or 60%).

• **Primary Poverty** - is defined as a situation **where income is insufficient to meet basic needs – even if every penny is spent wisely.**

• **Secondary Poverty** - is defined as a situation where money is misspent on luxuries – leaving insufficient disposable income to buy necessities.

• **Persistent Poverty** - is defined as a situation where **households find income is less than 60% of median incomes for 2 out of 3 years.** This is important as long-term poverty has greater consequences than short-term.

• **Multidimensional Poverty** - measures poverty as an acute deprivation of essential aspects of life**. It measures three key targets – living standards, education and healthcare.** The **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was developed in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme**. It has since been used to measure acute poverty across over 100 developing countries. It replaced the Human Poverty Index.

Poverty and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

• Ending poverty in all its forms is the **first of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

• The SDGs' main reference to **combatting poverty is made in target 1.A**:

"Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions."

• The SDGs also aim to create sound policy frameworks at national and regional levels, based on **pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies** to ensure that by **2030 all men and women have equal rights to economic resources,** as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

Target 1.1
Eradicate Extreme Poverty

By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day.

Target 1.2
Reduce Poverty by at Least 50%

Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.

Target 1.3
Implement Social Protection Systems

Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

Target 1.4
Equal Rights to Ownership, Basic Services, Technology and Economic Resources

By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

Target 1.5
Build Resilience to Environmental, Economic and Social Disasters

By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Target 1.a
Mobilise Resources to Implement Policies to End Poverty

Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

Target 1.b
Create Pro-Poor and Gender Sensitive Policy Frameworks

Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.

Poverty and India

With 228 million**, India continues to have the biggest proportion of the world's poor**. According to the recently published Global Multidimensional Poverty Index in 2023, 415 million individuals in India were able to escape multidimensional poverty in the last 15 years between 2005–2006 and 2019–21, with the incidence of poverty exhibiting a sharp drop from 55.1% to 16.4%.

In India, 16.4% of people are considered to be poor, and 4.2% of people are considered to be extremely poor. 18.7% of people are considered to be at risk of poverty. 374 million poor people are equally deficient in nutrition, sanitation, housing, and cooking fuel; 445 million are deficient in both power and clean drinking water. **Goa experienced the fastest relative poverty reduction among the Indian states and Union Territories, followed by Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan.**

India is one of the world's fastest growing major economy. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), at the growth rate of 7.5%, India is going to be the fastest growing economy in 2023. The world's only country to register a double-digit growth in 2023.

But the sudden outbreak of the novel coronavirus in early 2020 pushed many into poverty in India. It is estimated that 150-199 million additional people will fall into poverty at the end of 2023. Due to the pandemic, there were job cuts on a large-scale. The poverty rate of India is set to rise. According to the CMIE report, around 7 million jobs were lost in a year. The consumption expenditure has come down and the public spending on development was sluggish. So, poverty in India is expected to rise in the coming days. The world's largest economy also has one of its largest rates of child poverty.

India has more than halved its number of severely poor individuals, according to a World Bank working paper issued in the month of April 2023. Between 2011 and 2019, people earned less than $1.9 per day on a purchasing power parity basis. The report says "Within a decade, India may lift the final 10% of its population out of extreme poverty".

According to an IMF research, India had nearly eradicated extreme poverty by 2020-21 when food subsidies are considered in.

Post-independence poverty estimates:

Planning Commission 1962	**Planning Commission Expert Group (1962), constituted by the Planning Commission** formulated the separate poverty lines for rural and urban areas **(Rs.20 and Rs.25 per capita per year respectively).**
Y. K. Alagh Committee (1979)	By 1979, it was decided that **poverty should be measured precisely based on starvation.** Committee was constituted which gave its recommendation as the people consuming less than 2,100 calories in the urban areas or less than 2,400 calories in the rural areas are poor.

Lakdawala Committee (1993)	In 1993, an expert group constituted to review methodology for poverty estimation, chaired by D.T. Lakdawala, made the following suggestions: • Consumption expenditure should be calculated based on calorie consumption as earlier; • **State specific poverty lines should be constructed** and these should be updated using the Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) in urban areas and Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) in rural areas; and • **Discontinuation of 'scaling' of poverty estimates based on National Accounts Statistics**. This assumes that the basket of goods and services used to calculate CPI-IW and CPI-AL reflect the consumption patterns of the poor.
Suresh Tendulkar Committee (2005)	• In 2005**, Suresh Tendulkar Committee was constituted by the Planning Commission**. • The current estimations of poverty are based upon the recommendations of this committee. • **This committee recommended to shift away from the calorie-based model and made the poverty line somewhat broad** based by considering monthly spending on education, health, electricity and transport. • **It supported nutritional intake rather than caloric intake**. The committee also drew a line based on cost of living. The Tendulkar panel stipulated a benchmark daily per capita expenditure of Rs. 27 and Rs. 33 in rural and urban areas, respectively.
C. Rangarajan Committee (2012-14)	The committee raised the cost of living per day to Rs. 32 and Rs. 47 for rural and urban areas, respectively. Hence, the poverty percentage of India worked closely to 30% and in absolute terms close to 40 crores poor.
Arvind Panagariya Task Force (2015)	**The task force suggested setting up of committee to identify people "Below Poverty Line (BPL)"** It also suggested participation of states. The paper talks of considering four options for tracking the poor. • First, continue with the Tendulkar poverty line. • Second, **switch to the Rangarajan or other higher rural and urban poverty lines.** • Third, bottom 30% of the population tracking over time • Fourth, tracking the bottom 30% on **specific components, such as housing, sanitation, electricity, nutritional intake**, etc.
NITI Aayog Task Force	• NITI Aayog favoured **the Tendulkar line** (21.9%) • To remove any criticism that many poor would be left behind if poverty line as per Tendulkar committee is adopted, NITI Aayog has underlined that it will only be used to track progress in combating poverty rather than identifying the poor for entitlements. • **SECC data as suggested by Saxena and Hashim committee** will be used for entitlements. • **Dr. N.C. Saxena Committee was set up by the Ministry of Rural Development** to advise it on the suitable methodology for BPL Census and not for estimation of poverty. • The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Professor S. R. Hashim to **recommend the detailed methodology for identification of families living Below Poverty Line in urban areas.**

Impact of Climate Change on poverty

• The World Bank in a report titled **South Asia's Hotspots: The Impact of Temperature and Precipitation Changes on Living Standards**' concludes that climate change could accentuate poverty and inequality in India.

• According to the report**, rising temperatures and changing monsoon rainfall patterns** from climate change could cost India 2.8 per cent of GDP and depress the living standards of nearly half the country's population by 2050.

• This decline is living standard can be attributed to can **be attributed to a fall in agricultural yield** and the health impact effected by such a change.

• According to the report, central, northern and north-western India are most vulnerable to change in climate adding that the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh could see a decline in living standards of up to 9 per cent.

• According to another study by **Centre for Economics, Environment and Society, Climate Change** will not only increase the population living under poverty but also aggravate the conditions of those living in poverty.

• **Climate change, through rising temperatures and increasing precipitation, affects agricultural productivity and food prices.** Thus, it will drag the rural incomes back to below the poverty line and erode the gains made by India in rural poverty reduction since the reforms in 1991.

• **Climate Change will also worsen India' performance on social indices** and hinder the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The hot climate of India reduces the capacity of people especially the ruralites to work for which production severely suffers. Frequent flood, famine, earthquake and cyclone cause heavy damage to agriculture as a result, the price of food increases, and access becomes more and more limited, putting many at higher risk of hunger. Flooding can also contaminate water sources, increasing the transmission of water-borne diseases, such as Typhoid and Cholera.

Moreover, **absence of timely rain, excessive or deficient rain affect severely country's agricultural production**

Some steps can be taken into consideration:	• Installing **household and community biogas units** to power clean-burning methane stoves; • Replacing conventional wood-burning stoves with more efficient solar ones; • Providing **solar-powered lighting**; • **Promoting scientifically and economically sound climate-smart farming techniques** through the use of information technology (IT) platforms like smart-phone apps. • Implementation of low carbon farming techniques

Causes of Poverty

Demographic factors

The following demographic factors are accountable for poverty in India:

Rapid growth of population:	• **The growth of population exceeds the rate of growth in national income**. The burden of this reduction in per capita income is borne heavily by the poor people. • Population growth not only creates difficulties in the removal of poverty but also lowers the per capita income which tends to increase poverty • Population growth at a faster rate increases labour supply which tends to lower the wage rate. • Rapid population growth **increases landlessness** and hence the incidence of poverty.

Size of family:	• Size of the family has significant bearing on rural poverty. • The fundamental reason behind it is that poor people tend to believe "two hands are better than one". • They see benefits in having more hands for subsistence agri-business as well as to ensure that they will have a stable support in their old age. • Other reason of poor family being large family is that **the birth control is not free or automatic**. Moreover, they do not even aware about contraception, fertility, sterilization and other family planning approaches. • The **larger the size of family, the lower is the per capita income, and the lower is the standard of living.**

Political Factors

Both rural and urban poverty remains ubiquitous even after more than seven decades of gaining independence from foreign rule. **The reasons in this regard can be as follows:**

- **Communal tensions and strife** between two regional parties disrupt the process of allowing concessions and solving poverty.
- In most cases, **rural reforms are either stalled** for indefinite period of time. Even if the measures are implemented, they are mostly half-measures and confined to short-term solutions that don't do much good to India's poverty reduction goals
- **Vote bank politics is also held accountable for poverty in India** where various political leaders find it convenient to exclude huge chunk of the population from the poverty census after getting elected. **Minority ethnic communities, tribal groups and the Dalits are often not included in the list of beneficiaries.**
- Various **development plans are being guided by political interests** which is the major cause of concern for poverty in India. Hence, the planning has not been successful to tackle the problem of poverty and unemployment.

Capital and Able Entrepreneurship Deficit- Capital and able entrepreneurship have important role in accelerating the growth. But these are in short supply making it difficult to increase production significantly.

Housing and Homelessness- The poor are, not surprisingly, more likely to be homeless than the not so poor but also more likely to live in dilapidated housing and unable to buy their own homes. Many poor families spend more than half their income on rent, and they tend to live in poor neighbourhoods that lack job opportunities, good schools and other features of modern life that wealthier people take for granted.

Untouchability- Various social issues like untouchability that are still prevalent in various parts of India are a major cause of hindrance in reducing poverty. They are not allowed to venture into the general employment opportunities and are **forced to do inhuman jobs like manual scavenging.**

Caste system: The subordination of the low caste people by the high caste people caused the poverty of the former. Due to rigid caste system, the low caste people could not participate in the game of economic progress. **For example:** a lower caste person will not be allowed to become a businessman or a trader.

Figure shows that Dalits are the least likely to start their own enterprises and most likely to work as labourers for others, with SCs having the lowest relative share in self-employed category and the highest share in casual labourer. The OBCs have a roughly proportionate share in each employment category.

Figure shows that non-Muslim upper castes have a much higher share among white collar employees, while Dalits and Adivasis (SCs/STs) have a much greater share among unskilled workers in comparison to OBCs. Thus, even though SCs and OBCs might have a similar share among regular workers, the nature of jobs SCs (and STs) are engaged in is qualitatively different. **This system makes the poor get poorer and the rich get richer**. This unbalanced and unfair system is another leading cause of poverty.

Laws of inheritance, caste system, traditions and customs are putting hindrances in the way of faster development and have aggravated the problem of poverty.

Lack of Education: Education is an "agent of social change and egalitarianism". Poverty is also said to be closely related to the levels of schooling, technical and vocational skills. **Lack of education and illiteracy** are the most important reasons for the prevalence of widespread poverty in India. The literacy rate of female Dalits in Bihar is around 38.5%, it is far behind India's progress trend. It is still 30 years behind India's national literacy rate.

Social exclusion: Social exclusion is being unable to participate in society because of a lack of resources that are normally available to the general population. It can refer to both individuals, and communities in a broader framework, with linked problems such as low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments and family problems.

Social Exclusion leads to Poverty in the following ways:

- **Leads to the low representation of a section of society** in Government offices and this leads to fewer policies in favour of that particular section which can benefit them in a better standard of living.
- Exclusion imposes constraints under which human rights cannot be enjoyed in the same manner as by others in society. **For example, basic rights like education and justice are denied, which further leads to poverty.**
- The low participation of tribal in decision-making and their alienation from land and forests were central to the continued exclusion of Adivasis from progress and development.

Low Agricultural productivity

- Subdivided and fragmented holdings,
- Under-utilization of resources is important factor
- Disguised unemployment and underemployment in agriculture
- Lack of investible capital, and lack of credit availability.
- Use of traditional methods of cultivation
- Illiteracy etc. which are the very reason for poverty in this country.

Lack of employment opportunities:

- Unemployment is the reflection of poverty.
- Because of lack of employment opportunities, people remain either unemployed or underemployed. Most of these unemployed and underemployed workers are the **small and marginal farmers and the landless agricultural labourers.**
- This inequality leads to **unfair loss of opportunities among the weaker sections** of the society thereby making them more vulnerable.

Inflation:

- The persistent steep increase in the price of goods and services drastically affects the poor.
- For BPL people always find it difficult to cope up with these situations and their spending pattern gets affected.
- Inflation forces them to spend almost their entire income for the very basic necessities of survival like food, clothing and shelter, in that order.
- Sometimes, poor cannot have the basic required nutrition, hygienic living environment and cannot have basic minimum health care, and so become easy victims to malnutrition and disease. Thus, **the inflation condemns the poor to a life time of bad health and worse living conditions.**
- Finally, with passage of time, the inflation results in gradual declining of human dignity by rendering them homeless and sometimes even forcing them to beg.

FEMINISATION OF POVERTY: Poverty and women in India

• **The burden of poverty weighs down heavier on girls and women in India** than it does on the opposite sex. According to an **Oxfam report, in the workplace, women still receive 34% less wages than their male counterparts** for the same work.

• In India, girls belonging to families in the top 20% get nine years of education on average, while girls from families in the bottom 20% get none at all. Even those who make it to school are often pulled out due to financial reasons.

• In addition, more than 23 million girls drop out of school annually because of a **lack of toilets in school and proper menstrual hygiene management facilities**.

• Women in India spend around five hours a day on unpaid care work while men devote a mere half an hour on average. This **disproportionate burden of unpaid care work by women means they lose out on opportunities to participate in paid labour** or are forced to undertake paid labour leading to their time poverty and loss in well-being.

• This imbalanced system leaves women vulnerable. A survey of 1,000 households across the central-Indian states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh in 2018 revealed that people thought it was acceptable to criticise and beat women if they slipped up while carrying out unpaid care work. In turn**, violence continuously sets women back economically, creating a vicious cycle.**

Strategies to alleviate poverty in India: An Appraisal

Niti Aayog in its document titled 'India VNR 2020" makes an analysis of India's efforts and initiative to alleviate poverty:

- **High Economic Growth:** The rapid growth of the economy has contributed to 25.5 per cent growth in per capita income which grew from USD 1,610 in 2015 to USD 2,020 in 2018. The incidence of multidimensional poverty reduced by half to 27.5 per cent between 2005-06 and 2015-16, implying that over 271 million people escaped poverty.
- **Social Protection:** 136 million job cards have been issued so far under the MGNREGA Scheme alone. It had generated 2.64 billion person days of employment in FY 19-20. More women (54 per cent) have taken advantage of this employment scheme.
- **Access to basic facilities:**
  o **Financial services:** Financial inclusion of the hitherto unbanked sections of the population has been achieved by ensuring access to a range of financial services including banking, credit, insurance and pension under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). As of 1st April 2020, 381 million accounts were opened under PMJDY, of which 203 million were by women. It has enabled direct benefit transfer of over INR 11 trillion) to the accounts of beneficiaries, which improved the effectiveness of social security provisions.
  o **Health Services:** Ayushman Bharat covers 500 million beneficiaries from over 100 million poor and vulnerable families with health insurance coverage up to INR 500,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary institutional care. By May 2020, more than 10 million hospital treatments worth nearly INR 134 billion (USD 1.8 billion) have been provided under the scheme. Over 21,000 public and private hospitals have been empanelled across the country to provide inpatient services to the beneficiaries.
  o **Housing facilities:** The number of houses completed in a year under the rural component of the 'Housing for All" programme has increased by about four times from 1.2 million in 2014-15 to 4.7 million in 2018-19. Under the urban component, against the assessed demand of 11.2 million, 10.3 million houses were sanctioned, 6.1 million grounded for construction and 3.2 million delivered as on 1st January, 2020. National Sample Survey summarizes that 96 per cent of India's urban population and 76.7 per cent of rural live in permanent houses in 2018.
- **Livelihood opportunities and Skill development:** The range of interventions to ramp up the skilling and livelihood ecosystem include Stand Up India, Skill India, National Apprenticeship Programme, and National Rural and Urban Livelihood Mission. As a result, the share of regular wage/salaried employees increased from 18 per cent in 2011-12 to 23 per cent in 2017-18, with a growth of around 26.2 million new jobs. Proportion of women workers in regular wage/salaried jobs also saw an increase from 13 per cent in 2011-12 to 21 per cent in 2017-18.

Schemes of Government of India for Poverty Alleviation
DEEN DAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA: NATIONAL URBAN LIVELIHOODS MISSION (DAY-NULM)

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- Give urban poor's skill training and loan for self-employment → Government pays its interest subvention via PAISA Portal. This **portal is coordinated by Allahabad Bank**
- Develop vendor markets for urban vendors.
- Shelters for homeless people.

DEEN DAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA: NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION (DAY-NRLM)

- Ministry of Rural Development
- **Bring minimum 1 woman from each poor household to Self Help Group** → give them training and loans for candle/soap/handicraft etc. biz.
- Give training to rural men.
- They'll do self-employment or skilled wage employment = More income than working as farm labourers.

NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION (DAY- NRLM) – SUBSCHEME

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY-2014):
- **Rural Youth given FREE skill training to aged 15-35**. Higher age limit for SC/ST/Women/PH. Guaranteed Placement for at least 75% trained candidates. Covers Youth of Jammu and Kashmir (HIMAYAT scheme)
- Cover Youth of North Eastern States & Left- Wing Extremist (LWE) districts (ROSHNI Scheme)
- **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP-2015):** self-explanatory training, loan, marketing assistance etc.
- PM's Employment Generation Scheme where person / SHG given credit linked subsidy to start non-farm micro-enterprise]
- **Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY-2017):** Interest-free loans given to SHG / Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to buy public transport vehicle so they can earn by transporting passengers.

DISHA COMMITTEES (2016)

- Ministry of Rural Development
- District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) = elected members of (Parliament + State legislature + Local Governments: PRI,ULB) for efficient and time-bound development of districts.
- They will meet once every quarter and assess the schemes implementation.
- DISHA Committee's chairman will be the senior most MP (Lok Sabha) from the given district. DM/Collector(IAS) will act as member Secretary to implement the Committee's directives.

MISSION ANTYODAYA (2017)

- Ministry of Rural Development
- It's **similar to 'Adarsh Gram Yojanas**
- Here Government will implement the other ongoing schemes with more vigilance and accountability with the help of Gram Panchayat, NGOs, SHGs, ASHA workers etc.
- At least 50,000 Gram Panchayats become poverty free by 2020.

Challenges in Poverty Alleviation - Reasons

• **Regional variance**: Much of India's poverty is concentrated in rural areas and in low-in-come States. The difference among the States in terms of the proportion of people living below the poverty line is stark: Chhattisgarh has 39.9 per cent of people living below poverty while the corresponding figure for Andaman & Nicobar Islands is 1 per cent. Between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the percentage of people below poverty line has decreased significantly from 13.8 per cent to 5 per cent in Goa. However, Chhattisgarh has seen only marginal reduction, from 40.9 per cent to 39.93 per cent.

• **Feminization of Poverty**: Feminization of poverty, especially rural poverty, is another challenge. Poverty affects women more than men as women have **limited access to resources, be it food and nutritional security, or health care** and public services, **apart from the skewed ownership of assets.**

• **Rapid Urbanization**: While bringing a range of economic benefits, rapid urbanisation has brought with it enormous challenges, most noticeably in the **form of demand-supply gaps in housing, infrastructure, employment, and other economic opportunities and services.**

• **Human Resources Development**: New knowledge and technologies are transforming the conventional structures of skills, work and employment. There is a need to refashion education and skill development so that the existing, emerging and future labour force has the capability and requisite opportunities to engage in appropriately gainful employment. This would also require befit ting labour reforms. There is also a need to invest in and enhance quality and accessibility of health care, especially for the economically weaker sections and people in vulnerable situations.

Previous Year Questions

1. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. **(UPSC 2020)**
2. 'Despite the implementation of various programs for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons. **(UPSC 2018)**
3. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples. **(UPSC 2016)**
4. Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India. **(UPSC 2015)**

Urbanization, their problems and their remedies

"Cities are not only growth centres. Our cities have strength & capacity to mitigate poverty. People find work in cities"

- **Narendra Modi**

"Urbanization is the inevitable outcome of the processes of growth and the processes of modernization."

- **Manmohan Singh**

Introduction

Urbanization (or the growth of urban settlement),is the **process of becoming urban, moving to cities, changing from agriculture to other pursuits common to cities**, such as trade, manufacturing, industry and management, and corresponding changes of behaviour patterns. An **increase in the size of towns and cities leading to growth of urban population is the most significant dimension of urbanization**. In ancient times there have been great many cities such as Rome or Baghdad, but ever since industrialization and increasing industrial production, cities have grown phenomenally and now urbanization is very much part of our contemporary life.

Urbanization in India was mainly a post-independence phenomenon, due to adoption of mixed system of economy by the country, which gave rise to the development of private sector. It has been taking place at an increasingly fast rate in India.

Process of Urbanization

Urbanization as a **structural process of change** is generally **related to industrialization**, but it is not always the result of industrialization.

Urbanization results due to the concentration of large-scale and small scale industrial and commercial, financial, and administrative set up in the cities; technological development in transport and communication, cultural and recreational activities.

Urbanization is an integral part of economic development, as the economy develops, there is an increase in the per capita income and also the demand for non-farm goods in the economy.

In the context of India, the **process of urbanization is seen as a socio-cultural process**, an economic process, and a geographical process.

As a socio-cultural phenomenon	**It is** a "melting pot" of people **with diverse ethnic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds. E.g. Kolkata**
As an economic process	The city is **a focal point of productive activities**. It exists and grows on the strength of the economic activities existing within itself. E.g. Mumbai
As a geographical process	It deals with **migration** or change of location of residence of people and involves the movement of people from one place to another.

Evolution of Urbanization in India

Urbanization in India can be traced back to the ancient Indian period.

Harappan urbanism in **Indus Valley Civilization** is considered to be the **first phase of urbanization in India**.

Harappan cities had a long period of urbanization for about 600 years (between 2350 BC and 1750 BC). Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro are the two important cities in Indus valley civilization.

The onset of the British East India Company changed the nature of the urbanization process extraordinarily.

Contribution of British in Urbanization

- In 1687- 88, the first municipal corporation in India was set up at Madras.
- In 1726, Municipal Corporation was set up in Bombay and Calcutta.
- In 1882, a resolution was passed and according to which, a Panchayat was to be formed at the village level, district boards, taluqa boards, and municipalities also came into existence.
- At that time Lord Ripon was Viceroy of India, and for this, **Lord Ripon is known as the father of local self-government in India.**
- Lord Ripon's resolution of 1882 provided for the introduction of principles of local self-government in the municipalities.
- The resolution is regarded as the **Magna Carta of Local self-government in India.** Lord Ripon is known as Father of Local Self Government in India.
- The formation of three metropolitan port cities of Mumbai (Bombay), Kolkata (Calcutta), and Chennai (Madras).
- Creation of a chain of hill stations such as Darjeeling, Shimla, Mussoorie, Lansdowne etc. in the Himalayan region and In South India.
- The modification of the urban landscape of the existing cities with the introduction of civil lines and cantonments.
- The **introduction of railways and modern industry.**
- The improvements in urban amenities and administration.
- The initiation of modern education by establishing some colleges and universities in major urban centres.
- After Independence urbanization began to accelerate due to the country's adoption of a **mixed economy**, which gave rise to the development of the private sector.

Urbanization and Associated phenomenon

There is no common definition of what constitutes an urban settlement. As a result, the definition employed by national statistical offices varies widely across countries, and in some cases has changed over time within a country. The criteria for classifying an area as urban may be based on one or a combination of characteristics, such as: a minimum population threshold; population density; proportion employed in non-agricultural sectors; the presence of infrastructure such as paved roads, electricity, piped water or sewers; and the presence of education or health services.

In this section, we will discuss different definitions and phenomenon associated with the urban areas. It includes Census definition of urban areas, Urban Agglomeration, Over-Urbanization, Sub Urbanization, Counter Urbanization and Census towns.

Urban Agglomeration
This term was **introduced in 1971 census**. Often large railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, military camps etc come up outside the statutory limits of the city or town but adjoining it. Such areas may not themselves qualify to be treated as towns but if they form a continuous spread with the adjoining town, it would be realistic to treat them as urban. Such settlement has been termed as outgrowths, and may cover a whole village, or part of a village. Such towns together with their outgrowths have been treated as one urban unit and called 'urban agglomeration'.

According to Census of India, 2001, an **urban agglomeration is a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining outgrowths (OGs), or two or more physically contiguous towns together with or without outgrowths of such towns.** An Urban Agglomeration must consist of at least a statutory town and its total population should not be less than 20,000 as per the 2001 Census.

Outgrowth
According to Census 2001, an Out Growth (OG) has been defined as **a viable unit such as a village or a hamlet or an enumeration block made up of such village or hamlet and clearly identifiable in terms of its boundaries and location**. Some of the examples are railway colony, university campus, port area, military camps, etc., which have come up near a statutory town outside its statutory limits but within the revenue limits of a village or villages contiguous to the town.

An outgrowth possesses urban features like infrastructure and amenities such as pucca roads, electricity, taps, drainage system for disposal of waste water etc. educational institutions, post offices, medical facilities, banks etc. and is physically contiguous with the core town of the Urban Agglomeration. In the 2011 Census, 475 places with 981

outgrowths have been identified as Urban Agglomerations as against 384 Urban Agglomerations with 962 outgrowths in 2001 Census.

Over-Urbanization

Over-urbanization is a phenomenon wherein the level of urbanization surpasses the level of industrialization. In an over urbanized area, population growth outstrips its job market and the capacity of its infrastructure. This phenomenon can also be referred as Urbanisation without Industrialisation. E.g. Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi are some of the over urbanized cities.

Sub-Urbanization

It is closely related to over-urbanization of a city. Over a period of time, **people from the Over-Urbanized area start moving towards the fringe area around the cities**. Such areas around the cities gradually start developing as an urban area. This **phenomenon is known as Sub Urbanisation**.

There are several factors which leads to the process of Sub-urbanisation such as:

1. High cost of living in over urbanized area,

2. Development of transport facility around the horizons of over urbanized area,

3. New Work culture that does not necessitate the physical presence on every day.

4. Inclusion of surrounding areas of towns within its municipal limits

Delhi is a typical example; wherein the all the above mentioned factors have led to the development of sub urbanized area. E.g. **Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Meerut** etc.

Counter Urbanization

It is a **demographic and social process whereby people move from urban areas to rural areas**. It first took place as a reaction to inner-city deprivation and overcrowding. **Counter urbanization occurs when some large cities reach a point where they stop growing further or actually begin to decrease in size as their population start moving into suburban areas** or smaller cities thereby leapfrogging the rural-urban fringe. There are instances which show that the phenomenon of counter urbanization is occurring in India.

Census Towns

In 2011, a new definition of census town has been developed. This urban classification of 'census towns' helps differentiate between India's small farming communities and the larger market town-type settlements that are experiencing rapid and haphazard growth.

To be classified as a census town, a village must fulfil three criteria;

- it need at least 5,000 inhabitants,
- a density of 400 people per sq. km, and
- at least three quarters of its male working population must be "engaged in non-agricultural pursuits".

Social effects of Urbanization

1. Family and kinship

Urbanization affects not only the family structure but also intra and inter-family relations, as well as the functions the family performs. With urbanization, there is a disruption of the bonds of community and the migrant faces the problem to replace old relationships with new ones. The relationships of community living tend to become **impersonal, formal and goal oriented.**

I.P. Desai (1964) showed that though the structure of urban family is changing, the spirit of individualism is not growing in the families. He found that 74 percent families were residentially nuclear but functionally and in property joint, and 21 percent were joint in residence and functioning as well as in property and 5 percent families were nuclear.

Aileen Ross (1962) in her study of 157 Hindu families belonging to middle and upper classes in Bangalore found that

- about 60 percent of the families are nuclear
- the trend today is towards a break with the traditional joint family form into the nuclear family form into the nuclear family unit.
- Small joint family is now the most typical form of family life in urban India.
- Relations with one's distant kin are weakening or breaking.

2. Urbanization and Caste

• It is generally held that **caste is a rural phenomenon whereas class is urban and that with urbanization, caste transforms itself into class**. But it is necessary to note that the caste system exists in cities as much as it does in villages although there are significant organizational differences.

• **Caste identity tends to diminish with urbanization, education and the development of an orientation towards individual achievement and modern status symbols**. It has been pointed out that among the westernized elite, class ties are much more important than caste ties.

• However, caste system continues to persist and exert its influence in some sectors of urban social life while it has changed its form in some other sectors. **Caste solidarity is not as strong in urban areas as in the rural areas**. Caste panchayats are very weak in cities. There exists a **dichotomy between workplace and domestic situation and both caste and class situations co-exist.**

3. Urbanization and the Status of Women

• Women constitute an important section of rural urban migrants. They migrate at the time of marriage and also when they are potential workers in the place of destination. While middle class women get employed in white collar jobs and professions, lower class women find jobs in the informal sector. Women are also found in the formal sector as industrial workers.

• Many positive developments took place in the socio economic lives of women as a result of increasing urbanization. **Increasing number of women have taken to white-collar jobs and entered different professions.** These professions were instrumental in enhancing the social and economic status of women, thereby meaning increased and rigorous hours of work, professional loyalty along with increased autonomy. **Average age of marriage of girls is higher in urban areas.**

• However, the traditional and cultural institutions remaining the same, crises of values and a confusion of norms have finally resulted. The **personally and socially enlightened woman is forced to perform dual roles - social and**

professional. Also, Urbanisation has not brought about any radical change in the traditional pattern of arranged marriage with dowry. Urban women want new opportunities but old securities as well.

• The status of urban women, because of being comparatively educated and liberal, is higher than that of rural women. However in the labour market, women continue to be in a disadvantaged situation.

What are the Other Major Issues with Urbanisation in India?

- **Overcrowding and Congestion**: Rapid urbanization has led to a significant increase in population density in cities, causing overcrowding, traffic congestion, and strain on infrastructure.
- **Lack of Affordable Housing**: The high cost of land and housing in urban areas has made it difficult for low-income families to find affordable housing.
- **Environmental Degradation**: The rapid pace of urbanization has put pressure on natural resources and led to environmental degradation, including air and water pollution, and loss of green spaces.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure**: Many cities in India struggle with inadequate infrastructure, including poor sanitation, lack of access to clean water and electricity, and limited public transportation options.
- **Socio-Economic Disparities**: Urbanization has led to the widening of the gap between the rich and poor, with many low-income families living in slums and informal settlements.
- **Urban Sprawl**: Urbanization can also lead to urban sprawl, which is the expansion of cities beyond their boundaries, resulting in the loss of agricultural land and natural habitats.

Urban Financing

Cities in India need large amounts of financing to promote green, smart, inclusive, and sustainable urbanization. Creating a conducive environment for urban local bodies, especially large and creditworthy ones, to borrow more from private sources will therefore be critical to ensuring that cities are able to improve the living standards of their growing populations in a sustainable manner.

Approximately 48%, 24%, and 15% of the funding for urban capital expenditures comes from the central, state, and local governments. Public–private partnership projects contribute 3% and commercial debt 2%.

The World Bank estimates that nearly USD 840 billion would be needed for investment in urban India to meet the growing demands of the population, and USD 55 billion would be required annually.

In the last few years, various reports have estimated a huge demand for funding urban infrastructure; for example, the Report on Indian Urban Infrastructure and Services (Chaired by Isher Judge Ahluwalia) says that by 2030, nearly Rs. 39.2 lakh crore would be required.

What are the Issues related to Urban Financing in India?

- **Lack of Adequate Funding for Infrastructure and Housing Projects**: One of the main issues is the limited government budget allocated for these types of projects. Additionally, **bureaucratic delays and corruption** also play a role in hindering the progress of infrastructure and housing projects.
- **Lack of Long-Term Funding Options:** One major challenge is the lack of a clear and stable policy framework for urban development, which makes it difficult for investors to predict returns on their investments. Additionally, **many urban development projects in India are beset by bureaucratic delays and a lack of transparency**, which can make them unattractive to investors. The shortage of funds with the government also makes it hard to provide long-term funding options.
- **Lack of Coordination Between Different Levels of Government:** Urbanization in India has led to a lack of coordination between different levels of government, particularly between the Central and State Governments. This has resulted in a **lack of cohesive urban planning, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of proper housing and transportation**. There is often a lack of communication and cooperation between municipal corporations and other local government bodies, leading to further challenges in addressing urbanization issues in India.
- **Lack of Participation from Private Sector Investors:** One major factor is the lack of clear and consistent Government policies and regulations regarding land acquisition and development. This can create uncertainty and risk for private investors, who may be hesitant to invest without a clear understanding of the rules and regulations

that will govern their projects. Additionally, inadequate infrastructure and a lack of basic services, such as reliable electricity and clean water, can make it difficult for private investors to develop and operate projects in urban areas.

Programmes for Urban Development

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** - Housing for All (HFA) (Urban Mission) was **launched in June 2015** to provide housing to all in urban areas by 2022.
- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)-** launched with the objective to provide hard infrastructure for universal coverage of piped drinking water, sewerage and green spaces and parks. AMRUT also incentivizes governance reforms in the cities.
- **Developing Smart Cities**-Launched in June 2015, Smart Cities Mi**ssion aims at driving economic growth and improving the quality of life** through area based development and city-level smart solutions. The mission would convert 100 existing cities into smart cities.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**-Launched on 2nd October 2014**, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Urban) is the key mission driving the campaign to make our cities clean. The mission aimed to eliminate open defecation in all statutory towns by 2nd October 2019.** It also proposes to eradicate manual scavenging, introduce modern and scientific solid waste management, induce behavioural change with respect to healthy sanitation practices and generate awareness for sanitation and its link to public health, augment the capacity of ULBs and create an enabling environment for the private sector in waste management.
- **Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana–** National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY – NULM)-aims at creating opportunities for skill development leading to market based employment and helping the poor to set up self-employment ventures. **This Mission's interventions are implemented through five key components:**
  1. Social Mobilization and Institutional Development (SMID);
  2. Self-Employment Programmes (SEPs);
  3. Employment through Skill, Training & Placement (EST&P);
  4. Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH); and
  5. Support to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV).
- **National Heritage City Development & Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) Mission** was launched in January 2015 with an **aim to rejuvenate the heritage cities, with special attention to others issues such as sanitation, tourism, and livelihood. The HRIDAY mission will be concluded in 12 heritage cities as per the Detailed Project Reports.**
- **Urban transport** - All the interventions in the urban transport by the Ministry of Urban Development such as Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), urban transit infrastructure or financing of metro rail projects etc, are carried out as per the provisions of National Urban Transport Policy, 2006.
- **Pooled Finance Development Fund Scheme:** The Central Government launched the Pooled Finance Development Fund (PFDF) Scheme to provide credit enhancement to ULBs to access market borrowings based on their credit worthiness through State-Level-Pooled Finance Mechanism. **The broad objectives of this scheme are to facilitate development of bankable urban infrastructure projects; to facilitate Urban Local Bodies to access capital and financial markets for investment in critical municipal infrastructure, to reduce the cost of borrowing to local bodies and to facilitate development of Municipal Bond Market.**
- **North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme (NERUDP) -** The North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme (NERUDP) Phase-I is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB). **It covers capital cities of 5 North Eastern States viz. Agartala (Tripura), Aizawl (Mizoram), Gangtok (Sikkim), and Kohima (Nagaland). The project covers priority urban services viz.**

(a) Water Supply, (b) Sewerage and Sanitation, and (c) Solid Waste Management.

Way Forward

Engaging with the People:

- For the urban context, plans must be made from below by engaging with the people and identifying their needs.

- One way to engage with people in urbanization is to **involve them in the planning and development process for their communities.**
- This can include holding public meetings and workshops, gathering feedback through surveys and focus groups, and engaging with local leaders and organizations.
- In the national task force that reviewed the 74th Constitutional Amendment, **chaired by K.C. Sivaramakrishnan**, many suggestions were made such as empowering the people, transferring subjects to the city governments, suggesting that 10% of the income-tax collected from cities be given back to them and ensuring that this corpus fund was utilised only for infrastructure building.

Transforming Urban Governance:

- Regular elections should be held in cities and there must be empowerment through the transferring of the three **Fs: Finances, Functions, and Functionaries.**
- Empowerment through the transferring of finances, functions, and functionaries can be helpful in addressing urbanization-related issues in India by giving local governments and communities more control over their own development.
  - By providing local governments with increased financial resources, they can better address issues such as housing, transportation, and infrastructure development.
  - Similarly, by transferring functions and functionaries to local governments, they can more effectively plan and implement policies that address the specific needs of their communities.

Ensuring Participation from Private Sector:

- Government policies and regulations can be made more conducive to private investment by **reducing bureaucratic barriers and providing tax incentives for private development projects.**
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can be promoted as a way to attract private investment in urban infrastructure and services.
- Clear and transparent land acquisition policies can be implemented to provide certainty to private investors.
- The Government can provide guarantee on the loans taken by private entities to develop urban infrastructure.

Creation of Waste to Energy plants:

To speed up the process of cleaning up municipal solid waste**, NITI Aayog suggests the creation of an authority at the Centre to spread the use of Waste to Energy plants**. Such an authority **may be called Waste to Energy Corporation of India (WECI) and placed under the Ministry of Urban Development**. WECI may set up world class Waste to Energy plants through PPP across the country. It can play a key role in fast-tracking coverage of waste to energy plants across 100 smart cities by 2019.

Strict enforcement of traffic rules:

It can be done through fines in case of violations. It will induce behavioural change and could greatly **reduce both the travel time and pollution.** Facilitating new age technology cab aggregators**: Incentives may be created to encourage vehicle-sharing systems such as Ola and Uber**. This will reduce the number of vehicles on the road reducing both congestion and pollution.

National metro rail policy:

It will ensure that metro projects are not considered in isolation, but **as part of a comprehensive plan of overall public transportation.** Further, the policy should provide clear guidelines on various aspects of metro projects, such as planning, financing, PPP, etc.

Inclusive Cities:

The poor and lower income groups must be brought into the mainstream in cities. Regulations intended to manage densities and discourage migration both limit the supply of land and require many households to consume more land than they would choose. This drives urban sprawl and pushes up the price of land and the cost of service delivery for all. High standards for parking, coverage limits, setbacks, elevators, road widths, reservations for health centres,

schools etc. (often not used) prevent the poor from choosing how much to consume of the costliest resource (urban land) to put a roof over their heads, and comply with legal requirements.

Previous Year Questions

1. How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption? **(UPSC 2022)**
2. What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? **(UPSC 2021)**
3. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. **(UPSC 2020)**
4. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India?(UPSC 2019)
5. "The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system." How can it be made effective in urban areas? **(UPSC 2018)**
6. The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues employment but has also created new problems. Substantiate this statement with examples. **(UPSC 2017)**
7. With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme." **(2016)**
8. Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss**. (UPSC 2016)**
9. Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country but the air pollution is much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so? **(UPSC 2015)**
10. Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration **(2015)**
11. Discussion of the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. **(UPSC 2013)**

Effects of Globalization on Indian society

"In a world that is full of fault lines and rifts, we need to build a shared future."

- **Narendra Modi**

"I recognize that globalization has helped many people rise out of poverty, but it has also damned many others to starve to death. It is true that global wealth is growing in absolute terms, but inequalities have also grown and new poverty arisen."

- **Pope Francis**

"In today's interconnected and globalized world, it is now commonplace for people of dissimilar world views, faiths and races to live side by side. It is a matter of great urgency, therefore, that we find ways to cooperate with one another in a spirit of mutual acceptance and respect."

- **Dalai Lama**

Globalization is a **process of increasing interdependence, interconnectedness and integration of economies and societies to such an extent that an event in one part of the globe affects people in other parts of world**. The effect of globalization is far reaching. It affects us all but affects us differently. Thus, while for some it may mean new opportunities, for others the loss of livelihood.

E.g.- **Women silk spinners and twisters of Bihar lost their jobs once the Chinese and Korean silk yarn entered the market.**

In Gujarat, women gum collectors, who were picking from the 'julifera' (Baval trees), lost their employment due to the import of cheaper gum from Sudan. In almost all cities of India, the rag pickers lost some of their employment due to import of waste paper from developed countries.

Early Time Period

- India was not isolated from the world even two thousand years ago. We know about the historical and **famous Silk route,** which centuries ago connected India to the great civilizations, which existed in **China, Persia, Egypt and Rome**
- We also know that throughout India's long past, people from different parts came here, sometimes as **traders, sometimes as conquerors, sometimes as migrants** in search of new lands and settled down here.
- In remote Indian villages often, people 'recall' a time when their ancestors lived elsewhere, from where they came and settled down where they now live.
- Though this **exchange process is going on for time immemorial**, this process was termed as 'globalization' for the first time around the second half of the 20th century.
- The **adaptation of export-oriented development strategies** and trade liberalization was widespread.
- The globalization of national policies, policy-making techniques, implementation strategies of the national government is the result of globalization itself.
- Globalization has some externalities associated with it and thus **creates a set of Global 'bads' – climatic change, global warming, depletion of the ozone layer**, etc.

Factors That Aided Globalization

- **Technology** – Has reduced the speed of communication manifolds. **The phenomenon of social media** in the recent world has made distance insignificant.
- **LPG Reforms:** The 1991 reforms in India have led to **greater economic liberalisation** which has in turn increased India's interaction with the rest of the world.
- **Faster Transportation:** Improved transport, making global travel easier. For example, there has been a **rapid growth in air-travel,** enabling greater movement of people and goods across the globe.

- **Rise of WTO and multilateral organisations:** The **formation of WTO in 1994** led to reduction in tariffs and non-tariff barriers across the world. It also led to the **increase in the free trade agreements** among various countries.
- **Improved mobility of capital:** There has been a general **reduction in capital barriers, making it easier for capital to flow between different economie**s. This has increased the ability for firms to receive finance. It has also increased the global interconnectedness of global financial markets.
- **Rise of MNCs:** Multinational corporations operating in different geographies have led to a diffusion of best practices. **MNCs source resources from around the globe and sell their products in global markets leading to greater local interaction**.
- Above factors have helped in **economic liberalization and globalization** and have facilitated the world in becoming a **"global village".**

Impact of Globalization on Indian Culture

Homogenization versus Glocalisation of culture

A central contention to a globalized world is that all cultures will become similar, that is homogeneous. Others argue that there is an increasing tendency towards glocalisation of culture.

Glocalisation refers to the mixing of the global with the local. It is not entirely spontaneous. Nor is it entirely delinked from the commercial interests of globalization. It is a **strategy often adopted by foreign firms while dealing with local traditions in order to enhance their marketability**. In India, we find that all **the foreign television channels like Star, MTV, Channel V and Cartoon Network use Indian languages.** Even McDonald sells only vegetarian and chicken products in India and not its beef products, which are popular abroad. McDonald's goes vegetarian during the Navaratri festival. In the field of music, one can see the growth of popularity of **'Bhangra pop', 'Indi pop', fusion music and even remixes.**

There is another phenomenon associated known **as Grobalisation which has been coined by Ritzer** (2004). It refers to what he calls "growth imperatives pushing organisations and nations to expand globally and to impose themselves on the local geographies there". **For Ritzer, Globalization is the sum total of 'glocalization' and 'grobalization'**.

Homogenization of Culture

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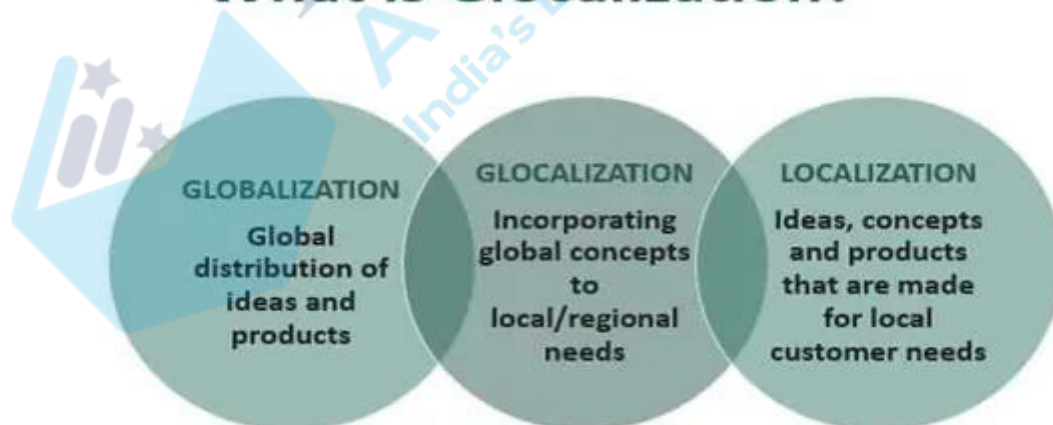
Family structure: Joint family has been adversely affected due to globalization (discussed in detail later). There has been an increase in nuclear families. This can be clearly **manifested in the increasing number of old age homes** that are present now.

• **Food**: Opening up of food joints like **McDonalds, KFC across the country, there has been a homogenization of food available across the country, but there has also been heterogenization in food**. Old restaurants are now replaced by Mc. Donald's. Fast food and Chinese dishes have replaced juice corners and Parathas.

• **Consumerism**: Borrowing of money has become more acceptable now as compared to the past. Taking loans is very common due to increasing access to financial institutions

• **Entertainment**: In place of old cinema halls, multiplex theatres are coming up.

• **Language**: Use of English has increased manifold in urban areas, this has led to a homogenization in language across the country. The rural areas have, however, been less affected by it**. The 2011 Census showed English is the primary language**—mother tongue—of 256,000 people, the **second language** of 83 million people, and the **third language** of another 46 million people, making it the second-most widely spoken language after Hindi

Revival of Culture

• **Revival of Yoga** in the country as well as in the international level. This can be seen in the popularity of the **'Art of Living' course by Ravi Shankar,** or the celebration of **International Yoga day** across the world

• There has been a **revival of ayurvedic medicines** in the country as well as outside it

• Due to increasing uncertainty by inter-linkage with the outside world, there has been **religious revivalism**. This can be manifested in the use of religion to attract voters, or mobilizing people on the basis of religion.

• Increasing demand for local handicraft products in global market: such as **Chikenkari or bandhani**.

• Due to **increasing global tourism**, locals are making efforts to preserve their diversity and revive their traditions.

All these changes have led to drastic changes to Indian culture, though most of these changes are confined to the urban areas, but the rural areas are fast catching up. We can see that the **western culture is influencing the Indian culture, but it is not replacing it, rather there is a mixture of both cultures**.

It is to be noted that culture cannot be seen as an unchanging fixed entity that can either collapse or remain the same when faced with social change. What is more likely even today is that globalization will lead to the creation of not just new local traditions but global ones too.

Impact of Globalization on Women in India

Globalization affects different groups of women in different places in different ways**. On the one hand it may create new opportunities for women to be forerunners in economic and social progress on the other it may take away job opportunities by providing cheaper avenues in the form of assembly line production or outsourcing.**

Positive impact of Globalization on women

• **Increased opportunities for women -** Opened up **broader communication lines and brought more companies as well as different worldwide organizations into India**. This provides more opportunities for women who are becoming a larger part of the workforce

• **Independence and self-confidence -** With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self-confidence and brings about independence. Also, due to **increased urbanization, women in urban areas have become more independent and self-sufficient.** This has been **manifested through inter-caste marriages, single mothers, live-in relationships.**

• **Development of entrepreneurial attitude -** The lower middle class is experiencing a shift in the way family relations worked. Traditionally women stayed at home taking care of domestic needs and children. Now most of the women

are setting out of their private spaces to earn a living. **For example: Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India is a union of women laborers willing to work hard and seize any work opportunities they might get.**

• **Spread of Feminist movement -** Feminist movement has spread to India due to globalization, making women more vocal about their ideas. Recently, **the fourth wave of feminism that seeks equality and prevention of discrimination at workplace manifested in the "Me Too" campaign across the world & in India.**

• **Improvement in education and health care facility** - Globalization has led increase in education of women, it has led to an improvement in health care facilities, leading to **reduction of MMR and IMR**

• **Skills and vocational training** - Different non-profit organizations have been brought to India from around the globe. These organizations have given women the skills they need to advance, such as **literacy and vocational skills.**

• **Impact on rural women** - The women in rural settings have been influenced by globalization through **media and through numerous intervention programs like non-profit organizations,** increasing self-confidence of women and motivating them to fight for their rights

• **Cultural change** - Changes in attitude of women- more acceptance of western clothes, dating has become common in urban areas, increased use of contraception in rural as well as urban areas.

Negative impact of Globalization on women

• **Issues related to employment and workplace** -Though employment opportunities for women are increasing, they are mostly **crowded in low paying jobs, have less social security**. Exploitation of women in work place has emerged as a new issue.

• **Dual responsibility** - **Women are suffering two fold. As women in developing countries move into the work force, their domestic responsibilities are not alleviated**. Women work two full time jobs.

• **Commodification of women** - Globalization has occurred with the persistence of patriarchal mindset of Indians, this has led to problems for women like **commodification of women, use of social media to harass women, increase in violence against women.**

• As consumers, **women are increasingly facing a consumer culture which reduces them to commodities and as producers**, women are exposed to work exploitation and occupational hazards

• Additionally, **prostitution, abuse and dowry related suicides** are on the increase despite globalization.

Impact of Globalization on Youth in India

Globalization offers clear economic opportunities and benefits, but comes with substantial social costs that often appear to affect young people disproportionately, given their tenuous transitional status within an uncertain and rapidly evolving global context. The majority of India's population is young. The population growth among youth is one of the most critical factors in the way India responds to globalization**. Indian youth are fuelling both positive and negative perceptions given to globalization.** They are embracing globalization in a way that the previous generation never imagined.

Positive impact of Globalization on youth	Negative impact of Globalisation on youth
• **Education and Enterprise**: The primary ambition of young Indians from the smallest villages to the largest cities is to ''become rich.'' Young people hope to achieve this goal through enterprise and education. The most highly regarded careers like civil service, engineering, and medicine are giving way to high-paying jobs in high tech and the media. • **Becoming a Global teenager**: In addition to the dynamic, global, economic forces effecting India, globalization has brought change to India's rich culture. Youth see themselves as global teenagers. They belong to a much bigger community than the community they were born into. The younger generation is embracing western popular culture and incorporating it into their Indian identity. There is a subtle and powerful hybridization of western and Indian values occurring – particularly evident among Indian youth. • **Cultural change:** Present day youth, with its more materialistic ambitions and more globally informed opinions, are gradually abandoning the austere ways and restricted traditional Indian markets. Youth demand a more cosmopolitan society that is a full-fledged member of the global economy. • **Attitude towards religion**: Most religious activities are becoming irrelevant to the youth. They want to see changes in religion. They are not internalizing traditional ideas; rather, they are merely tolerating them. Though they do find some indirect value with religion.	**Increased urban poverty:** Economic globalization has led to increased urban poverty as people move from the rural areas to the cities in search of opportunity. Youth make up the large majority of urban migrants. In the absence of critical infrastructure many youth suffer from the mismanagement of scarce resources, corruption, and sometimes natural calamities that devastate overpopulated areas. Religious, civic and ethnic conflicts also undermine economic prosperity available in cities, which often directly involve young people. **Consumerist attitude:** Consumerism has permeated and changed the traditional beliefs and practices of the Indian people. Buying the latest cars, televisions, electronic gadgets, and trendy clothes has become quite popular. The younger poor population is particularly susceptible to the allure of expensive products seen in advertisements and when they cannot respond to these ads, they get frustrated. **Status of youth in family:** Globalization also is changing family institutions, and the nuclear family is increasingly the norm. Youth are not as close to their grandparents as were earlier generations and spend less time with the older generation resulting in loss of wisdom handed down from generation to generation. **Increased cases of depression and suicide**: Globalization has led to an increase in uncertainty among youth; this underlying instability may serve to magnify the tensions and lack of control they experience on a daily basis. Uncertainty is because of the breakdown of traditional norms, weakening of social relations like that of family and marriage, uncertainty in career due to market economy. This has led to an increase in cases of depression and suicide among the youth.

Impact of Globalization on Family

Traditionally, in India, the basic unit of society was not individual but the joint family. Ever since independence**, Indian Society has undergone and continues to undergo great change in every walk of life**. Family is becoming progressively weak due to globalization and individualism is growing rapidly. Structure of the family

• **Disintegration of joint family** - Increasing mobility of younger generation in search of new employment and educational opportunities has weakened the family relations. It has led to disintegration of the joint family. **Gradual change in family structure from joint/extended families to nuclear family pattern.**

• **New forms of family are emerging:** For example **Single parent households, live-in relationship, female headed households, dual-career family** (both husband and wife are working), same sex couples etc.

• The family bonding and ties have started loosening due to physical distance as it rendered impracticable for family members to come together as often as earlier. This affected **the earlier idealized notion of 'family' as the caring and nurturing unit for children, the sick and elderly.**

• With more women joining the workforce system, the care of aged within families has declined.

• **Finding partners:** Younger generations have started depending on **internet marriage sites like 'Shadi.com, Bharat Matrimony' etc.** Family involvement in finding a groom / bride is reducing. However, the **tradition of arranged marriages is still relevant in Indian society.**

• Traditionally family served the role of providing education to the younger generation. However this role has been taken over by the specialized institutions due to growing division of labour and specialization of the work.

• However, despite changes in the functions of the family, even today there are certain functions still specific to family

i) Primary socialization of children, ii) Agency of social control Inter-personal relations

• Traditional authority structure has changed. The head of the family- father/grandfather have started losing their authority to the bread winner of the family.

• In nuclear families, there has been a change in marital rules and distributions of powers.

• Total subordination of women to men and strict disciplinarian role of father towards children are changing.

• Individualism in younger generation is increasing, many of them don't believe in total surrender of their individual interests to family interests.

• However, due to penetration of technology connectivity with extended kins has improved.

Impact on Caste System

The **traditional caste system is based on the principles of Purity and pollution**. It had following characteristics:

1. Hierarchy

2. Separation of contact

3. Occupational division of labour

Due to globalization, there have been changes in the traditional caste system in following ways:

• **Weakening of caste system** - Due to globalization, there has been **expansion of economic opportunities, education and liberal thoughts,** which has resulted in weakening of the caste system.

• **Acceptance of Inter caste marriage** - Inter caste marriages are becoming more common and are being accepted gradually

• **Caste free division of labour** - Traditional division of labour was breaking down due to industrialization; this was given a boost by globalization.

• **Decreased feeling of casteism** - Increasing use of modern communication facilities, increased interaction between members of different castes has led to decrease in feeling of Casteism.

• **Secular pattern of living** - Globalization has resulted into growing urbanization, which has facilitated secular pattern of living and hence impacted **"separation of contact" aspect of caste system**. However, despite changes, caste system has shown immense resilience and still continues to exist as one of the significant feature of Indian society.

Economic Impact of Globalization

Globalization has intensified interdependence and competition between economies in the world market. This is reflected in **interdependence in regard to trading in goods and services and in movement of capital & labour.** As a result domestic economic developments are not determined entirely by domestic policies and market conditions. Rather, they are influenced by both domestic and international policies and economic conditions. Direction and depth of all economic activities in India is now governed largely by global Economy.

Positive Impact includes

- **Policies of Privatization and liberalization of economy**, along with the process of globalization, had a dramatic effect on Indian Economy which responded swiftly and positively to these measures.
- **Increase in Innovation** - Globalization has led to an increase in innovations in the economy and has **pushed the culture of start-ups in the country.**
- **Access to global capital reserves** - via the stock market and international debt depending on the economic potential of nations and their markets.
- **More space to the private sector** - Sharp reduction in industries reserved exclusively for public sector Decision to go for disinvestment in public sector enterprises thus promoting efficiency and merit.
- **Development of tourism sector** - Increase in tourism and **development of tourist destinations in India**- leading to increase in foreign reserves
- **Revolution in IT and Telecom sector** - Vast expansion of sectors like IT, telecommunication and aviation. A **notable revolution has occurred in the telecom sector**. In the pre reforms era, this was entirely in the hands of the central government and due to lack of competition, the call charges were quite high. Further, due to lack of funds with the government, the government could never meet the demand for telephones. In fact, a person seeking a telephone connection had to wait for years before he could get a telephone connection.
- **Customised and quality products** - The biggest contribution of globalisation is in the field of quality and development of products with various features to suit the Indians. Now wide choices are available to select goods, which has led to better quality of products due to greater competition.
- **Improved access of health technology** - Globalization has improved **access to health technology** (medicines, vaccines and medical equipments and knowhow). This has led to improvement of health care system.
- **Improved education sector** - Globalization has also affected the education sector in India. **Globalization has increased the demand for education due to the economic payoffs of higher education to global, science based, knowledge.** University training has become more of a necessity to get good job in a globalized world. Moreover, socio-political, demographic and democratic ideals increase pressure on universities to provide access to groups that traditionally have not attended universities. Opening Indian higher education to foreign competition will benefit education sector further.
- **Reduction in poverty** - In theory, Globalisation, **by promoting economic growth in developing countries, tends to reduce poverty.** Some scholars have argued that 'trade is good for growth, growth is good for the poor and so trade is good for the poor' (Dollar and Kray, 2001). **The empirical experience of developing countries generally supports this proposition as the incidence of poverty declined significantly in many fast growing countries like China, India and Vietnam.** However, some critics have argued that the reduction of poverty in China was only because of its exceptional growth—in fact, absolute poverty increased in Sub-Saharan Africa and relative poverty has increased in a majority of countries.
- Globalization has through greater exposure liberalized our attitudes, reduced our biases and predispositions about people, situations and communities worldwide.

Negative Impact

- **Vulnerability to global economic shocks** - Indian Economy has become more vulnerable to global shocks **like East Asian crisis 1997, European crisis, Global Financial crisis (2007-08) etc.**
- **Stiff competition to Indian corporate** - Globalization has adversely affected many established companies (like organisations manufacturing **Ambassador Cars or Fiat cars** etc) which failed to face competition from established global players.

- **Steep and fast reductions in custom duties** have snatched large part of Indian market from Indian Industry and passed it on to imports from established global players.
- **Increase in unemployment** - For its survival in the face of global competition, **Indian industry has transformed itself from labour intensive processes to Capital intensive processes by adopting global technologies and automatic machinery**. This has resulted in high rate of unemployment in India. **Unemployment is the biggest challenge for Indian Government today.**
- **Formation of slums** - Boost to urbanization and industrialization, which has also led to **unplanned growth of urban centres** leading to formation of more slums.
- **Spread of diseases** - But globalization has also led to a greater threat of spread of communicable diseases like **Ebola, Covid 19.**
- **Consumerism** - There has been a tremendous increase in consumerism for goods and services.

Impact of Globalization on Employment in India

Globalization affects the employment situation through **trade liberalisation, through encouraging exports and imports and through increasing incentives for investment and innovatio**n. It also encourages FDI which supplements domestic investment and leads to higher growth of the economy. **Globalization, which is often combined with domestic liberalisation, also results in reducing the power of trade unions and encourages informal contractualization and lock outs.**

No wonder, the advocates of globalization have always been of the firm view that **globalization would result in significant increases in labour intensive exports there by promoting employment and income generation in developing countries**. Simultaneously, larger flows of FDI would result in increased investment in Greenfield areas and would lead to accelerated direct and indirect employment and income growth in the developing countries.

In the Indian context of post economic reforms, the rate of growth of the economy and the rate of growth of employment have accelerated, but the economy as also employment remains undiversified. Both interpersonal and inter-regional income inequalities remain high and seem to have increased. The quality of employment remains very poor for a major portion of workers.

The following points may be noted in Indian context:

• Globalization has **resulted in casualization of labour.** Global competition tends to encourage formal firms to shift formal wageworkers to informal employment arrangements without minimum wages, assured work or benefits. It encourages **informal units to shift workers to piece-rate or casual work arrangements** without assured minimum wages, or benefits.

• Real wages of casual labour increased faster than in the past- both among agricultural and industrial workers.

• There has been **a shift in the composition of labour force in favour of the skilled labors, in general, and more significantly in the unorganised sector**. As a natural consequence, labour productivity indicated faster improvement both in organized and unorganised sectors

• **International mobility of labours**: The migration of labours across international boundaries is one of the most striking features of globalization worldwide.

o Since Independence, migration from India has been characterized by movement of persons with technical skills and professional expertise to the industrialized countries, and **flow of unskilled and semi-skilled workers to the oil exporting countries of the Middle East.**
o During the 1990s, however, there has been a clear **shift in the pattern of labour demand in the Middle East away from unskilled and semi-skilled categories towards service, operations and maintenance workers requiring high skills.**
o Besides, there has been a runaway growth in exports of **IT and software services from India**
o All these have enhanced the employment opportunities for the Indian labour, particularly when the country boasts to have very large pool of English speaking people.

- In the process, **sustained remittances from the Indian Diaspora, which is in fact the largest in the world**, have imparted an element of stability in the country's balance of payments.
- **Woman labour:** Feminization of the workforce increased after liberalization.
- **Child labour:** Though undesirable, child labor persists primarily in rural and agricultural activities on account of socio-economic compulsions. But there has been a decline in participation of children aged 5- 14 years in the workforce. There has been a **substitution effect, which favors the employability of adult females**.
- **Industrial relations:** Increasingly, **consultation, co-operation and consensus are taking the place of coercion and confrontation.** This is reflected in the reduced number of man days lost.

Impact of Globalization on Informal sector

Informal sector includes the **large amalgam of men and women, who eke out a living unprotected by a regular salary and job security**. This includes the large and amorphous category called the self-employed, daily wage laborers, as also those who are salaried employees but do not have job security, wage revisions and other benefits.

• Globalization often leads to shifts from **secure self-employment to more precarious self-employment**, as producers and traders lose their market niche.

• Globalization tends to benefit large companies which can move quickly and easily across borders but poses disadvantage to labour, especially lower-skilled workers that cannot migrate easily or at all. This puts a pressure on low skilled workers and petty producers by weakening their bargaining power and subjecting them to enhanced competition.

• Lack of opportunities in the formal sector due to **lack of skill/education and slow pace of job creation** in the country push people to informal sector.

• As more and more men enter the informal economy, **women tend to be pushed to the lowest income end of the informal economy.**

• Thus, globalization of the economy tends to reinforce the links between poverty, informality, and gender.

• But globalization can also lead to new opportunities for those who work in the informal economy in the form of new jobs for wageworkers or new markets for the self-employed.

• There has been a **radical restructuring of production and distribution in many key industries characterized by outsourcing or subcontracting through global commodity chains**. The net result is that more and more workers are being paid very low wages and many of them have to absorb the non-wage costs of production

However, a collaborative effort on the part of grassroots organizations of those who work in the informal economy with sympathetic representatives of **non-governmental, research, government, private sector, and international development organizations** is needed to enable the most vulnerable segments of society to seize these opportunities.

Impact of Globalization on Agriculture

With a view to move towards liberalizing the agricultural sector and promoting free and fair trade, **India, a member nation of the World Trade organization (WTO) signed the Uruguay Round Agreements on 1st January 1995**. The **Agreement On Agriculture of the WTO, was the first multilateral agreement**, meant to curb unfair practices in agricultural trade and set off the process of reforms in the agricultural sector. **Indian agriculture has shown a slow average annual growth rate**. It was 3.1 % during the decade 1980-1990 prior to liberalization of the economy. But since then the annual growth rates have declined consistently relative to annual growth rate of the population. **Several factors were responsible for this fall in growth rate;** lack of credit, inadequate irrigation cover, and indebtedness, continuing use of obsolete technology, improper use of inputs and decline in the public investments Since the non-agricultural sectors of the economy have been growing at a much faster rate than the agricultural sector, this has

resulted in a declining share of agriculture in the total GDP. Although the share of agriculture in GDP declined rapidly, its share in employment declined at a much slower rate.

• **Shift from traditional crop to cash crop** - With globalization farmers were encouraged to **shift from traditional crops to export- oriented 'cash crops' such as cotton and tobacco** but such crops needed far more inputs in terms of fertilizers, pesticides and water.

• **Uneven spread of farm mechanization** - Appropriate use of agricultural equipment's, suited to the crops and the region of cultivation, lead to efficient utilization of farm inputs, making farming financially viable and profitable. Though there has been considerable progress in farm mechanization, its spread across the country still remains uneven.

• **Introduction of water saving techniques** - Introduced new water saving practices in India such as **drip irrigation**.

• **Capitalist farming and contract farming** - There has been a gradual shift from **Subsistence farming to capitalist farming and contract farming**

• **Increased access to developed country markets** - However Indian farmer still find it difficult to export their products to rich countries because of their inferior technology and stringent quality parameters imposed by foreign consumers. (Due to sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, example temporary ban of Mangoes by EU in 2014)

• **Increase in input cost** - Seed prices have increased due to entry by seed producing MNCs like Monsanto and Cargill. There are also concerns related to patent rights on seeds. The large scale suicide by Indian farmers in Karnataka, Punjab and Haryana under the burden of heavy loans is attributed to rising cost of inputs and thin margins on profit.

• Trading of agricultural commodities has increased which at times lead to fluctuation of prices of these commodities.

• **Feminisation of agriculture**: Globalisation has led to the shift of population from rural area to the urban areas and eventually it has led to feminization of agriculture. **As per the 10th Agriculture Census (2015-16), agriculture sector employs 80% of all economically active women;** they comprise 33% of the agricultural labour force and 48% of self-employed farmers. According to the Economic Survey 2017-18, a rise in migration of men from rural to urban areas has resulted in feminization of agriculture.

Globalization and Environment

The architects of globalization have ignored the social, biological and physical constraints on their created system. Critics of globalization have noted that **global free trade promotes the social and economic conditions most likely to undermine its own existence.** The same can be said of the biological and physical limiting factors-especially, in the short term, the dwindling supplies of cheap energy. The effects of Globalization on environment include, but are not limited to, reduced genetic diversity in agriculture (loss of crop varieties and livestock breeds), loss of wild species, spread of exotic species, pollution of air, water and soil, accelerated climatic change, exhaustion of resources, and social and spiritual disruption.

Ways in Which Globalization Affects Environment

• Globalization has led to an increase in the consumption of products, which has **impacted the ecological cycle**. Increased consumption leads to an increase in the production of goods, which in turn puts stress on the environment.

• **Globalization has also led to an increase in the transportation of raw materials and food from one place to another**. The amount of fuel that is consumed in transporting these products has led to an increase in the pollution levels in the environment. It has also led to several other environmental concerns such as **noise pollution and landscape intrusion**. Transportation has also put a strain on the non-renewable sources of energy.

• **Ozone layer depletion and enhanced greenhouse effect pose additional challenges**. The industrial waste that is generated as a result of production has is dumped in oceans. This has killed many underwater organisms and has deposited many harmful chemicals in the ocean. **Oil spills from oil tankers threat pose threat to marine environment**.

• **Due to globalization and industrialization, various chemicals have been thrown into the so**il. This toxic waste has caused a lot of damage to plants by interfering in their genetic makeup. It has put pressure on the available land resources.

• In various parts of the world, mountains are being cut to make way for a passing tunnel or a highway. Vast barren lands have been encroached upon to pave way for new buildings.

• Globalization increases the vulnerability of ecosystems and societies, and the least resilient ecosystems. The livelihoods of the poorest communities are most at risk.

Ways in Which Environment Affects Globalization

• **Natural resource scarcity or/and abundance are drivers of globalization**, as they incite supply and demand forces in global markets.

• The **need for environmental amelioration** can extract costs from economy and siphon resources away from development goals.

• Environmental stress can trigger alternative technological paths, e.g., **dematerialization, alternative energy**, etc., which may not have otherwise emerged.

• Environmental standards influence **patterns of trade and investment** nationally and internationally.

The current debate on globalization has become **de-linked from its environmental roots and contexts**. These links between environment and globalization need to be re-examined and recognized. To ignore these links is to misunderstand the full extent and nature of globalization and to miss out on critical opportunities to address some of the most pressing environmental challenges faced by humanity.

Impact of globalisation on the State and its institutions Globalisation has impacted the role of the state in multiple perspectives. On the one hand it has increased its role and on the other, it has restricted its role to minimum governance.

• **Change of role from welfare state to minimalist state** - The lifting of trade barriers, liberalization of world capital markets, and swift technological progress, especially in the fields of information technology has resulted in an erosion of state capacity. All over the world**, the old 'welfare state' is now giving way to a more minimalist state that performs certain core functions such as the maintenance of law and order and the security of its citizens.**

• **After LPG reforms, market becomes prime determinants of economic and social priorities**. The entry and the increased role of multinational companies all over the world lead to a reduction in the capacity of governments to take decisions on their own. e.g. – **Disinvestment of public sector enterprises, outsourcing of public service** (eg. Distribution of electricity, transport services etc)

• **Improved capacity to govern –** Globalisation has given more access of information through technology to the state. With this information, the state is better able to govern and rule. Th**us, states become more powerful than they were earlier as an outcome of the new technology**. e.g. - **Access of space technology, more advanced and sophisticated defence technology, use of IT system in governance (e-Governance);** all these technologies has given more capacity to the state to govern.

• **Involvement of international institutions in decision making** - Globalisation has compelled the states to set up/comply international norm setting and formal negotiations on a global or regional scale. Many of the problems afflicting the world today - such as poverty, environmental pollution, economic crises, organized crime and terrorism – are increasingly transnational in nature, and cannot be dealt with only at the national level, or by state to state negotiations. e.g. – **Involvement of WTO for trade related decisions, UNFCCC for climate change negotiations etc**

• **Role of Bureaucracy** – Globalisation has also changed the role of bureaucrats. Now the bureaucracy has not only to deal with the public service delivery but also, they are playing a huge role in setting up of international norms related to trade, environment, security etc. Therefore, to be successful in a globalised system of economics, **civil servants have to strike a fine balance between participation and accountability; competition and conflict; user**

and citizens; public interests and market interests and old and new. Laws have to be enforced impartially and the weaker sections are to be protected by them as the operations of the Corporates may not take care of them.

Previous Year Questions

1. What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? **(UPSC 2021)**
2. Are diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer.**(UPSC 2020)**
3. Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. **(UPSC 2019)**
4. 'Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.' Elucidate. **(UPSC 2018)**
5. To what extent has globalization influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain. **(UPSC 2016)**
6. Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India? **(UPSC 2015)**
7. Critically examine the effect of globalization on the aged population in India. **(UPSC 2013)**

Social Empowerment

"Empowering the individual means empowering the nation. And empowerment is best served through rapid economic growth with rapid social change."

- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

What is Social Empowerment?

Social empowerment means **all sections of the society having equal control over their lives and the opportunity to take important decisions**. A nation can never have a good growth trajectory without empowering all sections of society equally.

It is understood as the process of **developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships** and the institutions and discourses that exclude poor people and keep them in poverty.

Perceptions of being empowered vary across time, culture, and domains of a person's life:

- A low-caste person feels empowered when he/she is given a fair hearing in a public meeting, which is comprised of men and women from the different social and economic group.
- A woman from a conservative household feels empowered if she's allowed to go out alone without being escorted by a male from her house.
- A transgender feels empowered when she's given employment.

The need for Social Empowerment

- Social empowerment leads one to take the right job and hence reduce the incidence of unemployment and under-employment.
- Social empowerment **leads to a decrease in social** violence engineered against the deprived section of the society. If one is empowered socially, they know the rights they enjoy and the duties they serve.
- Social empowerment is also **advantageous in case of corruption** as people tend to **understand the exploitive class and restrain from giving any bribe** which ultimately reduces corruption.
- **Social empowerment is one approach to reduce poverty**. When people are empowered, they tend to use the knowledge in the right direction and somehow reduce their poverty which is so important for national growth also.
- The main advantage of empowerment is that there will be an **overall and inclusive development of the society**. The money that people earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also helps develop the society.

Socially Disadvantaged Groups

- Scheduled Tribes
- WOMENS
- Scheduled Castes
- Minorities
- Rural Population
- Senior Citizens
- Persons with Disabilities

Scheduled Tribes

The Scheduled Tribes are notified in **30 States/UTs** and the number of individual ethnic groups etc. **notified as Scheduled Tribes is about 705.**

The tribal population of the country, as per the 2011 census is constituting **8.6% of the total population** (43 crores). However, 89.97% of them live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas. Of these, **1.57 per cent** (about 1.32 million) belong to **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).**

The **Scheduled Tribe (ST) population represents a heterogeneous group** scattered in different regions of India. The differences are noticed in language, cultural practices, socioeconomic status, and pattern of livelihood.

More than two-thirds of the ST population is concentrated only in the seven states of the country, viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. There is no ST population in 3 States (Delhi NCR, Punjab and Haryana) and 2 UTs (Puducherry and Chandigarh), as no Scheduled Tribe is notified.

Lack of basic amenities- The 2011 census data shows that access to tap water, sanitation facilities, drainage facilities, and clean cooking fuel is much lower among the tribal population.

The essential characteristics of Tribal communities are:

- Primitive Traits
- Geographical isolation
- Distinct culture
- Socio-Economically backward
- Shy of contact with the community at large

The practice of endogamy happens within the tribe and can **serve as a form of Self-segregation**, and the community uses it to resist integrating and completely merging with surrounding populations.

Tribal communities live in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas.

Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic, and educational development. While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life, at the other end of the spectrum, there are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) s. **PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.**

In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category**, who are less developed among the tribal groups. **In 2006, the Government renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.**

Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha.

PVTG is not a Constitutional category, nor are these constitutionally recognized

The Saharia people of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the largest among the PVTGs with the population more than 4 lakhs.

PVTGs are characterized by:

- Pre-agriculture level of technology
- Mostly homogenous
- Stagnant or declining population
- relatively physically isolated
- Extremely low literacy
- Slower rate of change
- Subsistence level of economy

Kerala – Cholanaikayan (a section of Kattunaickans), Kadar, Kattunayakan, Kurumbas, Koraga, Irulas

Bihar and Jharkhand – Asurs, Birhor, Birjia, Hill Kharia, Konvas, Mal Paharia, Parhaiyas, Sauda Paharia, Savar.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana – Bodo Gadaba, Bondo Poroja, Chenchu, Dongria Khond, Gutob Gadaba, Khond Poroja, Kolam, Kondareddis, Konda Savaras, Kutia Khond, Parengi Poroja, Thoti.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh à Abujh Macias, Baigas, Bharias, Hill Korbas, Kamars Saharias, Birhor.

Maharashtra – Katkaria (Kathodia), Kolam, Maria Gond.

Rajasthan

Tamil Nadu – Kattu Nayakans, Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas, Paniyans Todas.

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand – Buxas, Rajis.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands – Great Andamanes, Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese, Shorn Pens.

Status of Tribal Education in India:

According to the census, **2011 literacy rate for STs is 59% compared to the national average of 73%.**

Literacy level among ST men is at 68.5% but for women, it is still below 50%

Constitutional provisions for Tribals:	
Article 29	Protects the **interests of the minorities** by making a provision that any citizen/section of citizens having a **distinct language, script**, for culture have the right to conserve the same.
Article 46	Under the DPSP provides that, the state shall promote, with special care, **the educational and economic interests of weaker sections** of the people, and in particular, of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.
Article 275 (1)	Provides **Grants in-Aids to states** (having scheduled tribes) covered under the **fifth and six schedules of the constitution.**
Article 350A	States that the state shall provide adequate facilities **for instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage of education.**
Fifth Schedule Art. 244(1)	Article 244 (1) of the Indian Constitution defines Scheduled Areas as the areas defined so by the President of India and are mentioned in the fifth schedule of the Constitution. **In India, there are 10 states having scheduled areas.**
Sixth Schedule Art. 244	The **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution **deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four north-eastern states** of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram as per Article 244.

Legislative provisions for Tribals	
1.	The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA)** has a special section regarding the **75 PVGTs** and the Act recognises forest and habitat rights of PVTGs.

2	**The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA):** It extends Scheduled Areas of India under the purview of the national framework of Panchayat. However, this act is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram and certain other areas including scheduled and tribal areas.
3	**The Andaman and Nicobar (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 –** The Sentinelese and other aboriginal tribes of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are protected under this act.
4	**Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 –** the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are a "Restricted Area" in which foreigners with a restricted area permit (RAP) can stay.
5	**Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 –** The habitats of the PVTGs of Andaman and Nicobar Island has protected Tribal Reserve.
6	In **August 2018**, in a bid to promote tourism and encourage investment, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) decided to exclude 30 islands from Andaman and Nicobar from the RAP or Restricted Area Permit regime** notified under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963. **North Sentinelese island was among the 30 islands**

The PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE constituted a High-Level Committee (HLC) in 2013, **under chairmanship of Prof. Virginius Xaxa.** The Committee was mandated to examine the socio-economic, educational and health status of tribal communities and recommend appropriate interventional measures to improve the same. **It submitted report in May, 2014. Key recommendations of committee were:**

- Increase and strengthened the powers of Gram Sabha for land acquisition.
- Mining rights to cooperatives
- Acquired but unused land could be used for tribal rehabilitation.
- "No" to large dam
- Judicial commission on Naxal offences

Problem Faced by Tribes

- **Problems related to the forest** – **The livelihood of the tribal community is based on forest**. They **enjoyed their traditional rights** of hunting, gathering, shifting cultivation but the **advent of modern government, in the name of forest protection stopped the movement of STs which brought the question of existence**. Further, their lands are taken by various government agencies and the private sector for minuscule compensation.
- **Poverty and exploitation** – The tribal population are been exploited because of their innocence and they are pushed to a spiral of poverty. They have been living in forests from time immemorial, but after the government's restriction, many became bonded labourers and getting exploited. **In India, 52 percent of the STs belong to the category of Below Poverty Line (BPL)** and **54 percent of them have no access to economic assets** such as communication and transport (World Bank, 2011).
- **Literacy rate** – Literacy among the tribes of the north-eastern and island regions is relatively higher but despite that **high dropout rate and the infant mortality rate** is also a problem in the north-eastern region.
- – The contributing factor such as dependency on agriculture, natural calamity, crop-failure, reduced access to Agriculture land, and lack of employment, etc. are the reason for poverty in the states like MP and Chhattisgarh.
- **Unemployment** – The rates of unemployment are high in the tribals of the island region. **STs are confronted with problems like forced migration, exploitation, displacement** due to industrialization led to losing command over the natural resources, and are unable to cope with the new pattern of work and resources for living
- **Lack of baseline surveys** -The Anthropological Survey of India observed 75 PVTGs, baseline surveys exists for about 40 groups, even after declaring them as PVTGs. Lack of baseline surveys hinder effective implementation of welfare schemes.

- **Outdated List** -The Anthropological Survey of India observes that the list of PVTG is overlapping and repetitive. For example, the list contains synonyms of the same group such as the Mankidia and the Birhor in Odisha, both of which refer to the same group.

- **More Dependency on MFP** – Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas. Most of the **trade-related to the MFPs remained unorganized in nature**, which has led to low returns to the gatherers and high wastages due to limited value addition.

- **Low level of technology** – The tribes have a low level of technology which is not suitable for the modern-day. For example, they are **still practising shifting cultivation** which is problematic for the environment.

> **Minor Forest Produce (MFP):**
>
> - The Government had earlier launched a scheme named **"Minimum Support Price (MSP)" for the MFP scheme for safeguarding the remuneration of tribal population**.
> - The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, defines a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, Tusser, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tuber and the like.

- **Losing their identity** – Nowadays, the tribes are coming out of their tribal fold and are increasingly getting assimilated into the non-tribal population by which they **are losing their tribal culture, social institution, language**, etc.

Vulnerabilities of tribes in Andaman and Nicobar. **The fragile tribal communities have been facing expropriation of their ecosystem by outsiders.** The outside influences are impacting their land-use patterns, use of the sea, overall biodiversity leading to material and non-material changes.

Steps Taken by Government

> **Van Dhan Scheme:**
>
> - Under the scheme, **10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers (Van Dhan Vikas Samuh) will be constituted**. Tribal peoples will be given with working capital to add value to the products collected from the jungle.
> - Van Dhan Vikas Kendra is **multi-purpose establishments for providing skill upgradation, capacity building training, and setting up of primary processing** and value addition facilities.

The **Fifth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the setting Up a Tribal Advisory Council** in each of the States having scheduled areas. The duty of these Councils is to advise the Government on such matters concerning the welfare of scheduled tribes and the development of scheduled areas.

Tribal and Harijan Research Institutes were set up in MP, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, and Rajasthan. They study the tribal lifestyle, art, and customs for that protection and documentation.

The Stand Up India scheme – aims at providing people belonging to the scheduled caste or scheduled tribe or women of the country a loan between Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.1 crore, based on their requirement. **The aim is to promote entrepreneurship among them.**

Commissioner for the Scheduled Castes and Tribe: **The main duty of the Commissioner is –**

- To investigate all matters relating to the safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution and
- To report the President on working of these safeguards.

Recommendations:

- A **region-specific approach** is required to bring positive change among the tribes. For example, the unemployment problems of the island region can be resolved by developing fisheries and tourism industry at large scale.
- There is a **need for awareness generation** is required for tribal communities to avail of the existing schemes and programs targeted.
- **More access to the forest products** among the forest dwellers should be facilitated in a positive direction.
- **Promote sustainable economic activities** – Development of cottage industries, plantations crops (e.g. coconut), fishing, animal husbandry etc. are some viable economic options given the fact that there is not much scope for agriculture.
- **Protect Cultural Heritage** – The ANTRI (Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research and Training Institute) has been set up with an objective of formulation of policies for tribal integration and protection of PVTGs.

Tribal Panchsheel (Nehruvian Approach)

1. Development along the line of their own genius without compulsion from outsiders
2. Preservation of tribal relationships with their surrounding without encroachment by outsiders
3. Result to be judged by evolution of human character and not by money spent or statistics
4. Administration for tribals, by tribals and from amongst tribals with minimum involvement of outsiders
5. Administration through their own social and cultural institutions

Women

Women empowerment became a subject matter all around the world in the past few decades. **Many international organizations and agencies including the United Nations emphasized gender equality as an important issue**.

It is held that women cannot wait for any further to claim their equality in **social, economic, and political space**. The essence of equality has very wide benefits that the whole nation can enjoy.

It is said that "empowering women is not alone morally essential, but also economically important for the country".

Out of the total population in India, women contribute 48.37% (According to the 2011 Census).

Problem Faced by Women

- **Domestic Violence And Dowry Deaths** – Dowry deaths are deaths of married women who are murdered or driven to suicide by continuous harassment and torture by their husbands and in-laws over a dispute about their dowry, making the women's homes the most dangerous place for them to be. Women continue to face the most risks from their families. Among all registered cases of serious crimes against women, **the largest share 36% of all cases were under "cruelty by husband and relatives".**

- **Pink colorization of jobs** – The women are mostly **deemed fit for "pink-collar jobs" only,** such as teachers, nurses, receptionists, babysitter, lecturer, etc. which have been stereotyped for women. This denies them opportunities in other fields.
- **Early marriage** – especially of girl children, reduces their opportunities, denying them the chance to get empowered.
- Girl child **denied timely interventions in nutrition and healthcare**, especially in rural areas. Hence malnutrition and anaemia among Indian girls is one of the highest in the world.
- **Education** – It is denied, and even if allowed in some cases, the girl couldn't attend classes due to time constraints as a result of household work.
- **Glass ceilings** – Women in India face **artificial barriers like stereotypes, media-related issues, informal boundaries**, which prevent them from advancing upward in their organization into management-level positions.
- **Lack of political participation of women** – The Indian Parliament currently has 11.8% women representation, and state assemblies have only 9%. Even though the 73rd constitutional amendment act mandates 33% of panchayat seats to be reserved for women. **Prevalence of "Sarpanch Pati".**
- **Patriarchal society and gender discrimination**- A **patriarchal society means a male-dominated society**, and gender discrimination is when one sex is given preferential concern over the others. Discrimination is also seen in education as male children get good school, whereas girl children do not get the same privilege.
- **Unemployment** – The **unequal treatment of women** has been a characteristic of provision for unemployment throughout its existence. Even though women are generally paid less, they are not preferred in many industries.
- **A gap in digital literacy** – Digital gender gap in India is huge, as less than a third of India's total interest users are female i.e. 29 %.
- Globally in developing countries, the number of women using the internet is 12% less than men.

Recent Changes in Domestic Violence (DV) Act:

- The **Supreme Court has struck down the words "adult male" from the pertinent provision in the DV Act** to lay down that a man can also file a complaint against another woman, accusing her of domestic violence.
- The reason given behind the change by the Supreme Court that the **perpetrators and abettors of domestic violence can also be women, insulating them would frustrate the objectives of the Act**. Under this immunity females and minors can continue to commit domestic violence.
- Because the change amended by the court **makes DV gender neutral** which according to some experts (including the bench) would help in serving the purpose of the law in a better way.
- **The definition of Domestic Violence has been modified** – it includes actual abuse or the threat of abuse that is physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and economic and further harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands to the woman or her relatives.
- The **Domestic Violence Act now covers "live-in partners", wives, sisters, widows, mothers, single women, divorced women** who are entitled to get legal protection under this Act.
- The Act provides for the **appointment of protection officers and NGOs** to provide assistance to the woman for me.

Government Initiatives To Tackle With Gender Related Issues:

- **Suvidha-** Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has **launched a 100% Oxo- Biodegradable sanitary napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana**. It is an **important step in ensuring health security** for the section of Indian women who still use unhygienic aids during menstrual periods due to the non-affordability of sanitary pads.
- **Project Stree Swabhiman** – Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeITY) announced a project which **aims to create a sustainable model** for providing adolescent girls and women **access to affordable sanitary products** in rural areas.
- **Nari Portal** – It is a **Mission Mode Project** under the **National E-Governance Plan** (It is designed and developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology).

- **e-samvaad Portal** – It is **an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development** to provide a platform for NGOs and civil society to interact with the Ministry on relevant subjects. Through the E-Samvad portal, NGOs and civil society can provide their feedback, suggestions, put up grievances, share best practices, etc.

Cybercrimes Which especially Target Women:

Harassment via E-Mails	It is a very **common type of harassment** through sending letters, attachments of files & folders i.e. via e-mails; **most common now in the form of using social sites** i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.
Cyber-Stalking	It means **expressed or implied physical threat** that creates fear through the use of computer technology such as the internet, e-mail, phones, text messages, webcam, websites, or videos.
Dissemination of Obscene Material	It includes Indecent exposure/ Pornography (basically child pornography), hosting of the web site containing these prohibited materials
E-Mail Spoofing	A **spoofed email may be said to be one, which misrepresents its origin.** It shows its origin to be different from which actually it originates- This method is often used by cybercriminals to extract personal information and private images from unsuspecting women, these images, etc. are then used to blackmail those women.

Women Safety in India:

Women's safety involves various dimensions such as **Sexual harassment at the workplace, rape, marital rape, dowry, acid attack, etc.**

Sexual Harassment acts as a deterrent to women's freedom and perpetuates the notion that women are the weaker sex. The NCRB data highlights that sexual harassment is a risk in all facets of life: in shelter homes, in the workplace, in the home, on public transport.

> **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013**: It widens the definition of 'aggrieved woman' to include all women, irrespective of age and employment status, and it covers clients, customers, and domestic workers.
>
> It expands 'workplace' beyond traditional offices to include all kinds of organizations across sectors, even non-traditional workplaces (for example those that involve telecommuting) and places visited by employees for work.
>
> The most important feature of the Act is the **establishment of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in establishments with 10 or more employees** by an order given in writing by the employer.
>
> A **Local Complaints Committee (LCC) is a committee to receive complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace** from establishments that do not have an ICC because they have less than 10 workers, or when the complaint is against the employer himself.

Issues in implementation of the Sexual Harassment Act:

As 70% of the women do not report sexual harassment by superiors due to the fear of repercussions.

According to a 2015 research study, 36% of Indian companies and 25% of multinational companies had not yet constituted their Internal Complaints Committee (ICCs) which is mandatory under the Act.

The Cases remain pending in court for a long time enhancing the suffering of victims.

Suggestions for better implementation:

Ministry of WCD launched an online complaint management system titled **Sexual Harassment electronic–Box (SHe-Box) for the effective implementation of the SH Act, 2013** which will enable a monitorable and transparent system of grievance redressal under the Act.

The Ministry of WCD will set up an **inter-ministerial committee** headed by a senior official of the WCD Ministry.

Steps Taken by Government of India:

- The **National Commission of Women (NCW) was started in 1992** to review the constitutional and legal safeguard of women, recommend remedial measures, facilitate grievance redressal, and advise the Government on policy matters.
- **Programs on Cyber Crime investigation** – Various Law schools are engaged in conducting several awareness and training programs on Cyber Laws and Cyber Crimes for judicial officers.
- Training is imparted to Police Officers and Judicial officers in the Training Labs established by the Government.
- The Scheme for Universalisation of Women Helpline has been approved to **provide 24-hour emergency and non-emergency response to all women affected by violence**
- Ministry of Women and child development's National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) **aims to achieve holistic empowerment of women through the convergence of schemes programs of different Ministries Departments of Government of India (GOI)** as well as State Governments. Under the scheme women helpline, a one-stop centre was introduced.
- National health programs such as the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the Family Welfare Programme** have been created to address the maternal health care needs of women across India.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna is a **maternity Benefit Programme being implemented in all the districts of the country** in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- **Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation Programme** to meet the challenge of high prevalence and incidence of anaemia amongst adolescent girls and boys.

Scheduled Caste

Scheduled castes are those castes/races in the country that suffer from extreme social, educational, and economic backwardness arising out of the age-old practice of untouchability and certain others on account of lack of infrastructure facilities and geographical isolation, and who need special consideration for safeguarding their interests and for their accelerated socio-economic development.

These communities were notified as **Scheduled Castes as per provisions contained in Clause 1 of Article 341 of the Constitution.**

Article 341(1) – the President of India, after consultation with the Governor, may specify, "the castes, races, tribes or parts of groups within castes or races, which shall be deemed to be Scheduled Castes".

Problem Faced By Scheduled Caste

- The SCs were **denied many basic amenities**, such as drinking water, entering the temple, public transport, cemetery, etc. Many changes have been brought in, but it's a hard reality that social disabilities still prevails.
- The schedule caste's human rights are violated now and then by majority and other sections of the society. They **were forced to do manual scavenging, working as bonded labourers**, etc., which violated their basic human rights.
- Traditionally, Hindus disallow education for scheduled caste which still persists. They have been treated discriminately in the educational institution
- Many a time, **scheduled castes are denied into the temple as they are still considered as untouchables** (Gandhiji termed them as "Harijan"). These disabilities are generally seen in rural areas and mostly not seen in urban areas.

Initiatives taken for SC development

- **Educational Empowerment**: Various scholarships provided at **both pre-matric and post-matric levels to the students belonging to the SCs** to ensure that education is not denied due to the poor financial condition of their families.
- **Economic Empowerment**: National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC): Set up to **finance income-generating activities of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries** living below double the poverty line limits
- **National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC):** It is another corporation which **provides credit facilities to beneficiaries amongst Safai Karamcharis, manual scavengers, and their dependents** for income-generating activities for socio-economic development through State Channelizing Agencies
- **Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes:** The objective of the fund is **to promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Castes who are oriented towards innovation and growth technologies and to provide concessional finance to the scheduled caste entrepreneurs**.
- **The Stand Up India scheme** – aims at providing people belonging to the scheduled caste or scheduled tribe or women of the country a loan between Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.1 crore, based on their requirement. The aim is to promote entrepreneurship among them.
- Social Empowerment
- **The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955**: In **pursuance of Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted.** The Act extends to the whole of India and provides punishment for the practice of untouchability. It is implemented by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.
- **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:** Assistance is provided to States/ UTs for implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Financial assistance is provided to the States/ UTs for implementation of these Acts, by way of relief to atrocity victims, an incentive for inter-caste marriages, awareness generation, setting up of exclusive Special courts, etc.

Minorities

The term "Minority" has not been properly defined anywhere in the Indian Constitution. But minority status has been conferred on many groups.

Article 29	According to Article 29 of the Constitution, any group living within the jurisdiction of India is entitled to **preserve and promote its own language, script or literature, and culture.**
Article 36	Article 36 states that a **minority group whether based on religion or language** shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

Minorities in India:

- The word 'minority' mentioned in the Constitution of India used in various articles viz. **Article 29, 30, 350 A, and 350 B.**
- The **Constitution recognizes minorities based on religion and language**, but it neither defines the term 'minority'.
- As per sec **2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992**, 'minority' means a community notified as such by the Central govt. The **Union Government notified Six religious' communities**, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis), and Jains **as minority communities** which constitute about 19% population of the country.
- States Governments are also empowered to **designate state minorities and set up State Minority Commissions**. For e.g. Jains were designated as a minority by 11 states before the Jains were nationally recognized in 2014.

Supreme court judgments regarding for definition of minorities:	
Kerala Education Bill case 1958	It said a minority should be a group of people who are numerically a minority in a 'State as a whole' as distinguished from any particular area or region'.
Bal Patil & others v UOI, 1999, and TMA Pai Foundation v State of Karnataka 2002	It held that with regard to state law, the unit to determine a religious or linguistic minority should be the state.

Problems faced by minorities in India

- **The problem of communal tensions and riots:** The **minority interest is at stake whenever a communal riot and tension occurs.** The number of social unrest also started to increase post 1960s. Hence, combined with the magnitude and frequency of communal riots, the minority is losing confidence over the system and it is highly tough for the government to restore the confidence in them.
- **The problem of Identity:** Because of the **differences in socio-cultural practices, history, and backgrounds,** minorities have to grapple with the issue of identity. This gives rise to the problem of adjustment with the majority community.
- **The problem of Security:** Different identities and their small numbers relative to the rest of society develop feelings of insecurity about their life, assets, and well-being. This **sense of insecurity may get accentuated at times when relations between the majority and the minority communities in society are strained or not much cordial.**
- **The problem of lack of representation in civil service and politics:** The equality and equal opportunities to all its citizens including the religious minorities are given in Indian Constitution, the biggest minority community, that is, Muslims, have not availed themselves of these facilities of basic human cause. There is a feeling among them that they are neglected.
- **The problem of separatism:** Some of the demands put forward by some religious communities in some areas are not acceptable to others. This has widened the gap between them and others (e.g., the separatist tendency present among some Muslim extremists in Kashmir and their demand for the establishment of Independent Kashmir is not acceptable to others)
- **Education and Employment among Muslims in India:** The participation of Muslims is relatively low in the education space but has improved in recent years. The participation of Muslims in higher education is particularly poor. Household endowments along with location play a critical role in determining the participation of Muslims in education. Muslims are predominantly engaged in self-employment and their participation as regular worker especially in the tertiary sector in urban areas is low as compared to other socio-religious communities

Steps Taken by Government of India:

- **Prime Minister's new 15-point program:** Prime Ministers new 15 point program for the welfare of minorities, which is an **overarching program covering various initiatives of different ministries**.
- **USTAAD:** The scheme **aims at upgrading skills and training** in the preservation of traditional ancestral arts crafts of minorities.
- **Hamari Dharohar:** To preserve the rich and diverse heritage of minority communities in India.
- **Strengthening of State Wakf Boards:** It is to provide support for training and administrative cost of State Wakf Boards, strengthen the state Wakf boards, etc.
- **Nai Roshni:** The scheme is **envisaged to reach out to women through non-governmental organizations who will be provided with financial support for conducting leadership development training** so that women are empowered and emboldened to move out of the confines of home and community and assume leadership roles and assert their rights collectively or individually.

Rural Population

The majority of the population in India still lives in rural areas and it is the best example of **"India lives in its villages" lines by Gandhiji.**

Even though migration has happened for a lot of years, still almost 65% of the population lives in the village. Nearly 70% of the country's population lives in rural areas where, for the first time since independence, the overall growth rate of the population has sharply declined, according to the latest census.

Problem Faced By Rural Population

Economic Factors	Social Factors	Health Factors
● Natural catastrophes like drought, flood, etc. a Pest attacks. ● Soil degradation 9 Small and fragmented land-holdings ● Lack of mechanization ● Monsoon failure an Unscientific use of fertilizers leading to infertile soil ● Inadequate storage facilities	● High illiteracy rate ● Inadequate infrastructure facilities ● Unskilled labourers ● Gender gap ● The taboo on women education ● Prevalence of child marriage ● Female foeticide ● High unemployment	● Malnutrition a High MMR and IMR ● Poor health awareness Poor sanitation ● Negligible investments in health facilities

Step Taken By Government

- **Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY):** Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana OGSY) is the restructured, streamlined, and comprehensive version of the erstwhile Jawahar Rozgar Yojana ORY). It was **started on 1 April 1999**. The aim of this program was the **development of rural areas.** Infrastructure like roads to connect the village to different areas, which made the village more accessible and also other social, educational (schools) and infrastructure like hospitals.
- **The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):** It was **launched by the Government of India to provide connectivity to unconnected Habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy**. Government of India is endeavoring to set high and uniform technical and management standards and facilitating policy development and planning at the State level in order to ensure sustainable management of the rural roads network.
- **Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP):** By providing income-generated assets to the poor in rural India, IRDP is ambitious in alleviating rural poverty. **The main objective of IRDP is to raise families of the identified target groups below the poverty line by the creation of sustainable opportunities for self-employment in the rural sector**. Assistance is given in the form of subsidy by the government and term credit advanced by financial institutions (commercial banks, cooperatives, and regional rural bank.
- **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA):** The NREGA bill notified in 2005 and came into force in 2006 and further modified it as the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Oct 2, 2009.** This **scheme guarantees 150 days of paid work to people in rural areas**. The scheme has proved to be a major boost in the Indian rural population's income. **The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is the nodal Ministry for the implementation of NREGA**. It is responsible for ensuring timely and adequate resource support to the States and to the Central Council.

Senior Citizens

- **According to the Census 2011, India has 8 million senior citizens (above 60 years of age).** This number is expected to increase significantly in the upcoming years with a rise in the life expectancy to 65 years from 42 years in 1960.
- It is predicted that between the years 2000 and 2050, the population of India will grow by 55%.

- However, the population above 60 years and 80 years will grow by 326% and 700% respectively. The percentage of senior citizens, classified as those above 60 years of age, is expected to go up in India from 8% in 2015 to 19 % in 2050.
- With an increase in populations rapidly, **Governments are often unprepared to mitigate the consequences, this has implications for the socio-economic and health status of the senior citizens.**

Challenges faced by senior citizens in India:

- **Digital illiteracy:** The inability of older family members **to understand the modern digital language of communication, there is lack of communication between elderly and younger members.** They also feel difficulty in getting benefits of digital schemes.
- **Ruralisation of the Elderly:** According to the 2011 Census, 71 percent of the elderly live in rural India. There are more problems such as **income insecurity, lack of adequate access to quality health care and isolation** in rural elderly than the urban elderly.
- **Migration and its Impact:** Due to the migration of the younger people, the elderly are left living alone or only with their spouse and they face social isolation, poverty, and distress.

Implementation of existing policies:

- **12th plan include:** (a) a scheme for awareness generation for the Maintenance of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, (b) setting up a helpline for senior citizens, (c) establishing a National Commission for Senior Citizens, and (d) establishing a National Trust for the Aged.
- **Social Pensions:** The National Social Assistance Programme was launched to provide social assistance to the poor and the destitute.
- **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999:** It envisages State support **to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services** to improve the quality of their lives.
- Several schemes launched within it are Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Health Insurance for Senior Citizens, Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017, Scheme for providing Aids and Assisted Living Devices to Senior Citizens below Poverty Line, Senior Citizens Welfare Fund, etc.

Way Ahead:

- A comprehensive law for the social security of senior citizens must be enacted.
- **An integrated action plan must be evolved**, involving various stakeholders and departments of the government.
- **Expansion of old age homes and geriatric healthcare:** There should be more old age homes constructed, to ensure an old age home in every district.
- **Norms and guidelines for old age homes:** Standardised norms and guidelines must be formulated for old age homes, especially related to the design of buildings and expertise required to manage these homes.

Persons with Disabilities

- Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) experience **stigma and compromised dignity in their daily life.** As per Census, 2011, there are 68 crore persons with disabilities and they constitute 2.21 percent of the total population of the country, but according to the World Health Organisation, 15% of the world's population faces some form of disability.
- Men with disabilities constitute 56%, and women with disabilities make up the rest 44%. These include persons with **visual, hearing, speech, locomotors, and mental disabilities**.
- The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice, and dignity of all individuals, and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including persons with disabilities. Therefore, the primary responsibility to empower persons with disabilities rests with the State Governments also.
- **India is a signatory to the Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia Pacific.**

Article 41 of the Indian Constitution mandates the state to make effective provisions for securing the right to education, work, and public assistance for people affected by disability within the constraints of its economic capacity and level of development. The Constitution in the schedule of subjects lays direct responsibility for the empowerment of persons with disabilities on the State Governments.

Problem Faced by Disabled Section

- **Isolation**: The greatest challenge that disabled people have had to face has been society's misperception that they are not normal. Historically they have been pitied, ignored, vilified, even hidden away in institutions.
- **Discrimination**: Disabled people have some abilities, needs, and interests as the rest of the population. Nevertheless, discrimination continued to exist in certain important areas. Some employers were reluctant to take on or promote disables people; some landlords refused to give the land on rent to them; and courts sometimes deprived them of basic rights, including custody of their children. In recent decades, this situation has undergone some positive changes through adjustments in legislation and public attitudes
- **Infrastructure**: The problems related to the design of the vehicles (high and incompatible steps of vehicles from the platform level especially in public transports), public and private buildings being built without proper provisions of being disabled-friendly. The **absence of disabled-friendly toilets, stairs, and other basic infrastructure in public buildings** is still a major problem in India.
- **Limited monitoring capacity**: The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is the nodal department for issues concerning PwDs at the national level** has several schemes. However, many of these schemes have a very small allocation, and the resources that are allocated do not get fully utilized. The monitoring capacity within the department is also limited which is a major challenge because a number of schemes are implemented through NGOs.

Step Taken by Government

- **Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 –** Provisions of the Act:
- This act defines disability based on an evolving and dynamic concept.
- Under the act, **the types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21**. In addition, the Government has been authorized to notify any other category of specified disability.
- **Persons with "benchmark disabilities"** are defined as those **certified to have at least 40 percent of the disabilities** mentioned in the Act.
- Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.
- **Reservation in vacancies in Government establishments has been increased from 3% to 4%** for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability.
- Special Courts will be designated in each district to handle cases concerning violation of rights of PwDs.
- The Act is **implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.**
- For strengthening the **Prime Minister's Accessible India Campaign, stress has been given to ensure accessibility in public buildings** (both Government and private) in a prescribed time-frame.
- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued National Disaster Management Guidelines on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR). **DiDRR strives to reduce the impact of disasters on affected communities by mitigating and reducing risks.**
- Recently, the Rights of Persons with Disability Rules, 2017 (Rules) were notified to supplement the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016. **The Act is in line with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**
- Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)
- Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/appliances (ADIP Scheme)
- Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (SIPDA)
- District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRC)

Accessible India Campaign:

- It is the **nationwide flagship campaign of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).**

- **Aim of the Campaign**: to make a barrier-free and conducive environment for Divyangjans all over the country.
- It is **based on the principles of the Social Model of Disability**, that disability is caused by the way society is organized, and not the person's limitations and impairments.
- It has been **divided into three verticals: Built Environment; Transport and IT**.

Way Ahead:

- **Institutional reforms:** It is **important to strengthen the institutional framework at all levels to have a stronger and more direct role for PwDs**. The number of schemes administered by the DEPwD should be rationalized.
- It would be judicious to have a limited number of schemes with an adequate budgetary allocation that is implemented and monitored well.
- There is **a need to strengthen the financial and human resource capacity of the Central and State Commissioners' offices** so that they are able to perform their functions more effectively.
- **Improving Access to Aids/Assistive technologies for PwDs:** Distribution of aids to senior citizens who live below the poverty line should be prioritized as a sizeable percentage suffers from age-related disabilities.
- **Strengthening Education:** While the Right to Education Act promised a special focus on admission and retention of children with disabilities, the situation has not seen a major improvement. **An NCERT study found that disabled children in schools across states still face serious infrastructure and pedagogy handicaps**. Therefore, the government has to ensure that schools should have at least one section of each class accessible under the Universal Design Guidelines.

Way Forward for empowerment of vulnerable groups:

- **Education**: Education is one such powerful tool to break all odds faced by socially vulnerable people, and it is the best available tool to empower them. Needed measures must be taken to eliminate discrimination based on any factor, through the universalization of education. **It is important to include sex education, a secular curriculum, and the art of intolerance through schools and university syllabus** which not only bring awareness but also help to mobilize a large section of people to voice for the vulnerable section of the society
- **Economic opportunities**: GOI should provide livelihood opportunities for those people identified as vulnerable. Because the present society demands people to be economically empowered to be socially empowered. **Providing MGNREGS, various social security schemes, Universal Basic Income, National urban livelihood mission** are such interventionist strategies.
- **Increase social security scheme**: It is indeed important for GOI to provide for social security such as pension schemes, insurance schemes, etc., in order to protect them from any adverse situation. The pension should be concentrated not only on organized sector employment but also to the unorganized sector

Previous Year Questions

1. Given the diversities among the tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? **(UPSC 2022)**
2. Examine the uniqueness of the tribal knowledge system when compared to mainstream knowledge and cultural system. **(UPSC 2021)**
3. Examine the role of the 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. **(UPSC 2021)**
4. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. **(UPSC 2020)**
5. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)? **(UPSC 2017)**
6. Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for the assertion of Dalit identity work towards the annihilation of caste. **(UPSC 2015)**
7. How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes? **(UPSC 2015)**

Communalism

"Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world."

- **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**

"The significance which is in unity is an eternal wonder."

- **Rabindranath Tagore**

What is Communalism?

Communalism, in a broad sense means a **strong attachment to one's own community**. In popular discourse in India, it is understood as unhealthy attachment to one's own religion.

It's an ideology that, in order to unify the community, suppresses distinctions within the community and emphasizes the essential unity of the community against other communities.

In this way it promotes belief in orthodox tenets and principles, intolerance and hatred of other religions and thus, divides the society.

Positive aspect of communalism stands for the **affinity of an individual towards his own community involving efforts for the social and economic upliftment of his community.**

However, **in negative connotation,** it is an ideology which **emphasises the separate identity of a religious group in relation to other groups with a tendency to promote its own interests at the expense of the others.**

Communalism in India

Communalism as a political philosophy has its **roots in the religious and cultural diversity of India.**

It has been used as a **political propaganda** tool to create divide, differences and tensions between the communities on the basis of religious and ethnic identity leading to communal hatred and violence.

In ancient Indian society, people of different faith coexisted peacefully.

Buddha was perhaps the first Indian prophet who gave the concept of secularism.

Meanwhile, Kings like Ashoka followed a policy of peace and religious tolerance.

Medieval India witnessed the arrival of Islam in India marked by occasional occurrences of violence such as **Mahmud Ghazni's destruction of Hindu temples and Mahmud of Ghor's attack on Hindus, Jains and Buddhists.**

While, religion was an important part of people's lives but there was no communal ideology or communal politics.

Rulers like **Akbar and Sher Shah Suri** followed the **religious policy of toleration** towards different cultures and tradition practiced across country.

However, some sectarian rulers like Aurangzeb were among the least tolerant towards other religious practises.

As a modern phenomenon it has arose as a result of British colonial impact and the response of Indian social strata.

Stages of Communalism

1. Mild Stage
2. Moderate Stage
3. Extreme Stage

Communalism or communal ideology consists of three basic elements or stages in following the other:

1**. Mild Stage:** It is the belief that people who follow the same religion have **common secular interests** i.e. common political, social, and cultural interests.

2. **Moderate Stage:** In a multi-religious society like India, the secular interests **of followers of one religion are dissimilar and divergent** from the interests of the followers of another religion.

3**. Extreme Stage:** Interests of different religious communities are seen to **be mutually incompatible, antagonistic, and hostile.**

Major Incidents of Communal Violence in India

- **Communal violence is a phenomenon where people belonging to two different religious communities mobilise and attacks each other with feelings of hatred and enmity.**
- The partition of India witnessed mass bloodshed and violence that continued up to 1949.
- No major communal disturbances took place until 1961 when the **Jabalpur riots shook the country due to economic competition between a Hindu and a Muslim bidi manufacturer** than any electoral competition.
- In 1960s – A series of riots broke out particularly in the eastern part of India - **Rourkela, Jamshedpur and Ranchi** - in 1964, 1965 and 1967, in places where Hindu refugees from the then East Pakistan were being settled.
- In September, 1969, riots in Ahmedabad shook the conscience of the nation. The apparent cause was **the Jan Sangh passing a resolution on Indianisation of Muslims** to show its intense opposition to Indira Gandhi's leftward thrust.
- In **April, 1974**, violence occurred in the chawl or tenement, in the **Worli neighborhood of Mumbai** after the police attempted to disperse a rally of the Dalit Panthers that had turned violent, angered by clashes with the Shiv Sena.
- In **February, 1983**, the violence took place in Nellie as fallout of the decision to hold the controversial state elections in 1983 in the midst of the Assam Agitation, after Indira Gandhi's decision to give 4 million immigrants from Bangladesh the right to vote. It has been described as one of the worst pogroms since World War II.
- In October, 1984, the **anti-Sikh riots broke out after the assassination of Indira Gandhi,** where more than 4000 Sikhs were killed in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of India.
- Meanwhile, the **Bombay-Bhiwandi riots** were instigated by the Shiv Sena when it jumped on **the Hindutva bandwagon** to revive the political fortunes of the Shiv Sena which had lost its appeal.
- The **Shah Bano controversy** in 1985 and the **Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi controversy** became powerful tools for intensifying communalism in the Eighties.
- **The communal violence touched its apogee in December 1992 when the Babri Masjid was demolished by right wing parties.**
- This was followed by the worst riots of post-independence India - in **Mumbai, Surat, Ahmadabad, Kanpur, Delhi and other places.**
- In 2002, Gujarat witnessed communal riots when violence was triggered **by burning of a train in Godhra**.
- In May, 2006 riots occurred in Vadodara due to the municipal council's decision **to remove the dargah (shrine) of Syed Chishti Rashiduddin, a medieval Sufi saint.**
- In **September, 2013**, Uttar Pradesh witnessed the worst violence in recent history with clashes between the Hindu and Muslim communities in **Muzaffarnagar district**.
- Since 2015, **mob lynching** is quite prevalent in India as near 90 people have been killed.

- It can be **termed as manufactured communal violence** as through the use of social media and rumours society is polarized along religious lines.

Reasons behind Communalism

The major factors that contributed towards the emergence and growth of communalism in modern India involves:

- British Imperialism and their Policy of "Divide and Rule".
- Disappointment and disaffection among young and aspiring middle class youth, caused by **stagnant agriculture, absence of modern industrial development and inadequate employment opportunities**, which is being exploited by political opportunists.
- **Hindu and Muslim revivalist movements**
- A **communal and distorted view of Indian history**, taught in school and colleges played a major role in rise and growth of communal feelings among the masses.
- Separatism and isolation among Muslims.
- Rise of **communal and fundamentalist parties**.

Factors Responsible for Communal Violence

- **Divisive Politics** – Communalism is often defined as a **political doctrine** that makes use of **religious and cultural differences in achieving political gains.**
- **Economic Causes** – Uneven development, class divisions, poverty and unemployment aggravates insecurity in the common men which make them vulnerable to political manipulation.
- **History of Communal Riots** – Probability of recurrence of communal riots in a town where communal riots have already taken place once or twice is stronger than in a town when such riots have never occurred.
- **Politics of Appeasement** – Prompted by political considerations, and guided by their vested interests, political parties take decisions which promote communal violence.
- **Isolation and Economic Backwardness of Muslim Community** – The failure to adopt the scientific and technological education and thus, **insufficient representation in the public service, industry and trade** etc. has led to the feeling of relative deprivation among Muslims.
- The **resurgence of Hindu-Muslim economic competition**, especially among the lower and middle class strata has fuelled the communal ideology.
- **Administrative Failure** – A **weak law and order** is one of the causes of communal violence.
- **Psychological Factors** – The **lack of inter-personal trust** and mutual understanding between two communities often result in perception of threat, harassment, fear and danger in one community against the members of the other community , which in turn **leads to fight, hatred and anger phobia**.
- **Role of Media** – It is often **accused of sensationalism and disseminates rumours as "news"** which sometimes resulted into further tension and riots between two rival religious groups.
- **Social media** has also **emerged as a powerful medium** to spread messages relating to **communal tension or riot** in any part of the country.

Consequences of Communalism

- **Voters generally vote on communal lines**. After getting elected, the representatives try to safeguard the interests of their community and ignore national interests. These conditions **hinder the progress of democracy** in the country.
- It is also a **threat to Indian constitutional values**, which promotes secularism and religious tolerance. In that case, citizens don't fulfill their fundamental duties towards the nation.
- It becomes **a threat to the unity and integrity of the nation** as a whole. It promotes only the feeling of hatred in all directions, dividing society into communal lines.

- Communal activities occurring frequently do harm the human resource and economy of the country and **act as a barrier in the development of the nation.**
- The investment attitude towards the country from foreign investors would be cautious; they tend to avoid the countries with a highly communal country, for not take the risk of end up losing their investment.
- The **flow of labour from productive activities is diverted to unproductive activities**; there is massive destruction of public properties to spread the ideology.
- It causes hatred among different religious sections in society and disrupts the peaceful social fabric of our society.
- **A sudden increase in violence against any particular community causes mass exodus and stampede** which in turn kills any number of people. For example, this was seen in the case of Bangalore in 2012, with respect to people from North-eastern states, which was stimulated by a rumour.
- With mass killings, the real sufferers are the poor, who lose their house, their near and dear ones, their lives, their livelihood, etc. It violates human rights from all directions. Sometimes children lose their parents and will become orphans for a lifetime.

Steps to check growth of Communalism

- **Political**: Political communism should be avoided as directed by the Supreme Court's directives. Identification and mapping of riot prone areas. For Example, the **Delhi police used drones to monitor to maintain vigil during communal festivals**. Media, movies, and other cultural platforms can be influential in promoting peace and harmony. **Social Media should be monitored for violent and repulsive content and taken off immediately**.
- **Social**: Religious leaders and preachers should **promote rational and practical things through religion promoting peace and security.** Children in schools must be taught through textbooks and pamphlets to maintain brotherhood and respect for all religions. Creating awareness in the society about the ill effects of communism through mass media.
- **Economic**: Poverty is one of the major factors for communal violence. **Poverty alleviation measures are thus important for promoting communal harmony.** Eradicating the problem of unemployment among the youths, illiteracy, and poverty and that too with honesty and without any discrimination. There is a great need to work towards eradicating the problem of unemployment among the youths, illiteracy and poverty and that too with honesty and without any discrimination **Reducing the educational and economic backwardness of minorities like Muslims**. This can **uplift their socio-economic status** and reduce their deprivation compared to Hindus.

Measures to Deal with Communalism

- There is **need to reform in present criminal justice system, speedy trials** and adequate compensation to the victims, may act as deterrent.
- **Increase in representation of minority community and weaker sections in all wings of law-enforcement**, training of forces in human rights, especially in the use of firearms in accordance with UN code of conduct.
- Codified guidelines for the administration, specialised training for the police force to handle communal riots and setting up special investigating and prosecuting agencies can help in damping major communal disgruntlement.
- Emphasis on **value-oriented education** with focus on the values of peace, non-violence, compassion, secularism and humanism as well as **developing scientific temper** (enshrined as a fundamental duty) and **rationalism** as core values in children both in schools and colleges/universities, can prove vital in preventing communal feelings.
- Government can adopt models followed by countries like Malaysia that has developed early-warning indicators to prevent racial clashes.
  The **Malaysian Ethnic Relations Monitoring System** (known by its acronym Mesra) that makes **use of a quality of life index (included criteria such as housing, health, income and education) and a perception index to gauge people's needs and feelings about race relations in their area.**
- Also the **Hong Kong model** of combating communalism by setting up a **"Race Relation Unit"** to promote racial harmony and facilitate integration of ethnic minorities, can be emulated by India.

- RRU has established a hotline for complaints and inquiries on racial discrimination. Meanwhile, to create awareness about communal harmony, RRU talks to schools on culture of ethnic minorities and concept of racial discrimination.
- Government can encourage and support civil society and NGOs to run projects that **help create communal awareness, build stronger community relation and cultivating values of communal harmony** in next generation.
- There is a **need for minority welfare schemes** to be launched and implemented efficiently by administration to address the challenges and various forms of discrimination faced by them in jobs, housing and daily life.
- A **pro-active approach by National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH),** the body responsible for promoting communal harmony is needed.
- NFCH provides assistance for the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the child victims of communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence, besides promoting communal harmony, fraternity and national integration.
- A legislation is required to curb the communal violence. **Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005 must be enacted soon.**

Previous Year Questions

1. 'Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation. Argue by giving suitable illustrations. **(UPSC 2018)**
2. The spirit tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate. **(UPSC 2017)**
3. Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India**. (UPSC 2017)**

Regionalism

"We have to go forward with this slogan of 'NARA' - National Ambition and Regional Aspirations"

- PM Modi

What is Regionalism?

Regionalism is the **expression of a common sense of identity and purpose by people within a specific geographical region, united by its unique language, culture etc.**

In a positive sense, it **encourages people to develop a sense of brotherhood and oneness** which seeks to protect the interests of a particular region and promotes the welfare and development of the state and its people.

In the negative sense, it **implies excessive attachment to one's region**, which is a great threat to the unity and integrity of the country.

In the Indian context generally, the term 'regionalism' has been used in the negative sense.

What is the History of Regional Movements in India?

Origin in Colonial Era: The **roots of regional consciousness in India can be found in colonial policies**, differential attitudes and treatment by the British towards princely states and those of the presidencies developed regionalist tendencies among them. **British exploitative economic policies completely neglected some regions, giving way to economic disparities and regional imbalances**.

Movements in Southern India: The history of regional movements in India can be traced back to the 1940s Dravida Movement or the Non-Brahmin movement that started in the present day Tamil Nadu. Later, the movement resulted in the **demand of a separate and independent Tamil state**. This triggered the demand for a separate state in the Andhra region. In the 1950s and 60s, India witnessed mass (and violent) mobilisation for the demands of statehood. **Potti Sri Ramulu spearheaded the revolt for the separate state of Andhra in 1954.** His eventual death triggered the wave of political regionalism in India.

Establishment of States Reorganisation Committee: Revolts for separate states all across India resulted in the formation of the **States Reorganisation Committee (headed by Faisal Ali). It recommended reorganisation of Indian states on linguistic lines**, thus reinforcing the regionalist tendencies. With the enactment of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, linguistic states became a reality.

Insurgencies in North East India: During the 1970s and 80s, **the tribal insurgencies for separation and statehood in the north-eastern region of India intensified and the Union government passed the North-eastern States Reorganisation Act, 1971**. It declared the UTs of Manipur and Tripura and the Sub-State of Meghalaya as states. Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh (then Tribal Districts) became Union Territories and were later declared as states in 1986.

Major Changes in the 21st Century: The **decade of 2000s, witnessed vigorous movements for the creation of separate states** due to a rising sense of regional deprivation. It **resulted in the formation of the three new states** – Chhattisgarh out of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand out of Bihar and Uttarakhand out of Uttar Pradesh. **In 2014, the state of Telangana was created by the division of Andhra Pradesh.**

During the 1950s and 1960s	**Intense (ethnic) mass mobilization occurred in south India**. For separate statehood for the Telugu-speakers out of the composite Madras Presidency. **Pottu Sriramulu** was the leader he went on unto death in 1952 for his demand led to the **formation of the State Reorganization Act, 1956.**

During the 1970s and 1980s	The main aim of reorganization was North-east India. The basis of reorganization was tribal uprising for separation and statehood. It drives to the formation of the **North-eastern States Reorganisation Act, 1971,** which upgraded the Union Territories of Manipur and Tripura, and the Sub-State of Meghalaya to full statehood, and **Mizoram** and **Arunachal Pradesh** (then Tribal Districts) to Union Territories. The latter became states in 1986. Goa (based on **Konkani language** (8th Schedule)), which became a state in 1987, was the sole exception.
During the 1990s	Demand for **Chhattisgarh out of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand out of Bihar, and Uttaranchal out of Uttar Pradesh**. Regional backwardness was the reason. In **2000** all three states were carved out of their parent state.
Most recently	The division of Andhra Pradesh, giving a separate state of Telangana in 2014.

Characteristics of Regionalism

- Regionalism is **conditioned by economic, social, political and cultural disparities**.
- Regionalism at times is a **psychic phenomenon.**
- **Regionalism is built around as an expression of group identit**y as well as loyalty to the region.
- Regionalism **presupposes the concept of development of one's own region** without taking into consideration the interest of other regions.
- Regionalism prohibits people from other regions to be benefited by a particular region.

Types of Regionalism:

The three main types of regionalism are:

> **TYPES OF REGIONALISM**
>
> 1. Supra-state regionalism
>
> 2. Inter-state regionalism
>
> 3. Intra-state regionalism

Supra-state regionalism:

- In this type of regionalism, the **group of states joins hands to take a common stand on the issue of mutual interest** vis-a-vis another group of states or at times against the union.
- It is **not an instance of a permanent merger of state identities in the collective identity**. Even at times, inter-group rivalries, tensions, and conflicts may tend to persist, simultaneously along with their cooperation.
- For Example, **North Eastern states** in India may be said to have possessed the supra-state regionalism.

Inter-state regionalism:

- It is **coterminous with provincial territories** and i**nvolves juxtaposing the identities of one or more states against another**. It is also an issue specifically.
- The issue is highlighted because it sabotages their interest.
- For example, **Disputes between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu** over the distribution of Kaveri water may be construed as inter-state regionalism.

Intra-state regionalism:

- The third type of regionalism refers to intra-state regionalism, wherein a **part of the state strives for self-identity and self-development.** Therefore, it is taken in a **positive sense.**
- In negative terms, it **militates against the collective interest of the state as well as the nation**.
- For Example, there is always a feeling of the coastal region and western region in Orissa. E.g. Vidarbha in Maharashtra, a Saurashtra in Gujarat, a Telangana in Andhra Pradesh, an East U.P. in Uttar Pradesh

Manifestations of Regionalism-
1. Separate flag for state E.g. Karnataka.
2. Sons of soil doctrine
3. Local reservations in employment E.g. Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh.
4. **Inter-state river water conflicts** and non-cooperation E.g. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
5. Rejection of new education policy over 3 language formula E.g. Tamil Nadu protest
6. **Para-diplomacy**. E.g. Andhra Pradesh (S.E Asia) and Tamil Nadu (USA)
7. Violence against migrant workers. E.g. MNS began their violent agitation against North Indians. Bhojpuri films were not allowed to run on theatres in Maharashtra.
8. Khalistan movement with its aim to create a Sikh homeland from state of Punjab.
9. **Linguistic Reorganization of States E.g. AP in 1953 and others.**
10. The Demand for Autonomy**.** g. Delhi
11. Demand for special category status. E.g. Andhra Pradesh.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF REGIONALISM –
- Karnataka and Tamil Nadu- Cauvery water dispute
- Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh belt - Lack of tribal development and Naxalist hotspot
- North East India- Governance and autonomy issues, identity crisis, outsiders' issues, development deficit.
- North vs. South- Issue of Hindi language.

Forms of Regionalism

Secessionism	Secessionism is a form of regionalism **that involves militant and fundamentalist groups advocating a separation from India** on the basis of ethnicity or any other factor. E.g. **NSCN (IM),** Islamic fundamentalist groups in J&K, ULFA in Assam, Khalistan movement.
Separatism	**Separatism** is a demand for **separate statehood** within the Indian Union. This kind of sub-regionalism was validated by the State Reorganization Act 1956. **The most recent examples include the formation of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh in 2000 and Telangana in 2014**. E.g. Demands for the creation of Bodoland in Assam; **Gorkhaland** for ethnic **Gorkha** (Nepali) people in West Bengal; a **Bundelkhand** state (covering part of MP and part of UP) for promoting the development of the region
Demand for Full Statehood	The union territories have been forwarding such demands like the NCT of **Delhi**. E.g. Most of such demands have already been accepted. In 1971, Himachal Pradesh got the status of a full state and thereafter **Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh** (former NEFA) and **Sikkim** got full statehoods.
The Demand for Autonomy	Since 1960's, with the emergence of **regional parties**, the demand for state autonomy has been gaining more and more strength due to the central political interferences. E.g. the **DMK** in Tamil Nadu, **Akali Dal** in Punjab, **Telgu Desham party** in Andhra Pradesh, **Assam Gana Parishad** in Assam, **National conference** in J&K and **Forward Bloc** in West Bengal the have been continuously demanding a larger share of powers for the states.
Demand for Regional Autonomy within a State	In some of the states, people belonging to various regions have been demanding recognition of their regional identities. E.g. **in J & K, the **Ladakhis** are demanding a regional status

Reasons for Regionalism:

Factors responsible for regionalism in India
1. Geographical Factor
2. Historical Factors
3. Scarcity of resources
4. Economic Factors
5. Cultural & Religious Factors
6. Political-Administrative Factors.
7. Ethnic factors

(i) Geographical Factor:

- The **territorial orientation** based on geographical boundaries relates to the inhabitants of a particular region, which are symbolic, at least in the Indian context, because of the **linguistic distribution along geographic boundaries**.
- The **topographic and climatic variations,** along with **differences in the settlement pattern,** induce in people the concept of regionalism. Tribal people living in forests depend on it for food, shelter, and other needs, and they have a different lifestyle from the rest of the population.

(ii) Historical Factors:

- In the Indian scenario, the **historical or cultural factors may be considered the prime components of the phenomenon of regionalism**.

Ancient phase of history	India was largely ruled by **regional kingdoms.** E.g. Cholas and Pandyas of South India and Satavahanas of Andhra.
Medieval India	India was ruled by kings who belonged to various sections of religions. There were **numerous Governors** who ruled the smaller provinces and had their own autonomy and culture. **E.g. Rajput, Marathas.**
British rule in India	Policy of **divide and rule**, encouraged the regional differences. **Autonomy** and **concessions** to numerous princely states. They fought wars by using one king against another. **E.g. Carnatic wars.**

- The historical and cultural components interpret regionalism **by way of cultural heritage, folklore, myths, symbolism, and ancient tradition** The most striking example is that of **Dravida Kazhagam (DK)** and **the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK**) in Tamil Nadu and **Shiv Sena** in Maharashtra and **Telugu Desham (TDP)** in Andhra Pradesh.
- People of a particular cultural group also **derive inspirations from the noble deeds and glorious achievements of the local heroes.** Nevertheless, there are sudden **political and economic realities** that can be covered under the gamut of historical and cultural factors.

(iii) Cultural and Religious Factors:

- **Southern India** (home of Dravidian cultures), which is itself a region of many regions, is evidently different from the north, the west, the central and the north-east. Even the **east of India** is different from the **North-East of India** comprising today seven constituent units of Indian federation with the largest concentration of **tribal people**.
- **Past Traditions:** Reverence of historical **local leaders** by the local people.
- **Shivaji** in Maharashtra, **Maha Rana Pratap** in Rajasthan, **Lachit Borphukan** of Assam.

(iv) Caste and Region:

- The **caste system and religion in Indian society play only a marginal role** in causing regionalism. Only when caste is **combined with linguistic preponderance or religion** it may cause the regional feeling. In the like manner, religion is not so significant except when it is combined with linguistic homogeneity or based on **dogmatism and orthodoxy or linked with economic deprivation**.
- However, **regionalism is usually a secular phenomenon in a relative sense**, and it can cross-cut the caste affiliation or religious loyalties. For e.g., The differences based on religion have led to the creation of Pakistan. Similarly, the violent demand for an independent country of **Khalistan was raised by Sikhs** in the 1980s.
- These **economic factors cause problems between regions**. E.g. formation of states like Jharkhand and Telangana were based on lack of development

(v) Economic Factors:

- In the present times, **uneven developments in different parts of the country** may be construed as the prime reason for regionalism and separatism.
- **Economic policies have led to regional imbalances** and **wide economic disparities** among various regions resulting in discontentment among them.
- There are certain regions in the country where industries and factories have been concentrated, **educational and health facilities are sufficiently provided; the communication network has been developed, rapid agricultural development has been made possible**. For example, the lack of development was the reason for the formation of states like Jharkhand and Telangana.
- But there are also specific areas where the **worth of independence is yet to be realized in terms of socio-economic development**.

(vi) Political-Administrative Factors:

- Political parties, especially the regional political parties as well as **local leaders, exploit the regional sentiments, regional deprivation** and convert them to solidify their factional support bases. e.g. **TDP (Andhra Pradesh), DMK (Tamil Nadu), Akali Dal (Punjab)**
- They give place to the regional **problems in their election manifesto** and **promise for political and regional development.**

(vii) Linguistic factors-

- India has **22 scheduled languages** that is recognized by the constitution. But there are around 1600+ mother tongues in India. The mother tongue of a person creates a **profound attachment** to his own language and hence the identity of belonging also develops. E.g. Bombay to Mumbai, Bangalore to Bengaluru, and Madras to Chennai shows the **affinity** of people towards their language.
- **Hindi** has been envisaged by the constitution to be promoted as a **"Lingua Franca"**. Indian Government after independence has made efforts to promote Hindi. But there has been widespread **agitation** against this move from **non-Hindi speaking states**. For Example, The Anti Hindi agitations in southern states.

(viii) Scarcity of resources:

- Due to the scarcity of resources, which is shared by two or more regions, often, the competition is fuelled by regional aspirations**.** Example – **Cauvery water dispute**

(ix) Ethnic Factors:

- India has many ethnic differences that formed the base for demands for political autonomy and secession. E.g., based on their ethnic identity, the **Nagas of Nagaland** are demanding a nation.

Why Regionalism still Persists in India?

- **Low rate of economic growth-** With respect to High **population growth**, the economic growth has been not enough to catch the development with full speed. Now economic growth is reeling under the influence of **world economic crisis** and other bottlenecks at domestic level.
- **Socio-economic and political organisation of states** Relative **failure of land reforms** in majority of states and the **feudal mentality** still persists. **Bhoodan** and **Gramdaan** movements were not enthusiastically carried and even land under land Banks were not efficiently distributed. The political activities in the backward states were limited to **vote bank politics** and scams.
- **Lower level of infrastructural facilities in backward states** The level of infrastructural development, such as-power distribution, irrigation facilities, roads, modern markets for agricultural produce has been at back stage. All these are **state list subjects**.
- **Low level of social expenditure by states Education, health and sanitation** subjects are core for human resource development. The states which have invested heavily on these subjects, fall under the developed and advanced states, E.g. **Tamil Nadu, Kerala** where health care services in Primary health centre is benchmark for other states.
- **Political and administration failure-** This is source of tension and gives birth to sub-regional movements for separate states. **Jharkhand**, **Chhattisgarh**, **Uttarakhand** and recently **Telangana** are result of these failures only. Many such demands are in pipeline such as- **Vidarbha**, **Saurashtra**, Darjeeling and Bodoland, etc. These failures also weaken the confidence of private players and do not attract investors in the states.
- **"Son of the soil"** doctrine explains a form of regionalism, which is in discussion since 1950. According to it, a **state specifically belongs to the main linguistic group** inhabiting it or that the state constitutes the **exclusive homeland of its main language speakers**, who are the sons of the soil or local residents.

International Examples of regionalism- In UK, there are regional aspirations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Spain faces such issue in Basques and Sri Lanka in Northern Province of the country.

POSITIVE IMPACT OF REGIONALISM	NEGATIVE IMPACT OF REGIONALISM
Given the increasing uncertainty in the contemporary globalized world, **regionalism has become a source of identity among people**. The accommodation of such identities is healthy for maintaining the socio-cultural fabric of India. For Example, the Naga movement was to preserve the distinct character of their proposed Nagalim.	It gives **internal security challenges** by the insurgent groups, who propagate the feelings of regionalism against the mainstream politico-administrative setup of the country.
It further helps in the **economic development of backward regions.** For Example, demand for Vidarbha in Maharashtra solely to deal with Economic distance present in the region.	**Regionalism impacts politics as days of coalition government and alliances** are taking place. Regional demands become national demands, policies are launched to satisfy local demands, and generally, those are extended to all pockets of the country. Hence national policies are now dominated by regional demands.
It has brought **imbalanced regional development** and regional issues to focus on and the opportunity to solve them. The creation of new states like Uttarakhand had resulted in the fast growth of it.	**Violence is a very popular character of regionalism**. To protect regional identity, people may take violent means – Example Nellie massacre during the Assam movement.
It can lead to **inter-group solidarity in a specific region.** People belonging to a region may feel the need to come together to protect their vested interests, setting aside their differences.eg. Tripura Tribal Autonomous District Council that was formed in 1985 has served to protect an otherwise endangered tribal identity in the state by providing a democratic platform for former	It **impacts the ease of doing business. Due to regional aspiration,** local people pass difficulties for private investors to hire freely as per their own requirement private companies are often forced to reserve jobs and contract only for local people son of the soil. It can give a **leeway to external factors** (E.g. terrorist groups, extremist groups) to get

separatists and has reduced the bases of political extremism in the state.	involved in regional issues and create disruption by inciting the masses It can be exploited and used for political leverage in order to garner votes

What is The Sons Of Soil?

- It has been in **discussion since 1950**, and it explains a form of regionalism.
- According to it, a **state mainly belongs to the major linguistic group inhabiting** it, or the state constitutes the exclusive homeland of its primary language speakers, who are the **sons of the soil or local residents.**
- Examples of implementation of the concept to further the cause of regionalism include campaign for safeguard of interests of Maharashtrians by the **Shiv Sena**, **clashes among Bodos and Bengali** speaking Muslims in Assam, among others.

Why the sons of the soil?

- A competition for the job between migrant and local educated middle-class youth always remained.
- The theory of **son of the soil works mostly in cities** because here, outsiders or migrant peoples also get an opportunity for education, etc.
- Due to rising aspirations, the **significant involvement of people takes place** that leads to more competition.
- For the young workforce, the **economy's failure to create enough employment**

> **Examples of Son of Soil Doctrine**
>
> Job reservations for locals in private sector in Andhra Pradesh and Goa.
>
> "Mulki rule" provided in article 371(D) of Indian constitution safeguards the rights of local people in employment and education and was created after agitation in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
>
> Anti-migrant or implementation of Sons of the Soil doctrine was movement led by Shiv Sena and MNS which appealed regional chauvinism.

DEMAND FOR KHALISTHAN

- The claims for Khalistan, as a **separate theocratic country for the Sikhs**, have its origin in the **1940s**, due to the fear of being reduced into a minority after the partition of India and Pakistan. The **separatist movement reached its zenith in 1970 and 1980** with increasing funds from outside India.

DEMAND FOR DRAVIDA NADU

- The **early 20th century** saw a rise in the social reforms movement in Tamil Nadu and other southern states of India.
- The **Justice party** and the social reform leader **V. Ramaswami** accused the Brahmins and the North Indians for dominating the Dravidians and forcing **Hindi language and culture.**
- The movement was an **anti-Brahmin, anti-Aryan, and and-Hindi movement.** In the early 1960s, the **DMK** and other pro-Tamil organizations arranged for a joint campaign throughout Madras state demanding for a sovereign and independent Tamil Nadu'.
- Later, **DMK proposed that the states of Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Mysore should come together and secede** from the Indian union and form the independent Republic of **Dravida Nadu**.
- There have been many **demands, including the creation of Bodoland** for the Bodo-speakers in Assam; **Gorkhaland for ethnic Gorkha** (Nepali) people in West Bengal; **a Bundelkhand state** (covering part of Madhya Pradesh and part of Uttar Pradesh) for promoting the development of the region.

Constitutional Provisions To Promote National Unity And Integrity

- **Freedom of speech and expression (Art. 19)** to express regional priorities and criticize the government if a region is being neglected.
- **Fifth and sixth** schedule to preserve tribal identity.
- **Article 38** (**DPSP**) to deal with inequality in income status and opportunity among individuals and regions.
- **Schedule 7 (division of power**) between center and state to give more regional autonomy through· state
- **Eighth schedule recognized** different regional languages in the constitution of India·
- **Article 79 and 80** provisions of Rajya Sabha as Council of States
- **Article 368** amendment procedure for having ratification by half of the States if an amendment is· affecting federalism.

Government Efforts To Promote National Integrity

- **GOI constituted the Interstate Council under Article 263** after accepting the Justice **Sarkaria Commission's report on center-state relations**. Its vision is to develop the Inter-State Council Secretariat as a vibrant organization to support Centre-State and Inter-State coordination and cooperation in India.
- **The Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) is a** Programme implemented in 272 identified backward districts in all states of the country to redress regional imbalances in development.
- **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** was launched in September 2015 for the welfare of tribals and tribal areas and others affected by mining.
- **State Reorganisation act of 1956** Zonal councils to promote interest of different geographic zones.
- **North-eastern States Reorganisation Act**, 1971.
- **Creation of new states** by taking economic and administrative viability into account. E.g. Telangana
- **Plan assistance to the backward states** Backward Area Development Program.
- **Public investment**- Industries such as steel, fertilizers, oil refining, petro chemicals, heavy chemicals, and in power and irrigation projects has been a tool for the reduction of regional inequality. **E.g. Polavaram irrigation and Indira Gandhi canal projects.**
- Government incentives have been provided to the **private sector to invest in backward areas** subsidies, tax concessions, concessional banking and institutional loans.
- New institutional structures like **NITI Aayog** to ensure federal equilibrium.
- **GST** council to ensure fiscal federalism
- **Cultural connect and student exchange programme** among states education Institutes.
- **Ek bharat Shrestha bharat**
- **National Register of Citizens of Assam Govt**. To expel outsider and protect cultural identity of natives.
- National Integration Council (NIC)
- **North-Eastern Council (NEC)** was set up in 1971 to provide a forum for inter-state coordination regional planning and integrated development of the region to avoid intra-regional disparities.
- Representation to **regional parties in parliamentary**
- **Inter State Council** to resolve issues of common interest 263
- **Special status in Indian constitution setup** 371 to 371 F
- **Special category status** to economically backward states. E.g., hilly, border states.

Regionalism Vs. Nationalism

- **Nationalism is a sense of belonging to one nation**, a feeling one shares with all the citizens of the country regardless of their caste, creed, culture, religion, or region.
- **Regionalism puts the regional priority above the national priority**. Therefore, it may impair the national development.
- **While a nation tries to establish harmony** between all its citizens by uniting them through a constitution, national symbols, and songs, regionalism **glorifies the heritage of only one particular region** and one culture.
- Regionalism leads to the **formation of multiple communities** within one nation and restricts the efforts of national integration.

Regionalism Versus Federalism

- If we see our past, we can observe that **there has been a continuous demand for respecting the federal features of the Indian political system**. Moreover, there is **also the demand for decentralization** of resources and powers, both for the state level and to grass root levels.
- **Divergent ethnic identities** and **their continuous struggle for more autonomy**, as expressed in the demand for separate statehood for themselves, within the federal system, too much complicated the work of centralized governance from any level.
- Federalism is seen here as a **social equilibrium**, which results from the **appropriate balance between shared rule and self-rule.**
- The relations between the two may be conflicting as well as collaborating depending on the **manner of accommodation,** if any, which is undertaken in a federal system.
- Federation rather than a nation-state, ideal-typically, is **better able to accommodate ethnically distinct regions** because while the nation-state demands uniformity, federalism is based on the recognition of differences.
- A **two-tier federation may not be sufficient to accommodate regionalism** in many forms and levels. A tier below the 'states', or 'provinces' with **appropriate constitutional guarantee** may be necessary for regional accommodation.

Ways To Prevent Regionalism And Promote Unity And Integrity

- While the government has taken several steps, such as the **launch of centrally sponsored schemes, incentives to private players for development in backward states** for inclusive development, there is a greater need for their effective implementation.
- **Moral education and national education** is the key to reduce regionalism Governments should use their arms to give free and compulsory moral education, which will reduce unemployment, increase the rate of skill development, etc, which will ultimately minimize regionalism.
- The Election Commission **should provide rules for regional parties** as they should not use regionalism as the main list to gain political mileage.
- Most of the backward regions of the country **do not have a proper link with the rest of the country** through the transport and communication system. Due to this reason, their interaction and contact with other regional groups become restricted, and they develop a feeling of alienation. **Therefore, the transport and communication system should be developed in the backward areas to bring economic and social development.**
- Due to the **uneven development of different areas** of the country, political issues have been made (As in the case of Telangana in Andhra Pradesh and Vidarbha in Maharashtra) and hostility between different regions increased. Therefore, if **the top priority is given to economic development of those areas where the people have developed the feeling of relative deprivation,** the situation will improve, and they can be drawn into the national mainstream.
- **The Formation of the NITI Aayog** has been a positive step to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of the State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

IS REGIONALISM A THREAT TO NATIONAL INTEGRATION?

- Regionalism is **not significant merely as a disintegrating force**. Regionalism is **not opposed to national integration.** Both can exist together in a **creative partnership**. Both are in favor of development**.**
- **Regionalism stresses the development of a region** and **national integration for the development of the nation as a whole.**
- Regionalism is **not disruptive** of national solidarity. The important condition for national solidarity is that nationalism should be able to hold the different types of regional sub-nationalities together.
- **Regionalism can make federalism a greater success.**
- It will **reduce the centralizing tendencies in a nation** and power will shift from the centre to the states.

CONCLUSION

- It is vital to develop each region of India through the devolution of power to local governments and empowering people for their participation in decision-making. The state governments need to find out the alternative resources of energy, source of employment for local people, use of technology in governance, planning, and agriculture development. The 12th five-year targets for "**Faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth**", which will be **instrumental for balanced regional growth.**

- If religious, communal, cultural, and linguistic differences threaten the unity of India, they present, as well, a challenge to the social Union. For **'unity in diversity' is at once a threat and a promise"**.

Previous Year Questions

1. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. **(UPSC 2020)**

2. What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer. **(UPSC 2016)**

3. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss. **(UPSC 2013)**

Secularism

"Secularism is not only in our constitution but also in our veins. We worship Mother Nature too. We believe that the world is our family."

- **Narendra Modi**

"If I were a dictator, religion and state would be separate. I swear by my religion. I will die for it. But it is my personal affair. The state has nothing to do with it. The state would look after your secular welfare, health, communications, foreign relations, currency and so on, but not your or my religion. That is everybody's personal concern!"

- **Mahatma Gandhi**

"Western dictionaries define secularism as absence of religion but Indian secularism does not mean irreligiousness. It means profusion of religions."

- **Shashi Tharoor**

Meaning of Secularism

The concept of secularism emerged in the context of the European societies. Often, one of the **earliest manifestations of secularism can be seen in the French Revolution, 1789**, where the people were inspired by **Voltaire's 'Treatise on Tolerance' (1763).** The legal foundation of French Secularism (modern western secularism) can be found in a French law passed in 1905, separating the church and the state (laïcité).

The rationale was to curtail the authority of the church and domesticate religion. Secularisation, in the west was related to the arrival of modernity and the rise of science and rationality as alternatives to religious ways of understanding the world.

Thus, **secularism is a principle which advocates the separation of religion from politics**. It is the principle of separation of Government institutions and persons mandated to represent the state from religious institutions and religious dignitaries. Thus, religion should be separate from aspects of state and governance.

Secularism seeks to realize a society that is **devoid of either inter-religious domination or intra-religious domination**. It promotes freedom within religions and equality between, as well as within religions.

Manifestations of Secularism

The term secularism includes a separation between the state and religion. In fact, the nature and extent of separation may take different forms, depending upon the specific values it is meant to promote and the way in which these values are spelt out.

Thus, it has 3 manifestations:-

1**. Differentiation**: Religion will no longer be all encompassing and its presence will only be restricted to the cultural domain.
2. **Privatisation**: Since religion is a matter of faith, it will be confined to the domestic space.
3. **Decline in the social significance of Religion:** The presence of religion in public space will be prohibited and hence its social significance will decline.
Furthermore there can be forms in which Secularism emerges. For instance:

Soft & hard secularism:

1**. Soft secularism** argues for **a legal separation of Religion & the State**. It is tolerant of religion and religious differences, and favours political accommodation of the religion while rejecting the state interference that may undermine religious freedom. **Seen in USA**. Eg: No school prayer, No Government funds to religious bodies, etc.

2. **Hard secularism** militates for **complete separation of Religion and the State**. It may even be seen as hostility towards organized religion in general. **Seen in France**. Eg: Banning of face covering niqabs and burqas in France.

3. **Positive and Negative secularism**: Positive secularism means mutual and equal recognition of all the religions whereas negative secularism connotes non recognition of any religion.

Differences Between Western-Secularism and Indian-Secularism

Western-Secularism	Indian-Secularism
In the West, the State is separate from the functioning of all religious institutions **and groups.**	Secularism in India means that the **state is neutral to all religious groups** but not necessarily separate.
The state believes in total non-interference of religion. **The state is allowed to curtail the rights of citizens if religion is causing hindrance in the functioning of the state.**	In India, the concept is not restricted to the question of how religious groups should be treated. Instead, the **essence of secularism lies in forging a positive relationship between the state and religion**.
The Western concept of Secularism does not believe in an open display of religion **except for places of worship.**	In India, all expression of Religion is manifested equally with support from the state.
The distinction between state and religion is clear and set in stone.	There is no clear distinction between the state and religion in India.
The concept of secularism first came about in the mid-17th Century concepts of Enlightenment **which were enshrined first in the Constitution of France following the** French Revolution **(5 May 1789 – 9 November 1799).**	Although the concept of secularism was rudimentary practised in ancient and medieval India, the term secularism was enshrined in the Constitution of India with the **42nd Amendment Act, 1976.**
The state treats all religions with equal indifference. It does not aid any religious institutions through financial means or tax them.	The state gives financial aid to religious institutions and taxes them as well.
A single uniform code of law **is used to dispense justice regardless of religious background.**	Although the law is the same for all citizens, certain personal laws with regard to marriage and property rights are different for every community. But they are all given equal consideration under the Indian Penal Code.

Secularism in the History of India

Secular traditions are very deep rooted in the history of India. Indian culture is based on the blending of various spiritual traditions and social movements.

ANCIENT INDIA:

In ancient India, the **Santam Dharma (Hinduism)** was basically allowed to **develop as a holistic religion by welcoming different spiritual traditions** and trying to integrate them into a common mainstream.

The **development of four Vedas** and the various interpretations of the **Upanishads and the Puranas** clearly highlight the religious plurality of Hinduism.

Emperor Ashoka was the first great emperor to announce, as early as third century B.C. that, the **state would not prosecute any religious sect.**

In his **12th Rock Edict**, Ashoka made an appeal not only for the toleration of all religion sects but also to develop a spirit of great respect toward them.

Even after the advent of Jainism, Buddhism and later Islam and Christianity on the Indian soil, the **quest for religious toleration and coexistence of different faiths continued.**

MEDIEVAL INDIA:

In medieval India, the Sufi and Bhakti movements bond the people of various communities together with love and peace.

The leading lights of these movements were **Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, Baba Farid, Sant Kabir Das, Guru Nanak Dev, Saint Tukaram and Mira Bai** etc.

In medieval India, **religious toleration and freedom of worship marked the State under Akbar.** He had a number of Hindus as his ministers, forbade forcible conversions and abolished Jizya.

The most prominent evidence of his tolerance policy was his **promulgation of 'Din-i-Ilahi'** or the Divine Faith, which had elements of both Hindu and Muslim faith.

That this was not imposed upon the subjects is obvious from the fact that there were few adherents to it. Along with this he emphasized the **concept of 'sulh-i-kul'** or peace and harmony among religions.

He even **sponsored a series of religious debates which were held in the 'Ibadat Khana' of the Hall of Worship**, and the participants in these debates included theologians from amongst Brahmins, Jains and Zoroastrians.

Even before Akbar, Babar had advised Humayun to "shed religious prejudice, protect temples, preserve cows, and administer justice properly in this tradition."

MODERN INDIA:

The spirit of secularism was strengthened and enriched through the Indian freedom movement too, though the British have pursued the policy of divide and rule.

In accordance with this policy, the **British partitioned Bengal in 1905**.

Separate electorates were provided for Muslims through the **Indian Councils Act of 1909**, a provision which was extended to Sikhs, Indian Christians, Europeans and Anglo-Indians in certain provinces by the Government of India Act, 1919.

Ramsay MacDonald Communal Award of 1932, provided for separate electorates as well as reservation of seats for minorities, even for the depressed classes became the basis for representation under the Government of India Act, 1935.

However, **Indian freedom movement was characterized by secular tradition** and ethos right from the start.

In the initial part of the Indian freedom movement, the liberals like **Sir Feroz Shah Mehta, Govind Ranade, Gopal Krishna Gokhale** by and large pursued a secular approach to politics.

The Constitution drafted by **Pandit Moti Lal Nehru as the chairman of the historic Nehru Committee in 1928, had many provision on secularism as:** 'There shall be no state religion for the commonwealth of India or for any province in the commonwealth, nor shall the state, either directly or indirectly, endow any religion any preference or impose any disability on account of religious beliefs or religious status'.

Gandhiji's secularism was based on a **commitment to the brotherhood of religious communities** based on their respect for and pursuit of truth, whereas, **J. L. Nehru's secularism was based on a commitment to scientific humanism tinged with a progressive view of historical change.**

At present scenario, in the context of Indian, the separation of religion from the state constitutes the core of the philosophy of secularism.

Philosophy of Indian Secularism

- The term 'secularism' is akin to the **Vedic concept of 'Dharma nirapekshata'** i.e. the indifference of state to religion.
- This model of secularism is **adopted by western societies** where the Government is totally separate from religion (i.e. separation of church and state).
- **Indian philosophy of secularism is related to "Sarva Dharma Sambhava"** (literally it means that destination of the paths followed by all religions is the same, though the paths themselves may be different) which means equal respect to all religions.
- This concept, embraced and promoted by personalities like **Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi is called 'Positive secularism'** that reflects the dominant ethos of Indian culture.
- **India does not have an official state religion.** However, different personal laws - on matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, alimony varies with an individual's religion.
- Indian secularism is **not an end in itself but a means to address religious plurality** and sought to achieve peaceful coexistence of different religions.

Secularism and the Indian Constitution

- There is a clear incorporation of all the basic principles of secularism into various provisions of constitution.
- The term 'Secular' was added to the **Preamble by the Forty-Second constitution Amendment Act of 1976**, (India is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic).
- It emphasise the fact that constitutionally, **India is a secular country which has no State religion**. And that the state shall recognise and accept all religions, not favour or patronize any particular religion.
- While Article 14 grants equality before the law and equal protection of the laws to all, **Article 15 enlarges the concept of secularism to the widest possible extent by prohibiting discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.**
- **Article 16 (1)** guarantees equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters of public employment and **reiterates that there would be no discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth and residence.**
- **Article 25** provides **'Freedom of Conscience',** that is, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practise and propagate religion.
- As per **Article 26**, every religious group or individual has the **right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes** and to manage its own affairs in matters of religion.
- As per **Article 27,** the State shall not compel any citizen to pay any taxes for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious institution.
- **Article 28** allows educational institutions maintained by different religious groups to impart religious instruction.
- **Article 29 and Article 30** provides cultural and educational rights to the minorities.
- **Article 51A** i.e. Fundamental Duties obliges all the citizens to **promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood** and to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.

Threats to Secularism

- While, the Indian Constitution declares the state being absolutely neutral to all religion, our society has steeped in religion.
- **Mingling of Religion and Politics that is mobilisation of votes on grounds of primordial identities like religion, caste and ethnicity, have put Indian secularism in danger.**
- Communal politics operates through communalization of social space, by spreading myths and stereotypes against minorities, through **attack on rational values and by practicing a divisive ideological propaganda and politics.**

- Politicisation of any one religious group leads to the competitive politicisation of other groups, thereby resulting in inter-religious conflict.
- **One of the manifestations of communalism is communal riots**. In recent past also, communalism has proved to be a great threat to the secular fabric of Indian polity.
- Rise of Hindu Nationalism in recent years have resulted into **mob lynching** on mere suspicion of slaughtering cows and consuming beef.
- In addition with this**, forced closure of slaughterhouses, campaigns against 'love jihad', reconversion or ghar-wapsi** (Muslims being forced to convert to Hinduism), etc. reinforces communal tendencies in society.
- **Islamic fundamentalism** or revivalism pushes for establishing Islamic State based on sharia law which directly comes into conflict with conceptions of the secular and democratic state.
- In recent years there have been stray incidences of Muslim youth being inspired and radicalized by groups like **ISIS** which is very unfortunate for both India and world.

Uniform Civil Code

What is UCC?

Uniform Civil Code refers to the proposition of having a **uniform set of civil laws for all citizens of a country, irrespective of their religious or cultural affiliations.**

The principle behind UCC:

The concept of a UCC is **rooted in the idea of equality** and uniformity before the law and it **aims to replace the personal laws based on religious practices that currently govern matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and succession.**

Historical Perspectives on UCC

- **British rule:** There was a lack of uniformity in civil matters as personal laws based on religious customs and traditions were recognized for different communities. The idea of a UCC emerged as a response to this fragmentation and as a means to promote a common civil identity.
- **Portuguese rule:** When Goa was under Portuguese rule until 1961, a Uniform Civil Code based on the Portuguese Napoleonic code was implemented.
- **Nehruvian Vision**: Jawaharlal Nehru envisioned a modern and progressive India and saw the **UCC as an essential element of nation-building**. He believed that a UCC would help eliminate divisions based on religion and promote equality among citizens.
- **Hindu Code Bill:** The Hindu Code Bill sought to codify and modernize Hindu personal laws relating to marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance. It was seen as a step towards a UCC, as it **aimed to bring uniformity in personal laws within the Hindu community.**
- **Shah Bano Case:** The Supreme Court judgment, in this case, sparked debates on the need for a UCC to ensure **gender justice and equal rights for women across religious communities.**

Constitutional Perspectives on UCC

- **Constituent Assembly Debates:** During the framing of the Indian Constitution, the debates witnessed diverse viewpoints, with some members advocating for a UCC as a way to promote gender equality and secularism, while others expressed concerns about preserving religious and cultural rights.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy:** Article 44 of the Indian constitution states that the state shall endeavour to secure for its citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.
- **Secularism:** The Indian Constitution enshrines the principle of secularism, which mandates the separation of religion and the state. A UCC is **seen as a way to promote secularism by ensuring equal treatment of all citizens irrespective of their religious affiliations.**

- **Equality and Non-Discrimination:** The Constitution of India guarantees equality before the law under Article 14, and prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. UCC would uphold these principles by ensuring equal rights and equal treatment for all citizens, regardless of their religious backgrounds.
- **Gender Justice:** The Constitution also guarantees the right to equality and the right against discrimination based on gender. A UCC is seen as a **means to promote gender justice.**

What are the Implications of Uniform Civil Code on Personal Laws?

- **Protection of Vulnerable Section of Society:** The UCC aims to provide protection to vulnerable sections as envisaged by Ambedkar including women and religious minorities, while also **promoting nationalistic fervour through unity.**
- **Simplification of Laws:** A Uniform Civil Code will simplify the complex laws around marriage ceremonies, inheritance, succession, adoptions, making them one for all. The same civil law will then be applicable to all citizens irrespective of their faith.
- **Adhering to the Ideal of Secularism:** Secularism is the objective enshrined in the Preamble; a secular republic needs a common law for all citizens rather than differentiated rules based on religious practices.
- **Gender Justice:** If a UCC is enacted, all personal laws will cease to exist. It will **do away with gender biases in existing laws.**

What are the Challenges?

- **Diverse Personal Laws:** The customary practices among various communities vary a lot. It is also a myth that Hindus are governed by one uniform law. Marriage among close relatives is prohibited in the north but considered auspicious in the south.
- **Lack of uniformity** in personal laws is also true of Muslims and Christians.
- The Constitution itself **protects local customs of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram.**
- The vast diversity of the personal laws, along with the devotion to which they are adhered to, makes uniformity of any sort very difficult to achieve. It is very tough to find a common ground between different communities.
- **Communal Politics:** The demand for a uniform civil code has been framed in the context of communal politics. A large section of society sees it **as majoritarianism under the garb of social reform**.
- **Constitutional Hurdle:** Article 25 of Indian Constitution, that seeks to preserve the freedom to practise and propagate any religion gets into conflict with the concepts of equality enshrined under Article 14 of Indian Constitution.

Previous Year Questions

1. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of Secularism. **(UPSC 2019)**
2. How the Indian concept of secularism is different from the western model of secularism? Discuss. **(UPSC 2018)**
3. How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? **(UPSC 2014)**