GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

MAINS TEST SERIES 2023

GS MAINS Q&A

REVISION TEST - 01

(10 QUESTION)

SOCIETY

Complete Syllabus

SOCIETY REVISION TEST

Time Allowed: 90 Min. *Max. Marks: 125*

Section - A

1. **Has Westernization impacted the Indian value system adversely? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.**
2. **In contemporary Indian society traditional forms of marriage and family are increasingly getting replaced by more fluid arrangements. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer.**
3. **Though the caste system has been relatively weakened and the patterns of discrimination have come down, it still remains to a considerable extent and has even taken newer forms in contemporary times. Discuss.**
4. **Explain the contribution of women's organizations in the pre-independence era in social and political spheres.**
5. **Give an account of various challenges faced by Indigenous groups in India. How has Covid-19 exacerbated their problems? Suggest measures to improve their conditions.**

Section - B

6. **Marginalized caste groups such as the Dalits are witnessing some forms of socio-economic mobility, but women within these groups are experiencing different forms of constraints. Critically examine.**
7. **Custodial violence goes against a core Constitutional value embedded in our civilizational ethos -human dignity. In this context critically examine the need for anti-torture legislation in India.**
8. **"As the number of people migrating from villages and ending up living in and around cities continues to grow, we need to respond to the education needs of children living in slums". In light of the above statement highlight the challenges and steps that should be taken by the government to make sure that access to education does not remain a dream for migrant children.**
9. **Legislative and judicial steps are reflecting the importance of recognizing minorities of all kinds, not just religious. Evaluate the progress of Indian society in this regard.**
10. **With rising income and urbanization, over nutrition has become a serious problem. Discuss the causes and implications of over nutrition in India.**

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SOCIETY REVISION TEST

Section - A

1. Has Westernization impacted the Indian value system adversely? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.

Approach

1. ***Briefly introduce with Westernization in India (30 words)***
2. ***Discuss positive and negative impact of westernization on Indian value system (90 words)***
3. ***Conclusion (30 words)***

Hints:

Westernisation in India has taken place as a result of British rule. The 150 years British rule produced some radical and lasting changes in Indian social set up. The Britishers brought with them new technology, knowledge, beliefs, values and institutions. In present times too, people around the globe are more connected with faster means of travel and communication, exchange of ideas through literature and cinema, and rise of social networking.

It is argued that these cultural contacts with the West have had an adverse impact on our value system, which can be understood in following ways:

- **Loss of group identity:** The encouragement of the Western ideal of individualism has led to the loss of group identity and solidarity especially amongst young Indians. This has had an erosional impact on India's traditional institutions of marriage, family and household.
- **Conspicuous Consumption**: It is seen as fundamentally against the cultural ethos of the Indian society which has traditionally been closer to nature and driven by austerity. It can be witnessed in the changing dietary patterns of Indian people, especially in urban India, which leads to overconsumption, wastage of food, rise in obesity and other lifestyle diseases.
- **Impact on Indian education system**: The present education system structure reflects western ideas and philosophies both in design and content, which are more focused on gaining marks rather than gathering knowledge. The traditional Indian system, which included character and moral development of human beings is missing.
- Introduction of western ways of life especially through Hollywood movies and social media has increased party culture in India exposing the youth towards increased alcohol and substance addiction. It has also exposed them to pornography, vulgarity, racism.
- **Decline in Indian ethical values**: Westernisation has led to decline in ethical values amongst people. For example, values such as honesty, integrity, kindness, truthfulness, and respect towards elders are becoming secondary as compared to attaining profits and material wealth.
- Many also consider celebrations of Valentine's Day, New Year's Eve as a form of cultural invasion.

But it is also true that contact with the West has added to Indian culture by both popularising and empowering it**. This is reflected across the following areas:**

- Modernisation has also brought a few progressive values such as humanism, egalitarianism, secularism. Our criminal laws have been reformed. Evil customs like sati ended, untouchability was abolished.
- The modern Western ideas have been successful in breaking the patriarchy and gender stereotyping existing in India. It has also reduced the differences existing due to the caste system.
- Inclusion of modern education widened the scope of gathering knowledge. While Introduction of English language, allows global communication, at the same time acting as a binding thread.
- The use of technology e.g. social networking sites also provides a means for self-representation and formation of a collective identity through socialization. For instance, the acceptance of LGBT rights in India has a lot to do with the contact with the West.
- Indian values such as faith in 'Karma', democratic and secular ideals, pluralism, sustainable living, vegetarianism, etc. is gaining currency in the West as well.
- Indian philosophies such as Yoga and meditation, religious organisations such as ISKCON have attracted many in the west.
- Owing to such exposure, Indians have an edge in becoming global citizens.

Conclusion:

Thus on the basis of above arguments, It can be argued that aggravated contact with the West has had a two-fold impact. The west has impacted India, as well as it also got influenced from Indian culture.

2. In contemporary Indian society traditional forms of marriage and family are increasingly getting replaced by more fluid arrangements. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer.

Approach

1. ***Briefly introduce with the traditional system of marriage and family in India along with changes it is undergoing. (25 words)***
2. ***Discuss the changes in marriage and family in India. (50 words)***
3. ***Explain a few points to describe continuity as well. (50 words)***
4. ***Provide a balanced conclusion (25 words)***

Hints:

Marriage and family are key structures in Indian society. While family in India is traditionally understood in terms of a joint family system, marriage is considered as a relationship between two consenting adults.In contemporary times due to factors such as industrialisation, urbanization, land reforms law, legal factors, marriage and family are undergoing various changes.

Changes observed in characteristics of family:

- **Nuclearisation of families in India**: With the rise of employment opportunities in cities, rural-urban and interstate migration, have affected jointness of the family in India. Furthermore, modern ideals have brought about a change in constitution of families.
- **New forms of families:** New trends like live-in, single parent families, same sex couple are also getting Popularised.
- **Individualism**: Due to exposure to individualistic ideals practiced in the west, the collectivist nature of traditional Indian society is undergoing tremendous change.

- **Role of women:** Role of women in a traditional Indian family was limited but with expansion of education, democratic rights, urbanisation have lead to improved position of women in Indian families.
- **Changing nature of cultural functions:** Now, primacy is being given to friends and co-workers rather than extended family members, which leads to households as a new form of co-living.

Changes observed in institution of marriage are:

- **Rationalisation of marriage**: Hindu Marriage Act and Special Marriage Act rationalised the institution of marriage, allowing consenting couples to make their choices.
- **Rules of endogamy and exogamy**: While caste remains the centre of marital relations, there is widened scope for inter caste marriages to take place under government protection.
- **Rise in age of marriage:** The recent amendment of law on marriageable age increased the age of women from 18 to 22, making marriage a union of equals.
- **New** arrangements like live-in, single parent families and same sex marriages are also gaining more traction due to liberal interpretations of laws.
- **Manner of mate selection:** It is also changing and love marriages are becoming more common.
- **Widow Remarriages**: These were generally forbidden by the Hindu Dharma Sastras. A Hindu widow had, either to give up all her joys in life and lead a chaste life or to accompany her dead husband by immolating herself on his funeral pyre. Today, there is a marked change in this respect, as system of Sati has been abolished and portals have emerged for widow remarriage.
- **Role of technology:** while one side these changes made marriage a more liberal process as young people meet online, date and get married but at the same time it also reinforced traditional form as many caste and community specific matrimony sites have also come up.
- **Easy divorce and separation laws:** Divorce and separation laws have been made women friendly.
- Marriages are increasingly being solemnised by women priests, breaking free from the shackles of male dominance in ritual performance.

Conclusion:

Though these new trends are observed today the importance of marriage and family have not diminished. It is still universally practiced. Though its sanctity is affected a little, it is not reduced to the level of a mere civil contract. Most of men and women are still emotionally involved in institutions of marriage and family.

3. Though the caste system has been relatively weakened and the patterns of discrimination have come down, it still remains to a considerable extent and has even taken newer forms in contemporary times. Discuss.

Approach

1. ***Introduce about caste system (25 words)***
2. ***Explain how caste system has weakened in its traditional form (50 words)***
3. ***Discuss new forms of caste based discrimination (50 words)***
4. ***Conclusion (25 words)***

Hints:

Caste system is a framework for social stratification, uniquely observed in Hindu social order which divides the people into four varnas and numerous Jatis. It is characterized by endogamy, hereditary occupation, ritual status in a hierarchy, and customary social interaction and exclusion based on cultural notions of purity and pollution.

Weakening of traditional form of caste system

- The defining features of caste system have been segmental division of society, rigid hierarchy, civil & religious privileges, lack of choice of occupation, restriction on food, drinks & social intercourse and endogamy.
- **Social reform movements:** Pre-independence period as well as after freedom, a number of anti caste discrimination movements took place in India led by freedom fighters, social reformers and progressive organisations. Satyashodhak Movement by Jyotirao Phule, Justice Party Movement started under the leadership of Dr. T.M Nair, P. Tyagaraja Chetti and C.N Mudalair in 1916, Self-Respect Movement started under the leadership of EV Ramaswami Naicker or Periyar in 1925, Depressed Classes Movement (Mahar Movement) under the leadership of BR Ambedkar are some of the important social reform movements.
- **Urbanisation:** Cities provide the communities greater mobility opportunities where relationships do not get established merely on the basis of caste but on reciprocal social and economic ties. Urban-dwellers do not strictly conform to caste norms. There is a change in commensal relations, marital relations, social relations, as well as in occupational relations. A person in a city derives his status from beyond caste identity.
- **Constitutional safeguards:** Fundamental rights gives the right to equality, prohibition against discrimination, abolition of untouchability to individuals , while allowing the state to take affirmative action for social justice by providing reservation in government jobs and education for backward castes. DPSP in article 46 requires the State to promote the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
- Due to increase in **education and awareness** along with economic development, urbanisation, and growth in literacy, the old ideas of the caste system are breaking down.

New forms of caste system and discrimination

- Caste as a group is leveraged for political mobilisation, factionalism and polarisation for vested interests by political class. Caste based political parties, caste related considerations in fielding candidates and the resulting identity politics is a manifestation of caste system taking a political shape. On the other hand, politics has also given voice and representation to the lower castes through vote bank and reservations in Panchayats, state legislature and Lok Sabha.
- While caste identity might seem to be fading in public lives, it is very much alive in private lives. Ritual practices related to caste are practiced within the precincts of home although workplaces may have become secular.
- Despite the 'Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act', scavenging still remains a caste driven occupation whereby it is mainly the Dalits who work as sanitation workers - as manual scavengers, cleaners of drains, as garbage collectors and sweepers of roads.
- Similarly, urban centres promise equality and openness, but caste continues to dictate employment and restricts residential choices of lower castes. The 2011 Census data suggest that 1) the percentage of Dalits living in slums is more and, in most cases twice their percentage in the total urban population; and 2) a majority of urban Dalits are slum-dwellers. The 2011 Census showed that 12.6% of the population in urban India were Dalits. However, Dalits constituted 20.3% of the slum population.
- Incidence of crimes against lower castes are disproportionately high, as noted by the NCRB statistics.
- Of late, dominant groups like Jats, Patidars, Gujjars, Marathas, have begun to demand reservations for them. The academician Christophe Jaffrelot argues that dominant caste demands for reservations would increase so long as economic growth fails to create jobs.

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- The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) conducted across various states in the country revealed that only 5 percent couples had an inter-caste marriage, thus highlighting continuation of caste affiliation.

Conclusion:

The demise of the caste system is not imminent and caste fault lines remain strong in social and political life. However, along with stricter implementation of constitutional safeguards and legal provisions, the attitudes of individuals and communities should be nudged so as to put an end to the age old tradition of caste based inequalities and prejudices.

4. Explain the contribution of women's organizations in the pre-independence era in social and political spheres.

Approach

1. ***Briefly introduce about women's organizations (25 words)***
2. ***Discuss role of organisations in social sphere (50 words)***
3. ***Discuss role of organisations in political field (50 words)***
4. ***Conclusion (25 words)***

Hints:

The roots of the Indian women's participation in politics and social reform can be traced back to the 19th century reform movement as a result of some great social reformers active efforts in attaining women empowerment. The reformers took up the issues of polygamy, purdah, widow remarriage and women's education. Many reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Jyotiba Phule fought for the upliftment of women in the early 19th century. Emergence of women's organisations provided a favourable ground to raise women centric issues.

Contribution of women's organisations in social reforms:

- Pandita Ramabai founded the Mahila Samaj in 1882, which came to known as the first feminist organization in India. She envisioned creating a support network for newly educated women through weekly lectures and lessons at homes, where women could learn and gain confidence through interaction. She aslo setup Mukti Mission for young widows and Krupa Sadan and Sharda Sadan in 1889 for destitute women.
- The Bharat Mahila Parishad, launched in 1905, focused on child marriage, condition of widows, dowry and other evil customs.
- Sarala Devi Chaudhurani formed Bharat Stree Mandal (The Great Circle of India Women) in 1910 with the aim of bringing together women of all castes and classes to promote women's education.
- The Women's Indian Association (WIA) was founded at Adayar, in 1917 by Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins, Jeena Raja Dasa, and others to liberate women from the deplorable condition women suffered in socio-economic and political matters. WIA later developed into a potent force to fight against illiteracy, child marriage, the Devadasi system and other social ills.
- The All India Women's Conference (AIWC) was founded in 1927 by Margaret Cousins in order to improve educational efforts for women and children and has expanded its scope to also tackle other women's rights issues.

Role of women's organisations in political field:

- The Women's Indian Association (WIA) took an active part in the political movements of the time. In 1917 for instance, when Besant was arrested and interned, branches of the WIA took active part in obtaining her release.

- Objectives of WIA were to promote women's education and compulsory universal primary education and secure female suffrage and attain the female right to elected office.
- It sought to influence government policy on equal rights for women in some areas and was involved with the issues of suffrage, education and social reform.
- WIA was the first women's association in India to present a memorandum to the Round Table Conference on Women's Franchise and her constitutional rights as well as the initiator of the first All Asian Women's Conference.
- The National Council of Women in India (NCWI) was formally formed in 1925, with the efforts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras's dedicated and influential women who had contributed commendably to the war efforts.
- The Desh Sevika Sangh (National Women's Volunteer Organisation) had as its aim the attainment of self-rule for Women. It concentrated on banning foreign cloth, eradicating drinking of liquor, and producing Khaddar (hand-spun and woven cloth). It also took an active part in the civil disobedience movement.

Conclusion:

Such women organizations made a profound impact on political and social life as well as proved to be a constant reminder to the society and the government to provide equality and dignity to the women in India.

5. Give an account of various challenges faced by Indigenous groups in India. How has Covid-19 exacerbated their problems? Suggest measures to improve their conditions.

Approach

1. ***Write in brief about indigenous groups. (30 words)***
2. ***Discuss challenges associated with them. (45 words)***
3. ***Explain issues associated with them due to pandemic. (45 words)***
4. ***Suggest the corrective measures. (30 words)***

Hints:

Indigenous People are distinct social and cultural groups that share collective ancestral ties to the lands and natural resources where they live, or from which they have been displaced. The land and natural resources on which they depend are inextricably linked to their identities, cultures, livelihoods, as well as their physical and spiritual well-being. Indigenous peoples often face difficulties in accessing social protection benefits, usually as a result of discrimination, economic and social disadvantages. India is home to about 700 tribal groups with a population of 104 million, as per 2011 census. These indigenous people constitute the second largest tribal population in the world after Africa.

Various challenges for Indigenous groups in India

- **Control over natural resources**: Advent of industrialisation in India and the discovery of mineral and other resources in tribal inhabited areas resulted in loss of ownership rights over land, owing to chronic indebtedness, unscrupulous landlords, money lenders, contractors and officials.
- **Displacement and rehabilitation**: Due to the set up of huge steel plants, power projects and large dams in the tribal inhabited areas, the government started acquisition of tribal land which also led to large scale displacement of the tribal population.
- **Access to education**: Factors such as lack of educational infrastructure, lack of suitable teachers, impact indigenous peoples access to education. Further tribal superstitions and prejudices, extreme poverty, nomadic lifestyle of certain tribes, lack of interest in alien subjects taught through an alien language affect their ability to get education.

- **Issues w.r.t. health and Nutrition:** The health condition of indigenous people is very critical due to lack of proper health services. Malnutrition is the cause of death of community members, particularly women and children.
- **Gender issues:** The degradation of the natural environment, particularly through the destruction of forests and a rapidly shrinking resource base, has had its impact on the status of women.
- **Threats to identity**: Increasingly, the traditional institutions and laws of tribals are coming into conflict with modern institutions which create apprehensions among the tribals about preserving their identity. Extinction of tribal dialects and languages is another cause of concern as it indicates an erosion of tribal identity in certain areas.
- **Political autonomy**: The right to self governance often clashes with encroachment of naxals, political intervention.

Apart from the above issues, ongoing Covid pandemic also has different impact on indigenous groups:

- **Threat to tribal population:** In India's tribal areas, basic healthcare facilities are extremely poor, coupled with lack of information and awareness, lead to poor development indicators. Besides, Indigenous people get sick faster, develop more severe symptoms and are much more likely to die from infectious diseases.
- **Social and environmental factors**: Congested housing makes it much easier for infectious diseases to transmit from one person to another.
- **More threats for PVTGs:** The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has categorised 75 indigenous groups as the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTGs), the highest number of which are found in Odisha. Experts believe PVTGs are the most vulnerable groups within the indigenous communities amid the pandemic crisis.
- **Loss of livelihoods:** As lockdowns continue in numerous countries, with no timeline in sight, Indigenous peoples who already face food insecurity, as a result of the loss of their traditional lands and territories, confront even graver challenges in accessing food. With the loss of their traditional livelihoods, which are / often / land-based, many Indigenous peoples who work in / traditional occupations and subsistence economies or in the / informal sector will be adversely affected by the pandemic.
- **Discrimination**: In Gumla district of Jharkhand, the indigenous communities often hesitate to visit primary health centres, partly because they mostly rely on 'baidh' (traditional healers) and partly because they are ill-treated by medical staff.
- **Long history of death by diseases:** The isolated indigenous populations located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have a long history of death by diseases. The historical record showed that contagious diseases namely pneumonia, measles, mumps, and influenza were introduced by outsiders and they played a major role to wipe out nearly half of the indigenous population in the 1800s
- **Reverse Migration**: As India introduced countrywide lockdowns a year ago to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, the waves of distress rippled far and wide. One of the groups hit hardest were migrant workers, many of whom are from indigenous communities – Adivasis and other forest dwellers.

Suggestion to improve conditions of indigenous people

- There is a need for a paradigm shift in the attitudes, knowledge and practices of healthcare providers who work in and around the areas of indigenous people. Besides, prime attention should also be given to ensuring respectful interactions with indigenous patients and their families, as well as providing quality healthcare that attends to their specific needs.

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- More focused attention should be given to women and adolescent girls during sensitisation and outreach programmes on COVID-19.
- In order to ensure effective communication, indigenous languages must be used. "Key messages on COVID-19 should be shared with the traditional leaders and youth leaders,"
- The government, in collaboration with the academic institutions, local civil societies, and indigenous community-based organisations, should collectively strengthen capacities at the community and territorial level through communication materials, urgent health care service centres, with an analysis of region-specific vulnerability and long-term well-being.
- Top priority should be given on prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of all returnee migrants.
- States should acknowledge the cultural, spiritual, and religious rights and responsibilities of indigenous peoples when considering measures to respond to the virus.

Conclusion:

Despite international recognition and acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the fundamental rights of all human beings, in practical fact Indigenous Peoples' human rights remain without specifically designated safeguards. Governments must take strong steps to protect indigenous peoples' rights to territories, natural resources, traditional knowledge and self-determination.

Section - B

6. Marginalized caste groups such as the Dalits are witnessing some forms of socio-economic mobility, but women within these groups are experiencing different forms of constraints. Critically examine.

Approach

1. ***Briefly introduce the conditions of Dalits (40 words)***
2. ***Describe the improvement among Dalits (70 words)***
3. ***Discuss the position of Dalit women in socio-economic context (100 words)***
4. ***Conclude (40 words)***

Hints:

Social mobility has been an important feature of the caste system. It refers to the process by which individuals or groups move from one social status to another in the social hierarchy. Caste system, has been understood as a closed system however, research shows scope for mobility.

Improvement among Dalits

- Caste mobility as a process of social and cultural change has been explained by eminent sociologist M.N Srinivas in his concept of Sanskritisation.
- It is a process where a low Hindu caste changes its customs, rites, rituals ideology and way of life in the direction of high and frequently twice-born castes.
- Accordingly, many castes have moved up the socio-economic ladder. However, women in marginalized caste groups continue to face the double burden of caste as well as gender.
- From soon after its independence in 1947, India introduced a reservation system to enhance the ability of Dalits to obtain government jobs and education.
- In 1997, India elected its first Dalit President, K. R. Narayanan. Many social organisations have promoted better conditions for Dalits through education, healthcare and employment.
- Nonetheless, while caste-based discrimination was prohibited and untouchability abolished by the Constitution of India, such practices are still widespread

Constraints faced by dalit caste women in gaining socio-economic mobility:

- **Education:** The literacy rate of SC women is abysmally low at 56.5% according to the 2011 census, which is way below the national average of 74.04%.
- **Employment:** Due to lesser education and skill levels and caste based oppression, Dalit women lack employment options and other livelihood opportunities.
- **Gender wage gap:** A study conducted in 2010 by the Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion in New Delhi found that while economic reforms (that started in 1991) did result in increased employment for educated Dalit women in private companies, it did not necessarily ensure higher wages, security of employment, or better welfare.
- **Access to resources:** Dalit rural women have very limited access to and control over land, which in turn leads to food insecurity. Most of them are landless and depend on the dominant caste for employment, wages and loans. Their access to resources or even their efforts to access them are often met with violence.
- **Nutrition and Health:** According to the recent data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), among the women in the age group 25-49 who have anemia, 55.9 % are Dalits. The national average among Indians is 53%. The average age of death for Dalit women is 14.6 years younger than for higher caste women.
- **Violence:** NCRB data reveals that, 40,801 atrocities against Dalits were reported in 2016, up from 38,670 in 2015.It also brought out that most of the crimes against SCs reported were crimes against women, including assault, sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism and insult to modesty.
- **Untouchability:** Though manual scavenging is confined to the erstwhile untouchable castes, within it, about 95% of the manual scavengers are women but a large number of them are unregistered.

Conclusion:

Political empowerment and economic independence along with changes in social attitudes become necessary for upliftment of Dalit women and their socio-economic mobility. SC/ST/Women reservation in Panchayats and other steps are stepping stones in this direction.

7. Custodial violence goes against a core Constitutional value embedded in our civilizational ethos -human dignity. In this context critically examine the need for anti-torture legislation in India.

Approach

1. ***Briefly define custodial violence and torture (40 words)***
2. ***Discuss why we need anti-torture legislation-mention points like constitutional, democratic values (90 words)***
3. ***Discuss why we do not need anti-torture legislation-explain national security vs. human dignity (80 words)***
4. ***Conclusion (40 words)***

Hints:

Custodial violence and torture continue to be rampant in the country. Custodial violence or torture means any act done by the agents of the criminal justice system by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is **intentionally** inflicted on a person. It is a punishing act done to obtain information or a confession from the accused person. It represents the worst form of excesses by public servants entrusted with the duty of law enforcement. There is a possibility of a range of acts that can be committed under torture, cruelty, and ill-treatment leading to differing severity of harm. It broadly includes rape, physical torture, custodial death by electric shock, and food deprivation

Why we need anti-torture legislation?

- Supreme Court has declared that torture is a naked violation of human dignity infracting Article 21 of the Constitution. Torture wounds human dignity and such practices have no place in our civilization ethos. It also goes against Article 20(3) right against self-incrimination) of our constitution.
- Our criminal jurisprudence is based on the principles of "innocent until proven guilty" and the reformation of criminal rather than seeking retribution from him. To see such ideas get materialize into actions we need anti-torture laws.
- India is a beacon of democracy in the world. As she will be a major global power in the future, it is incumbent upon her to enact suitable domestic legislation to facilitate the ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) that was signed by India in 1997. Such domestic legislation will meet the minimum standards of UNCAT. It will show our commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law. It will strengthen our soft power and moral authority when voicing humanitarian concerns in the international forum.
- India's efforts to extradite suspects from abroad have largely floundered since the country does not have an anti-torture law. For e.g. economic offenders like Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallaya have used this argument to scuttle their extradition process. Also, India failed to extradite Kim Davy, an accused in the 1995 Purulia arms drop case, from Denmark because of the absence of law in this respect.
- One of the reasons for custodial torture is the police sub-culture and lack of proper training. Strong legislation would act as the mode of deterrence and will make the prisons safer for the accused.
- According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, between 2001 and 2018, only 26 policemen were convicted of custodial violence despite 1,727 such deaths being recorded in India. On average almost 100 people die every year in India in police custody. This data makes it evident that we need an anti-torture law to instill fear among the police officers who have failed to uphold the constitutional values.

Argument against anti-torture law

- India faces perennial threat of terrorism and Maoism from both external and internal enemies who are predisposed to affect and dismantle the peace and unity of this country. Passing of anti-torture law would be seen as going soft against such anti-national sections. Such softness is not acceptable to the government as we have adopted zero-tolerance against terrorism. The argument is well-founded as no liberal democracy except India faces terrorism from its neighbor that uses it as a core state policy.
- Also, provisions under IPC dealing with injury, hurt, hurt to extract confessions, malicious/corrupt confinement, wrongful confinement and the Code of Criminal Procedure's (CrPC) provisions with regard to confession, medical examination of the person in custody and production before court during custody are currently in place to deal with instances of torture.
- A democracy like India must strike the right balance between national security and human dignity. We must remember that our constitution is a dignitarian constitution that gives primacy to individual rights. The issue of escalating custodial violence in India has remained unaddressed primarily because of the lack of a comprehensive legal regime. In order to curb the menace of torture and to have a deterrent effect, it is incumbent upon the Parliament to legislate an anti-torture law.
- Chances of human rights violence and custodial torture increases significantly in conflict areas such as Kashmir valley or the Northeast region because laws like AFSPA creates an infrastructure of impunity. An arrested person has the right to life and liberty and it could only be taken away by the procedure established by law.

- As long as police reforms remain pending and political interference keeps on emasculating the strength of police force the existing provisions will not help as data have shown in curbing the custodian violence.

Conclusion:

The NHRC, Law Commission and Supreme Court of India have recommended on different occasions to the Government of India to enact a special law against torture. The government should heed to their suggestions. Law commission proposed "Prevention of Torture Bill 2017" can be brought in the parliament for discussion and measures should be taken towards its swift enactment as early as possible.

8. "As the number of people migrating from villages and ending up living in and around cities continues to grow, we need to respond to the education needs of children living in slums". In light of the above statement highlight the challenges and steps that should be taken by the government to make sure that access to education does not remain a dream for migrant children.

Approach

1. ***Introduce by citing trends of migration, why people migrate and associated needs of children living in slums (50 words)***
2. ***Mention challenges whenever government measures are asked. (90 words)***
3. ***Highlight policy changes required to ensure education needs of migrant children. (70 words)***
4. ***Conclusion (40 words)***

Hints:

Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety and a better future, as quoted by Ban Ki Moon. People migrate from villages to cities in search of economic opportunities, better healthcare and education, to avoid social conflicts etc. This makes it imperative that Governments be able to meet the newly created demands of immigrants and their children in urban areas specially slums.

- More than 20 million people of the total 97.5 million inter-state **migrants in India** were moved from rural areas to the urbans.
- According to UNESCAP's new Global Education Monitoring Report 2019, about 80% of temporary migrant children in seven Indian cities lacked access to education near work sites.
- Among youth aged 15-19 who have grown up in rural household with a seasonal migrants, 28% identified as illiterate or had incomplete primary education.

Challenges faced by migrant children

- These children cannot access education due to their status as migrant, different enrollment procedures for migratory children in schools, the location of schools, and differences in curriculum and linguistic barriers.
- School infrastructure is scarce while informal settlements are increasing.
- Lack of urban planners in cities.
- Improper Inclusion and integration of migrant community children in classrooms.
- Child labour- 40 % of children from migrant households are likely to end up at work rather than at school making them prone to exploitation and abuse.
- Migrant children continue to act as caregivers for younger siblings.
- Declining interest of parents towards education for their children.

- Inability of these children to understand their rights and entitlements.
- The needs of migrants as a group itself remain largely ignored because it does not form an immediate vote bank for political leaders.

Steps needed to ensure education for migrant children:

- Implementation of Right to Education Act 2009 diligently which makes it mandatory for local authorities to admit migrant children.
- Municipalities should make arrangements for flexible admissions of children, providing transport and volunteers to support with education.
- Identifying main source states for seasonal migration like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar followed by Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal as these states require attention to issues of education for children affected by seasonal migration.
- Mechanism for documentation, smooth enrollment of children, addressing curriculum and instructional issues of key destination states like Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Kerala.
- Create seasonal hostels for migrant children of slums with inadequate lighting and housing facilities.eg- Gujarat introduced seasonal boarding schools by collaborating with NGO's.
- Provision of textbooks in languages of migrants.
- Prepare teachers to deal with diversity.
- Ensuring vocational courses early in school years to ensure employability of migrant children for their sustainable living in cities.

Conclusion:

If Goal 4 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals comprising universal education is to be achieved each state government should provide education to migratory children by collaborating with different stakeholders, setting up interdepartmental convergence, easy school migration, and encouraging & motivating parents, establishing work-site education centers and seasonal hostels.

9. Legislative and judicial steps are reflecting the importance of recognizing minorities of all kinds, not just religious. Evaluate the progress of Indian society in this regard.

Approach

1. ***Introduce by stating meaning of minority. (50 words)***
2. ***Provide list of legislative and judicial steps for honouring certain minority rights. (90 words)***
3. ***Evaluate the progress of Indian society in this regard, here you need to provide balanced approach. (60 words)***
4. ***Conclusion (50 words)***

Hints:

The term minority is associated with weaker numerical strength along with disadvantage & marginalization. In this sense, the minorities are religious, linguistic, gender based (women), disabled, illegal immigrants, sexual orientation based (LGBTQ), children, senior citizen, etc.

The hallmark of Democracy is 'protection of minority rights'. India is world's largest Democracy. Various organs of state along with non state actors work towards empowerment of minorities in India. The legislative and judicial steps are also reflecting the importance of recognizing the minorities of all kinds and not just religious.

Steps taken to empower the minorities in India

A. Women, the largest minority:

The Indian legislature and judiciary has continuously taken steps in recognizing the women rights, example:

- 73rd, 74th CAA providing women at least 33% women reservation in Local self government bodies.
- Pahal, Ujwala
- Beti bachao beti padhao,
- Nirbhaya fund, Disha act by Andhra Pradesh government
- Various pension schemes for women
- Vishakha guidelines by judiciary
- Sabrimala verdict and similar temple entry orders, etc.

B. Divyangs:

- Rights of persons with disability act,
- Positive discrimination by providing reservation in education and public employment
- Subsidy for necessary equipment
- Sugamya bharatabhiyan - accessible India campaign
- Judiciary orders compensation to divyangs if misbehaved by service providers like airlines.

C. Senior citizen:

- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act of 2007**
- Social security schemes like vayoshri pension scheme

D. Children:

- POCSO act
- Article 21 A and RTE
- Juvenile justice act

E. LGBTQ:

- Passing of private members bill - Transgender Persons' (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019,
- **Navtej Singh Johar Vs. Union of India**, the Supreme Court has struck down the colonial-era law criminalising homosexuality and the lives of LGBTQ persons.

Evaluating the progress of Indian society in the regards of 'recognition of minorities and protection of their rights':

- The progress of Indian society in protecting the minority rights **has been a mixed bag**. We find institutional as well as civil society led movements, awareness campaigns to recognize minority rights and protect them. The most visible being women rights, LGBT rights, children rights, etc. The achievement through such campaigns has brought confidence and trust in the minorities.
- Whereas, rights of other minorities such as senior citizen, disabled, etc. needs awareness and acceptance. It is found that public places are still not fully accessible to divyangs and abuse of senior citizen is still prevalent.

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Conclusion:

Minorities form the sub-set of vulnerable in the society. The composition of minorities can be complex-heterogeneous and due to their marginalization, it can be difficult to reach them. The **Ministry of social justice and empowerment** works for recognizing and honouring their rights. Recognizing minorities and protection of their rights will be possible when both government and civil society work hand in hand for this cause.

10. With rising income and urbanization, over nutrition has become a serious problem. Discuss the causes and implications of over nutrition in India.

Approach

1. ***Introduce by writing a few lines about urbanisation and over nutrition. (40 words)***
2. ***Discuss status and various reasons which contributed to the problem of over nutrition. (100 words)***
3. ***Highlight consequences of overnutrition (70 words)***
4. ***Conclusion (40 words)***

Hints:

While undernutrition remains high in India, over nutrition is raising concern as well. It is a **form of malnutrition (imbalanced nutrition) arising from excessive intake of nutrients, leading to accumulation of body fat that impairs health.** Dramatic changes in lifestyle and dietary patterns due to urbanisation and other factors in recent decades have contributed to an increasing prevalence of over nutrition in India.

Status of over nutrition in India:

- As per the findings of the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16), 31.3% of urban women were in the category of overweight or obese (BMI of or more than 25.0 kg/m2).
- Around 26.3% of urban men belong to the category of overweight and obese. Non-communicable diseases.
- National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) survey reiterate that while chronic energy deficiency is decreasing, the intake of micronutrients and certain food groups continue to be below the recommended dietary allowance (RDA) set by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- While the median intake of protein, iron and thiamine has declined over time, the intake of calcium and vitamin C has improved. Over time, the consumption of cereals and millets is gradually decreasing at households while the consumption of vegetables and fruits is increasing slightly.
- In rural areas too, around 10 and 13 per cent of men and women are overweight/obese.
- Although obesity is most common among the wealthy, international agencies have noted the emergence of increased weight among the middle class and poor in recent years.
- As per the report one in every nine schoolchildren in India is suffering from over nutrition.

Reasons responsible for over nutrition:

- **Excess caloric intake**: Due to the unrestricted access to energy-dense foods at various platforms like school cafeteria.
- **Lack of physical activity**: Overindulgence in indoor leisure activities and enhanced transportation systems.
- **Factors w.r.t lifestyle changes**: Commuting to school by bus or car instead of walking or bicycling, aggressive advertising by transnational fast-food and cola companies are some of the practices which predispose children to obesity.

- **Socio-cultural environment**: Food habits of individuals are closely related to their social structure, urbanization, psychosocial stress, increasing affluence, social capital and aggressive marketing.
- **Peer influence:** Peers in the society/schools influence individual habits at large, specifically food and physical activity habits. For children, there is a societal pressure for academic performance and parental concerns (primarily safety concerns) that seriously affect their physical activities.
- **Inadequate awareness among parents:** Overprotection and forced feeding by parents, false traditional beliefs about health and nutrition, low knowledge about nutrition in parents and caregivers also contribute to obesity.
- **Lack of awareness:** Due to crony capitalism, companies embark on misleading advertisements in the name of healthy food. Lack of awareness of proper and balanced diet, leads to over nutrition, doing more harm.

Consequences of over nutrition:

- **Spread of non-communicable diseases**: Over nutrition has several implications on cardiometabolic conditions, leading to chronic non-communicable diseases. India stood second in the list of countries affected with type 2 diabetes (from 5.9% in 2000 to 10.4% in 2017) - presently around 72 million people are affected (as per Diabetes Atlas).
- Concomitantly, hypertension also increased to 29.2 per cent in 2014 Thus, as compared to three decades ago, people of all age groups across all geographic regions in India are at higher risk of such cardiometabolic conditions condition.
- **Developmental delays**: Overnutrition can also impair a young child's physical and mental development. Cognitive impairment resulting from over nutrition may result in diminished productivity in academic performance.
- **Poor maternity health**: over nutrition puts women at a greater risk of pregnancy-related complications and death in some cases.
- **High out of pocket expenditure**: In India , out of pocket expenses account for about 62.6% of total health expenditure - one of the highest in the world. It can further increase due to the issue of over nutrition.

Conclusion:

Without addressing the issues associated with over nutrition in India, it will be difficult to prevent the rising burden of chronic disease epidemics, especially because over nutrition is the prime reason for fat accumulation in human body. Although reduction in the intake of sugar, salty and fatty foods is recommended widely, more steps are in needed to promote appropriate lifestyles and dietary intakes for the prevention and management of over-nutrition and obesity.

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