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ANSWER WRITING WORKBOOK

Indian Society

GS PAPER 1

Complete Revision of Indian Society through **70+ Question & Answers**

- ✓ Preparation Approach
- ✓ Micro Detailing of UPSC Syllabus
- ✓ 8 Practice Sets and Model Hints
- ✓ Previous Year Questions & Solutions

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PREFACE

While current affairs changes every year there are some parts in syllabus which do not change and a candidate requires conceptual understanding and a good grip over these topics. The purpose of this workbook is to serve as one stop destination for students. It will help in building a base of knowledge and conceptual clarity

GS answer writing workbook aims to function as a standalone product that will promote self-learning habits in students and help in maximum syllabus coverage of the static portion.

Features of Workbook

The workbook has following features that aim to resolve various issues faced by students in an efficient and holistic manner.

Feature	Issue resolved
Static Topics from syllabus	Conceptual clarity
Topic wise sets	Syllabus coverage
Question & Answer format	Answer writing practice & Time management
Approach before each answer	Structuring of answers
Previous Year questions	Analysis
Blank Page at the end of each set	Self-note making

• How to optimally make use of workbook

In order to gain maximum out of it, a student must first attempt each of the set by himself and then compare his answers with model hint given. This exercise will help them to gain confidence in answer writing, in enrichment of their answers and in better management of time.

The approach given at the beginning of each answer is also aimed to give him an idea about how to approach an answer. Before going into the answer, he must first build his own answer around the approach and then compare with the given answer.

Any extra point to be remembered, revised or any other extra additions can be made at the Blank Page given at the end of each set.

• About GS Score Society Workbook

It consists of total 8 sets. These sets are based on broad topics according to UPSC mains syllabus. The focus has been on covering maximum number of topics and sub topics possible. It will serve as a very reliable source of information about concept and facts related to Indian society. However it is extremely essential that you must optimally utilize it as per steps given above, to extract maximum out of it.

APPROACH TO PREPARE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR UPSC

India is a country that is marked by humongous variety in virtually every aspect of social life. India possesses diversities in terms of ethnic, linguistic, regional, economic, religious, class, and caste groups. This diversity is also permeated with immense urban-rural differences and gender distinctions. India is perhaps one country in the world where changes are found in terms of caste, language and culture. Multifaceted nature of Indian society makes it distinguishable from other great and old civilization of world. Despite the widespread diversity and complex nature of Indian life prevalent cultural practices bind them into one thread of social harmony and order.

Apart from Indian History, World History, and Physical Geography, Indian Society has also been given a significant place in GS Paper -1 of UPSC Civil Services Mains Exam. Indian society could appear an easy section for those aspirants who have taken Sociology subject as their optional but for others this portion might appear a bit cumbersome and hence could pose difficulties in fetching marks. Before jumping to the strategy for Indian Society it is important to understand the syllabus of Indian Society.

Preparation of Indian society under UPSC civil services in based on 3 pillars

- Study of past year papers
- Books and resources
- Strategizing

• Study of past year papers

Looking at the questions of past few years we can observe that every year 5-6 questions are asked from Indian society. This is a major part of GS paper 1 thus, holistic preparation is essential to score a good score in the paper.

Areas from where questions have been asked include-

- Multicultural feature of Indian society
- Globalization and cultural homogenization
- Communalism
- Challenges for Women, women and her role in population control
- Discrimination against STs
- Prevalence of caste system etc.

Thus as we can see above that what is required is point to point coverage of syllabus. Areas that have been asked require a broad overview, thus a candidate must keep in mind the syllabus at all times during preparation. For this purpose we are providing a detailed syllabus in form of **micro detailing of syllabus** . It would help in ensuring that an important aspect of syllabus is not left out.

Strategy to Cover Indian Society:

Indian Society is perhaps one of the easiest sections in GS Paper 1 as it aims to check your perception and analytical approach to Indian Society and its problems. Unlike other sections it does not demand very precise knowledge and mugged up facts. UPSC has included this section in the exam just to see how you will respond to a section of society and the problems faced by the people belonging to different section of the society.

An easy way to identify the features of Indian Society is to take a broader look from outside. One need to have a bird eye view to understand the intricacies. As a beginner, assume the perspective of a foreigner visiting India and try to see Indian Society through his eyes.

It is important to be aware of the recent facts and data of recent surveys which you can quote in your answers. However analysis is the most important thing, you must be able to come up with unique points and observations about Indian society.

Books and Resources:

Indian Society has been included in the syllabus of UPSC mains exam along with Social Justice. Before moving to standard books it is advisable to go through NCERT books to get some basic idea about society and problems plaguing the society. The following NCERT books must be referred to strengthen the basics:

- NCERT Class 11 – Introducing Sociology
- NCERT Class 11 – Understanding Society
- NCERT Class 12 – Indian Society
- NCERT Class 12 – Social Change & Development in India

Advance Books and Resources:

- **IGNOU Material – Development**
- **IGNOU Material – Sociology**
- **Yojana**
- **Online Study Materials and PDFs provided by GS Score.**
- **Newspapers like The Hindu and The Indian Express for current updates**

PS: Keep a close vigil on social happenings, new bills related to the society etc.

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SYLLABUS

MICRO DETAILING

SUB TOPIC LISTING
(Indian Society)

UPSC Syllabus

- Salient features of Indian Society
- Diversity of India
- Effects of globalization on Indian society
- National Integration, communalism, regionalism & secularism
- Role of women and women's organization
- Social empowerment, poverty and developmental issues
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable section
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Salient Features of Indian Society

1. Forms of Diversity in India

2. Reasons for so much Diversity

3. Bonds of Unity In India

- Geo-political Unity
- The Institution of Pilgrimage
- Tradition of Accommodation
- Tradition of Interdependence
- Role of Sensitive Leaders
- Constitutional Safeguards – Role of Constitution Framers

4. Social Justice

- Concept of Casteism in India
- Caste and Politics
- The Reservation Policy Debate
- Social Justice and Social Development
- Social Security In India
  - Concept

5. Social Security System in India

- Organized Sector and Social Security
- Unorganised Sector and Social Security
- Centrally Funded Social Assistance Programmes
- Public Initiatives
- Review of the implementation of Social Security Laws in the Country
- Suggestions for Improving the Social Security Matrix

6. Challenges of Diversity to Unity (Challenges to National Integration)

- Diversity of Constituents
- Regionalism and cultural identities
  - Casteism
  - Linguism
  - Communalism
- Social Inequalities
- Regional Disparities
- Ethno-Nationality and Ethnic Conflicts
- Tribal Identity

7. Basic Sociological Concepts

8. The Family and Kinship

9. Concept of Patriarchy In India

Role of Women and Women Society

1. Women Movements

- 19th Century Women Movements – Under Social Reform Movements
- Women's Issues During Gandhian Era
- Issues in Post Independence Era
- Violence Against Women
- Developmental Movement
- Uniform Civil Code

Population and Associated Issues

1. Demographics

- Demography of India
- Population policy of India
- Ageing Population in India
- Gender imbalance in India
- Demographic Dividend
- Population Explosion-Causes and Impact

Poverty and Developmental Issues

2. Understanding Poverty

- Dimensions of Poverty
- Linkage between Poverty and Development
- Recommendations of Rangarajan Committee Report
- Poverty Alleviation Strategy Since Independence
- Programmes for Poverty Alleviation
- Concept of Inequality

Urbanization

1. Urbanization

- Trend and pattern of Urbanization
- Issues Related to Urbanization in India
- Status of Service Delivery and Governance
- Urban Development Projects
- Critical Analysis of Smart City Mission

2. CENSUS 2011

- Highlights of 2011 Census
- Analysis of Sex Ratio Data
- Impact of Skewed Ratio
- Laws related to Prevent Female Infanticide
- Recent initiatives
  - Trend and Current Scenario of Literacy in India
  - Literacy Challenges in India as Whole

3. Efforts to Improve the Literacy in Country

- Child Health Indicatorsand Maternal Health
- Initiatives taken by the Government

- Why the Health schemes fail to bring change?
- Family Planning and Population Policy of India
- Analysis on Status of Old Age Population: Issues & Policy Initiative
- Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011

Effect of Globalization on Indian Society

1. Meaning of Globalization

2. Reasons for Globalization

3. Dimensions/Impact

- Political
- Cultural and Social
- Economic

4. Anti-Globalization Movement

5. New Localism

Social Empowerment

1. Constitutional Provisions Relevant to Social Justice & Empowerment of Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes

2. Status Of Minorities In India

3. The Scheduled Castes: From Untouchable To Dalit

- Population of the Scheduled Castes
- Types of Disabilities of the SCs
- From Untouchables to the Dalits: The Process of Identity Formation
- Combating Mechanism against Caste Atrocities and Violence
- The State Efforts for Dalit Emancipation

4. Tribals In India

- Chronic Indebtedness
- Forest Related Problems
- Destruction of the Forest Environment and the Tribal People
- Development and Displacement
- Analysis of Forest Rights Act

Communalism, Regionalism and Secularism

1. Secularism And Secularization

- Western and Indian Concept
  - Process of Secularization
  - Secularism and Forced Conversion in India

2. Communalism, Fundamentalism And Communal Violence

3. Regionalism

- Regionalism in India
- Types of Regionalism
- Effects of Regionalism
- Regionalism: Demand for Smaller States
- Strategies to tackle Regionalism
- Sons Of Soil Concept

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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SET: 1 - 8

SET-1: QUESTIONS

SALIENT FEATURES OF INDIAN SOCIETY

Q1. **The concept of social exclusion is seen as covering a remarkably wide range of social and economic problems. It is much graver than just being in poverty, a definite violation of basic human rights. How do you think social exclusion impacts everyday lives of the marginalized section in the context of the statement given?**

Q2. **"There is a significant impact of global culture on traditional Indian music, cuisines, festivals and art form." Elucidate. How has synthesis of India's traditional art forms and cuisines with western forms have been popularized globally.**

Q3. **Caste is becoming weaker and stronger at the same time in present day India. Discuss the factors responsible for continuity and change.**

Q4. **Child marriage is rampant in India, with almost one in every three married woman having been married underage. Explain the factors responsible for this practice and suggest what government can do to address this issue.**

Q5. **Multiculturalism is before anything else a theory about culture and its value. Suggest approaches to further reinforce India's multiculturalism.**

Q6. **Is the patriarchal nature of Indian society one of the reasons behind very slow rate of decreasing poverty ratio? Illustrate.**

Q7. **"Inter-state migration, globalization and changes in pattern of employment have changed the family system in India." Elucidate.**

Q8. **"Despite being agglomeration of different caste, creed, traditions and culture, India still holds "Unity in diversity" in a true sense. Discuss the various factors which bind India's geopolitics in a single thread.**

Q9. **Wealth of linguistic richness exists outside what are known as the official languages of India. Analyze the statement showing how extremely rich is India in terms of linguistic diversity.**

Q10. **We are not born patriarchal; we are socialized into becoming so; do you agree? Critically analyze the necessity of mutual respect and gender equality to be taught in schools.**

SET-1: ANSWERS

1. The concept of social exclusion is seen as covering a remarkably wide range of social and economic problems. It is much graver than just being in poverty, a definite violation of basic human rights. How do you think social exclusion impacts everyday lives of the marginalized section in the context of the statement given?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce with the meaning of social exclusion and how it manifests in Indian context** ***(50 words)***
2. **Describe how social exclusion impacts life of the marginalized section in India** ***(70 words)***
3. **Suggest recommendations to enhance inclusion of the marginalized section** ***(80 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

India, a country of stark contradictions and growing inequalities, now has third highest number of billionaires in the Forbes list but ranks 131 in the Human Development Index (HDI). Social exclusion (or marginalization) is a social disadvantage and relegation to the fringe of society, a social phenomenon by which the minority or sub-group is excluded. In India, such marginalization finds expression in the form of caste, religion, gender, sexual orientation etc.

Social exclusion is a multi-dimensional concept comprising several social and economic dimensions in which people are excluded such as – livelihood, security, employment, income, property, housing, health, education, skills, and cultural capital etc.

Impact of social exclusion on marginalized sections

- **Health:** Physical segregation of Dalits is common in the villages forcing them to live in the most unhygienic and inhabitable conditions. All these factors affect their health status, access to healthcare and quality of life
  - **Forty-eight percent Dalit children are stunted compared to the average of 35.6 per cent for general category children**

- The disabled face various types of barriers while seeking access to health and health services.
- The tribal districts (having ≥**30% of the population** considered as tribal) which comprise about eight per cent of the country's population contribute to 70 per cent of the dangerous malaria strain Plasmodium falciparum and 47 per cent total malarial deaths in the country.

- **Education**: As per Census 2011, **literacy rate** of **Scheduled Tribes** (STs) was 59% ,66 % for SCs, whereas the overall **literacy rate** was 73% at all **India level**.
  - The **literacy rate** for males and **females** works out to 82.14 per cent and 65.46 per cent respectively
  - While the overall gross enrolment ratio **in higher education in** India is 26.3%, **among** the **SC** community is it is 23%.
- **Land**: **Scheduled castes and tribes** are the most disadvantaged **in** respect to **land**, which largely accounts for their perpetual poverty and makes them vulnerable to injustice and exploitation
  - Over time, the average landholding has declined more rapidly among Adivasis than among other groups. This reflects the 'alienation' of Adivasis from their traditional lands largely through displacement (by infrastructure projects) or fraudulent private transactions.
- **Employment conditions**: An NHRC report highlights that in 25% of the villages Dalits were paid lower wages than other workers. They were also subjected to much longer working hours, delayed wages and faced verbal and even physical abuse.
  - Women are excluded from certain jobs and occupations, incorporated into certain others
  - The female workforce participation rate has declined. In 2019, about 20.7 percent of women were in the **labor** force across **India**, down from approximately 30 percent in 1990.
- **Basic amenities**: Only 13.89 per cent Dalit households have piped water supply as compared to 27.51 per cent amongst the general category
  - Mothers of tribal children are less likely to obtain antenatal or prenatal care from doctors or have an institutional delivery.
  - Absenteeism of doctors is a perpetual problem in rural and particularly tribal areas
- **Crime**: Social exclusion also causes insecurity in the form of gang violence. Young people who feel alienated from society and excluded from job opportunities and decision-making may turn to violence and crime as a way of feeling more powerful.
- **Denial of rights**: Early marriage, trafficking, forced prostitution and other forms of exploitation are also reportedly high among the marginalized sections

Recommendations:

- **Institutional reforms and administrative advocacy**: Increasing efficacy of service delivery systems: health and education facilities
- Improving **identification** and certification of the marginalized for better targeting of services
- **Awareness** of general and specific programmes of the government
- **Mobilization** of tribal community to stand for their rights

- **Sensitization** and training of administrative functionaries
- **Social protection** – including welfare payments such as pensions and benefits – can also play an important role in reducing vulnerability and poverty
- **Participation in decision-making** can bring about positive change at both national and local levels. Engaging with excluded people, and empowering them to take an active role in decisions that affect their lives (for example running community schools or changing the language in which children are taught), will help bring about longer-term benefits.

Conclusion:

It must be pointed that exclusion is frequently more subtle and unintentional, for example when disabled people are excluded from services, markets and political participation through a lack of awareness of their needs or by social attitudes, or when minority groups are excluded by language barriers. Another aspect of exclusion is disadvantage on the basis not of who you are but where you live, known as 'spatial' exclusion. People who live in remote and isolated areas may be prevented from fully participating in national economic and social life.

Therefore the phenomena of inclusion must be multidimensional and accommodating to the special needs of the people. Social exclusion reduces the productive capacity – and rate of poverty reduction – of a society as a whole. Hence proper inclusion is an absolute must for India's sustainable development

2. "There is a significant impact of global culture on traditional Indian music, cuisines, festivals and art form." Elucidate. How has synthesis of India's traditional art forms and cuisines with western forms have been popularized globally.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly discuss the evolution of Indian music, cuisines, festivals and other traditions.** ***(50 words)***
2. **Discuss with example how has traditional art, cuisines, music e.t.c synthesized in new forms.** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclude with acceptance of new forms and their popularity among global community.** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Indian sub-continent has been traditionally rich in music, cuisines, festivals and traditions. With expansion of globalization and amalgamation of cultures, there has been formation and synthesis of new forms of art, cuisines, tradition and music. The impact of globalization has although eroded the original forms in many ways but new forms of these classed have emerged which have been accepted globally.

Impact of globalization on traditional Indian music, cuisines, festivals and art form and synthesis of newer forms

- **Paintings:** Paintings in India evolved due to globalization and used regional colours, themes and style amalgamated with global styles.
- Kalighat Painting is one such example which originated in 19th century in regions around Kolkata based on local daily themes but used western Canvas style painting.
- It was evolution of Patua artists influenced by European style of academic training to by British Colonialists.
- **Music:** India's Bhangra music, popular in northern India, especially Punjab, has evolved with global touch. Bhangra music is evolved form of music associated with Bhangra folk dance which started to evolve in the Great Britain as a separate branch of music in 1960s.
- It was also in this period that bhangra began to be widely accepted as a genre of music rather than simply a dance form.
- In the next few decades bhangra grew into a truly international phenomenon. It is to be found wherever there is a large expatriate Indian Community.
- **Cuisines**: Indian cuisines have evolved across the world into various forms. 'Indian curry' which is one of the most proponent of Indian food has been globalized as an international dish which is used differently to form newer kind of cuisines.
- Similarly, Chinese dishes have been given local flavor by adding Indian spices giving rise to 'Indian Chinese Class' of Cuisines. One fine example of such class is Manchurian, having originated in eastern India.
- **Festivals:** Indian festivals have been well accepted globally and are being celebrated in many countries with Indian diaspora.
- Deepavali or Diwali is being celebrated as 'Festival of Lights' officially by countries such United states and united Kingdom.
- Similarly, global influence on such festivals can be experienced in form of replacement of traditional 'earthen pots' by electric lights during Diwali.
- **Wrestling:** India has a golden history of martial art forms and wrestling is one of them. Various forms of wrestling across the Indian sub-continent have been replaced by modern form based on international rules and regulation.
- **Yoga**: Yoga has been being practiced in India for centuries and has been popularized across the globe. It has been recognized by United Nations which has marked its importance by declaring 21st June as International Yoga Day.
- **Kabaddi**: Kabaddi is a traditional Indian art form which has been well accepted in other countries of the world.
- With new sets of rules in accordance with international standards there have been talks on its inclusion in future Olympic Games.

Conclusion:

Globalization and modernization has impacted India's traditional art form in many ways. Although these new forms of art are eroded form of original ones but these have been accepted as new genres by the global community. The popularity of Yoga and Bhangra music are living examples of such hybrid forms of visual art, cuisines and performing arts.

3. Caste is becoming weaker and stronger at the same time in present day India. Discuss the factors responsible for continuity and change.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce caste system in India** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain in detail aspects which show that caste is becoming weaker in India** ***(75 words)***
3. **Explain in detail which shows how caste is becoming stronger in India** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

The caste identities in India are very deep rooted and despite some success in removing caste barriers the caste identities are still relevant. In some cases, these identities have assumed new vigor. While most of the dilution on caste based social stratification has been due to increased literacy, awareness, and legal protection, the strengthening of some aspects of caste based identity is backlash to positive development from dominant caste who doesn't want to treat formerly weaker castes at similar status as their own.

Aspects of caste becoming weaker

- Prominent features about caste based discrimination involved rules about food sharing. In modern India, practice of not sharing food with other or lower caste has been forgotten among newer generations especially in urban areas.
- Caste has always been related to a particular occupation in traditional times, like wood-mason (Khati), barber (Nai), etc. But now with the advent of industrial era, where occupations are hardly inter-generational, these rules have lost their significance.
- Caste use to decide ritual status of person, which means particular section of society (Scheduled Caste), was not allowed to enter in the temple or to read spiritual text, but now this function of caste no longer appears in our society apart from few exceptions.
- Earlier cities had separate housing cluster for the different castes, this however, has undergone a huge change, especially in large cities where people of different caste are residing in same buildings.

Aspects which show Caste is becoming Stronger

- The feature of dominant caste is still present in our society, although not decided by ritual status, but by number of members and votes. Politicians make people caste conscious and no matter where one live, urban or rural, one vote as per caste status.
- Increasing inter-caste marriages have received a severe backlash in form of increased number of honor killings over recent years. The rise of Khap panchayats in Haryana is leading to further consolidation of not only caste, but also sub-castes.
- The caste based reservations strengthens the caste identity.

Conclusion:

Thus there is vigorous existence of a social hierarchy. Though it has been relatively weakened and the patterns of discrimination have come down, it remains to a considerable extent. It is not visible in plain sight but continues in a disguised manner.

4. Child marriage is rampant in India, with almost one in every three married woman having been married underage. Explain the factors responsible for this practice and suggest what government can do to address this issue.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce practice of child marriage in India and give certain facts** ***(50 words)***
2. **Discuss the factors responsible for child marriage in India and certain implications** ***(100 words)***
3. **List certain steps taken by the governments** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

India is home to a third of the world's child brides. About half of Indian women were married before they turned 18. Child marriage is a violation of child rights, and has a negative impact on physical growth, health, mental and emotional development, and education opportunities

Facts and trends:-

- Whopping 78.5 lakh girls (2.3% of all women or girls who were ever married or were married in 2011) were married while they were not yet 10 years of age.
- The legal age for marriage is 18 for women and 21 for men. But an alarming 30.2% of all married women, or 10.3 crore girls, were married before they had turned 18, as per Census 2011 data
- The trend of underage marriages is prevalent among all religious communities; percentage of girls who were married below the age of 18 was roughly the same among both Hindus and Muslims.
- Child marriage is more prevalent in rural areas (48 per cent) than in urban areas (29 per cent)

Factors responsible for child marriage are:-

- **Culture:** - in some areas it happens because it has happened for generations and culture is carried along and thus goes unquestioned.
  - The notion that girl should be of younger age than man. Girl child is considered a burden for the family (child marriage to ease off the economic burden of the family).
  - To protect the honour of the family and the girls have to guard of sexuality and dignity.
- **Securit**y: is it considered safe and secure from physical harassment and exploitation of the girl if she is married off.
- **Patriarchal society**:- gender inequality that believes that girls are inferior to boys or men
- **Religion**: certain religious practices and beliefs prescribe for child marriage.
- **Illiteracy:** illiterate girls are considered burden on the family and thus married off at an early age. Census 2011 data reveals that higher levels of education, higher are the marriageable age.

- **Poverty**: where poverty is acute, families of girl child marry her off to secure their futures. And also they can pay less money as dowry if the girl is young and uneducated. According to UNICEF, in states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan 6 out of every 10 girls have child marriage. These are the states with high incidence of poverty.

Droughts and other calamities:- Women and girls are the most vulnerable during drought because it is their duty to fetch water and provide food for the family. In order to ensure the safety of the girls during these times, they are married off at their young ages. Ex, seen in Maharashtra during 2016 droughts.

Implications:

It affects society as a whole since child marriage reinforces a cycle of poverty and perpetuates gender discrimination, illiteracy and malnutrition as well as high infant and maternal mortality rates.

The high rate of preterm births in India is because of women conceiving at a very young age.

Although child marriage is declining, the rate of decline is slow. Broad, multi-faceted strategies are needed to target different aspects of the problem, including deep-rooted social norms and behavioral.

- Early pregnancy, affect physical and mental development of the child.
- Women face violence and exposure to HIV/AIDS, 13% of girls married between 15-19 years' experience sexual violence.
- Low nutrition levels leads to high MMR, IMR.

Government measures in combating child marriages:-

- Law enforcement: Capacity-building on laws, support mechanisms such as a child marriage telephone hotline. Prohibition of child marriage act 2006, child marriage is a non-bailable offence, juvenile justice (care and protection)act 2016, protection of child from sexual offences act 2012.
- Girls' empowerment: Life skills, protection skills.
- Community mobilization: Working with influential leaders, oaths and pledges, counseling, folk and traditional media gender champion initiative.
- Promoting convergence of sectors at all levels, in particular with education and social protection schemes and programs.

Conclusion:

The practice of child marriage is an obstacle to nearly every developmental goal: eradicating poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality; protecting children's lives; and improving women's health. For both girls and boys, marriage has a strong physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional impact, cutting off educational opportunities and chances of personal growth.

5. Multiculturalism is before anything else a theory about culture and its value. Suggest approaches to further reinforce India's multiculturalism.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce multiculturalism** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain how multiculturalism is about culture and its value** ***(75 words)***
3. **Write down approaches to reinforce multiculturalism in India** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Multiculturalism is defined as the state of co-existence of diverse cultures. Culture includes, racial, religious, linguistic, etc. which may have differences and distinctions in customary behaviours, cultural assumptions and values, patterns of thinking and communicative styles. It also aims at the preservation of different cultures and their identities within a unified society as a state or nation.

How multiculturalism is about culture and its value

- 'Multiculturalism' is now used not only to define disadvantaged and marginalised groups like tribals, linguistic-cultural-religious minorities, LGBT, disabled, etc., but also immigrants who may come under ethnic, religious minorities as well as minority nations and indigenous peoples.
- **India is home to policies of legal pluralism in religious family law (Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Parsi), territorial autonomy for several linguistic and tribal groups, as well as quotas in legislatures, government jobs and educational institutions for caste and tribal minorities and hence a good example of multicultural society.**
- Multicultural claims include a wide range of claims involving religion, language, ethnicity, nationality, and race. Culture is a contested, open-ended concept, and all of these categories have been subsumed by or equated with the concept of culture. Hence, we can say that multiculturalism is itself a theory of culture and its values comprising all its aspects.
- Scholars have hailed the Indian Constitution of 1950 as a prescient model of multicultural accommodation for its recognition of a range of group-differentiated rights within a broadly liberal democratic framework.

Approaches to reinforce multiculturalism in India

The Indian Constitution embodies two distinct approaches to the accommodation of difference that might roughly be termed integrationist and restricted multicultural. It is true that in advance of many Western democracies notably the US, the Indian Constitution recognizes affirmative action (known as reservations) for historically disadvantaged groups. Nevertheless, as it is visible in Debating Difference, in India's constitutional vision, a normative deficit remained with regard to the protection of cultural difference and minority practices.

- As a basis for group differentiated rights, cultural differences, unlike 'backwardness', lacked adequate normative support in India's constitutional vision. The normative deficit at India's founding moment continues to be politically influential.
- State assistance to minority cultures has been seen as an illegitimate concession motivated by electoral considerations, a line of critique exploited skilfully by a resurgent majority right.

- For further reinforcing India's multiculturalism there is a need to recognise the rights of minorities, vulnerable section, and women and work towards their upliftment.
- For recognizing the minority rights the government has launched various schemes like pre-matric and post-matric scholarship, financial assistance for higher education especially for girls, skill India, and credit scheme under Mudra for encouraging entrepreneurship among minorities. However the need of the hour is to implement these schemes in true spirit.
- The recently proposed citizenship Amendment Bill which seeks to provide citizenship status to the migrants is also a welcome step in further reinforcing multiculturalism.

Conclusion:

Cultural differences are natural phenomena and a fact of the contemporary world. No society is free of differences and, in fact, all of us live in societies which have a variety of traditions and ways of living life. The main aim of democracy is to accommodate all the diversities as well as protect and nurture the creativities of different cultures present within

6. Is the patriarchal nature of Indian society one of the reasons behind very slow rate of decreasing poverty ratio? Illustrate.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining meaning of patriarchy** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain how patriarchy has impeded drop in poverty in India** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Patriarchy is a social system in which family systems or entire societies are organized around the idea of father-rule, where males are the primary authority figures. With time this definition has changed to a system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.

How patriarchy has impeded drop in poverty

- The reasons patriarchal system halts human progress are based upon the fact that half the human workforce that exists in any family, community, society or nation is compromised when women and girls are suppressed and excluded from education and opportunities.
- Besides the sacrifice of human workforce, patriarchy leads to the ill treatment of women physically and mentally/ educationally. When women of the family, community, society or nation are not fit, they nurture the next generation in same manner, including the boys, which degrades the physical and mental quality human resource.
- Patriarchy denies the females' control over the marriage partner & age, age of pregnancy and number of children in the family. These situations lead to stunted child, which directly contributes to the poverty of family and over population leads to general/social poverty.

- An educated population votes effectively to promote their interests and patriarchal system, women are mostly uneducated and dependent on thoughts of male head of the family. This leads ill elected representatives, who does not care about them and results into crippled growth of society.
- Even, female Gram Pradhan/Sarpanch in Panchayati raj system of India is not the actual representative due to the concept of "Pradhan-Pati/ Sarpanch-Pati" (Husband of Gram-Pradhan) which is the outcome patriarchy.
- Kids grown into men in patriarchal atmosphere have sense of entitlement that is reinforced over countless generations. Even poor fathers use more tobacco/bidi/alcohol, they gamble and throw out of limit celebrations more than the poor mothers.

Conclusion:

Women are at the apex of a family structure. Unless they are educated and encouraged to live a life out of their own choices, it is very difficult to eliminate poverty. Patriarchal structure has denied women the right to venture out in search of jobs, education, better opportunities. This limits down the scope of growth and development of a family to a great extent.

7. "Inter-state migration, globalization and changes in pattern of employment have changed the family system in India." Elucidate.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly discuss the Inter-state migration, globalizatiSon and changes in pattern of employment on family system in India.** ***(50 words)***
2. **Discuss in detail how Inter-state migration has, globalization and changes in pattern of employment have changed the family system in India.** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclude with impact of these factors on demographic attributes such as skewed sex ratio in smaller nucleated families due to son meta-preference.** ***(50 words)***

Hints

India's family system has been changing rapidly due to inter-state migration, globalization and pattern of employment. Joint family system which is prevalent in India's rural society has been impacted by rural-urban migration. The same has happened to urban society which has been impacted by urban-urban migration and emigration to other countries in search of employment. All these type of migration has changed the family system.

Inter-state migration and India's family system

- Inter-state migration chiefly rural-urban migration has led to transformation of joint family system to nucleated family system.
- It happens because dependents mainly elder members of the family are left behind in villages to look after agriculture which are to be done with the help of other family members or hired agriculture labourers.

- Further, male migrants leave behind their wife in villages because they are unable to afford cost of living in the cities. This causes skewed sex ratio at both the urban as well as rural areas, changing composition of families.

Change in pattern of employment and impact on family system

- India's traditional agriculture households generally follows a joint system in which members of family are usually associated with farming and earnings from the farm are only source of income.
- Change in employment pattern often leads to separation of family members from household and change in family's structure.
- For example, if one of the family's son get a white collared job and settle outside the village the other one remains with senior dependents in village itself. It changes the structure of family.

Globalization and impact on family system

- Globalization has impacted the family size around the world. Work culture of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) has reduced the tendency of bearing more children among women.
- Further, higher expenses on education and healthcare services and lavish life style have also led to reduced family size across the globe.\

Conclusion:

Combined effect of globalization, migration and change in pattern of employment across the globe has changed the pattern and organizational structure of traditional Indian families. This has led to more inclination towards nucleus family with fewer members than previously 'joint families' with larger members. Further, due to son-meta-preference the sex-ratio of these smaller families are more skewed towards male. Hence, it can be concluded that Inter-state migration, globalization and changes in pattern of employment have impacted India's traditional family structure in different ways.

8. "Despite being agglomeration of different caste, creed, traditions and culture, India still holds "Unity in diversity" in a true sense. Discuss the various factors which bind India's geopolitics in a single thread.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly discuss the factors which unify India into a common homogeneous entity.** ***(50 words)***
2. **Discuss the various factors such as festivals, traditions, and way of worships, cuisines and sports which play an important role in shaping India's nationalism.** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclude briefly underling India's 'Unity in diversity' reflects due its homogeneous identity.** ***(50 words)***

Hints

India is not only political integration of geographical regions but agglomeration of different caste, creed, culture and religion. India has six religions, about 3,000 castes and number of cultural realms but still has some of the factors which bind it into a single geographical identity. Although people from these diverse realms have different beliefs but they showcases and integrated India together.

Different factors which bind India's geopolitics in a single thread

- **Festivals:** A number of festivals are celebrated across India. Some are celebrated across the Indian sub-continent while some are regional but accepted across India.
- **For example:** Diwali, Eid-ul-Fitr and Christmas although belongs to a particular community, these are celebrated across the sub-continent.
- This shows that although communities differ in their beliefs, traditions and way of life due to homogeneity they often involve in celebration of their festivals.
- Further, some of the festivals such as harvest festivals are celebrated across India on same day i.e. 14th January. It is known by different names such as Maghi, Bihu, Pongal, Makar Sankranti and Lohriin different states.
- **Traditions:** Divided with different regional barriers, communities in India follow similar traditions during 'palanarohan' or naamkaran ceremony, 'Grih Pravesh' (House opening ceremony) and different rituals related to marriages, birth and death.
- **Worship System:** Although worship system in Hinduism across the sub-continent is same, there are common similarities in this system which is used by other religions such as Buddhism, Jainism and Parsis.
- Even after the advent of Christianity in India, local population started to worship Christ in the Indian way by singing hymns and doing ceremonies similar to one done in Hinduism.
- **Cuisines:** There has been a common impact on cuisines of India's integrity. Although differs in way of cooking across the country, ingredients such as spices used are similar across the country.
- **For Example:** Although dishes such as 'Manchurian' are inspired by the Chinese cuisines but its origin is traced in India's North-East.
- It is completely Indian as Indian chefs used Indian ingredients and style of cooking.
- **Division in Society:** Societal division across the Indian sub-continent is still based on 'Varna System', despite modernization.
- Further, despite conversion to other religions such as Christianity and Islam, people from Schedule castes and Scheduled tribes are still recognized by their former identities.
- These converts are still known by names of "Dalits Christians', and 'Dalit Muslims' across the country.
- **Sports:** Sport plays an important role in integrating India and infusing nationalism. Although a large number of sports are played across the country, Cricket is equally popular across the sub-continent.

Conclusion:

India despite divided on the lines of religion, caste, creed and culture are still bound by common uniting factors such as festivals, cuisines and traditions. These factors amalgamate Indian society into a homogeneous entity bound by nationalism. Thus in true sense, India showcases 'unity in diversity.'

9. Wealth of linguistic richness exists outside what are known as the official languages of India. Analyze the statement showing how extremely rich is India in terms of linguistic diversity.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce the language and India's multi lingualism.** ***(40 words)***
2. **Mention in detail about India's linguistic diversity.** ***(100 words)***
3. **Mention the threat to the diversity** ***(70 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Language is the most vital tool for flourishing the culture. India has become a land of many tongues and has been called "as a tower of veritable languages" or a "Museum of languages". India's multi culturism is preserved through multilingualism. India is a big country and it packs in an astonishing array of languages. Over 1600 languages were thought to be spoken in the subcontinent and it's unlikely that any other country in the world matches India for linguistic diversity.

India's linguistic diversity

- While Hindi is the official language of the central government in India, with English as a provisional official sub-language, individual state legislatures can adopt any regional language as the official language of that state.
- The most comprehensive data on languages was collected at the time of 1961 census of India. According to these census figures there were 187 languages spoken by different sections of our society. Out of these, as many as 94 languages are spoken by less than 10,000 persons each and 23 languages together account for 77 percent of the total population of the country.
- Out of these numerous languages, 22 are recognized as national languages of the country as they are included in the eighth schedule of the constitution. These languages are: Hindi, Bengali, Assamese, Kannada, Sanskrit, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Urdu, Konkani, Sindhi, Tamil, Telegu, Manipuri, Nepali, Punjabi and Gujarati, Maithili, Bodo, Dogri, Santhali. Hindi is the official language of India and it is understood by the largest number of people in the country.
- Other languages are recognized as 'regional' ones, meaning they are not widely spoken across the subcontinent but have a regional base, and often a moderate-sized population of speakers. Examples include Rajasthani, Bhili, and Tulu.

Threat to the diversity

- Lingual diversity of India has been misappropriated by regional political parties which lead to issues of increased regionalism and parochialism, violence with linguistic minorities, demand for separate states and erosion of national feeling.
- Imposition of any language over this linguistic heritage will definitely destroy our cultural and historical melodies.

- Less widely spoken languages are generally called 'minority languages', some of them in fragile states of survival. India is losing languages faster than any other nation on earth, with up to 30% under real threat.

Conclusion:

Languages are more than a medium of expressing ourselves. They carry cultural and historical accomplishments of a society with them. Although, there should be a language which people can understand across the length and width of the country, but that acquaintance should be spread through knowledge and literacy. Linguistic diversity adds new shades of cultural richness in our social life and any attempt to destroy it will destroy that beauty of this part of the land.

10. We are not born patriarchal; we are socialized into becoming so; do you agree? Critically analyze the necessity of mutual respect and gender equality to be taught in schools.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduction of prevalent patriarchy in society in various forms** ***(50 words)***
2. **Elaborate on how small children are unaware of gender dynamics in society but imbibe it gradually** ***(40 words)***
3. **Awareness on social and cultural conditioning of male children that plays an important role** ***(40 words)***
4. **Discuss ways to achieve gender equality focusing on where schools play an important role** ***(40 words)***
5. **Discuss inclusion of gender sensitivity part of curriculum** ***(40 words)***
6. **Conclusion** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Patriarchy and Its Various Forms

Women within the household as well as working, experience many said or unsaid rules of patriarchy. They can be related to wage parity, dress codes, freedom in movement and issues of security or expectations relating to household chores.

Social and Cultural Conditioning

A newborn adapts to its surrounding. Initially, unaware of prevalent gender rules, the child sees other children as its own equal. However, gradually various behaviors and attitude are imbibed. For example, in a family, a male child is given more attention compared to female child in terms of nutrition requirements, education, or simple care and attention. Some common stereotypes that are practiced includes: it is emphasized that male child plays with cricket bat, while a girl child with dolls. Any child with different interest is labeled as "feminine" or "manly".

New wave of Awareness

With changing social dynamics and more awareness, today there is an emphasis that a girl child is not the only one who has to learn to respect various rules. But our male child has to be bought up in different way, where they are taught to respect their female counterparts and treat them with dignity.

Importance of Family and Schools

They play an important role in imbibing the values of respect and equality in male children. Starting with family parents have to treat their children equally. Equal opportunities and treatment has to be given to them. So that, they can reach their full potential. Schools on the other hand can follow a more methodical and institutionalized approach.

Gender Sensitivity as Part of Curriculum

Schools are a place where much of a Child's growth and interaction take place. Gender sensitivity can be made a part of syllabus. What is required is a deliberate attempt to challenge the long held stereotyped against opposite gender. This can be made possible through new social conditioning. This should focus on values like mutual respect, dignity and consent.

Thus, any change we wish to see in society starts with one single step on our part. Each one of us has to consciously follow a equal and sensitive approach towards creating a more gender equal society for women in all terms. Schools and family play an inevitable part.

Conclusion:

The reality of gender inequality in India is very complex and diversified, because it is present in many ways, many fields and many classes. Over the past decade, gender equality and women's empowerment have been explicitly recognized as key not only to the health of nations, but also to social and economic development. A world where women and men can realize their full potential is an imperative.

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NOTES

SET-2: QUESTIONS

ROLE OF WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Q1. Explain the contribution of women's organizations in the pre-independence era in social and political spheres.

Q2. Self-help groups (SHG) have contributed to a change in the role of rural women from symbolic participation in social developmental process to empowerment. Critically examine.

Q3. Women organizations in India have failed to reach out to the downtrodden and poor rural women, rather they have succeeded mostly in addressing the issues of educated and urban women. Do you agree? Assess.

Q4. Why Indian women are generally malnourished compared to their global counterparts? Enlist the reasons. What are the consequences? What measures need to be taken to tackle the problem of malnutrition in the country?

Q5. Discuss the importance of land reforms for women in India, especially for rural women.

Q6. Economic agency is one of the most enabling elements to release women from oppression, violence and powerlessness. Elaborate the statement and how far India has been successful in empowering women. Critically examine.

Q7. Is it true that India suffers from huge gender pay-gap? What measures are needed to narrow down the gap?

Q8. Assess the role of women in strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institution. How far this has been able to ameliorate the status of women and incorporated them in the mainstream of decision-making?

Q9. Gender Budgeting is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men. In this reference, critically analyze India's success in adopting gender budgeting since 2005. Also suggest ways to eradicate gender inequality in Indian society.

Q10. Preventing women's entry to the religious places with an irrational and obsolete notion of "purity" clearly offends the equality clauses in the Constitution. What are the reasons behind this phenomenon? Do you think tradition should be given precedence over rationality with respect to the statement above? Give your views

SET-2: ANSWERS

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

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce about women's organizations** ***(40 words)***
2. **Discuss role of organisations in social sphere** ***(90 words)***
3. **Discuss role of organisations in political field** ***(80 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(40 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 some great social reformers came out and got some success in spreading pro women ideas. 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 breeding ground to raise women centric issues.

Contribution of women's organisations in social reforms:

- Pandita Ramabai founded the MahilaSamaj 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.

2. Self-help groups (SHG) have contributed to a change in the role of rural women from symbolic participation in social developmental process to empowerment. Critically examine.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining how SHGs provide opportunities to women** ***(50words***
2. **Explain how SHGs have helped in women empowerment** ***(75 words)***
3. **Explain the challenges associated with SHGs** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Development is not just about offering the opportunity of a livelihood and access to basic social services: it is also concerned with creating an environment where people can realize their rights and participate meaningfully in society. Thus SHG provide a platform for holistic development. Self-Help Groups are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. They help to build Social Capital among the poor, especially women.

SHGs and women empowerment

- SHGs have been recognized as useful tool to help the poor and as an alternative mechanism to meet the urgent credit needs of poor through saving. SHG is a medium for the development of saving habit among the women. SHGs enhance the equality of status of women as participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in the democratic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life.
- Impact of SHG on Women life is immense, it is clearly understood that the SHGs are tool to promote rural savings and gainful employment. Through this, the rural poverty is reduced considerably. Therefore, women members are economically independent and their contribution to household income is also increased. .. The financial independence has eventually paved the way for societal upliftment of women and their voices.
- The most important change that the SHG culture has brought in the country is to change the gender dynamics of power within a family and ultimately the society at large. They now have greater say in the family matters and also are seen as stakeholders and partners in taking the community forward
- In Kerala, the Kudumbashree network, one of the country's earliest community platforms of women with 4.4 million members

Challenges with SHGs

- However, the challenges to translate the very purpose of SHG are also very high. Apart from weak market linkages in the context of income-generating activities, there are also a few other concerns in relation to women's empowerment.
- First is the capacity building of Self-Help Groups, which are in need of support in accounting, financial management, and organisational development.
- The second concern is about the gender focus in rural financial services. Despite the focus in project design, there were gaps during implementation. In Maharashtra Rural Credit Project, women tended to be small borrowers and were able to capture only 32 per cent of the bank credit that was provided. Therefore, gender focus in designing and implementing rural microfinance services should be enhanced.
- The third challenge is about how to link self-help groups to agricultural activities, which are of key importance for the livelihoods of small farm holders in India, but at the moment self-help groups have not taken much agricultural activities, as the decisions on agriculture are mainly taken by men.

Conclusion:

The SHG play a major role in sensitising more women to form SHGs and in making them realise its importance in their empowerment. This helps the women collective decision making and also to enhance the confidence and capabilities of the women. These groups go a long way in motivating women to take up social responsibilities particularly related to women development. SHGs are considered as one of the most significant tools to adopt participatory approach for the economic empowerment of women

3. Women organizations in India have failed to reach out to the downtrodden and poor rural women, rather they have succeeded mostly in addressing the issues of educated and urban women. Do you agree? Assess.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce role of women organisations** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain women organisations that have been working for rural and urban women** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Urban educated women started women organisations, but their goal was to address women issues in general and not particularly of urban women. Women organisations are marking their presence in both rural and urban areas due to both private as well as government initiatives. It will be, therefore not right to say that women organisations have failed in uplifting rural and downtrodden women and have remained confined only to the welfare of urban women. Of course the presence of such organisations and their effective interventions are still very limited.

Different women organisations and their role

- Most important government initiative in this regard was NCW. The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women.
- If we see the history of evolution of women organisations in India, two broad kinds of institutions have grown in the country- the first set has been ideologically driven and the second set is driven by the objective of women empowerment. Among the ideologically driven groups we see that there is inclination in favour of rural, tribal and women workers. One such example is Nari Mukti Sangh (Women's Liberation Association), founded in March 1990, which is having a weighty and momentous mass base and considerable membership from the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Delhi.
- The organisation is influenced from believes that national problems can be solved through people's struggle and on the basis of independence, democracy, equality, women's liberation and socialism. The organisation strives to generate "space to women's voice" and motivates them to participate in "economic, political and social activity and decision making processes.
- As far as women organisations involved in empowerment of women is concerned, the first institution that comes to our mind is the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) founded in 1927 by Margaret Cousins, as an organization dedicated to upliftment and betterment of women and children. The AIWC has since diversified into various social and economic activities involving women. Then comes a great initiative called SEWA. The Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) is a trade union for poor, self-employed women workers in India. The noted Gandhian and civil rights leader Dr Ela Bhatt founded SEWA in 1972. SEWA's main office is located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and it works in several states of India. SEWA members are women who earn a living through their own labour or small

business. SEWA's main goals are to organize women workers for full employment and self-reliance. SEWA aims to mainstream marginalized, poor women in the informal sector and lift them out of their poverty.

- Of course some of the empowerment based women organisations came up later such as COWE, AIFW and BMB, which had more access in urban areas but even these organisations were not excluding the poor and the rural women. The Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE), established in 2004 in Hyderabad is a NGO/social organization engaged in the social and economic "upliftment of women through entrepreneurship".
- The slogan "Gearing women power" stands for the democratic structure of COWE and stands for "Of the women, for the women and by the women." COWE's mission is to enhance women's opportunities by creating a resource base of technical know-how, management, marketing skills, finance, infrastructure and equipment to promote entrepreneurship. On the other hand, the All India Federation of Women Lawyers is an association of Indian women lawyers, established in 2007 and affiliated with International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). For the increased financial inclusion government of India started Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Bharatiya Mahila Bank was inaugurated on 19 November, 2013 on the occasion of the 96th birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Steps by Government

- The Government of India and state authorities alike have increasingly realized the importance of devoting attention to the economic betterment and development of rural women in India. Self help groups of women are being promoted. Key instruments for supporting women's empowerment are self-help groups, whereby 10-20 rural women from the same village, mostly poor women, come together to contribute two-weekly or monthly dues as savings and provide group loans to their members. Self-help groups are generally facilitated by NGOs, and increasingly advise and train members in a variety of on and off-farm income-generating activities. Indeed, in a number of recent projects, NGOs were substituted by trained facilitators and animators drawn from self-help groups.
- In the Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project, for example, 90 per cent of the beneficiaries reported increased access to and control over resources such as land, dwellings and livestock. Under the Livelihoods Improvement Project in Himalayas, women self-help group members in Uttarakhand were even elected as gram pradhans (heads of the local governments at the village or small town level) in 170 out of 669 panchayats in villages. In those operations, the country programme evaluation also found unequivocal advances in the self-confidence and assertiveness of self-help group members.
- In the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project, 50 per cent of women self-help group members reported that, for the first time in their lives, they had visited new places and travelled longer distances, while 90 per cent had interacted with institutions such as banks, NGOs and project agencies. The impact study on the Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh Project reveals that access to finance through group savings and lending to members had allowed women to become increasingly involved in economic activities such as the collection and sale in local markets, of non-timber forest products.

Conclusion:

It is, therefore, not right to say that women organisations have failed to reach out to the downtrodden and poor rural women though there are certain limitations in terms of achieving the goals.

4. Why Indian women are generally malnourished compared to their global counterparts? Enlist the reasons. What are the consequences? What measures need to be taken to tackle the problem of malnutrition in the country?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce severity of malnourishment among India women** **(50 words)**
2. **Highlight the reasons for malnourishment of women** **(75 words)**
3. **Discuss its Consequences in detail** **(75 words)**
4. **Way Forward** **(50 words)**

Hints

Indian women despite upliftment over the decades are still largely behind in the human development indicators like maternal mortality, micronutrient deficiencies etc. A third of women of reproductive age in India are undernourished, with a body mass index (BMI) of less than 18.5 kg/m2.

Reasons for malnourishment of women:

- Indian girls are more likely to be anaemic than Indian boys but also fare worse than the global average for anaemia. 167 out of 1,00,000 Indian girls and women die giving birth, compared to a developed country average of 14.
- This cycle can be compounded further in young mothers, especially adolescent girls who begin childbearing before they have grown and developed enough.
- When mothers take only short intervals between pregnancies and have many children, this can exacerbate nutrition deficits, which are then passed on to their children.
- The focus of nutrition programmes for Indian children has largely been post-birth, with child and feeding-centred interventions. It is known that 50 per cent of the growth failure that gets accrued by two years of age occurs in the womb owing to poor nutrition its mother both during pregnancy and before pregnancy.
- Particularly among the rural poor, food distribution in households is not based on need. The breadwinner which is mostly a man gets sufficient food, the children get the next share, and women takes the remaining.
- Main causes of malnutrition among the women are poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, socio-economic and environmental factors and poor water/sanitation and health services.

Bi-variate analysis shows that education, income, age at marriage, eating pattern, awareness about balance diet, food security, household food expenditure were positively associated with reproductive health status and age and total number of pregnancies were negatively associated with reproductive health status.

Consequences:

- It is well known that an undernourished mother inevitably gives birth to an undernourished baby, perpetuating an intergenerational cycle of under-nutrition.

- Foetal stunting is largely caused by inadequate nutrition of the mother before conception and in the first trimester.
- Major reason for stagnant levels of undernutrition among Indian children is caused by poor nutrition of women before and during pregnancy.
- Low birth weight is the single largest predictor of undernutrition

Malnutrition poses a variety of threats to women:

- It weakens women's ability to survive childbirth, makes them more susceptible to infections, and leaves them with fewer reserves to recover from illness.
- HIV-infected mothers who are malnourished may be more likely to transmit the virus to their infants and to experience a more rapid transition from HIV to full-blown AIDS.
- Malnutrition undermines women's productivity, capacity to generate income, and ability to care for their families.
- Adolescents who become pregnant are at greater risk of various complications since they may not yet have finished growing. Pregnant adolescents who are underweight or stunted are especially likely to experience obstructed labor and other obstetric complications.
- Micronutrient deficiencies in mothers place their infants at risk, since the fetus receives essential nutrients from the mother. Even mild maternal malnutrition can impair fetal development.
- Malnutrition in women leads to economic losses for families, communities, and countries because malnutrition reduces women's ability to work and can create ripple effects that stretch through generations.
- Countries where malnutrition is common must deal with its immediate costs, including reduced income from malnourished citizens, and face long-term problems that may be related to low birth weight, including high rates of cardiac disease and diabetes in adults.

Way Forward:

- To improve family's nutrient intake, women can be advised dietary diversity, especially to eat more fruit and vegetables.
- Improving the quantity and nutrient level of food consumed in the household by ensuringaccess to generalized household food ration through public distribution system (PDS), access to supplementary foods under the integrated child development services schemeaccess to knowledge to improve the local diet, production and household behaviour through nutrition and health education.
- Preventing micronutrient deficiencies and anaemia by providingPre and post-conceptual folic acid supplementation, Universal access to iodized salt, Malaria prevention and treatment in malaria-endemic areas.
- Increasing women's access to basic nutrition and health services by providing early registration of pregnancy, quality of antenatal natal check-upwith emphasis on pregnancy weight gain, monitoring screening and special care of at-risk mothers.
- Improving access to water and sanitation education and facilities by providing sanitation and hygiene education, including menstrual hygiene.
- Empowering women to prevent pregnancies too early, too often and too close together byensuring marriage at/after legal age of 18 through awareness and ensuring a girl completes secondary education.

Preventing maternal depletion by delaying first pregnancy and repeated pregnancies through family planning, reproductive health information, incentives and services

Maternity entitlementby promoting community support system for women, skill development, economic empowerment.

Promoting greater gender equality, including increasing women's control over resources and their ability to make decisions, is crucial. Improving women's nutrition can also help nations achieve three of the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Discuss the importance of land reforms for women in India, especially for rural women.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give brief Introduction about Land Reforms in India and its purpose.** ***(30 words)***
2. **Highlight the importance of land reform for women in India.** ***(150 words)***
3. **Challenges in acquiring ownership of land by women.** ***(40 words)***
4. **Conclude with suggestions.** ***(30 words)***

Hints

In an agricultural economy such as India with great dearth, and an unequal distribution, of land, coupled with a large mass of the rural population below the poverty line, there are enthralling financial and political opinions for land reform. Purpose of land reforms is efficient use of scarce land resource, redistributing agricultural land in favour of the less privileged class in general & cultivating class in particular.

A Significant category under land reforms is ownership distribution on gender basis. In India especially rural India, the ownership of land is highly skewed in favour of men. Reforms need to correct it. With regard to women especially rural women, land reforms become more important because

Ownership of land plays an important role in strengthening women's agency and giving those opportunities to assert themselves.

It is about power, security, equality, and opportunity. Women direct the use of income from productive land to meet the basic nutritional, welfare, and educational needs of their children and family.

Increasing women's control over land can positively and significantly influence the welfare of the country's next generation.

Rural women's lack of land rights also limits their access to the other livelihood assets that flow from the control of land. Women are dependent on their relationships with male family members. If those relationships terminate by death, divorce, or other circumstances, the women are left without any assets on which they can rely to sustain their livelihoods.

Land ownership provides women access to institutional credit such as bank loans. Rural women can take advantage of agricultural extension programs like government offers of subsidized seeds and fertilizers.

Facilitating women in India to access and control of rural land is one of the most significant steps that could be taken toward enhancing the country's rural livelihoods. It is also among the most challenging.

Challenges Involved

- **Inheritance laws:** India's Constitution mandates gender equality, but the command of non-discrimination does not reach the religious and customary laws that are skewed in favour of men.
- Patriarchal mind set: since land is a valuable and critical resource, the resistance towards women's land ownership rights is equally strong in the patriarchal system that governs Indian society. In such scenario, laws like Hindi Succession Act have limited impact.
- **Awareness:** Many women are not aware that they can legally inherit the land. A recent study in two states found that only 22 percent of families surveyed knew about the 2005 amendment that gave women equal inheritance rights. And those women who know they have a right to land say that powerful social customs prevent them from asking for their share.
- **Social customs:** Families are pressuring their daughters and sisters to circumvent the law by relinquishing their claim to their inheritance in writing in favour of their brothers. So, social practice of women forfeiting their claim in exchange for family harmony and cordial relations with their parents and brothers is intact.

Way Forward

- Robust support systems are needed to help women stand up for their rights and begin to claim the land that is rightfully theirs.
- SHGs should be strengthened to educate and support women on their land rights.
- Local officials, particularly revenue officials, need to be aware of the challenges women face, and should be trained to support women's claims to land. Many local revenue officials are not knowledgeable about women's rights.
- Educating both young boys and girls about their equal inheritance right will help ensure that they support their mother's claim to their family land and theirs as well later in life.

If women's empowerment and equality in general, and their ownership of land and assets in particular, is to be achieved, legal reforms alone are not sufficient. Making conscious efforts to challenge the cultural norms and making institutions an equal partner in the same is equally important.

6. Economic agency is one of the most enabling elements to release women from oppression, violence and powerlessness. Elaborate the statement and how far India has been successful in empowering women. Critically examine.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give Brief introduction about status of women in India** ***(30 words)***
2. **Explain how economic independence being the enabling element in empowering women** ***(70 words)***
3. **Discuss in detail various Areas of success regarding women empowerment** ***(70 words)***
4. **Highlight the various challenges** ***(50 words)***
5. **Way Forward** ***(30 words)***

Hints

There have been huge changes for women in terms of employment in the past decades, with women moving into paid employment outside the home in ways that their grandmothers and even their mothers could only dream of.

Why economic independence is one of the most enabling elements for women:

- Empowerment of women is perceived as equipping them to be economically independent, self-reliant, with positive esteem to enable them to face any situation and they should be able to participate in the development activities.
- Economic power within and outside the household makes a difference to gender relations. This is endorsed by the Supreme Court judgement which says that the agency, freedom and intra-household power of women are strengthened when women are given an economic value.
- It improves the ability of women to access the constituents of development, in particular health, education, earning opportunities, rights, and political participation.
- Women as economic agents bring value and recognition for themselves, family and society at large.
- Women when economically independent organize themselves to escape from various types of bondage, exclusion and exploitation.
- Women's inclusion in the development design would enhance the outcomes of development itself.

India's experience with women empowerment:

India has made significant strides with respect to empowerment and upliftment of women through:

Economic:

- Stand up India to ensure more women entrepreneurs to come to the forefront.
- Self-help groups to make women community as a whole independent

Political:

- Provided reservation for representation in election of local bodies which led women to participate in decision making.
- Constitutional protection under article 14, 15, etc.
- Laws like sexual harassment at work place, amendments to the criminal procedure code, etc., to ensure protection of women
- The Indian Constitution provides a powerful mandate for human rights in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties and specific provisions for affirmative action.
- The government has instituted laws and policies protecting the rights of girls and women, including a ban on dowry, pre-birth sex determination and child marriage.
- State schemes and programmes provide bicycles, hostels, life skills and stipends.

Social:

- Making primary education compulsory for all children this drastically reduced the dropout rates of girl children.

- Social sector programmes e.g. "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" (Education for Everyone) are promoting girls' education to equalize educational opportunities and eliminate gender disparities
- According to the National Family and Health Survey (2015-16), teenage pregnancy has halved in the last 10 years and the percentage of girls married as children has decreased from 47% to 27%.
- More girls are going to school than ever before and more of these schools now have girls' toilets and menstrual hygiene management facilities.
- Nationally, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao directly tackles pre-birth sex-determination and along with Sabla and Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana supports the empowerment of girls. "One stop shop" centers for survivors of violence against women have been set up and are being utilized.
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Yojana, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram and Janani Suraksha Yojana support pregnant women, new mothers and infants.
- India is also home to robust social movements and organisations for gender equality and women's rights.

Issues still remain:

- Dowry, female infanticide and women's education are persistent issues despite decades of successive governments' efforts to address them.
- The Indian constitution grants women equal rights to men, but strong patriarchal traditions persist in many different societal parts, with women's lives shaped by customs that are centuries old.
- Although more women are working, they are often still worse paid than men, in part-time jobs or in the huge informal employment sector with little protection and few rights.
- Selective abortions, murdering and abandonment of female babies are most gruesome and desperate acts when it comes to gender discrimination.
- Nutritional deprivation like anaemia never let them reach their full growth potential
- Child marriages: Indian girls are more likely to be married as children than boys, more likely to be sexually abused and trafficked.
- Girls in India lag behind boys in almost every indicator. They are less likely to be born, less likely to be taken to doctors when they are sick, less likely to go to private school and less likely to graduate from secondary school and university.
- When they grow up, Indian women are far more likely to experience violence in the home and outside it, usually from known perpetrators.

Way Forward:

- Achieving equality for girls and boys, women and men, starts in small decisions and bold steps in own lives. Differences in the treatment of children should not be present in families.
- Female labour participation need to be enhanced
- Gender sensitization need to be encouraged from the school level itself.

7. Is it true that India suffers from huge gender pay-gap? What measures are needed to narrow down the gap?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by giving reality of gender pay gap in India** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain patriarchal mindset issues in India** ***(75 words)***
3. **Explain measures needed to address the gender pay gap.** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

- According to Monster Salary Index report on India's gender pay gap have few surprises, except that the gap is as much as 34 per cent in the information technology (IT) sector, which is supposed to employ relatively better-skilled people.
- What is even more alarming is that the pay gap in this sector has increased from around 29 per cent a year earlier.

Patriarchal mindset issues in India:

- Several institutions prefer male employees over female employees
- Promote a higher number of male employees to supervisory positions even though there is hardly any evidence to suggest that a woman will work less than a man, if the right cultural incentives are in place.
- Working women can be targeted for discrimination and denied job opportunities altogether because of negative stereotypes about their caregiving roles-stereotypes that men are less likely to face.
- Companies say such gender pay gap exists because of divided work-family loyalties, as women take more time off from work to care for their families, leading to long career breaks. By the time they return to the job market, they have often missed the bus.
  - Evidence exists that women lose out through voluntary termination of service at a rate two or three times faster than men once they have attained the experienced, mid-career level.
  - India, in fact, sees the highest drop in representation of women from junior to middle-level positions, unlike several other Asian countries where such a drop occurs from middle- to senior-level positions.
  - For example, an analysis done by ICICI Group showed that at junior management levels in ICICI Bank, the representation of women in attrition is around two per cent higher than their representation in the total grade population.
  - In other words, if at these levels, women constitute 25 per cent, then their representation in attrition is 27 per cent. This, in turn, impacts the supply line for higher levels.
  - Data also showed almost one-third of women employees have not resumed work in the absence of a support system at home to take care of the child.

- India's overall female labour force participation (FLFP) rate remains low and has, in fact, dropped from 35% in 1991 to 27% in 2014. For comparison, as per World Bank data, the world average is around 50% and South Asia is at 31%.
  - The participation of women has also decreased .Study says that women account for only 24% of senior management roles globally. A 2015 survey made by the same non-profit in India shows that women held 19% of senior manager roles, but only 14% did so at the executive level.
- The International Labour Organization has pointed to various reasons for lack of employment for the women force:
  - Rising household incomes (women in wealthier households tend to have lower work participation rates)
  - Measurement issues (whereby women's employment may be undercounted),
  - General decline in employment opportunities for women.
- Despite Tamilnadu and Maharashtra allowing women to work at night shifts, there hasn't been much of an improvement in female labour force participation rate in Tamil Nadu too.
- Moreover, overall employment growth has been slack and unless this picks up, female job participation would remain low

Measures needed to narrow the gap:

- Flexible work policies or extended leave can be a minor enabler for those who possess career aspirations in a situation where close to 78 per cent of eligible female graduates choose not to participate in the organized workforce.

Implement Pay Transparency:-

- Let everyone know what their colleagues are earning and that would make women aware if they are making less than their male counterparts. It would force organizations to establish a meritocracy.

Eliminate Negotiation:-

- Study after study show that women don't perform as well as men in negotiations. Often women avoid negotiation altogether, accepting the first offer presented by a prospective employer.
- Raising the minimum wage and the tipped minimum wage are important steps towards fair pay for women.

Encourage all genders to help women succeed in the work place:

- Men are an integral part in the fight for wage equality. Initiatives likeUN's He forShe encourage men to help women to successfully achieve gender equality, which includes toppling the pay gap.

Pass paid family leave policies:

- Recently, there's been a big push for paid family leave, guaranteeing both parents to the right to take paid time off of work to care for their children.

Ensure access to affordable childcare:-

- When women especially women making minimum wage have access to affordable childcare, they're able to stay in the workforce longer.

- Promote gender equality in schools as promoted by Saksham program- which makes adolescent boys gender-sensitive and make citizens aware

Pass paid sick days legislation:-

- A national paid family and medical leave insurance program would provide wage replacement to working women and men when they must take time off to care for their families, bolstering families' economic security

Conclusion:

Across the unorganized sector and especially in areas like agriculture, women are routinely paid significantly less than men, citing differences in capability. Till India's social stigma against women in the workforce and the general environment of social injustice against women is not

8. Assess the role of women in strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institution. How far this has been able to ameliorate the status of women and incorporated them in the mainstream of decision-making?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce 73rd Amendment Act 1992 and women empowerment** ***(25 words)***
2. **Explain the role of women in strengthening PRIs** ***(100 words)***
3. **Examine the constraints in women's participation in PRIs** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

The adoption of the 73rd amendment by the Parliament in 1992 had a great revolutionary potential to create genuine democracy at the grassroots village level.

Women empowerment means to give women the opportunity to fulfill their creative capabilities and desires and take decisions independently. It has social, political, economic, cultural dimensions. The presence of 1.05 million elected women representatives in the institutions of local governance has changed the face of rural India to some extent. But still, PRIs which give 33% reservation to women coupled with decentralised decision making have had mixed implications.

Role of women in strengthening PRI institutions

- PRIs through women can work on creation, development and promotion of Self Help groups, Cooperatives, MSMEs for better employment and livelihood options in rural areas.
- PRIs with women as members can curb social ills like liquor sale and promotion, prostitution etc.
- Most of the schemes for Women and girl child empowerment like ICDS, or Maternity benefits etc require oversight at ground level and PRIs are best place to provide that oversight.

- Better governance in implementing social programmes like MGNREGA etc through PRIs as equal pay for equal work for women workers etc can be imposed.
- PRIs can be the first step for political empowerment of women as the confidence and understanding of polity can allow them to participate in elections to state legislatures and Parliament paving way from 'Panchayat to Parliament'.
- Ensuing progress towards political empowerment of women leads to enhancement in their self-esteem, confidence, decision-making ability and respect within the family after winning an election.
- Social Empowerment - Panchayati Raj Institutions have one-third of the seats at every level of leadership reserved for women. Thus women have the chance to make them heard in society and positively influence the Panchayati Raj Institutions decisions.
- Economic Empowerment- Women who are elected to PRI posts gain some degree of economic independence. They are also able to take measures like formation of SHGs which allow women to improve their standard of living.
- Technological Empowerment-Several women elected to PRIs are educated and use this knowledge to bring about change in their villages. Quite a few of these interventions are driven by IT.

Constraints on Women's Effective Participation in PRIs

Despite these achievements, constraints to women's political empowerment remain large and widespread.

- Women, who enter representative bodies, including panchayats, generally belong to influential families including politicians, and may be surrogates for the men who cannot themselves contest due to the reservation.
- Men controlling PRIs through women like wife etc as proxy, less financial control of PRIs, lack of support to women from men etc.
- On the other hand, under-privileged women often face threats of violence when they have dared to express their intention to contest elections. Violence against women representatives is generally worse when they also happen to belong to a scheduled caste or tribe group.
- Women representatives face many social confronts - including restrictions on going out of the house; lack of literacy and education; the household chores of fetching water and fodder, cooking and raising children that affect their performance in office.

Conclusion:

Irrespective of various hurdles, women have gained significant social, economic and political power through PRIs and effective implementation of programmes and sufficient support from state governments can go a long way in providing decentralized governance with woman as vanguard for development of the villages in India. So, PRIs are one of the best ways to encourage empowerment of women.

9. Gender Budgeting is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men. In this reference, critically analyze India's success in adopting gender budgeting since 2005. Also suggest ways to eradicate gender inequality in Indian society.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce gender budgeting** ***(25 words)***
2. **Explain positive impact of gender budgeting** ***(50 words)***
3. **Analyse the challenges** ***(50 words)***
4. **Explain ways to remove gender inequality.** ***(100 words)***
5. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Gender budgeting formally adopted in 2005 entails dissection of the Government budgets to establish its gender differential impacts and to ensure that gender commitments are translated in to budgetary commitments. The rationale behind such budgeting is that national budgets impact men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation.

Since 2005, every budget has a statement that lists out schemes meant specifically for women. There are two types of schemes

- 100% provision for women
- At least 30% provision for women

Along with central government, sixteen state governments have also implemented gender budgeting over past decade.

Positive impact of gender budgeting:

- As per study of IMF economists it was revealed that the states that had adopted gender budgeting had moved towards greater gender equality that was measured by female to male enrolment ratios at different levels of schooling, especially, primary level has more intensity than secondary schooling.
- Giving free bicycles to girls has been a fruitful decision by some governments as it empowered the girls to visit the schools on their own, have reduction in travel time as well as be on time, whether school or home, with the cycle.
- Similarly, separate toilets play an important role in girls going to schools. Lack of safe and separate toilets was one of the foremost reasons of higher drop out amongst girl students.
- This is also impacted by the nature of existing political power. As per an economist's research, the village panchayats that are controlled by women tend to spend more on public goods such as drinking water which are closer to the concerns of women rather than men.

Challenges still remain:

- Gender budgeting is unlikely to solve all the problems of gender inequality which not only prevents women's growth but also hurts economic productivity.
- India's Gender Inequality Index value of 0.56 and rank of 130 out of 155 countries is indicator of a greater disparity between men and women.
- India has the lowest level of female participation in the labour force when compared to most other regional economies. Gender budgeting remain unable to generate economic opportunities for women.

- In India, though the legal rights are protected by constitution but social norms prevent women from exercising these freedoms.
- Due to safety issues, economic prospects of women suffer.
- Due to lower literacy and awareness regarding their rights, women are unable to exercise them.

Ways to eradicate gender inequality:

- State of Kerala which has designed many innovative 'gender in infrastructure' projects that have demystified the notion that public expenditure related to infrastructure investment is gender neutral. Such initiative like Gender Park, Pink buses, etc. can be replicated over entire country.
- Involving women and girls in decision making process in programmes at grassroots level such as designing ways to implement MDGs, forming SHGs, talking about sex education etc.
- A simple gesture of girls using mobile phones increases their confidence.
- Stopping child marriages and strict action against sexual harassment cases and sexual offenders will make them empowered.
- Education should be incentivized for girls so that they are encouraged. On the other hand, educating and empowering mothers too in making choices about their children reduces gender gap.
- Political empowerment through village panchayats and other level of politics.
- Supporting women in non-traditional jobs like mechanics, driving, hospitality, mobile-phone fixing etc. will not only making long-lasting change in their lives but also help break social taboos.
- Men and women should be encouraged to work together. Women entrepreneurs should be provided incentives for their decision-making power, risk taking abilities and generating employment opportunities

Conclusion:

India, adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. Gender equality is one of the 17 goals to "transform our world". India also ratified the Paris Agreement. The direct link between empowering women and alleviating poverty, increasing productivity, and combating climate change is well-recognized. However, the lack of targeted resources is often stated to be the biggest reason behind the sluggish progress in furthering the gender agenda. Therefore, it is important that India's budget priorities reflect its commitment to invest in women and girls

10. Preventing women's entry to the religious places with an irrational and obsolete notion of "purity" clearly offends the equality clauses in the Constitution. What are the reasons behind this phenomenon? Do you think tradition should be given precedence over rationality with respect to the statement above? Give your views

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce the idea of women discrimination in temple entry also give examples and the reasons** ***(50 words)***

2. Analyse if tradition should be given precedence over rationality ***(150 words)***

3. Conclusion ***(50 words)***

Hints

Women has been discriminated in almost all societies of world and relegated as secondary sex. Even their religious freedom has been constrained by various traditional practices like preventing entry of women in temple like Sabrimala and Hazi Ali Dargah. This restriction based on irrational and obsolete notion of "purity" clearly offends the equality clauses in the Constitution. Patriarchal and partisan approach are the main reason behind this.

Tradition Vs Rationality

- Reason of contradiction: The entry prohibition takes away the woman's right against discrimination guaranteed under Article 15(1) of the Constitution. It curtails her religious freedom assured by Article 25(1). Prohibition of women's entry to the shrine solely on the basis of womanhood and the biological features associated with womanhood is derogatory to women, which Article 51A(e) aims to renounce. The classification based on age is, in essence, an act of discrimination based on sex.
- Though traditions have cultural significance but discriminatory practices under the garb of tradition should not be allowed to prevail especially when we have constitutionally chosen to be an egalitarian society. B.R. Ambedkar famously said that public temples, like public roads and schools, are places meant for public access and so the question of entry is, essentially, a question of equality.
- The managerial rights of religious authorities under Article 26(b) of the Constitution cannot override the individual woman's religious freedom guaranteed under Article 25(1). The former is intended to safeguard, not annihilate, the latter. Liberty is tested at the individual level, for individuals alone can constitute the public in a republic.
- The ethical autonomy of women and the intrinsic value of womanhood need to be asserted in the realm of spirituality. In S.R. Bommai (1994), the Supreme Court said that "secularism operates as a bridge" for the country to move on from "tradition to modernity." As American jurist Ronald Dworkin opined, political morality is to be brought into the heart of constitutional law.

Conclusion:

- It is erroneous to conceive of the issue only as one involving a fissure between individual freedom and gender justice on the one hand and religious practice on the other. More importantly, it also reflects a conflict among believers themselves.
- Therefore, it is essential to prevent monopolization of religious rights by a few under the guise of management of religious institutions. Those at the helm of affairs can only manage the institutions in a lawful and fair manner and they cannot be permitted to manage others' freedom. Any other interpretation of Articles 25 and 26 would damage the very idea of individual liberty. Thus, right of women to enter religious place should be protected by the State.

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NOTES

SET-3: QUESTIONS

POPULATION AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

Q1. Why some of the economically advanced states like Punjab, Haryana have low sex ratio as compared to poor states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand? What are the ill effects of adverse sex ratio on society? What lessons can be learnt from recent turnaround in sex ratio in Haryana?

Q2. Demographic advantage is merely a euphemism and optimist way of looking at population explosion and it offers more threats than opportunities. Critically analyze.

Q3. Discuss the role of fertility as a component of population dynamics. Highlight the characteristics and limitations of various measures of fertility in India.

Q4. India was the first country to adopt population policy formally in 1950s, however, it took more than 50 years to proceed on the declining path of population growth. In this reference, critically examine the impact of family planning and family welfare programs on Indian society.

Q5. Youth suicide rate in India is among the highest in the world which can be heavy cost to India's demographic dividend. Discuss its various reasons. Suggest solutions to overcome this problem.

Q6. Ageing populations that can topple existing insurance and pension systems strain the public health-care system and fundamentally alter disease burdens, economies and trade, and human migration." Elaborate the statement in Indian context and what are the measures that are needed to tackle this situation successfully

Q7. India has enjoyed economic and demographic conditions that ordinarily would lead to rising female labour-force participation rates, but this is not happening in India. Enumerate the reasons. Suggest measures to increase female labour force participation in India

Q8. Though China's one-child policy has been criticized as against human dignity and rights, it has improved and controlled the nation's population by a possible 400 million people. Can we also adopt a similar approach, although not so drastic and punitive? What are various options to control population in India at present?

Q9. "Female sterilisation is the first choice for family planning in India." Discuss the major problems associated with large scale female sterilization program? Also examine the reasons behind this feature of family planning in India? What shall be done to address this issue?

Q10. India's problem of gender imbalance is deepening, with virtually all corners of the country now affected by a skewed sex ratio at birth. Critically examine the causes and implications of skewed sex ratio in India.

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SET-3: ANSWERS

1. Why some of the economically advanced states like Punjab, Haryana have low sex ratio as compared to poor states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand? What are the ill effects of adverse sex ratio on society? What lessons can be learnt from recent turnaround in sex ratio in Haryana?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give brief introduction by providing reasons of low sex ratio in the states** ***(50 words)***
2. **Discuss in detail Adverse effects of low sex ratio** ***(70 words)***
3. **Haryana transformation and its positive effect** ***(80 words)***
4. **Way Forward** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Some of the economically advanced states like Punjab, Haryana have low sex ratio as compared to poor states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Haryana state has recorded lowest sex ratio in 2011 census. There were various reasons for the same as:

Historical Reasons

Both states along with Rajasthan lied on the route which was used by aggressors to invade India and therefore, war and loot was frequent. This resulted into greater preference for male child.

Geographical Reasons

Prior to green revolution, agriculture was not suitable in Haryana and Rajasthan region because of poor soil, low rainfall and most of the job opportunities were in military or the hardy agriculture. These also created a preference for male child.

Social Reasons

- Patriarchal societies have translated their prejudice and bigotry into a compulsive preference for boys and discriminations against the girl child.

Prevalence of dowry which makes a girl child burden in family.

- Women work is socially devalued with limited autonomy in decision making.

Absence of education and employment opportunities for women (textile, leather sectors which employ women is not much present in these areas except for few towns of Panipat or Ludhiana).

Misuse of Sex selection and medical technology for detecting the sex of unborn child and ultimately for the sex selection, female foetus thus identified and aborted.

Poor implementation of PCPNDT Act

All of which combined to create a discriminatory environment for girls resulting into female foeticide and lower sex ratio.

Whereas in states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand

- Rice-growing regions have traditionally witnessed greater female participation in farming compared to wheat-growing regions, and hence may have always valued women more.

Greater share of tribal population in which patriarchy is not that strong,

Have ensured that this heinous form of violence against girl child is not committed at that scale.

Negative implications of low sex ratio

Skewed sex ratio broods the practices of trafficking of women, buying of bride from poor sections, as quite prevalent in Haryana.

The surplus of males in a society leads to lack of marriage-ability, and consequent marginalization in society, may lead to anti-social behaviour and violence, threatening societal stability and security.

Affects the mental health of the younger ones, the possibility of them falling to drug abuse increases.

Future growth of economy, as low sex ratio affects fertility rates and availability of labor force.

Wastage of large share of current demographic dividend due to social obligations.

Lessons to be learnt from Haryana's transformation in sex ratio

To correct the persistence in adverse sex ratio, the need is to change the mindset and attitudes of people, especially young adults. States like Punjab and Haryana with skewed sex ratio has witnessed an improvement in the sex ratios at birth over the past decade. Government undertook many initiatives to reverse the trend focusing on attitude change, providing empowerment opportunities for females and girls.

Attitude change: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign launched from Panipat District in Haryana with a strong emphasis on mindset change through training, sensitization, awareness raising and community mobilization on ground. The key elements of the scheme include Enforcement of PC & PNDT Act, nation-wide awareness and advocacy campaign and multi-sectoral action.

Focus on girl child development: Union government launched other schemes like Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Haryana State Govt launched programmes like AapkiBetiHamariBeti to provide financial assistance for the education, empowerment of girl child.

Strict implementation of law

People's participation: Campaign like 'selfie with daughter' was launched so that parents feel pride in sharing their daughter's picture, KhapPanchayats also supported the campaign.

Female icons: Haryana girls, including Sakshi Malik, Geeta Phogat, Babita and Deepa Malik who had won laurels for the country in sports were roped in for BBBP campaign which helped the cause "tremendously".

Way Forward:

All these steps went a long way in improving the campaign. It shows that if proper environment is created the problem of low sex ratio can be tackled. There is a need to ensure that this problem of low sex ratio does not spread to other states and pro-active and pre-emptive steps must be taken for that.

2. Demographic advantage is merely a euphemism and optimist way of looking at population explosion and it offers more threats than opportunities. Critically analyze.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce demographic dividend** ***(50 words)***
2. **Analyse if demographic advantage is really an advantage and suggest some steps to create more employment opportunities** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Demographic Dividend means the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in population's age structure; when the share of working age (15-60) population is larger than rest of population.

Taking advantage of Demographic Dividend

- However, advantage is based on assumption that all the people in working age group will work. Thus, to reap the benefits of demographic advantage there must be enough jobs and working opportunity for all, otherwise this population explosion poses many threats such as abject poverty due to massive unemployment, large scale destruction due to civil unrest and great depletion of natural resources.
- Demographic advantage is thus, a more optimistic way to look at the problem of population explosion and it is critical that while a country shall plan its future development plans while keeping in mind the requirement of providing jobs and human development potential.
- Providing proper education or skills to people as per industry requirement and creating decent employment opportunities for all/most is a solution for using population growth as an opportunity. Also at same time, government shall ensure that people adopt various family planning measures to reduce any further population growth based threats.

Some of the steps that can be taken for the purpose are:

- Investments in human and physical infrastructure will need to be scaled up dramatically to promote entrepreneurship and create jobs. Investment in education is crucial for ensuring that working-age people are prepared for the demands of the economy.
- Large and sustained capital flows into India or the service industry, creating large capital surplus for deployment into infrastructure, energy and water management.
- India becoming a global-scale manufacturing hub, earning large and sustained surplus that will aid capital buildup for deployment in manufacturing and infrastructure.
- Lastly now time to implement the next generation of economic reforms to deliver efficient public services, particularly focused on long-neglected social needs related to nutrition and health services, primary and secondary schooling, quality enhancement of tertiary education, water supply and sanitation, and urban development.

Conclusion:

The economic benefits of a demographic transition do not arise automatically. With a population of over 1.3 billion people, there are many challenges facing India, including coping with the current public health emergency, creating more jobs, managing macro-economic shocks, and mitigating climate change. But India also has a hidden asset which is its young demographic profile.

3. Discuss the role of fertility as a component of population dynamics. Highlight the characteristics and limitations of various measures of fertility in India.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give brief introduction on fertility as component of population dynamics** **(40 words)**
2. **Explain in detail various measures of fertility rate** **(70 words)**
3. **Discuss the limitations of measures of fertility in India** **(90 words)**
4. **Way Forward** **(50 words)**

Hints

Fertility is the natural capability to produce offspring. Along with mortality and migration, it forms the principal determinants of population growth.

Levels of human fertility differ significantly according to economical, occupational, geographical, social and religious groups. Improvements in contraceptive techniques, increasing acceptance of abortion, and slackening of some religious and cultural traditions has in many parts of the world reduced the role of fertility.

Role of fertility as a component of population dynamics:

Fertility rate is vital component to determine the current and future population.

It determines the size and structure of the pollution of the country.

A parent's number of children strongly correlates with the number of children that each person in the next generation will eventually have.

Factors generally associated with increased fertility include intention to have children, and maternal support.

Measures of fertility:

Fertility measures are devices to compare fertility behaviour of different populations and to examine the trends in fertility of a population over a period of time.

Direct Measures:

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is one of the most commonly used measures of fertility because of its simplicity in concept and measurement. It is the ratio between the total registered live births in a population during a calendar year and the mid-year population.

Indirect Measures:

In addition to the direct measures discussed above, there are several indirect measures of fertility, which are useful particularly when data on live births are not readily available, or are not reliable. These measures arrive at estimates of fertility indirectly using data on age-sex structure, and marital status cross-classified by age and sex. Child Women Ratio and Female Mean Age at Marriage are most commonly used indirect measures. Child Women Ratio (CWR) is defined as the number of children less than five years of age, per 100 women in the reproductive ages.

Limitations:

The fertility measure is influenced by social and demographic choices for reproduction, cultural practices, and the use of contraception and infertility treatments.

Above factors make assessments of the environmental effects on fertility difficult.

Calculation of this measure assumes one has an accurate count the numbers of women of different ages in a population.

Way Forward:

India's population in the 0-19 age bracket has "already peaked due to sharp declines in total fertility rates (TFR) across the country". India will have a total fertility rate below the replacement rate in the next two years. "Projected values for 2021-41 suggest that TFR at the national level will continue to decline rapidly and will lie below replacement level fertility at 1.8 as early as 2021," according to the economic survey2018-19.

While the country is already struggling with high unemployment, the changing demography added to the challenge. It is time that the policymakers take hold of the situation.

- India has entered a 37-year period of demographic dividend, which could spell faster economic growth and higher productivity. As such, the government needs to engineer its policies to harness the opportunity.
- It must also formulate policies to take care of higher medical costs as the population ages and productivity shrinks.

As more people live away from their parents, India will also need to have an affordable social security system that provides pension to the elderly and takes care of their daily needs and medical expenses.

4. India was the first country to adopt population policy formally in 1950s, however, it took more than 50 years to proceed on the declining path of population growth. In this reference, critically examine the impact of family planning and family welfare programs on Indian society.

(250 words)

Approach

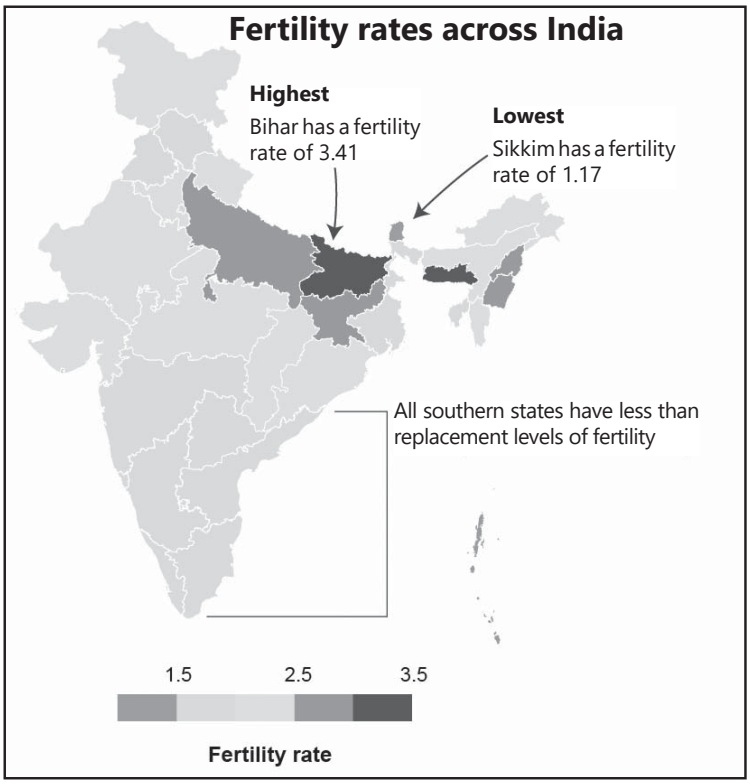
1. **Briefly introduce the booming population growth in the country after independence** ***(50 words)***
2. **Discuss in detail various family planning and welfare programmes** ***(90 words)***
3. **Explain in detail various Achievements associated with it.** ***(60 words)***
4. **Way Forward** ***(50 words)***

Hints

India's population has been growing at mind-boggling rate since 1951. It has grown from 361 million in 1951 to 121 billion in 2011. The growth rate remains more than 20% for more than three decades in spite of adoption of population policy in 1950s. This highlights the failure of India's population policy.

Criticism of Family Planning and Family Welfare programmes

- **Multiple Approaches:**



- The Government has been experimenting with a variety of approaches to provide family planning services to the people. It started with a clinical approach, switched over to the extension approach, to target-oriented approach, to selective approach, to method specific targets approach, and to decentralized area specific planning approach since 1996. Such policy changes have created confusion and indecisiveness in the minds of the field staff connected with the family welfare programme.

- **Untrained Health Workers:**
  - The health workers recruited by the Family Welfare Department are grossly ill-equipped for the difficult task assigned to them. They do not have proper training for primary health care and in particular maternal and child care for rural areas. Moreover, there is no system of feedback and interaction between health workers and their superiors stationed at the headquarters.

- **State Sponsored:**
  - The family welfare programme in India is formulated, sponsored and financed by the Central Government uniformly throughout the country. But it is implemented by the States at their district, block and village level bureaucrats. Such an indiscriminate and macro programme is counterproductive in India where there are diversities of castes, creeds, religions, customs, etc. Thus, it is not keeping with local needs and circumstances of different types of people and is counter-productive.

- **Emphasis on Quantitative Targets:**
  - As a corollary to the above, one of the main weaknesses of this state-sponsored programme has been to achieve quantitative method-specific targets of acceptors of family planning.

- **Inter-state Disparities:**
  - As the map shows, there is a clear cleavage between South India and North India. The south is blue, with fertility rates lower than the replacement rate, meaning that fewer babies are being born than people are dying – a trend that would eventually result in a declining population. The north is mostly orange or red with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar – two states that together make up a quarter of India's population – recording very high fertility rates of 2.74 and 3.41, respectively. The result: in 1951, Tamil Nadu's population was slightly higher than Bihar's. Six decades later, Bihar's population is nearly 1.5 times Tamil Nadu's. Madhya Pradesh in 1951 had 37% more people than Kerala; in 2011, it had 217% as many. The family welfare programme has failed to check inter-state disparities in respect of population growth. Rather, it has widened them.

- **Confined to Urban Areas:**
  - The propaganda of family planning has been largely confined to urban areas and that too among the educated masses. Little has been done to propagate it in States where the birth rate is very high and the majority of population is illiterate and lives in villages. As a result, backward states like Bihar, U.P., Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa have remained almost unaffected by family planning programmes, as observed above.

- **Lack of Experienced Medical Personnel:**
  - There have also been practical difficulties in the implementation of family welfare and child care programmes. Due to the lack of experienced doctors, nurses, midwives and other related staff, couples cannot be persuaded and their faith and trust cannot be won for the adoption of various family planning methods. Besides, even the quality of service has been poor. This has been one of the important factors for the failure of this programme.

- **Lack of Cheap Contraceptives:**
  - There is the lack of cheap contraceptive methods in India which may be readily adopted by couples in the reproductive age group. Family planning surveys have revealed that the majority of couples in the reproductive age group do not want more children but are reluctant to use contraceptives.
- **Decline in Vesectomies:**
  - There has been a steady and progressive decline in acceptors of vasectomy over the last decades. Presently, over 97 per cent of sterilizations are tubectomies of women.

Some of the major achievements in family welfare programme are:

- 250 million births averted from 0.4 in 1971 to 250 in 2000.
- Reduction in crude birth rate from 40.8 in 1951 to 21.0 in 2011.
- Reduction in crude death rate from 25.1 in 1951 to 8.0 in 2011.
- Decline in total fertility rate from 6 in 1951 to 2.5 in 2015.
- Increase in the expectation of life from 37 in 1951 to 67 in 2015.

The average annual growth rate of population declined from 2.22 per cent in 1971 to 2.14 per cent in 1991 and further to 1.76 per cent in the 2011 Census.

Way Forward

The National Population Policy 2000 has stated that the long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development and environment protection. However, in 2001 itself, India exceeded the estimated population for the year 2002 by 14 million, and the provisional population in 2011 is higher by about 110 million compared to the target set for the year 2010. It will no doubt be an uphill task for the government and the people to achieve the much cherished goal of a stable population.

5. Youth suicide rate in India is among the highest in the world which can be heavy cost to India's demographic dividend. Discuss its various reasons. Suggest solutions to overcome this problem.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduction** ***(40 words)***
2. **Reasons of Suicide** ***(80 words)***
3. **Steps to tackle the issue** ***(90 words)***
4. **Way Forward** ***(40 words)***

Hints

India has one of the world's highest suicide rates for youth aged 15 to 29, according to Lancet report and according to NCRB data, suicide is a leading cause of death in young people. According to the government, 60,000 young ones commit suicide annually, which is much lesser than

other independent estimates. Such high figures immediately need attention to save the future of country through understanding problems of youth and adequate resolution mechanisms in changing dynamics of market, competition and society.

Reasons of Suicide

- Youth is a vulnerable period for suicide because this is the phase of life which is associated with dramatic changes in one's self-image and aspirations, and some of the most important life decisions related to education and relationships are made. Therefore, suicide attempts in youth are often impulsive, triggered by acute disappointments such as a poor examination result or loss of a romantic relationship.
- However, depression is also a major cause of suicide and it is more gradual. Some risk factors of depression among youths are long drawn academic pressure, alcohol consumption, loss of a valued relationship, frequent change of residence, poor family patterns, youths confused about their sexual identities particularly if they have suffered harassment, etc. In some instances, there is a history of social problems precipitating a clinical depression.
- Financial issues dominate the reasons for suicide; about 70% of suicide victims in 2015 had an income of less than Rs 100,000 per annum.
- Further, it is seen that such suicides are more common in developed States. Possibly a key reason for this is the growing gap between the aspirations of educated youth and the harsh perception they have of society. For example, the will to freely choose their life partner or to live a life free of social prejudices or to choose a career of their choice does come into conflict with what the society expects.

Following steps can be taken to tackle the issue:

An open dialogue to challenge the stigma surrounding mental health like depression,mental health and wellness should be added to school curriculum. Only when children know about these disorders in their formative years then will they be able to seek help.

Buildings of life skills in schools to strengthen emotional regulation, which can help build resilience to cope with periods of loss of hope that are inevitable in the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Parenting interventions to reduce the pressures on young people to perform academically and to choose their partner.

Ensuring freedom from violence, gender discrimination, and social exclusion of youth, at least in campuses.

A campaign to ensure the safe storage of pesticides, most commonly used suicide method.

Easy access to trained personnel to deliver psychological treatments in educational institutions and health-care facilities.

Way Forward

No matter whether the suicide was impulsive or well planned, no one attempts to end their lives unless they have lost hope for their future. Hence, a well devised strategy to tackle problem of youth suicide is the need of the hour .Schools are a great place to provide more education and support on suicide prevention since students spend majority of their time at school, school can be either a haven from or a source of suicidal triggers and students' peers can heavily influence their state of mind. The school setting is an ideal environment to educate students on suicide and have support readily available.

6. Ageing populations that can topple existing insurance and pension systems strain the public health-care system and fundamentally alter disease burdens, economies and trade, and human migration." Elaborate the statement in Indian context and what are the measures that are needed to tackle this situation successfully

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by giving account of ageing population in India** ***(25 words)***
2. **Analyse if ageing population present a challenge to healthcare system** ***(100 words)***
3. **Give the methods to resolve the problem** ***(100 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Demographically India is a young nation with near half of its population 25 years or younger and near 9 percent over 60 years. Even though the proportion of India's elderly is small compared with that of developed countries, the absolute number of elderly population is on the high.

India already has the second largest elderly population in the world. Over the next three decades aged population is expected to balloon to 20 per cent or 340 million — roughly the entire population of the United States. Impact of this can be visible in form of toppling existing social security system, increased health and disease burdens, economies and trade, and human migration.

Challenge to Healthcare and Pension system

- With the rapidly increasing number of aged compounded by disintegration of joint families and ever-increasing influence of modernization and new life styles, the care of elderly has emerged as an important issue in India.
- According to NSSO, incidence of diseases as well as hospitalization rates is much higher in older people than the total population. 10% of elderly in India suffer from depression and 40-50% requires psychiatric or psychological intervention at some point. However, only less than 1% of elderly population in India has health insurance.
- Existing social security and pension system under National old age pension scheme is hugely inadequate both in amount and its coverage. Increased number of aged person will lead to its collapse.
- There is a challenge of old age income security because ability to produce and earn declines with age. The absence on savings will result in sharp declining in living standards that for many can mean destitution. 65 per cent of the elderly in India are dependent on others for their financial requirements and undergo financial crisis.

Methods to tackle ageing population in India

To prepare for this, India needs to better understand those on the cusp of being senior citizens. For this the Indian government, will be initiating the world's largest survey of the elderly called the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI), it will follow the health and socio-economic condition of 60,000 Indians over the age of 45 for at least 25 years and provide regular reports on how ageing affects Indians. Apart from this following measure would help to tackle the situation.

- We need a National Policy on Senior Citizen to comprehensively focuses on various aspects related to old age like Income security, healthcare, safety security, housing, productive aging, welfare, multigenerational bonding, etc.
- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 do not endow any obligation of establishing old age homes on the government. Government need to mandatorily provide the establishment of at least one old age home in each district by law and its maintenance. There is a need for effective legislation for parents' right to be cared for by the children. NGOs and civil society organization can be incentivizing for establishment and care in old age homes.
- There is also need for the elderly to remain active, to know that they still have a part to play in the family or community to which they belong and can make a useful co contribution to nation and society as a whole. Young Old- between the ages of 60-75 years can be productively engaged in activities like consultation to share through their experience. This will reduce financial vulnerability.
- Universal and a well-structured pension system will reduce the exclusion and enhance the coverage. There is need to cover the unorganized sector under pension scheme through promotion of scheme like Atal Pension Yojana.
- There is need to employ the DBT in various schemes for senior citizens to reduce leakage and ease of delivery.
- The existing health care systems are not sufficient to meet the physical and health needs of the ageing population such as old age security, establishing old age homes, expanding geriatric services and liberalizing the welfare policy for older persons. It is necessary to increase public awareness of the need for protection of this sub group. There is a great need to protect the target group i.e. rural old, and old women, and widows.

Conclusion:

Thus Efforts should be made to strengthen the family care, because the preferred source of support for the aged is still the family - informal system where the notion of care is embedded within a tradition of social obligations that are understood and reciprocated. The reciprocal care and support within multi-generational families of parents, grandparents and children should be encouraged. Traditional values of filial obligations can also be reinforced in school curricula and through the media.

7. India has enjoyed economic and demographic conditions that ordinarily would lead to rising female labour-force participation rates, but this is not happening in India. Enumerate the reasons. Suggest measures to increase female labour force participation in India

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by giving state of female labour force participation** ***(25 words)***
2. **Analyse why India has low female labour force participation** ***(100 words)***
3. **Suggest measures needed to increase female labour force participation** ***(100 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Despite a rapid fertility transition, broad increases in women's educational attainment, and substantial economic growth over the past two decades, the share of Indian women working has fallen over time.

According to National Sample Survey (NSS) data for India labour force participation rates of women aged 25-54 (including primary and subsidiary status) have stagnated at about 26-28% in urban areas, and fallen substantially from 57% to 44% in rural areas, between 1987 and 2011.

Why India has low female labour participation?

- India is behaving according to the feminization U hypothesis, where in the development process, female labour force participation first declines and then rises. The hypothesized mechanisms for the decline are a rising incompatibility of work and family duties as the workplace moves away from home, an income effect of the husband's earnings, and a stigma against females working outside the home (generally, or in particular sectors
- Rising household incomes and husband's education.
- It is difficult for married women with some education and children to be employed, especially if they have an educated and well-earning spouse.
- Lack of availability of agricultural and non-agricultural jobs in rural areas appears to be driving the declining participation in rural areas.
- Rapidly shrinking agricultural sector in favor of a rapidly expanding service and construction sector, mainly contributed to the declining female labour force participation.

Measures needed are:

- When comparing India with Bangladesh, one notices how an export-oriented, manufacturing-centered growth strategy has led to increasing female employment opportunities there. India can emulate this model.
- Policies will be needed to tackle the social stigma that appears to prevent particularly educated women from engaging in outside employment.
- Legal issues, like not allowing women workforce to work in night shifts and overtime, though it is for safety for women, but it discourages producers to hire them, when they want more flexibility.
- A policy framework encouraging and enabling women's participation should be constructed with active awareness of the "gender-specific" constraints that face most women.
- Gender- responsive policies need to be contextually developed.

Conclusion:

Ultimately, the goal is not merely to increase female labour force participation, but to provide opportunities for decent work that will, in turn, contribute to the economic empowerment of women

8. Though China's one-child policy has been criticized as against human dignity and rights, it has improved and controlled the nation's population by a possible 400 million people. Can we also adopt a similar approach, although not so drastic and punitive? What are various options to control population in India at present?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce referring to China's one-child policy.** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain whether a similar approach is suitable to India.** ***(70 words)***
3. **Mention various options to control the population in India at present.** ***(80 words)***
4. **Conclude** ***(50 words)***

Hints

- China's one-child policy was part of a birth planning program designed to control the size of its population. Distinct from the family planning policies of most other countries (which focus on providing contraceptive options to help women have the number of children they want), it set a limit on the number of children parents could have, the world's most extreme example of population planning.
- According to the Chinese government, 400 million births were prevented, starting from 1970, a decade before the start of the one-child policy. The one-child policy has been challenged for violating a human right to determine the size of one's own proper family. According to a 1968 proclamation of the International Conference on Human Rights, "Parents have a basic human right to determine freely and responsibly the number and the spacing of their children."
- In India, apart from economic development we also emphasis on social and political development as well. So similar adopted by China is not suitable for India where human rights are considered. India, therefore, has one of the world's highest rates of female sterilizations, with about 37% of women having the operations, compared with 29% in China, according to the UN. About 4.6 million Indian women were sterilized in 2011 and 2012, according to the government.
- Only a tiny fraction of men choose to have vasectomies. Male sterilization is viewed as culturally unacceptable in India's conservative society.

Various measures to control the population in India at present

- **Scheme for Home delivery of contraceptives by ASHAs at the doorstep of beneficiaries:** The govt. has launched a scheme to utilize the services of ASHA to deliver contraceptives at the doorstep of beneficiaries.
- **Scheme for ASHAs to ensure spacing in births:** The scheme is operational from 16th May 2012. Under this scheme, services of ASHAs are being utilized for counseling of newly married couples to ensure a delay of 2 years in birth after marriage and couples with 1 child to have a spacing of 3 years after the birth of a 1st child.

- **Pregnancy testing kits** have been made an integral part of the ASHA kit and are being used to diagnose pregnancy early, so as to ensure early registration of pregnancy/safe abortion services.
- A new family planning method, i.e. post-partum IUCD (PPIUCD) has been introduced in the program. PPIUCD services are being provided by trained health providers in government hospitals, within 48 hours after the delivery.
- Celebration of World Population Day (11th July & Fortnight): The event is observed over a month-long period, split into a fortnight of mobilization/sensitization followed by a fortnight of assured family planning service delivery and has been made a mandatory activity from 2012-13 and starts from 27th June each year.
- 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 sterilizations.
- Following strategies have been taken by Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh/National Population Stabilization Fund as population control measures:
- Advocacy & IEC activities: JSK as a part of its awareness and advocacy efforts on population stabilization have established networks and partnerships with other ministries, development partners, private sectors, corporate and professional bodies for spreading its activities at the national, state, district and block level.
- 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 the second child birth in the interest of the 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 gynecologists and vasectomy surgeons to conduct sterilization operations in Public Private Partnership mode. The private hospitals/nursing home who achieved the target to 10 or more are suitably awarded as per strategy.

Conclusion:

The family planning programs are successful to a great extent but India still has a long way to go. Family planning has always been the main emphasis in population policies adopted by the government of India. However, there is a need for more public awareness and public participation. Gender inequality, preference of sons over daughters, low standard of living, poverty, the traditional thought process of people, age-old cultural norms continue to cause poor family planning practices all across the country.

9. "Female sterilisation is the first choice for family planning in India." Discuss the major problems associated with large scale female sterilization program? Also examine the reasons behind this feature of family planning in India? What shall be done to address this issue?

(250 words)

Approach

1. Introduce by explaining why female sterilization was encouraged in India ***(75 words)***

2. **Analyse problems associated with female sterilization** ***(75 words)***
3. **Suggest measures needed to address the issue** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Why was female sterilization encouraged in India?

- **Population factor:**
  - India is the world's second most populated country with 1.27 billion people. Concerned over the growing numbers, authorities have been trying to convince Indians to have smaller families. One of the most efficient methods it discovered was via **family planning especially female sterilization.**
- In a largely male-dominated patriarchal society where **male sterilization is still not accepted socially**, with many saying it impacts a man's virility, the family planning programme has traditionally focused on women.
- Paying people a cash incentive for sterilization is against the law in many countries, but in India, state governments continue to legally pay some to undergo vasectomies and tubectomies.**so poor people become victims for this.**

Problems associated with female sterilization:-

- **Women sterilization is a complicated process** - several instances of women dying at sterilization camps due to medical negligence. In contrast, male sterilization is a cheaper and less risky procedure.
- **Days of target-driven, mass sterilization drives for population control are over**. The fertility rate and the rate of population growth have been falling. Hence, there is no longer an urgent need for sterilization programmes to control population. Instead, the government should focus on providing better choices for family planning.
- The action will only lead to **social issues** -gender imbalances that we see in China (single child policy) and Northern India (female foeticide). Addressing these problems will be an issue that is worse than the issues posed by population growth. Unthinking resort to tubectomies for population control also ignores the evidence from some developed States in India that women's empowerment through education and employment brings down fertility, without sacrificing choice.
- **Many women are forced by their husbands to undergo sterilization** for government incentives and benefits.
- In the sterilization drive **targets are given more importance than the health of the patient.** Sometimes surgeons are not even properly qualified and **there's no proper post-surgical care.**
- There have been instances of **mass deaths during female sterilization in Madhya Pradesh** especially in tribals. The Supreme Court criticized the center that this attitude is a way infringes on the reproductive freedoms of the most vulnerable groups of society whose economic and social conditions make them easy targets to coercion.

What can be done to address this issue?

- In the recent draft national policy for women **there is a move proposed to move towards male sterilization.** The policy change is a progressive step to support the reproductive responsibility of women.
- The **Supreme Court's order** directing the Centre to ask States to end the oppressive practice of sterilizing women in large camps is a **timely reminder that the country must urgently adopt a rights-based health policy.**
- Empowerment of women through **full opportunity in education and employment, and access to all contraception options should be central to national policies.**

10. India's problem of gender imbalance is deepening, with virtually all corners of the country now affected by a skewed sex ratio at birth. Critically examine the causes and implications of skewed sex ratio in India.

(200 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce the prevailing sex ratio problem of India** ***(40 words)***
2. **List the reason for the problem** ***(60 words)***
3. **Elaborate on the implications of the problem** ***(80 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(20 words)***

Hints

The problem of a skewed sex ratio at birth is not entirely new in India but it has spread and grown over time. According to government report,the sex ratio has been consistently decreasing since 1991.**From 933 in 2011(census), it is expected to dip to 898 girls for 1000 boys by 2031 (Ministry of statistic and implementation report).**Ideal sex ratio at birth is 960 female live births per 1,000 male live births

As per Global Gender Parity Report (2017), India ranks 108 out of 144 countries on the Gender Gap Index. Haryana and Punjab lead the 'daughter deficit' with 834 and 846 girls for 1,000 boys, respectively. The prevailing sex ratio among wealthy urbanites is worse than poor rural dwellers.

The causes of skewed sex ratio are:

- **Meta preference for sons**: There exists a high preference in Indian society for sons. Daughters have been considered as burden and liability. Even the recently released Economic Survey pointed towards this troubling trend, where families with girls keep having children till they have a male.
- **Availability of latest technology**: This preference combined with focus on family planning, availability of latest technology facilitating sex identification and abortion, failure in stringent application of PCPNDT act all have resulted into increased cases of female foeticide.

- **Socio-economic conditions**: Along with this the socio-economic conditions are also the reasons behind this. In economically poor families there is absence of family planning tools. In such families the discrimination in child care and nutrition leads to increased cases of female infanticide.
- **Absence of women in decision making**: Absence of women in decision making circles results into their voices being ignored. Women advice are not solicited or ignored in families and societies. They are forced to carry on foeticide against their choice. At higher levels in political circles and police & administration these issues are hushed up because of absence of will to strongly enforce the provisions of the laws.
- **Gender inequality in India**: Economic opportunities available to women are very few as compared to men and it was reflected in UNDP's GII (Gender Inequality Index) 2012 in which India was ranked at 132 out of 148 countries. This creates an environment of disabilities for women and effects their overall empowerment. These further result into discrimination and events of female foeticide and infanticide.
- **Instances of sexual harassment and associated law & order problems:** Women are generally considered as weaker sex and their security has always been a concern for family. During historic times Rajputs and Maratha families started the practice of female infanticide and jauhar to protect the dignity of women. Increased cases of rapes and sexual harassment leads to economic disempowerment of women and which further results into them being disfavored by parents.
- **Decline in moral and ethical standards**: There has been a decline in the moral and ethical standards as individuals and families have failed to consider the rights of the girl child and the overall benefits that females bring to society, whereas individual or family interests have been promoted. It is also the violation of hypocritic oath by physicians when they do sex selective abortion.

Implications of skewed sex ratio:

- An extension of missing girls translates into missing women from the workforce and their absence in leadership roles.
  - Ensuring the full development and appropriate deployment of half of the world's total talent pool has a vast bearing on the growth, competitiveness and future-readiness of economies and businesses worldwide.
- Issue of gender parity: Gender parity is fundamental to whether and how economies and societies thrive.
- Effect on crime: As per research, districts with higher proportion of females actually have lower murder rates.
- High sex ratios lead to higher savings rate, current account surplus and lower exchange rates.
  - The hypothesis here is that men raise their savings rate to improve their relative standing in the marriage market. High sex ratios have actually stimulated economic growth in China by inducing more entrepreneurship and hard work ·
- High sex ratio increases female bargaining power in the marriage market, shifting resources and family structures in ways that favour women.
- The preference for male children remains an acute cause for concern for policymakers
- To address the problem, successive governments have initiated schemes and programme targeting social mentality and encouraging girl child. Betibachao, betipadhao is one of the most recent initiatives by the current government.

Many reports and researches have claimed that the situation has improved in India but only the upcoming census in 2021 will give a more definitive measure of the improvements. But in a country where the trend for the last 50 years has been a steady decline in the ratio of girl children, even a marginal improvement from the status quo would be significant.

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NOTES

SET-4: QUESTIONS

POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES

Q1. Why the Civil Society interventions in India for development need to be increased? Discuss whether the Civil Societies can be described as "development alternatives"

Q2. Critically evaluate the policies adopted by government during the planning period for alleviation of poverty

Q3. Child labour is a moral indictment on the modern India. Assess the reasons why have we failed to eliminate child labour in India?

Q4. Farm-based livelihood continue to support a significant share of the rural population, whose needs and constraints have not been addressed even after six decades of developmental planning. Explain.

Q5. Idea of Universal Basic Income has gained traction in many countries across the world in recent. Can universal basic income address the problem of poverty in India? Critically examine.

Q6. "Poverty in India is not merely a problem, but a source of most problems". Critically analyze

Q7. "Growing economic disparities in urban setup of India leads to class stratification and a sense of relative poverty." Critically analyse the above statement

Q8. Though India is pursuing poverty elimination programmes for more than 40 years, yet it is the home to largest number of poor in the world. Identify the major causes of poverty in India and review the impact of major poverty eliminations programmes. What next need to be done to eradicate the poverty from India?

Q9. "Despite poverty and underdevelopment, literacy and human development index of north eastern Indian states are above than national average." Elucidate

Q10. The PDS system in India is meant as a major social protection net. Discuss the working of the PDS system and examine why it failed to be an effective poverty alleviation tool?

SET-4: ANSWERS

1. Why the Civil Society interventions in India for development need to be increased? Discuss whether the Civil Societies can be described as "development alternatives"

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by giving account of need for Civil society** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain characteristics of civil society and how it impacts development** ***(75 words)***
3. **Explain challenges associated with Civil society** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Optimal development requires the harnessing of a country's assets, its capital, human and natural resources to meet demand from its population as comprehensively as possible. The state plays a very important role in the development process of the nation through its implementation hand, i.e., bureaucracy, but Indian bureaucracy is known for red tape, inefficiency and corruption. Therefore, Civil Society can fill the gap between government institutions and people. It can encourage people, it can speed up government agencies, it can create pressure for transparency and accountability, etc.

Characteristics of civil society and impact on development

Civil Society intervention may create right kind of reality check and generate pressure for delivering development commitments. Civil Society can give voice and expression to people's aspiration seeking sections. They can also mobilize favorable public opinion on government reform policies and programmes, which would go a long way in smooth implementation.

- Civil society can make people aware about their rights and duties and thus make democracy stronger by their participation.
- The civil societies can influence main-stream development in the following ways:
- Encouraging official aid agencies and government ministries to adopt successful approaches developed within the voluntary sector;
- Educating and sensitizing the public regarding their rights and entitlements under state programs;

- Attuning official programs to public needs by acting as a conduit for public opinion and local experience;
- Operational collaboration with official bodies;
- Influencing local development policies of national and international institutions; and
- Helping government in designing a more effective development strategy through strengthening institutions, staff training and improving management capacity.

Challenges associated with Civil Society

- However, there are several problems crippling the Civil Societies. Ideally Civil Society should be apolitical. But in practice, these groups often side with certain political group or ideology. Civil Society is often led by vested interests.
- The Civil Society intervention often leads to delay in project implementation due to obduracy and irrational protests. These societies are often less prepared for reconciliation. As far as supplementing government's development efforts are concerned, despite their goodwill the civil societies lack proper human resources and sufficient funds.
- Further the question arises, whether civil societies can be equated as development agencies which can supplement and not supplant government. The dictionary defines "alternative" as meaning "either of two or more possible courses; ...mutually exclusive."
- The population of any country does not have a choice between the development model offered by government and that by civil societies. Civil societies can play an important role in helping certain population groups, or filling in the gaps in state services, or in pressing for a change in the national development strategy, but they do not offer realistic alternative pathways. Their innovations may test out new approaches, but these only become sustainable or of significant scale if they influence national development. Therefore, to describe them as development alternatives is a narrow view.

Conclusion:

Civil societies are although not elected by people unlike governments; they also represent people's aspirations and fill up the gap in government's development initiatives. We need civil societies because it will protect the basic human needs. The rights of the minority, depressed class along with individual rights of freedom, liberty are protected duly by civil society. Further, civil society has a great role in stopping the majoritarian tendencies and protecting the spirit of diversity in India.

2. Critically evaluate the policies adopted by government during the planning period for alleviation of poverty

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give introduction of 5 year plans in India since 1951** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain poverty alleviation policies through different periods** ***(75 words)***
3. **Examine the impact of these policies** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

The Five-Year Plans initiated since 1951 provided the basic framework for the economic development strategy of the country. Accounting for about half of the capital formation in the economy, the government sector directly played a major role in the production process of the country for several decades.

Overtime the government's approach has evolved through three policy paradigms for reduction of poverty since independence. The first entails pursuit of higher economic growth which will improve the levels of living of all groups of people in the society including the poor, the second involves direct anti-poverty programmes and the third has stressed high priority to government expenditure on social sectors.

Poverty Alleviation Policies through Different Periods

Between 1951 and the 1960: In 1951, 47 per cent of India's rural population was below the poverty line. The proportion came down to 45 per cent in 1960-61, i.e., by the end of second plan period.

1961-1977: However, dynamics shifted after that due to 1962 China war and 1965 Pakistan war, which weakened India strategically and economically and as a result focus shifted from first approach to second approach by the end of decade. Similarly the public sector, which was important, adopted central stage and due to this restructuring by 1977-78, Poverty went up again to 51 per cent.

1977 to 1990: From 1977 onwards the economy was allowed to ease-up with sustained reforms and income poverty declined significantly between the mid-1970s and the end of the 1980s. The decline was more pronounced between 1977-78 and 1986-87, with rural income poverty declining from 51 per cent to 39 per cent. It went down further to 34 per cent by 1989-90. Urban income poverty went down from 41 per cent in 1977-78 to 34 per cent in 1986-87, and further to 33 per cent in 1989-90.

Impact of policies

- Thus, from this experience it is clear that while overall economic development with focus on employment generation has worked, redistribution has not succeeded to that extent.
- There is a strong correlation between economic growth and poverty decline, with exception of few transition years. Thus, the focus shall be on increasing the size of bread instead of a sustained focus on poverty alleviation itself.
- However, the state has to engage in social welfare programs for poorest of poor as the vulnerable section of society can't be left on the mercy of the market mechanism totally.
- It is also clear from India's experience that poverty can be tackled and reduced through employment, while hunger related deaths can be prevented by welfare programs. Thus, any policy should have a mix of objectives; in the short-run focus shall be on welfare of most vulnerable sections of society, while in the long-run the focus shall be on asset generation and employment creation.

Conclusion:

'Poverty is a multi-dimensional problem having its economics, politics, sociology and even a culture. The complex nature of poverty in India may be related with the vulnerability, natural adversities, shocks and uncertainties coupled with inequality and unemployment. It is resulting in uninsured risks of its citizen. Thus Plans to reduce poverty levels and bridge the gaps in distribution of wealth have been a part of the Government's policy since India got its independence.

3. Child labour is a moral indictment on the modern India. Assess the reasons why have we failed to eliminate child labour in India?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by giving account of measures taken to address child labour** ***(75 words)***
2. **Examine the limitations of these steps** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

A number of policy initiatives and programmes have been undertaken in this country over the last decade with the basica objective of dealing with the problem of the rapidly increasing number of child workers. The formulation of a new National Child Labour Policy, the enactment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the setting up of a Task Force on child labour, the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and so on, but all such actions have consistently failed in eliminating worst form of slavery in modern times.

Limitations of Various Initiatives

The approach has been mostly technical, with a little sensitivity shown by bureaucrats and officials to the issue. Similarly, the exclusive focus on Children working in hazardous occupation is lop-sided and leaves the majority of other children outside the ambit of law. The corruption in police system is also responsible for widely prevalent child trafficking and the same is operating as organized industry without much fear. Similarly, at times children rescued from such groups are forced to rejoin them as there is very little focus on rehabilitation of such children and they are left hungry and homeless.

Some of the key reasons for failure can be summarized as follows:

- **Poverty:** Poverty has a strong positive correlation with child labour and often considered its root cause. Thus, until substantial numbers of people are not brought above poverty line, there is little, government can do though legal system.
- **Poor Legal Implementation of Existing Laws:** While child labour can't be tackled until poverty is addressed, legal enforcement against people employing children in hazardous activities, bondage labour, and sexual slavery is must. However, even this worst form of crime is not fully controlled.
- **Involvement of Families:** In most cases children are working under economic compulsion and silent acceptance of families. Sometimes they are even sold into slavery and bondage. Thus, legal protection is negligible as legal authorities don't even get to know about it most of the times.
- Poverty is one of the important factors for this problem. Hence, enforcement alone cannot help solve it. The Government has been laying a lot of emphasis on the rehabilitation of these children and on improving the economic conditions of their families. According to Kailash Satyarthi - poverty must not be used as an excuse to continue child labour. It perpetuates poverty. If children are deprived of education, they remain poor. He had

founded the Bachpan Bachao Andolan, in 1980, to fight child labour by creating domestic and international consumer resistance to products made by bonded children, as well as with direct legal and advocacy work. His big achievements include the promotion of a consumer awareness campaign in Europe and the US aimed at dissuading consumers from buying carpets made by child labourers and simultaneously endorsing goods produced without exploiting children.

- Many NGOs like CARE India, Child Rights and You, Global March Against Child Labour, etc., have been working to eradicate child labour in India.

Conclusion:

Child labour can be stopped when knowledge is translated into legislation and action. Focus on rehabilitation; vocational training; Public education; Economic opportunities for poor families is the best possible way of dealing with child labour.

4. Farm-based livelihood continue to support a significant share of the rural population, whose needs and constraints have not been addressed even after six decades of developmental planning. Explain.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce role of agriculture in economy** ***(75 words)***
2. **Explain key issues facing agricultural sector** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in the Indian economy. Although its contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) is now around one sixth, it provides employment to 56 per cent of the Indian workforce. But the agriculture sector in India faces many challenges. The central issue in agricultural development is the necessity to improve productivity, generate employment and provide a source of income to the poor segments of population. Studies by FAO have shown that small farms in developing countries contribute around 30-35% to the total agricultural output. But the pace of adoption of modern technology in India is slow and the farming practices are too haphazard and unscientific.

The key issues in sustaining farm livelihoods are:

- **Outdated agricultural techniques:** A large majority of farmers keep to farming for raising food grains for their subsistence and therefore they do not produce for selling in the market. Most of the Indian farmers continue to use outdated agricultural techniques. Wooden ploughs and bullocks are still used by a majority of farmers. Use of fertilizer and new high-yielding variety (H.Y.V) of seeds is also extremely limited. In summary, Indian agriculture is traditional, therefore, productivity is low. The low productivity leads to less profits to farmers thus reduces livelihood prospects for them.

- **Lack of irrigation facilities:** Despite considerable efforts in bringing more area under irrigation, only 1/3rd of the total cultivated area is provided with irrigation facilities. Obviously, the rest of the area has to depend on rainfall. Even in the case of irrigated area optimum use of water is not made on account of non-availability of suitable water channel sprinklers.
- **Lack of adequate finance:** Financial facilities are utterly inadequate so that the farmer has to depend on the village money lender who charges exorbitant rates. More over the institutional credit covered barely 6.4% of it. In such a state productivity cannot be significant.
- **Increasing cost of cultivation:** The cost of cultivation for both labour and non-labour inputs has been rising steadily. But the national MSP failed to rise fast enough to compensate farmers for increased cultivation costs. Thus farmers are exposed to market price volatility thus affecting their livelihoods.
- **Land:** Land is the most important rural asset but due to poor land records and ownership rights over land the people are not able to lease, buy, sell and leverage land. This encouraged unrecorded tenancies which affect marginal & small farmers livelihoods tremendously due to insecurity and leave them without institutional support such as credit or subsidies. Further, industrialization, infrastructure development and urbanization have also increased demands on land. The new ordinance in land Acquisition Act brought the livelihoods of farmers at stake as it excluded range of projects from the condition of getting consent from the farmers.
- **Crop failure:** The crop failures are not compensated by appropriate National agriculture insurance for individual farmers. Lack of infrastructure facilities like rural godowns, post-harvest management facilities, some special needs of storage and credit for the produces are the factors compelling the farmers to sell off their produces at throw away prices at the time of harvest. At this time big corporations and supermarket chain companies buy produces at very low market prices and release them in the consumer market at very high price. Such companies have all the facilities of storage, processing, quality control, etc. Interestingly, 60% of the consumers are farmers themselves who are paying high prices on the market, which are not reaching their fellow farmer pockets, but to the companies and middlemen.
- **Presence of a Large Number of Middlemen:** The chain of middlemen in the agricultural marketing is so large that the share of farmers is reduced substantially. For instance, a study of D.D. Sidhan revealed, that farmers obtain only about 53% of the price of rice, 31% being the share of middle men (the remaining 16% being the marketing cost). In the case of vegetables and fruits the share was even less, 39% in the former case and 34% in the latter. The share of middle- men in the case of vegetables was 29.5% and in the case of fruits was 46.5%. Some of the intermediaries in the agricultural marketing system are village traders, Kutcha arhatiyas, pucca arhatiyas, brokers, wholesalers, retailers, money lenders, etc.

Conclusion:

Thus rejuvenating livelihood of the workforce needs to be made central to the inclusive growth endeavour. Transforming a country's agriculture sector can create jobs, raise incomes, reduce malnutrition, and kick-start the economy on a path to growth. In fact, almost every industrialized nation began its economic ascent with an agricultural transformation.

5. Idea of Universal Basic Income has gained traction in many countries across the world in recent. Can universal basic income address the problem of poverty in India? Critically examine.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give brief Introduction about the Universal basic Income** *(40 words)*
2. **Explain in detail Reasons of failure of poverty alleviation schemes** *(60 words)*
3. **Discuss Universal basic income and its benefits** *(70 words)*
4. **Criticism** *(50 words)*
5. **Way Forward** *(30 words)*

Hints

Though India has 3rd largest GDP in PPP terms but still 22% of its population lives below poverty line. Despite a plethora of policies and programmes for poverty alleviation the issue of poverty remains.

There are various reasons why the poverty alleviation programmes have not succeeded, like:

Poor targeting of beneficiaries resulting in errors of exclusion.

Misallocation of resources across districts

Present poverty alleviation programmes suffer from universalization of factors causing poverty and do not consider the different reasons of poverty for different sets of population.

High levels of corruption and leakages under PDS scheme divert nearly 40% of the ration and the poor must buy from market.

High administrative costs with nearly no ground results.

In this background, the idea of Universal Basic Income (UBI) appears most feasible. UBI requires that every person should have a right to a basic income to cover their needs, just by being citizens. It has three components: universality, unconditionality, and agency (by providing support in the form of cash transfers to respect, not dictate, recipients' choices).

What will be the benefits of UBI?

- UBI strengthens economic liberty at an individual level. This would help them to choose the kind of work they want to do, rather than forcing them to do unproductive work to meet their daily requirements.
- UBI is easy to implement. Because of its universal character, there is no need to identify the beneficiaries. Thus it excludes errors in identifying the intended beneficiaries – which is a common problem in targeted welfare schemes.
- It promotes efficiency by reducing waste in government transfers as every individual will receive a basic income that in turn would lead to minimizing levels of corruption.

UBI is also, paradoxically, more feasible in a country like India, where it can be pegged at relatively low levels of income but still yield immense welfare gains.

UBI could promote greater productivity. For example, agriculture labourers who own small patch of land and earlier used to work in others' farm for low wages, can now undertake farming on their own land. In long term, this will reduce the percentage of unused land and helps in increasing agriculture productivity.

It will provide psychological benefits to poor and they will think beyond survival.

Apart from these direct benefits it will help indirectly by increasing financial inclusion, allowing government administrative machinery to focus on developmental issues, providing poor greater say in labor market etc.

Though, the idea of UBI appears viable to tackle the problem of poverty, by directly attacking it, its implementation face various challenges which dent the benefits accruing from UBI.

Challenges

Constrained Resource capacity of the state to implement such an ambitious scheme.

The disincentive for middle class and rich to work and pay tax because they are being taxed to provide doles to poor

Absence of universal financial inclusion

Possibility of poor to use resources for consumptive needs

The moral hazard of people not working when their needs are fulfilled by state

The manner of implementation will be incremental, sectoral or universal etc. to be decided.

Way Forward

Though these are valid concerns, but all of them do not stand against such scheme.

Controlled trials of government cash transfer programs in 6 developing countries {Honduras, Morocco, Mexico, Philippines, Indonesia and Nicaragua where cash transfer formed between 4 percent (Honduras) and 20 percent (Morocco) of household consumption.} find no significant reduction in labor supply (inside and outside the household) for men or women from the provision of cash transfers. Similar results were obtained from trials in Indian villages from state of Madhya Pradesh.

NSSO 2011-12 data shows that the consumption goods form a smaller share of overall budget/ consumption as overall consumption increases. This provides an indication that an increase in income from UBI alone will not necessarily lead to an increase in temptation goods consumption.

UBI in fact will recognize non-wage work by individuals like housewife.

Government is already providing large subsidies to the well off. By eliminating those subsidies government can create financial space for such initiative.

Therefore, it can be argued that UBI can be a very useful tool for reforming the welfare programmes of the government and a call for UBI must be taken after consultation with all the stakeholders.

6. "Poverty in India is not merely a problem, but a source of most problems". Critically analyze

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by giving idea about state of poverty in India** ***(25 words)***
2. **Analyse how poverty is a problem and source of most problems** ***(200 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

As per headcount, India is home two most number of poor people on earth, in terms of proportion. According to Rangarajan report of 2014, 29.5% of the population is poor. Any society with such a large population living under poverty line and getting sub-par nutrition can't be considered stable.

Poverty as a problem and a source of problems

- There are always threats of instability arising out of poverty as poverty breeds many problems, some of the most important among them are increased crime, human trafficking, and civic unrest.
- At present India is facing all such problems at various levels, wherein crime levels have increased, the human trafficking is also rampant and particularly the poor are most vulnerable. Similarly, the civic unrest is also present in form of various civil society movements and naxal movement by those, who have lost hope of justice from state.

Similarly, apart from these critical law and order issues, other important concerns are:

- Migration to cities and stress on urban infrastructure, increasing slums which are a breeding ground of health epidemics and delinquency.
- Poverty is breeding ground of Regionalism, communalism, caste conflicts as frustration among people finds outlet through such means.
- Hunger and malnutrition which further affect learning and working efficiency.

- The effects of poverty are most often interrelated so that one problem hardly ever occurs alone. For instance, bad sanitation makes it easier to spread around old and new diseases, and hunger and lack of water make people more vulnerable to them.
- Thus, poverty is often called a vicious cycle. The causes are poverty are further strengthened by it and makes it imperative for a third party (State of NGOs) to intervene and break the vicious cycle. While issues causing poverty are addressed, issues caused by poverty would also be automatically addressed. For example, if government addresses the issue of unemployment to address poverty, it would have far reaching impact on the region and law and order would also improve, which will boost local businesses and would further generate employment, i.e., start a reverse circle.

Conclusion:

Poverty has certainly declined in India. But despite the progress, poverty reduction remains India's most compelling challenge. Wide disparities in poverty are visible between rural and urban areas and among different state. Certain groups are more vulnerable to poverty. Poverty reduction is expected to make better progress in coming years. This would be possible mainly due to higher economic growth, increasing stress on universal free elementary education, declining population growth, increasing empowerment of the women and the economically weaker sections of society

7. "Growing economic disparities in urban setup of India leads to class stratification and a sense of relative poverty." Critically analyse the above statement

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining economic inequality in urban set up** ***(25 words)***
2. **Explain the result of growing inequalities in urban set up.** ***(100 words)***
3. **List down few root causes of inequalities and ways to combat it.** ***(100 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Economic inequality refers to a skewed distribution of wages, income and/or capital. Economic inequality is the same as relative poverty, not absolute poverty. In the case of absolute poverty the 'gap', in terms of income, wage or wealth, between one person or one group and the other is irrelevant. Instead, the emphasis is on whether someone is above or below as a minimum level of income, wage or wealth.

Urban-economic inequality is increasing day by day and it needs to be combated. There are many forms of urban inequality such as poverty, segregation and injustice. Also Urban Inequality is not homogeneously distributed between and within cities over space. It shows traces of spatial concentration.

Growing inequality leads to

- Less economic growth and less welfare.
- Decrease in the faith in politics
- Smooth social mobility
- Lead to undemocratic power concentrations
- Decrease social cohesion
- Increase health problems etc.

Impact of Urban Economic Disparity

The widening income gap has fuelled a class-based social disconnect that has produced inequitable results.

- **Inequality in Life Situations -** In much of the world, the accident of where a person is born continues to determine her life chances. There is rapidly growing inequality between and within nations, which continue to block chances for billions of the world's poor people to improve their life situations. Children and grandchildren of the rich will largely replace their parents and grandparents in the steep economic ladder, as much as children and grandchildren of the poor will remain impoverished, regardless of their potential and hard work.
- **Inequality of Wealth -** India today is home to the third largest numbers of dollar billionaires in the world but, at the same time, harbors within its borders a third of the world's poor and hungry
- **The inequality of education -** Now, your family income matters more than your own abilities Smart poor kids are less likely to graduate from college now than rich kids. That's not because of the schools that are because of all the advantages that are available to rich kids.

- **Political Inequality -** Economic inequality also feeds the political one, driving everything from the actions of our political representatives to the quality and quantity of civic engagement, such as voting and community-based public service.

Root causes of the inequalities

- **Free Market Policy -** the insistence that economic growth requires reduced government interventions, and further freeing up markets. It opposes public investments in education, nutrition and health, and progressive taxation, and demands dilutions of labour protections and acquisition of people's lands and forests, all of which further fuel inequality.
- **Power with Economic Elites -** Economic elites buy political clout, which in turn purchases tax exemptions, land concessions, cheap credit, and subsidies on electricity and water. In India, tax exemptions to corporate India in every recent budget of around five lakh crore rupees could substantially finance India's education, nutrition and health care gaps.

How to contain the Economic disparity?

The ways to dam the surging tides of inequality are

- Raising and enforcing statutory wages
- Expanding taxation of the rich
- Enhancing public investments in education, health and the small farm agriculture
- Enlarging social protection for the aged, infirm and disabled
- Enhancing maternity and child benefits
- Protecting indigenous and socially disadvantaged groups
- Ensuring water, sanitation and basic utilities to the rural poor and urban slums, and protecting the rights of workers.

Conclusion:

Urban inequality is the most common development and management problem in developing countries like India. The most demanding challenges is the task of adequately feeding, educating, housing and employing a large and rapidly growing number of under-nourished, semi-literate, semi-skilled, underemployed and impoverished city dwellers who are living on pavements, unhygienic slums and inadequate settlements. This requires a huge political will, investments, skills training and education to uplift the urban poor and provide them their basic right to live a dignified life with basic amenities.

8. Though India is pursuing poverty elimination programmes for more than 40 years, yet it is the home to largest number of poor in the world. Identify the major causes of poverty in India and review the impact of major poverty eliminations programmes. What next need to be done to eradicate the poverty from India?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining poverty and poverty estimates in India** ***(25 words)***
2. **Examine the causes behind poverty in India** ***(100 words)***

3. **Review the poverty elimination programmes** ***(50 words)***
4. **Suggest measures for poverty eradication** ***(50 words)***
5. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

In India poverty is defined on basis of poverty line which currently include consumables as well as other expenditure like clothes, education, fuel etc. to fulfill basic needs of life. As per Tendulkar Committee report India still has 21.9% of population below poverty line even after adoption of various poverty elimination programmes since 1970s.

The major causes of poverty in India are:

- **Social causes**: social structure which includes caste and class divide has always been responsible for rural poverty. 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.The rural people spend a large percentage of annual earnings on social ceremonies like marriage, death feast etc. As a result, they remain in debt and poverty. Apart from it lack education facility especially in rural areas and investment in human resource deprived the masses from economic choices and opportunities.
- **Economic causes**: Low agricultural productivity, Unequal distribution of land and other assets, decline of village industries, Immobility of labour from agriculture and lack of employment opportunities in manufacturing sector remains the dominant cause ofpoverty of masses.
- **Demographic causes**: it includes the rapid growth of population. The growth of population exceeds the rate of growth in national income. Population growth not only creates difficulties in the removal of poverty but also lowers the per capita income which tends to increase poverty.
- **Climatic factors**: Climatic conditions constitute an important cause of poverty. 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. Moreover, absence of timely rain, excessive or deficient rain affect severely country's agricultural production

India started poverty elimination programme with direct focus since 1970s with programmes which include self-employment programme, wage employment programme, food security programme, social security programmes and urban poverty elimination programmes yet 27 crore people still lives under poverty.

Review of Poverty elimination Programmes:

- Integrated Rural Development Program(IRDP): This program was first introduced in 1978-79 in some selected areas, but covered all the areas by November 1980. During the sixth five-year plan (1980-85) assets worth 47.6 billion rupees were distributed to about 16.6 million poor families. During 1987-88, another 4.2 million families were assisted with an average investment of 4,471 per family or 19 billion rupees overall. The progamme initiated the focused approach toward poverty alleviation.

- Other Programmes like Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched to promote additional wage and employment in villages and thereby provide food security and raise nutritional level.
- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana: This scheme aimed at creating housing for everyone. It was initiated in 1985. It aimed at creating 20 lakh housing units out of which 13 lakhs were in rural area. This scheme also would give out loans to people at subsidized rates to make houses.
- MNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme): This scheme guarantees 100 days now 150 days of paid work to people in the rural areas. The scheme has proved to be a major boost in Indian rural population's income.

Measures to eradicate poverty from India:

- **Distribution Justice**: the problem of poverty is not just a problem of GNI growth but also the distribution. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said India is a rich country of poor people. 60% of country wealth is held by 1% of richest people. Thus, a targeted redistribution of resources is required.
- **Speedy Development of Infrastructure**: An important measure to generate employment opportunities for the poor and to raise their productivity is the speedy development of infrastructure. Since private sector is not attracted to make adequate investment in infrastructure, public investment needs to be stepped up for its development. Infrastructure development consists of building of roads, highways, ports, telecommunication, power and irrigation. They involve mainly construction work which is highly labour intensive.
- **Accelerating Human Resource Development**: Human resource development requires greater investment in educational facilities such as schools to promote literacy, technical training institutes and vocational colleges to import skills to the people. Further, human resource development requires health care by public investment in Primary Health Centers, dispensaries and hospitals. This human resource development not only generates a good deal of employment opportunities but also raises productivity and income of the poor. Further, people equipped with skills, education and good health can easily get wage employment or self-employment with higher productivity.
- **Growth of Non-Farm Employment**: For reduction of poverty growth of non-farm employment in the rural areas is of special importance. Non-farm employment is created in marketing (i.e., petty trade), transportation, handicrafts, dairying, and forestry, processing of food and other agricultural products, repair workshops.
- **Access to Credit:** Availability of credit to the poor on easy terms can create the conditions for small farmers gaining access to productive resources such as HYV seeds fertilizers, construction of minor irrigation such as wells and tube wells. This will enable the small farmers to adopt high- yielding technology to raise their productivity.
- **Agricultural Growth**: Agricultural growth has been recognized as an important factor that contributes to marked reduction in poverty. A study made by Montek Ahluwalia, former member of Planning Commission, brought clearly that agricultural growth and poverty are inversely related; the higher agricultural growth leads to lower poverty ratio. The experience of Punjab and Haryana in the late sixties and in the seventies confirmed this inverse relation between agriculture growth and poverty.

Conclusion:

There has been a noticeable decrease in the head count ratio of poverty i.e. from 55% in 1973 to about 21.9% presently. However, the absolute number has reduced only slightly. India is still home to 1/5th of world's poor people, about 300 million people. Apart from these measures Land reforms, controlling population growth, elimination of black money, reforms in PDS, strengthening of programmes like MNREGS through digital platform for fund transfer etc are needed.

9. "Despite poverty and underdevelopment, literacy and human development index of north eastern Indian states are above than national average." Elucidate

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly give an introduction about the state of education, human development, geographical complexity and lack of infrastructure in north-eastern states.** ***(75words)***
2. **Give Reasons for better literacy rate in North-East India** ***(75 words)***
3. **Explain Gaps in policy implementation** ***(25 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(75words)***

Hints

Introduction:

North-eastern India is one of the most underdeveloped regions of India in terms of infrastructure development and connectivity due to difficult terrain and relief. It consists of series of hills such as Abhor, Mismi, Patkai Bum, and Naga Hills etc. which are continuation of Himalayan ranges and Garo, Khasi and Jantia which are continuation of peninsular block. Despite these odd factors, Human Development Indices of all of the north-eastern states are higher than national average of 0.64. Literacy rate of these states is one of the factors of better human development index as almost all the states of north-east India has literacy rate higher than national average of 74.04% except Assam (73.18%) and Arunachal Pradesh (66.95%).

Reasons for better literacy rate of North-East India

- Percentage of habitations and rural population having access to primary and upper primary schooling facilities within a distance of 1 & 3 km are the basic indicators of access. Except Arunachal Pradesh, all the habitations of north-eastern states have access to primary school within 1 Km distance. Some schools are within habitations too.
- In Assam and Tripura, more than 85 per cent of the total habitations are provided upper primary schools with in a distance of 3 km. which is above the national diverge.
- Except Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, all the states having upper primary schools within 3 Km of their habitation.

- Apart from government run schools, there are large number of private educational institutions and non-formal education centers are running across north-eastern states.
- Another important reason for high literacy rate in these states is subsidy provided on books and uniform by government. In Arunachal and Assam, more than 70 per cent of students were receiving free or subsidized books which is far above the national average of 25.6 per cent.
- Women in north-eastern states are more empowered than other states. State like Meghalaya has matrilineal society. This gender equality has improved average literacy rate in these states.

Gaps in policy implementation whose effective implementation can better the enrolment

- Schemes like Mid-day meal have not been properly implemented in north-eastern states. Better implementation of this scheme will attract more students to schools.
- Teacher-Pupil ration in north-eastern states particularly Assam and Meghalaya is very low which should be maintained according to Right to Education Act.

Conclusion:

The north-east region has remained isolated from the rest of the country because of its location and terrain and has failed to secure equal benefits in the process of development. This has resulted into social-political disturbances and unrest for a few years. While the region has a lower level of industrial and economic development, it has abundant forest resources. Despite being primitive societies and lack of infrastructure almost all states have better literacy rate except Assam and Arunachal Pradesh than national average. Apart from it, state of female literacy in these states is also comparatively better than other parts of India. These analytics is better from India's domestic and international obligations as improvement has been reflected in better human development indices of these states.

10. The PDS system in India is meant as a major social protection net. Discuss the working of the PDS system and examine why it failed to be an effective poverty alleviation tool?

(150 words)

Approach

1. **Give a brief introduction about the PDS system** ***(30 words)***
2. **Discuss the stages about how the food grains are procured** ***(60 words)***
3. **Discuss the issues involved at each stage** ***(30 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(30 words)***

Hints

Public Distribution System (PDS) is a programme managed by the government to ensure access to food for all. The PDS does not provide the entire requirement of foodgrains to a household but is only supplemental. The system operates through a three-stage process.

Stages of food grain procurement:

In the first stage, the Food Corporation of India procures food grains from farmers at a procurement price. The procurement exercise is carried out to provide farmers with a minimum support price and protect them against unexpected price fluctuations in the market. the procured food grains are also used for the maintenance of buffer stocks in times of need and to stabilize the open market prices.

In the second stage, the procured food grains are allotted to the various states according to the number of poor in these states and the level of production of food grains in the state. This is used as a balance of availability of food between surplus and deficit states.

In the third stage, the food grains are distributed at subsidized prices to the population in the various states through a chain of fair-price shops under PDS. The food grains are also used for distribution through other public programmes like food-for-work and mid-day meal scheme for children in schools.Through PDS started as a universal food distribution programme, it faced the problems of extensive leakages and inability to reach the vulnerable groups. In 1997, the scheme was restructured to supply the food grains at differential prices to households Below the Poverty Line (BPL) and those Above Poverty Line (APL). This has been known as the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). But the failure of the system has been grossly highlighted whenever starvation deaths are reported at the same time when FCI warehouses are overflowing with surplus food grains.

Issues related to the food grain procurement system:

The system is found to be so corrupt and inefficient that some studies have estimated that out of every rupee spent, only 20 paise reaches the poor. In many states, the surveys to identify the poor are not carried out at times, while several families don't even receive identification cards even after surveys. Instances of massive manipulation and harassment by bureaucrats are often reported. It is in this regard that the UIDAI is expected to play a constructive role.

The failure of the PDS system is symptomatic of what ails the governments anti-poverty programmes the most. The major drawback has been centralized planning and lack of local level participation leading to mismatched priorities and bureaucratic control characterized by lack of transparency and accountability.

Conclusion:

However, contrary to a common belief that India's public distribution system is irreparably dysfunctional, a recent survey of the PDS found that the respondents received 84-88% of their full entitlement. The implicit subsidy for households below the poverty line from PDS foodgrains alone is roughly equivalent, in many states, to a week's nrega wages every month. The revival of the PDS can be traced, in large part, to a renewed political interest which manifests itself in state initiatives such as expanded coverage, reduced prices, computerisation of stock management, etc. The survey findings, point to many good reasons to be wary of a hasty transition to cash transfers. Further improving the PDS seems like a more sensible way forward.

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NOTES

SET-5: QUESTIONS

URBANIZATION

Q1. The urbanization process in India has witnessed a skewed growth towards particular regions of the country as well as within the cities itself. Discuss.

Q2. 'Hidden urbanization' has been one of the characteristics of urbanization in India. While elaborating the phenomenon, also examine the reasons behind its existence and how it impacts the urban planning process?

Q3. Discuss the concept of sponge city? Why Indian cities must become 'sponge cities' to tackle urban flooding? Enumerate the reasons.

Q4. Elaborate the relationship between level of urbanization and the economic development in India. Suggest the policy response for urbanization potential in India.

Q5. Is India's waste management economy clearly and uniquely impregnated with caste? How exponential is the problem of waste management in India? Also, highlight measures needed to strengthen the mechanisms.

Q6. "Housing for all" will remain a dream in absence of funding, centre - state cooperation and innovative implementation strategies. In this context, introduce the objectives and evaluate the strategy of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Q7. Recently, there has been focus on making urban cities more equitable and inclusive. What do you understand by equitable and inclusive cities? What steps must be taken in this regard in India?

Q8. Discuss various facets of the changing trends in urbanization in India? Why the experience of urbanization in India has been haphazard and unplanned? What is the consequence of unplanned urbanization in the country? How will the concept of Smart Cities lead to Smart Urbanisation?

Q9. Highlight the importance of urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion

Q10. "India's urban periphery and suburbia have developed as a problem for sustainable urban development". Examine.

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SET-5: ANSWERS

1. The urbanization process in India has witnessed a skewed growth towards particular regions of the country as well as within the cities itself. Discuss.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly state the extent of urbanization in India** ***(40 words)***
2. **Explain how urbanization is skewed towards particular regions of the country** ***(100 words)***
3. **Discuss suggestions and way forward** ***(70 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural areas to urban areas, the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas, and the ways in which each society adapts to this change. Total urban population of India in 2011 is estimated at 377 million which is estimated at 31.16 per cent of the total population of the country.

Skewed nature of urbanization process:

- In states like Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu more than 35 per cent people live in urban centres.
- Whereas only 20 per cent of people in Uttar Pradesh live in cities, only 14. 3 of Orissa is urbanised and 10 per cent of Bihar lives in urban centres. Thus it indicates that urbanization is concentrated in few states than in others.
- Secondly, urbanisation in India has been mostly present in southern and western part of the country and not much in eastern and North-east India.
- Apart from state capitals and few urban centres, within the state urbanisation is more or less meager.
- Also state led planning is inclined towards developing new urban townships located near already urbanized centres rather than urbanizing new regions.
- Within the cities, urbanisation in sense of urban facilities is skewed towards the core region of cities, keeping the outskirts of the cities undeveloped.

- Slums, old settlements and illegal constructions in the cities don't show signs of urbanisation, thus giving a perception of urbanisation process witnessing a skewed growth within the cities itself.

Way Forward:

- Integrate urbanisation process with the development plans of the country for developing non-agricultural activities like manufacturing services and infrastructure leading to attainment of external economies
- Develop rural districts, by developing towns in highly rural districts
- Develop satellite townships in and around large cities
- The state government of Uttarakhand, for example, is taking steps to merge peri-urban areas (areas in the periphery of the urban) with urban local bodies. This will entitle these areas to civic amenities such as piped water supply, sewerage network, and solid waste management.
- Develop secondary cities to divert rural migration away from the large cities toward secondary cities and to foster stronger urban-rural links

Conclusion:

A better urban–rural integration and development of small towns can be a driver of change to address many problems of the unbalanced and skewed urbanization process. Urbanization policy must aim to achieve balanced and strategic growth through a national system of capably managed urban centers, envisaging secondary and tertiary cities as development hubs.

2. 'Hidden urbanization' has been one of the characteristics of urbanization in India. While elaborating the phenomenon, also examine the reasons behind its existence and how it impacts the urban planning process?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Brief introduce about the problem of Urbanization.** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain in detail Meaning of the term 'Hidden Urbanization'** ***(60 words)***
3. **Discuss the Reason of its existence** ***(60 words)***
4. **Highlight Its impact on urban planning process** ***(50 words)***
5. **Conclusion** ***(30 words)***

Hints

About 377 million people from India's total population of 1.21 billion are urban dwellers. With more than 10 million people migrating to cities and towns every year, the total urban population is expected to reach about 600 million by 2031.

The 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects, released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, projects India's urban population to rise to 52.8% in 2050.

The problem is further compounded as there are only a few urban centers in India that promise better prospects than most cities and towns — leading to much more pressure on their infrastructure and housing — and resulting in disordered urbanization. This is reflected in almost 65.5 million Indians who, according to the country's 2011 Census, live in urban slums and sprawls.

Hidden Urbanization

It refers to urbanization that is not captured in official statistics, often on the peripheries of major cities. This hidden urbanization is symptomatic of the failure to adequately address congestion constraints that arise from the pressure of urban populations on infrastructure, basic services, land, housing, and the environment.

Why hidden urbanization?

This discrepancy arises since in major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata, population growth has been maximum outside the fringes of the official administrative boundaries. Such areas have urban characteristics but fall short on criteria required to be classified officially as urban.

- Decline in manufacturing jobs between 1998 and 2005 within 10 km of their city centers while in the peripheries it increased by 12 per cent.

Diseconomies in the core area: The core areas of cities have remained stagnant or witnessed declining economic activity as congestion is driving people out.

Low number of affordable housing facilities in the urban areas. According to official estimates EWS (economically weaker sections) and LIG (lower income groups) together account for 95.6 per cent of the urban housing shortage in the country.

- Rural distress, land acquisition, displacement leads to migration of people who reside in the periphery of the urban areas.
- Distorted urbanization: Urbanisation has been directed towards large cities leading to increased concentration of population in million plus cities.On the contrary the concentration of population in medium and small towns either fluctuated or declined. This has resulted in top-heavy structure of urban development in India.
- Levels of urbanization in the states with high per capita income are generally high, the opposite being the case in less urbanized states

Challenges for planning process

The process of hidden urbanization has become a serious challenge for the planners. Since its creates discrepancies in the official figures and real situation, the allocation of funds by Finance Commission, the formulation of schemes like PM Housing Scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission, etc. . Exclude such peripheral areas.

- In absence of financial and administrative autonomy such areas suffer from infrastructural deficiencies.
- Lack of coordination between different agencies (such as water, transport)
- Lack of consistent urban development policy, improper urban planning and poor implementation of projects
- Such areas also become place where real estate player exploit the weaker sections of society. Haphazard development in these areas also creates problems of retrofitting in future.

- Lack of accountability and transparency
- Increased environmental distress.
- Politicization of India's urban spaces, so called vote bank is also creating exclusionary barriers.

Conclusion:

Transforming the existing cities through retrofitting, improving the economic potential of the core areas of the cities so that they remain economically viable and environmentally sustainable

Many administrative, infrastructural initiatives need to be taken in this direction. AMRUT and Smart cities trying to fulfill these.

As the level of urbanization is increasing there is need for the governments to be proactive in recognizing and giving statutory status to such areas, so the urban facilities are provided to all. The differential between the statutory towns and census towns must be minimal.

Government must try to minimize forced migration from rural areas. Decentralized developmental strategy with schemes like Ru-urban mission, creation of multiple growth centers in the region and prior development of inclusive infrastructure with help from private player through various initiatives like House for All should be taken up.

All these steps can help in minimizing the level of hidden urbanization, which otherwise can impact the quality of life, productivity of Indian economy in long run.

3. Discuss the concept of sponge city? Why Indian cities must become 'sponge cities' to tackle urban flooding? Enumerate the reasons.

(200 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by defining What is sponge city** ***(40 words)***
2. **Explain in detail about the Need for sponge cities** ***(60 words)***
3. **Discuss the various Challenges to implement this initiative** ***(60 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Sponge city

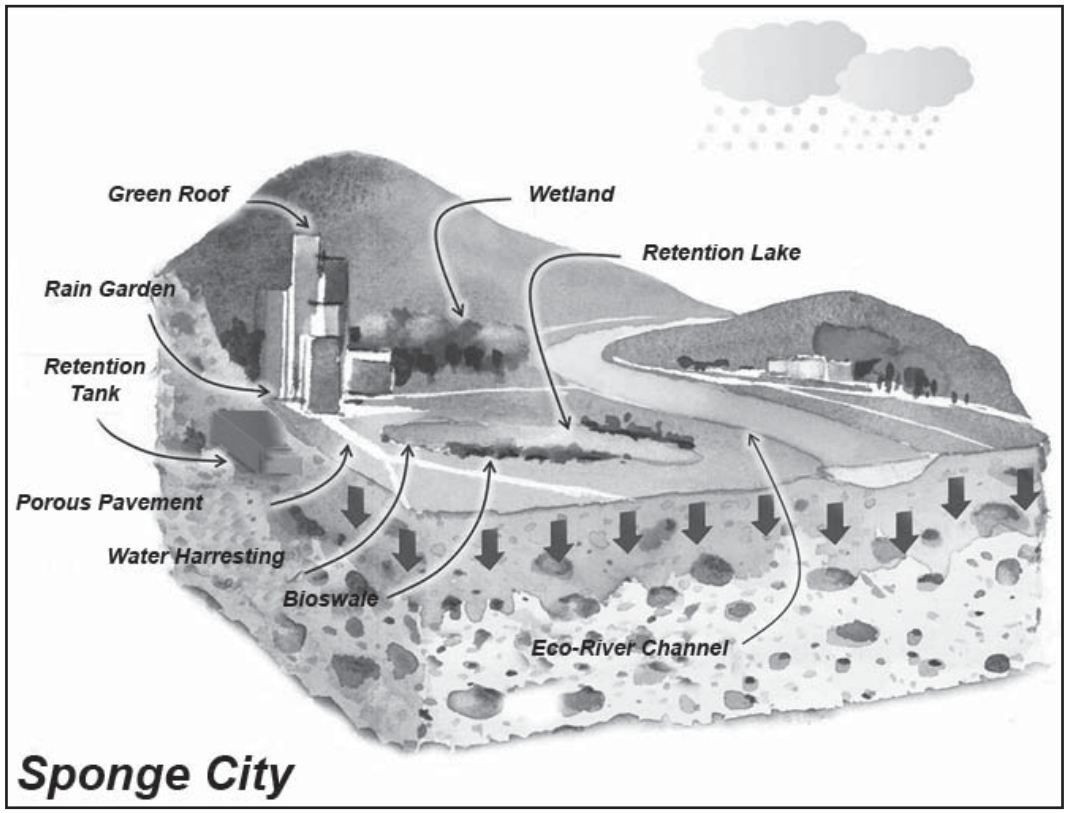
- Concept of modern urban planning to combat flooding, water conservation, water quality improvement and natural ecosystem protection. Itis designed to passively absorb, clean and use rainfall in an ecologically friendly way that reduces dangerous and polluted runoff.

It focuses on green infrastructure like turning concrete pavements into wetlands, rain gardens and green rooftops and blue space such as ponds and lakes.

At present, the Sponge City approach is gaining ground and becoming more and more accepted by city governments.

International experience:

- **Germany** is investing hugely on green roofs with swales (a low or hollow place), urban wetlands, gardens and parks, and permeable pavements to soak in the extra water and also keep the city cool.
- The **Chinese government** is building water-absorbent projects in 30 cities as part of its **"sponge city initiative."**



Reasons why Indian cities must become sponge cities to tackle urban flooding?

- **Increased instances**- Cities across length and breadth of the country is witnessing urban flooding more regularly now. Flooding at Mumbai every monsoon, Chennai, Srinagar, and Tripura are few examples. Occurrence is bound to increase more in the future.
- **Condition of cities**- Indian cities is infrastructurally unprepared to face urban flooding. Only patchwork solutions have been applied till now. Matters become worse due to dysfunctional municipal planning and governance.
- **Reuse value:** According to NITI Ayog report, India is facing worst water crisis in its history. Sponge cities will be in position to reuse rainwater mitigating future shortage.
- **Welfare benefits:** Sponge city infrastructure is also beneficial as it is changes the living environment, helps fight pollution and creates a better quality of life

Constrains for implementation of sponge cities concept:

- Lack of expertise of local governments to effectively coordinate and integrate such a complex set of activities

- Financial constraints.
- Ambitious goals without sound research.
- Unavailable green materials, and planning models that are too homogeneous and not locally specific.

Conclusion:

With increasing demographic and ecological changes, instances of fatal urban flood have become rampant. Urbanization has led to developed catchments, which increases the flow of water and flooding occurs quickly affecting dense populated areas most adversely. Apart from loss of lives and property, urban flood causes great loss to the economy. The researchers remain optimistic, but only if cities continue to invest in research and development, and effective coordination among stakeholders, governments, and citizens are carried out.

4. Elaborate the relationship between level of urbanization and the economic development in India. Suggest the policy response for urbanization potential in India.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce by describing Current status of urbanization** ***(20 words)***
2. **Elaborate on relationship between level of urbanization and the economic development** ***(110 words)***
3. **Highlight various challenges in the current policies** ***(50 words)***
4. **Discuss the Reforms needed in the urban oriented policies** ***(40 words)***
5. **Conclusion** ***(30 words)***

Hints

As in most countries, India's urban areas make a major contribution to the country's economy. About 34% of India's population now lives in urban areas, the U.N. World Urbanization Prospects 2018 report has said. This is an increase of about three percentage points since the 2011 Census.

Relationship between level of urbanization and economic development.

- **There is a robust relationship between urbanization and per capita income**: nearly all countries become at least 50 percent urbanized before reaching middle-income status, and all high income countries are 70–80 percent urbanized. The States in central and eastern India have a relatively lower level of Urbanisation and per capita income.

Rapid and sustained growth entails rapid and sustained urbanization. But, if mishandled, the growth of cities poses problems that can derail growth.

Counter Urbanisation: Traditional economic development can also bring the negatives like crime, congestion, pollution, etc. that have led to trends of living outside urban areas. This suggests the relationship is not always positive in both cases.

Cumulative Causation: Economic development ultimately creates job opportunities, encourages more people to move there, increasing urbanization.

People are attracted as there is greater infrastructure than rural areas .This creates further employment opportunities, attracts further migration to the area, and as a result further increase in Urbanisation.

Infrastructure and public services (education, housing, health care) cannot keep pace with the growing population. The economy development continues overall but there are not enough jobs for the ever increasing urban population. These negatives often impact most severely on the poor in-migrating population, thus, giving rise to slums. Already, slums now, account for about 26% of all urban population in cities.

Current Policy Challenges

- The built environment: the supply of both land and infrastructure is falling behind demand.

Weak and unpredictable financing frameworks limit the ability of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to manage their resources effectively.

Lack of suitable planning leads to underutilization of economic potential of cities.

Large part of the cities has developed without legislative control and institutional structures/ capacities to administer sprawled urban growth are fairly inadequate.

Rapid urbanization has led to slum formation, access to basic services like water supply and sanitation, failure in or non-implementation of urban planning norms, failures in urban governance processes, huge gap in the provision of adequate transport infrastructure, etc.

Reforms needed

- Universal access to a minimum level of services.
- Establishment of city wide frameworks for planning and governance.
- Modern and transparent budgeting, accounting and financial management.
- Financial sustainability for ULBs and service delivery institutions.
- Utilization of e-governance.
- Transparency and accountability in urban service delivery and management.
- Slum-free cities.
- Include green-house gases emission particulate matter 2.5 in the city planning in the light of their footprint in the municipal functions.

Efforts to organize waste management covering reduce, reuse and recycle principles.

Spatial dispersal of economic activities towards low urbanized states in the central and eastern India (infrastructure, skill education and finance for manufacturing)

Development of compact cities particularly in the new town developments to have optimum economy in the cost on agglomeration, citizen and economy.

Link urbanization with the inter-state potential on productivity, investment and employment creation including intensive efforts to attract Foreign Direct Investment(FDI).

Conclusion:

The relationship between urbanization and economic growth is non-linear. Urbanization is not a side effect of economic growth; it is an integral part of the process. The urbanization reaches a threshold after which it may impede the economic growth. National urban policy should offer a clear directive to urban policymakers at all levels of government to bring in a more cohesive approach to urban planning and urban infrastructure investments.

5. Is India's waste management economy clearly and uniquely impregnated with caste? How exponential is the problem of waste management in India? Also, highlight measures needed to strengthen the mechanisms.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give brief introduction about Sanitation work in India** ***(40 words)***
2. **Explain in detail Association between waste management and caste in India** ***(90 words)***
3. **Provide an overview related to Magnitude of problem of waste management in India** ***(80 words)***
4. **Highlight the Challenges and Reforms required** ***(80 words)***
5. **Conclusion** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Sanitation in India

The UNICEF report has validated the effectiveness of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The SBA has indeed made a huge difference in the lives of people who earlier had no access at all to proper sanitation facilities. It goes without saying that the Indian population, especially the most vulnerable section of our society - the poor and the impoverished, will reap the benefits of this staggering improvement in sanitation facilities in the long run. However, there still are a lot many loopholes, especially regarding proper usage of the sanitation infrastructure being created. It takes time to change the habits of people.

Association with Caste

- Sanitation in India's cities relies heavily on the most oppressed castes — the erstwhile untouchables, the Dalits. Not only is the work itself degrading, it is also performed under extremely hazardous conditions.
- The increased generation of garbage reveals how modernization has created new forms of untouchability and reproduction of caste relations. Increased use of consumer goods leads to generating more and more waste because of the throw away culture.
- The generation of municipal solid waste is seemingly deeply connected with casteism, the historical availability of certain 'lower castes' to clean impurities shapes the waste generation and management practices in India. The caste system, abolished by the Constitution but alive into the 21st century, relegates a section of society to the task of getting rid of refuse.

- Manual sanitation in urban centers rests on the caste system. The lowest castes, whose traditional occupation has been sweeping, scavenging and dealing with dead animals, work as sweepers and scavengers in urban centers as well, keeping them clean. Their work as manual scavengers continues despite legal prohibitions.
- For municipal officials, the caste dimension is not seen as an anomaly; it is expected: "Those who know the best are in the job" is the rational given by the officials, thus, attaching a professional skill dimension to what is otherwise a consolidation of caste status quo.

Magnitude of waste management problem in India

- India generates over 150,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) per day, with Mumbai being the world's fifth most wasteful city. Yet, only 83% of waste is collected and less than 30% is treated. According to the World Bank, India's daily waste generation will reach 377,000 tonnes by 2025.
- Rate of increase in access to sanitation infrastructure generally lags behind the rate of urbanization by 33% around the world; however, the lack of planning and impromptu piecemeal responses to waste management issues observed in India might indicate a much wider gap.

The role of municipal authorities: Currently, these civic bodies are under-resourced, underpowered, and subject to political manipulations.

The volume of waste generated in the cities is projected to reach 125 million tonnes per annum by 2031 and the disposal system today focuses on collection and transportation of this waste only.

Waste segregation being virtually absent has resulted in resource wastage, environmental pollution and health/safety hazards, due to leaching and methane generation from wet solid waste in the landfills.

Un-segregated waste also undermines the waste-to-electricity option of disposal, given high wet waste content pushes the overall calorific value to a level below the required threshold.

While 95 commercial composting plants exist, only 14% of the capacity is utilized.

Nearly 75% of the waste generated in India is not treated and openly dumped onto fallow lands, leaching lethal chemicals into the ground, toxic fumes into the air and poison into the water systems.

Challenges

- The practices that have been legally challenged have social legitimacy due to traditional caste divisions and practices. For instance, visible presence of caste system, manual scavenging, etc.
- Issue of scarcity of land for waste disposal, which led to overflowing dumpsites and waste treatment facilities receiving more waste than what they were designed for.
- Segregation of waste is not performed and recyclables, organic wastes, toxic wastes, etc. are all dumped together.
- Increased urbanization is putting additional pressure on landfill sites located in urban areas.
- Considering that waste volumes are estimated to grow to 165 million a tonne per year by 2030, many more suburbs are threatened by collapsing or burning Trash Mountains.

Measures needed to strengthen Waste Management

To maximize benefits along the waste value chain, the Solid Waste Management Guidelines 2016 have detailed the most appropriate steps to improve the waste management paradigm in the Indian context and minimize environmental impact of the same.

Municipalities need to be supported by skilled staff and appropriate technology to ensure local recycling and composting systems work.

Waste-workers need to be incorporated in ways that draw on their experiences and expertise and offer dignity and rewards in return for reliable service.

Learning from the global practices like **Japan** i.e. by promoting Extended Producer Responsibility, placing some responsibility on consumers.**South Korea**: The Korean government has promoted the "SSSR Campaign" (Ahnabada Campaign), which stands for "Save, Share, Swap, and Reuse," to bring the reuse of goods into everyday habits, and has hosted marketplaces for exchanging or trading second-hand goods.

Local Practices: Alappuzha in Kerala and Panaji in Goa do not have landfills. They convert their compost or biogas and recycle plastic, glass, metals and papers.

- Implementing Zero Waste would ideally eliminate all discharges to land, water, or air that may be a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health. The philosophy ultimately focuses on eliminating waste.

An effective waste management strategy must figure waste segregation at source and appropriate treatment of different components.

The wet solid waste, primarily biodegradable organic waste, can be then processed in a decentralized manner through composting and bio-methanation.

Segregation of waste at source

- Compost making from wet waste within the premises/neighborhood/area
- Recycling of dry waste
- Freeing the neighborhood from open defecation and open urination
- Motivating the residents of neighborhood against throwing garbage in open spaces; and
- Adopting a nearby park or open place for collection and waste segregation.

Though the government is putting significant efforts in waste management, it should also be the responsibility of every citizen to improve the quality of environment around him/her thinking beyond the barriers of caste leaving the job to few and should contribute towards a cleaner and healthier India.

Conclusion:

The government has initiated a new initiative to promote sanitation and effective waste management, 'My Home-My Neighborhood' (Ghar Bi Saaf-PadosBhiSaaf) campaign with the following six components:

6. "Housing for all" will remain a dream in absence of funding, centre - state cooperation and innovative implementation strategies. In this context, introduce the objectives and evaluate the strategy of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

(250 words)

Approach

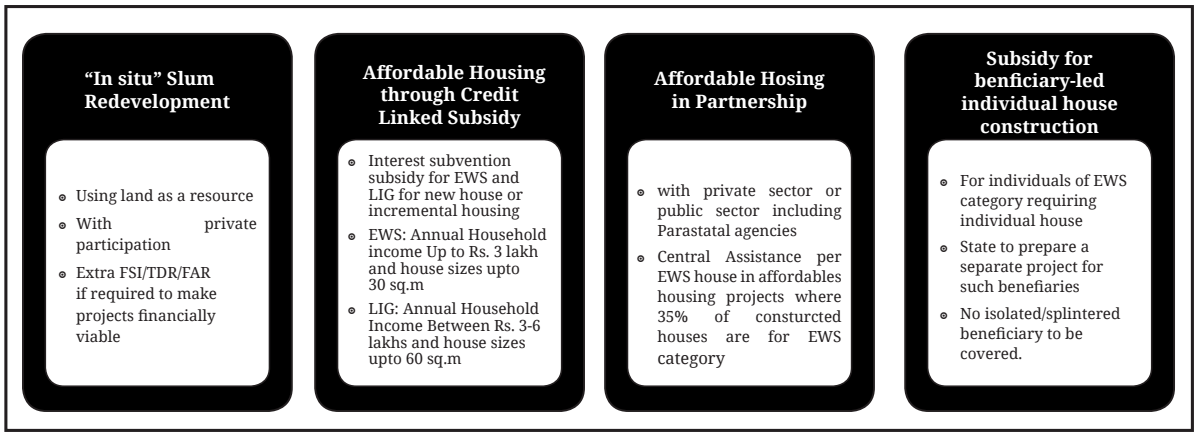
1. **Give brief Introduction about PM AwasYojana** *(50 words)*
2. **Explain in detail various Objectives and strategies of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** *(70 words)*
3. **Highlight the Challenges in implementing the Yojna** *(70 words)*
4. **Provide some Suggestions to tackle the challenges.** *(30 words)*
5. **Conclusion** *(30 words)*

Hints

Pradhan Mantra AwasYojana was launched by government to provide low cost affordable houses in all cities and towns using eco-friendly construction methods for the benefit of the urban poor population in India. A similar scheme, PradhanMantriAwaasYojana (Gramin) was also launched, for rural population, later on in pursuance to the goal of Housing for all by 2022 .

Objectives:

- Ensure that the housing requirements of all urban poor including slum dwellers are met through different Programme verticals.
- The core objective is to provide central assistance to implementing agencies through States and UTs for providing houses to all eligible families/ beneficiaries by 2022.
- Provide pucca house with water connection, toilet & electricity facilities.
- Ensure that urban localities are slums free & that all citizens have access to basic services.
- Provide houses designed and constructed to meet requirements of structural safety against earthquake, flood, cyclone, landslides etc. conforming to the National Building Code (NBC) and other relevant Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) codes.
- Plans to give a credit-linked subsidy to weaker and mid income sections on loans taken for new construction or renovation of existing homes.



Challenges:

- **Builder led Redevelopment -** One of the reasons for laggardly implementation of the PMAY (Urban) is its heavy reliance on the private sector - Most of the sub-schemes depend on private builders who are reluctant in constructing houses for the poor

- **Delay in Clearance -** Delay in clearance for construction projects
- **High cost of construction -** The central funding of the scheme is grossly inadequate for constructing houses in metros. Cost of constructing EWS-LIG houses is up to 8 lakh in metros. Even after an interest subsidy under the credit link subsidy scheme, this is not affordable for the poor.
- Insufficiency of Funds one major challenge is Insufficiency of funds, significant gaps between allocation and releases, and under-utilisation of released amount.
- **Reluctance of State Administration -** States have their own priorities and may not allocate enough funds to this scheme
- **Poor implementation -** Among the larger states, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have not even started off PMAY on ground. Most of the northeastern states and all Union territories have a similarly poor show
- **Scarcity of Land -** Availability of land to construct houses remains a major challenge due to scarcity of land
- **Poor track of Land Records -** Land records in India are in very poor condition. In absence of title or ownership records for land one cannot avail interest subsidy to construct the house
- **Duplication -** Single person getting multiple housing benefits. People with allotted homes are selling or renting their houses and moving back to the slums

Suggestions:

- States need to digitize and simplify the process of updating property records. This will allow all citizens to obtain legal documents to their land and property.
- single window clearance
- Create awareness on multiple verticals of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY) across all states through various channels like NukadNatak (street plays), digital media campaigns etc.
- Monitor milestones and time lines of implementation of projects under PMAY
- Create a master central database of all beneficiaries under various housing schemes across states, to prevent the same person from availing multiple benefits
- Bringing reforms in rental market in India

Conclusion:

A house is the most basic necessity for mankind to live a life of dignity. But, to own a house is still a dream for majority of people in India due to financial constraints. In this regard, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, with both of its Urban and Rural components, is a huge step forward to ensure affordable housing for poor in India. However, there are many lacunas in its implementation as mentioned above, which will have to be addressed at the earliest to make this mission successful.

7. Recently, there has been focus on making urban cities more equitable and inclusive. What do you understand by equitable and inclusive cities? What steps must be taken in this regard in India?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining meaning of equitable and inclusive cities** ***(100 words)***
2. **Explain the steps taken to make cities more equitable and inclusive** ***(100 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Urban areas houses 32% of Indian population and is expected to reach 60% by 2050. Cities are and will continue to be the growth drivers of India in future. However there are questions being raised about the equitable and inclusive character of cities. Some of examples of it are:

- Absence of housing for low income groups and presence of slums.
- Absence of commercial space for low income groups though they form importance part of urban economy.
- Low Women Labour Force Participation rate in urban areas (15% as compared to 25% in rural areas, 55% for men).
- Playing spaces for children and young
- An inclusive and equitable city is one which the process of development provides opportunities for all sections of society, without marginalizing anyone which compromises the richness of interaction.

What steps must be taken to make cities inclusive:

- Steps for economic inclusiveness:
- Sufficient number of low cost houses, commercial places for low income group people. Proper implementation of Street Vendors bill etc
- Gender inclusiveness:
- New form of economic activities which ensures participation of women (police, organized housekeeping etc), provisions for their safety, public amenities like public toilets, resting rooms for women etc.
- Opportunities for youth to participate in urban planning so that their concerns are addresses. Space for elderly is also necessary in planning process.
- Strengthening urban planning process to include all stakeholders.

Conclusion:

Such steps will ensure that all are not only beneficiary of development but equal partners in development process. Thus the aim must be to increase awareness of rising inequality in cities, focus the debate on concrete solutions, and empower city and local governments to adopt policies that promote inclusive and equitable growth.

8. Discuss various facets of the changing trends in urbanization in India? Why the experience of urbanization in India has been haphazard and unplanned? What is the consequence of unplanned urbanization in the country? How will the concept of Smart Cities lead to Smart Urbanisation?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give an introduction about what is Urbanization and its various facets** ***(100 words)***
2. **In short give positives of urbanization** ***(20 words)***
3. **Explain Challenges and consequences of unplanned urbanization** ***(100 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(30 words)***

Hints

Urbanization is the process of 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. Urbanization is closely linked to modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization.

Various facets of changing trend in Urbanization:

Urbanization in India started after post-independence, however, sharp increase is evident post liberalisation because of real & perception pull factors in cities, push factors in rural areas and natural increase in population due to decrease in death rate and increase in expected age of living.

As per 2011 census urbanization in India stands at 31.16% which is expected to cross 40% by 2030. As per the World Bank, India, along with China, Indonesia, Nigeria and the United States, will lead the world's urban population surge by 2050. Urbanization is process of economic and cultural transition of the society. It provides various opportunities and also presents major challenges. These are discussed below.

Positive side of Urbanization:

- In India bigger cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru etc. shows the multiple primacy thus promoting the urbanization in nearby areas.
- Urbanisation itself is not a problem. It is reflect the demand and progressive transition of societies in terms economic and technological growth.
- It also provides more opportunities and higher standard for living if planned in proper way.
- Urbanization promotes rational thinking and has reduced religious and caste discrimination in India.
- Women overall benefits from urbanization as they become aware of their rights, become economically independent and challenges patriarchy system.

Challenges and consequences of unplanned urbanization:

- The rapid inflows of rural population to urban places give rise to housing problem and thus slums are developed in these places. In these areas health, sanitation problems cause diseases and epidemics thrive.
- Unplanned new developing areas add up to the already increasing urban problems. These problems are escalated due to the influx of migrants from rural areas as well as from small towns into big cities and a lacking economic base to sustain everyone thus increase in unemployment.
- Family structure as well as functioning changes. There is disruption in old ties and nuclear family increases.
- Urbanization enhances imbalance and disparity in urban and rural areas thus accelerates itself.
- In major cities in India like Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune and Kanpur, somewhere between 85% and 90% of households live in one or two rooms. In some homes, five to six persons live in one room. Over-crowding encourages deviant behaviour, spreads diseases and creates conditions for mental illness, alcoholism and riots. One effect of dense urban living is people's apathy and indifference.
- In Urban areas caste transform into class thus inequality prevails
- Services like water supply, electricity, transportation, drainage and sanitation stresses due to overburdening and many a time collapsed.
- Towns and cities are major polluters of the environment. Several cities discharge 40 to 60 percent of their entire sewage and industrial effluents untreated into the nearby rivers. Urban industry pollutes the atmosphere with smoke and toxic gases from its chimneys. All these, increases the chances of diseases among the people living in the urban centres.
- Criminal activities increases, maintaining law and order becomes a challenge.

Smart cities and smart Urbanization:

To overcome the challenges thrown by urbanization and analysing its trend, government has taken the initiative of Smart cities and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

Smart city concept will help develop a sustainable ecosystem in following way:

- Smart Cities Mission will focus on developing 100 select Smart cities by focusing on optimising efficiencies in urban services and infrastructure management, with proactive use of technology and people participation.
- It will optimizing basic core infrastructure services like clean drinking water supply, optimized power distribution, introducing efficient solid waste management, affordable housing to cater to various sections, efficient and intelligent public transportation systems and active use of IT infrastructure to improve service delivery and management.
- It envisages an 'area based' approach to development that will cover retrofitting or redevelopment as per Local Area Plan. While retrofitting will focus on removing deficiencies in existing local infrastructure, redevelopment will focus on re-building those areas where existing infrastructure cannot be converted or improved further due to limitations of space.

Conclusion:

As the urbanization in India is bound to increase, need of the hour is to analyse its various dimensions and plan the new and existing cities in terms of infrastructure, economic opportunities, environment sustainability, governance and service delivery in a sustainable and smart way by utilizing technological interventions and geographical features of area.

9. Highlight the importance of urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining urbanization and global development** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain urbanization as source of global development** ***(75 words)***
3. **Explain urbanization as source of social inclusion** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

- Urbanisation is the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. Urbanisation occurs because people move from rural areas (countryside) to urban areas (towns and cities) in the process of development.
- Global development is a wide concept concerning the level of development on an international scale. It has been largely synonymous with economic development. But recently it is also used in a holistic context of human development as well as quality of life or social well-being.
- The social inclusion is the process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society. Social inclusion aims to empower poor and marginalized people to take advantage of burgeoning global opportunities.

Urbanisation and Global Development

- With more than 80% of global GDP generated in cities, urbanization contributes to sustainable growth by increasing productivity, allowing innovation and new ideas to emerge.
- Cities also play an important role in tackling climate change, as they consume close to 2/3 of the world's energy and account for more than 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions. As cities develop, their exposure to climate and disaster risk also increases. Almost half a billion urban residents live in coastal areas, increasing their vulnerability to storm surges and sea level rise.
- Cities are at the forefront of global socio-economic change. Globalization and democratization are an important part of sustainable development. Half of the world's population now lives in urban areas and the other half increasingly depend upon cities for economic, social, cultural and political progress.

Urbanisation and Social Inclusion

- In cities, education policies serve highly diverse populations. Providing education for all - in particular girls, persons with disabilities, migrants, the poor and the marginalized - is a complex exercise requiring effective public services and the collaboration of numerous partners
- Urbanization helps pull people out of poverty and advances progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Urbanization has been a major force behind poverty reduction and progress towards other MDGs. With over 80 percent of global goods and services produced in cities, countries with relatively higher levels of urbanization, such as China, and many others in East Asia and Latin America, have played a major role in lowering extreme poverty worldwide.
- Urban infant mortality rates range from 8-9 percentage points lower than the rural rates in Latin America and Central Asia; to 10-16 percentage points in the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa and highest in East Asia (21 percentage points).
- In South Asia, 60 percent of urban dwellers have access to sanitation facilities, compared with 28 percent in rural areas. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 42 percent of the urban population has access, compared with 23 percent of rural residents.
- Access to safe water in urban areas in developing countries was almost complete in 2010, with 96 percent coverage, compared with 81 percent of the rural population having access.
- Megacities and large cities are the richest and have far better access to basic public services; smaller towns, secondary cities, and areas on the perimeter of urban centres are less rich; and rural areas are the poorest
- Progress has been stellar on reducing extreme poverty, providing access to safe drinking water and eliminating gender disparity in primary education.
- Agglomeration, or the clustering of people and economic activity, is an important driver of development and evidence suggests that it can have high pay offs, particularly for countries on the lower rungs of development

Conclusion:

Globally, over 50% of the population lives in urban areas today, and this trend is expected to continue - by 2045, the number of people living in cities will increase by 1.5 times to 6 billion, adding 2 billion more urban residents. However, in order to harness the economic and social benefits of urbanization, policy-makers must plan for efficient land-use; match population densities with the required needs for transport, housing and other infrastructure, and arrange the financing needed for such urban development programs.

10. "India's urban periphery and suburbia have developed as a problem for sustainable urban development". Examine.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give a brief introduction about urban periphery and suburbia and discuss the economic activities carried out in these settlements.** ***(50 words)***
2. **Discuss the problems created by urban periphery and suburbia to urban settlements and give solutions for their mitigation.** ***(150 words)***

3. Conclude with the services provided by these settlements to urban centres and the need to manage them. ***(50 words)***

Hints

Urban periphery refers to the outer part of an urban area where large numbers of formal sector manufacturing enterprises are located, often along transport infrastructure, creating new urban strips or corridors, as housing and commercial enterprises often develop around them. These industries and factories often leads to formation of illegal colonies of labourers around them which are unorganized and lacks basic amenities. The rural-urban fringe or suburbia is the boundary zone outside the urban area, where rural and urban land uses intermix. It is the area where the city meets the countryside. It is an area of transition from agricultural and other rural land uses to urban use. Located well within the urban sphere of influence, the fringe is characterized by a wide variety of land use, including dormitory settlements, housing middle-income commuters who work in the central urban area.

India's urban periphery and suburbia : Problem area for sustainable urban development

- Large scale industrial development in urban periphery leads to emission of harmful gases in air and discharge of effluents in water bodies, which causes pollution in urban areas.
- Industrial units in urban periphery depend upon the water resources of urban areas, which causes shortage of water.
- Labourers working in these areas live in congested colonies in nearby settlement, due to which the problem of sanitation and cleanliness emerges.
- Suburbia or rural-urban fringe is characterized by truck farming and domestication of animals which is done to fulfil the needs of urban dwellers.
- It also consists of small scale industries and colonies of unorganized workers, which are often illegal or unorganized and lacks civic amenities.
- Domestication of animals and agriculture leads to excessive use of water, which further increases burden on water bodies.

Example: Ground water pollution caused by industries in rural areas of national capital region.

- Due to cheaper land population of rural-urban fringe or suburbia is too high. Immigrants often work in cities and return back to suburbia. Influx of huge population in the cities causes heavy traffic.
- Suburbia are also sites of waste disposal and landfills. Wastes generated by urban centres are disposed there. But when the population start to settle, they cause widespread disease.
- Both suburbia and urban periphery are recreation and sport centre for urban population. Some activities such as stock car racing and scrambling erode ecosystems and create localized litter and pollution.

Steps needed to mitigate challenges posed by suburbia and urban periphery

- Suburbia and urban periphery must be brought under city's development plan and should be given separate attention from the beginning of their development.
- Industries in these areas must be regulated with environmental norms and management of resources over-utilized by them must be taken care of.

- Industries must take care of sanitation and civic amenities of labourers residing in nearby areas under corporate social responsibility. These colonies must be regularized by authorities as per norms. It must be ensured that garbage dumping sites and landfilling areas must be located far away from these areas.
- Recreational activities in these areas should be regulated in a better way so that it does not harm the ecosystem of the place.

Conclusion:

Rural-urban fringe and urban periphery have both good and bad impacts for the urban masses. Industries in urban periphery provide jobs to urban population and are a major drivers of economy of the urban centres apart from other services. Similarly, suburbia provides daily basic needs such as milk, vegetables, meat etc. to urban people. Hence, effective management is necessary for co-existence and sustainable development of the cities. A better plan must be laid out to manage these sites outside cities. This will also help to provide better habitat, combat pollution and space to continue urbanization in India.

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NOTES

SET-6: QUESTIONS

EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON INDIAN SOCIETY

Q1. **Analyze the trends of change and continuity in marriage and family system in India. How far is globalization responsible for these changes?**

Q2. **Globalization is often considered responsible for the increasing consumerism in India. What are its major features and how do they affect the salaried class and lower income groups in particular?**

Q3. **Examine the influence of globalization over culture and indigenous practices in India. Give some examples.**

Q4. **What has been the impact of globalization on younger generation in India? How this impact on younger generation is affecting the cultural elements of Indian society?**

Q5. **Despite optimistic outlook towards globalization, globalization has a dark side and has the power to create highly undesirable adverse effects. Analyse the above statement in context of the concept of globalization and its impact on the working women**

Q6. **Bring out the relation of globalization with formation of bi-cultural identity. Discuss its pros and cons**

Q7. **India has been a beneficiary of globalization but the country needs to develop a mechanism to deal with the associated risks. How has globalization positively reshaped the Indian society. What risks associated with globalization seem to have materialized in India?**

Q8. **How globalization has affected the cultural change in India w.r.t aspirations of middle-class? Analyze major steps that have been taken to address these aspirations?**

Q9. **Advertising is known as the art of impossible, i.e., the ability to create false need perception to sell products, however, this has disastrous effect on society. Elaborate.**

Q10. **Tribals in India have been on the receiving end of the globalization process. Critically examine the effects of globalization on the tribal population in India.**

SET-6: ANSWERS

1. Analyze the trends of change and continuity in marriage and family system in India. How far is globalization responsible for these changes?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by giving the significance of marriage and family system in Indian society** ***(50 words)***
2. **Elaborate on what has changed and what has remained constant under subheadings of marriage and family system** ***(140 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(60 words)***

Hints

Family is a primary social group that came into existence to satisfy the need for protection, sexual urge and economic desires. Family system can be seen as an economic provision to satisfy needs, emotional basis, as an influential group and as an instrument of social regulation. A striking feature of Indian family system is the existence of joint family system. It shows features like largeness in size, owning of joint property, sharing of common residence, practicing of common religion etc.

Marriage is an institution in India. Various types of marriages are followed in our country monogamy being followed at large. As the society has advanced marriage has gone through various changes, while some things remain constant. Even values attached to it have changed tremendously.

Changes in Family System

- **Globalisation has led to greater mobility of people and more interactions among people of different cultures thus impacting the values and culture of people.** Eg live-in relationships in metro cities are a new trend before marriages so as to make better decisions while choosing partners.
- **Increasing mobility of younger generation** in search of new employment and educational opportunities has weakened the family relations. This has affected the earlier idealized nation of 'family' as the caring and nurturing unit for children, the sick and elderly. It has also led to increase in female headed family units in rural areas because males often migrate in search of work.

- Younger generation, particularly those with higher education and jobs no longer believe in sacrificing individual interest to family interests. This is reflected in changes in marriage system.
- **More say for younger women in family**- Since women now are more educated and many are financially independent, they have greater say in household decisions. Here impact of globalization can be seen in form of boom in IT related jobs. Women form a large part of this sector. Well employed women in urban areas face increased pressure to handle dual duty of earning livelihood as well as household chores.
- **Partner relationships and parent child relationship**-Married men and women are staying separately at far off places on account of their jobs. Single parents are also found in the society. Not only the conjugal relationships but also the parent – children relationships has also undergone a tremendous change. In most of the working – couple families, parents are not able to devote time to meet and interact with their children as working in night-shifts is common in BPO, KPO and call centre jobs.

Changes in Marriage system

- **Selection of partner**: Earlier it was the prerogative of the parents or the guardians. Under impact of liberal values, individuals have started choosing their own partners according to their likes and dislikes.
- A new trend is emerging in the process of mate selection wherein social media dating sites are widely being used to find compatible partners.
- **Marriage is not compulsory:** Some men and women do not believe in the ancient religious values and therefore do not consider marriage to be necessary. Earlier marriage was considered to be a duty for a man to lead a fulfilled life.
- **Inter-caste Marriage: Inter**-caste marriages were prohibited. It is now legally permitted. With the increase of co-education, women education and the democratic ideal of equality and liberty, inter-caste marriages are now considered to be signs of forwardness.
- C**hanges in the Aims of Marriage**: The main objective of Hindu marriage was Dharma. In recent years, the order of aims of marriage has undergone change wherein individuals are looking for marriage as way to have an understanding partner to fulfill physical and emotional needs.
- **Provision for Divorce:** The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 has introduced a significant change in the institution of Hindu marriage by permitting divorce under certain specific circumstances.
- **Stability of Marriage**: The hindrance on divorce made the institution of family and marriage stable and enduring. Due to the enactment of marriage and family legislations and many other factors the divorce rate in India has been steadily increasing.

Despite the above changes some things still remain constant such as-

- Marriage is not a social contract among Hindus. It is **still sacrament** for Hindus. Mutual fidelity and devotion to partner are still considered to be an essence of marriage.
- **Social evils l**ike child marriage, dowry system, and domestic violence are still prevalent.
- Weddings in India are still considered as an event to display social status of families specially in urban India**. Lavish weddings** in India often witness celebratory firings and unnecessary extravagance.

- The **guidance of elders** is considered important while choosing marriage partners and in many cases even cherished.
- **LGBTQ community, divorcees, single mothers** etc are still looked down upon in society.
- **Values like Mutual fidelity and devotion to partner** are still considered to be an essence of marriage.

Conclusion:

- To cope up with the changes brought by globlisation and other changes, it is the responsibility of every citizen to impart with our Indian Value system to our young ones & kids the importance of Indian culture, joint family and its values so that our next generations may be saved from some negative effects of globalization while at the same time benefit from positive values of modernization.
- Henceforth it can be concluded that every step of movement towards economic, political and cultural modernization, taken by the state in India must be responded by the people with an enhanced sense of self-consciousness and awareness of identity.

2. Globalization is often considered responsible for the increasing consumerism in India. What are its major features and how do they affect the salaried class and lower income groups in particular?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce consumerism** ***(25 words)***
2. **Explain the features of consumerism in India** ***(100 words)***
3. **Explain impact of consumerism on salaried and lower income group** ***(100 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Consumerism culture may be defined as an indomitable passion for the purchase and possession of material goods and services to attain happiness and satisfaction. It is the public demand both for refinement in marketing practices to make them more informative, more responsive, more sincere, more truthful and more efficient, and for a new concern with factors other than privately-consumed goods and services that determine the quality of life.

Features of Consumerism in India

- General trend in society to move towards western tastes, such as eating and hanging out is a common phenomenon especially in Urban centers.
- Broader changes in lifestyle, habits, and pattern of behaviour with increasing reliance on material possession and less and less dependence on nature, for example, earlier people use to follow their day as per sunrise and sunset timings and use to wake-up and sleep early. But with globalization, the nightlife has become more active and people follow the western 24×7 lifestyle.

- Consumer choice is influenced by mass advertising using highly developed arts of persuasion. The consumer typically cannot know whether drug preparations meet minimum standards of safety, quality and efficacy. He usually does not know whether one prepared food has more nutritional value than others; whether the performance of a product will in fact meet his needs and expectations

Effects on Salaried and Lower Income Group

- Demonstration effect: The salaried and low-income group people generally enter into higher debts, as they spend more than their income and even repaying capacity, as they are trying to copy the conspicuous consumption patterns of the rich.
- Feeling of inferiority complex might develop among Low Income group people and can also cause hostility between low and high-income groups.
- The use of unjust and immoral methods has increased among lower-income people, particularly youth, to satisfy their perceived needs, which they think are the ultimate source of happiness.
- It is often associated with globalization in promoting the production and consumption of globally traded goods and brands, which can be incompatible with local cultures and patterns of economic activity. Consumerism can also create incentives for consumers to take on unsustainable debt levels that contribute to financial crises and recessions.
- Psychological research has shown that people who organize their lives around consumerist goals, such as product acquisition, report poorer moods, greater unhappiness in relationships, and other psychological problems.

Conclusion:

Thus as consumers spend more , economists presume that consumers benefit from the utility of the consumer goods that they purchase, and businesses also benefit from increased sales, revenue, and profit.

3. Examine the influence of globalization over culture and indigenous practices in India. Give some examples.

(200 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce about globalization** ***(40 words)***
2. **Discuss its Influence on culture and other aspects** ***(120 words)***
3. **Way Forward** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Globalization is the ongoing process that is linking people, neighborhoods, cities, regions and countries much more closely together than they have ever been before. This has resulted in our lives being intertwined with people in all parts of the world via the food we eat, the clothing we wear, the music we listen to, the information we get and the ideas we hold.

Globalization provides both positive and negative influences on cultural diversity which can have far reaching impacts. Globalization has led to hybridization, homogenization and sometimes conflict intensification as a reaction to cultural dominance.

Effects of Globalization on Culture:

Culture of consumption: Globalization has led to growth of shopping malls, multiplex cinema halls, amusement parks etc. Money is no longer a virtue. Advertisements and media in general promote a culture where spending is more important. Shopping as a pass time is actively encouraged.

Food habits: Visible aspect of cultural globalization is the diffusion of certain cuisines such as fast food chains. ex, the coming of American fast food chains like McDonald, coca cola or the Indian chain like café coffee day etc. It has made the world cuisines available to the local people. While at the same time Indian cuisines have got the attention of world population. Many restaurants in Europe and USA offer Indian food like dosa, parathas etc.

Indigenous arts and crafts: literary traditions and knowledge systems are vanishing due to the influence of televisions, computers, etc. For example, the profession of Dombari community whose livelihood depended on performing acrobatics is dying because of lack of audience. Migration of the traditional weavers of Sircilla village of karimnagar due to lack of money in investing in new technology and unable to adapt to changing consumer tastes and competition from power looms or synthetic fabrics.On the other hand, the increased informational technology and social networking like Facebook, twitter and e-commerce coupled with geographical indication tags have also led to their promotion. For Example, the Indian handloom textiles and handicrafts promoted in other countries like Banarasi and kancheevaram sarees, Madhubani and Pattachitra paintings, Meerut scissors, etc.

Languages: Globalization has made English lingua-franca. It is replacing other languages as the language of communication at household and the younger generations do not speak their mother tongues. It has reduced the amount of literary works published in local languages and also their audience who read it.

Diseases: Diseases that originate in one part of the world spread to other because of increased mobility and interaction of people. Ex, In the HIV/AIDS and recent time Ebola and Zika Virus.

Conflict intensification: Cultural shyness has led to marginalization of some cultures however with increased jingoism and anxiety to protect their cultures has led to cultural nationalism and in extreme cases, chauvinism attacking the ideas of other cultures. For instance, the religious fringe elements being increasingly vocal about celebration of New Year's, valentine day etc.

Music: While it has bought a large number of International pop music to India, it has also seen the growth of popularity of fusion music like Bhangra pop, Indi pop or even remixes etc. one the other hand it has led to marginalization of traditional music of different areas.

Commodification of services: Globalization has drawn the elements of culture that were earlier outside the market system into it. For example, the presence of Indian spirituality and knowledge systems like, Yoga and Ayurveda in the west which have led to increased soft power of India in the world. Growing market of international tourists in the local festivals like Pushkar fair still continues to be a major social and economic event for local people, it is marketed internationally as a major tourist attraction.

Transportation facilities: with increased facilities within the country has led to more people to people contacts, increased international tourism especially spiritual, wellness and cultural tourism.

Way Forward:

The globalization has both positive and negative effects on culture. The cultural intermingling and exchanges have been so pervasive that today it is difficult to distinguish between indigenous or imported cultures leading to a hybrid culture – accept of foreign culture, universal values, liberal ideas, gender equality, etc.

4. What has been the impact of globalization on younger generation in India? How this impact on younger generation is affecting the cultural elements of Indian society?

(200 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by defining what is globalization?** ***(40 words)***
2. **Discuss in detail Impact of globalization on youth** ***(60 words)***
3. **Its impact on cultural elements of the Indian society** ***(60 words)***
4. **Way Forward** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Globalization is the process in which people, ideas and goods spread throughout the world, spurring more interaction and integration between the world's cultures, governments and economies.. It promoted cross fertilization of ideas, cultural values and aspirations, thus, it has helped to connect youth not only to the rest of the world but also among each other.

However, the impact is most significant on younger generation in economic, political, social, psychological and cultural terms.

Impact on Youth

Political:

- The younger generation has become more aware of their rights. It has become more vocal in its demands from the governments.
- Greater importance to the idea of individual liberty.
- Acquisition of foreign citizenship of multiple states.

Separatist tendencies on the rise (H1B Visa case)

Economical:

- The entrepreneurial spirit has engulfed Indian youth, with many from younger generations involved in startups and become first generation millionaires. The owner of Byju's (RaveendranByju)is an example of this.
- With access to modern education and in a globalized economy Indian youths have reached the top post in various MNCs. This has been a major boost for the self-esteem of Indian youth.

The economic growth of India and with Indians being the main force behind the R&D in various US based MNCs of India has helped Indians in gaining self - confidence and they take pride in their identity.

Demographic:

- Delay in the age of marriage, fluidity in institution of marriage, reduction in fertilityrates because of greater focus on economic gains.

Psychological:

- Contribution for women to develop more a sense of independent self, which in turn has influenced family structures and hierarchies.
- The new dad struggle as the father they wants to get involved with their children's lives but have difficulties finding the right balance between work and family. This struggle contributes to intrapsychic, interpersonal, familial conflicts, and changing child-rearing practices.
- Increased role of peer group in formation of self and autonomy.

Impact on Cultural element of Indian Society

Living within the embrace of the Indian nation are vast numbers of different regional, social, and economic groups, each with different cultural practices. Globalization and accompanied commercialization with e-tail and internet based business, social groups has helped in rise of cultural consciousness among youth. Youth from different regions take pride in their regional identities, diversity and make attempts to connect globally.

- IT sector, BPO sector has raised the status of women in society. They have become more assertive and more demanding in terms of their rights.

Mixing of youth from different regions resulted into greater understanding of the cultures of different regions and strengthens unity.

Institution of marriage, family and relationship between the male and female has gone under significant changes. For example, Rise in inter-cast, inter-religion marriages reflects shift from the earlier rigid patterns. Legalization of live-in relationships, rise in cases of divorce, etc.

Change in occupational patterns. Heredity of occupation is no more visible.

Shift in consumption patterns. For example, Western fashion displaced Indian traditional attires, change in food habits, movies and serials- set a stage for patterns of behavior, dress codes and jargon, etc.

Homogenization of Culture, fusion of music and dance forms, etc.

Threat to ingenious craft and literary traditions and knowledge systems.

Way Forward

It is no easy task to sum up the diverse and complex ways that globalization is affecting our lives. We cannot say that the impact of globalization has been totally positive or totally negative. It has been both. Each impact mentioned above can be seen as both positive as well as negative. However, it becomes a point of concern when, an overwhelming impact of globalization can be observed on the Indian culture.Therefore in view of the diverse impacts of globalization there is a need to minimize the negative effects and maximize the positive effects so that Indians can modernize while retaining the basic elements of our society.

5. Despite optimistic outlook towards globalization, globalization has a dark side and has the power to create highly undesirable adverse effects. Analyse the above statement in context of the concept of globalization and its impact on the working women

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining meaning of globalization and present status of women work force** ***(25 words)***
2. **Explain the positive impact of globalization on women** ***(100 words)***
3. **Explain negative impact of globalization on women** ***(100 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Globalization can be defined as the integration of world economies by removing barriers to trade and encouraging the free flow of foreign investment, private portfolio capital and labour across national boundaries. Despite this optimistic outlook towards globalization, globalization has a dark side and has the power to create highly undesirable adverse effects. In particular, globalization has the potential to lead to exploitation of the female workforce and even to jeopardize their safety.

Women Work force - Women do two thirds of the world's work, receive ten percent of world's income and own one percent of the means of production. This is the present picture of women workers in the era of globalization.

Positive Effects of Globalization on Women in India

- With broader communication lines and more companies and different organizations entering into India, opportunities for not only working men, but also women has broadened.
- With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self-confidence and brings about independence.
- This, in turn, can promote equality between the sexes, something that Indian women have been struggling with their entire lives. Globalization has the power to uproot the traditional treatment towards women to afford them an equal stance in society.

Negative effects of globalization on Working Women

- Out of the total 397 million workers in India, 123.9 million are women and of these women 96% of female workers are in the unorganized sector.
- Although more women are now seeking paid employment, a vast majority of them obtain only poorly paid, unskilled jobs in the informal sector, without any job security.
- Working women in India are more likely to be subjected to intense exploitation.
  - They are exposed to more and more risks that cause health hazards
  - Forced to endure greater levels of physical and mental stress.

Hazards Related to the Attitude of Society and Family

- Women continue to be perceived as weak, inferior, second-class citizens. For working women, this discrimination is extended to the workplace also.
- The improper and insufficient dietary intake along with the heavy workload results in nutritional disorders.

- In addition, this perception that they alone are responsible for the domestic work, leads to a feeling of guilt when they are not able to look after the children or family members due to their official work, often resulting in emotional disorders.

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

- One of the evils is the sexual harassment female workers endure from their male counterparts and other members of the society.
- Regardless of whether they are skilled or unskilled labourers or work in the organized or unorganized sector, a large number of women are harassed sexually at the workplace.

Night Work

- For years women have been working in hospitals, in the telecom department and in the fish processing industry during the night shift.
- In the era of globalization, the number of women working the night shift is increasing with call centres and export oriented companies located in the Export Processing Zone employing women in large numbers during the night shift, without providing proper protection or transport facilities to them.
- Moreover even though night work will help to usher gender-parity in the work force, the apprehensions about incidents of sexual abuse are a matter of concern.

Conclusion:

The aspects of globalization have provided women with greater opportunities to work but, it has also led to gender wage differentials and the marginalization of women which is clearly reflected through segregation of women workers in certain specific jobs. Unfavorable working hours, lack of training and skill up-gradation opportunities and lesser career mobility in the formal sector of economy still prevail in almost every country.

6. Bring out the relation of globalization with formation of bi-cultural identity. Discuss its pros and cons

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining bi-cultural identity** ***(25 words)***
2. **Explain how globalization is associated to bi-cultural diversity** ***(100 words)***
3. **Discuss the Pros and Cons** ***(100 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Bicultural identity is the condition of being oneself regarding the combination of two cultures. The term can also be defined as biculturalism, which is the presence of two different cultures in the same country or region.

Globalization and Bi-cultural identity

- Globalization has fast tracked access to new labour markets, resources and sharing of knowledge bases.
- It has removed the barriers to human resource mobility, which is in-turn is changing the fabric of many nations and communities. Ability of migrants to assimilate and adapt to host country culture plays an important role in development of their cultural identity.
- Global economy is underpinned by migration of skilled resources. Every year thousands of people migrate from developing countries to western countries.
- The biggest impact of this bi-cultural influence is on the children who move to new host country with their parents. Intercultural interaction, building relationships to all the cultures while not having full ownership in any becomes an important part of their social life.

Pros:

- Increased opportunity to interact with people of different nationalities/cultures in their day to day life. They find it easier to adapt to new cultures, adept at intercultural communication, have a broader world view and their kids are likely to do better in studies.
- New culture adopted is future oriented, adaptive and supportive of mutual acceptance of differences. They are right tools and skills to be truly global knowledge workers.
- Positive effect on their outlook on life. Their perception of reality is shaped by a more wholesome experience of interacting with different cultures.
- Migration of skilled resources across borders is leading to radical changes to social customs and lifestyle of host countries. It is encouraging development of a non-homogenous hybrid culture.
- Today social media and internet plays a big part in people's day to day life. They not only provide access to information and entertainment they enable people to keep in touch with home culture, tradition and way of life. They keep alive the influence of "Diaspora".
- Globalisation and bicultural identity has given rise to cosmopolitan culture.
- Conflicts, prejudices and stereotypes can be avoided with exposure of people to multiple cultures

Cons

Globalisation is seen as a threat to socio-cultural environment in the context of identity

- The issue of national identity vs. ethnic identity: differences in language and expectation with regards to assimilation in mainstream society push many of them into their own ethnic sub groups or communities.
  - In order to retain the ethnic identity and seek the comfort of interacting with people from similar background, a number of these migrants, start forming or becoming part of small sub ethnic communities. E.g. Hindu Mahasabha, Punjabi Association, Marathi community group, Gujarati association etc.
- On one hand they try to maintain cultural ties, traditions and values of their home country on the other they look to adapt to the culture of adopted home.
- Through films, music, festivals, food and community functions, migrants usually strive to not only retain their cultural values but to pass them on to the children.
- This dilemma with regards to self-identity inculcates a sense of rootlessness among people and a number of them find it hard to define their own identity vis a vis their host country

- Children of bi-cultural identity are caught between the pressure from parents to retain their ethnic culture and need to adapt to the culture of their peers in school, colleges and workplace
- Bicultural identity can lead to homogenisation of cultures across the globe. Developing countries are blindly following the culture of western countries and neglect of local culture.

Conclusion:

Thus most people around the world develop a different form of bicultural identity, combining their local identity with an identity linked to the global culture. This phenomenon is particularly relevant in adolescents, as contemporary urban teenagers worldwide tend to follow similar consumption patterns and do not have memories of times when their ancestral culture was preserved from globalization. This new form of biculturalism could be both an opportunity for personal fulfillment and a source of identity confusion.

7. India has been a beneficiary of globalization but the country needs to develop a mechanism to deal with the associated risks. How has globalization positively reshaped the Indian society. What risks associated with globalization seem to have materialized in India?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Discuss the trends of globalization in context of India** ***(50 words)***
2. **Describe how globalization has affected India in various sectors** ***(75 words)***
3. **Identify the issues that have emerged because of globalisation** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Globalization is a process that encompasses the causes, courses, and consequences of transnational and transcultural integration of human and non-human activities. The globalising impulse can be seen as ever-widening circles trending towards greater homogeneity, the long-term logical corollary of which is a unified market, culture, language and liberal-democratic State.

The wake of globalization was first felt in the 1990s in India when the then finance minister, Dr Manmohan Singh initiated the economic liberalization plan. However the impact of globalization has not been limited to the economic sphere, but also extended to the various other facets of our society.

The beneficial impact of globalization on Indian scoiety

- Women and children: Women reservation, rights, problems, status and authority etc have gained traction due to greater awareness. The voice of women is increasingly heard in Parliament, courts and in the streets
  - Child labors, bonded labors, exploitation, avoidance of human rights are also gaining wider attention

- Reduced Marginalisation: Globalisation benefits the schedule caste and other marginalised people in promoting cultural homogeneity in the way of loosening of the ideas of pollution and purity and eradication of untouchability and so many socio-cultural and economic disabilities associated with them.
- Higher living standards: As people are getting good salaries then earlier, the purchasing power of them has increased superiorly.
- Education: Foreign Universities are collaborating with different Indian Universities.
  - Globalization promotes new tools and techniques such as E-learning, Flexible learning, Distance Education Programs and Overseas training
- Rural life: Globalization also provides better exposure to the agricultural produces and ensures the farmers that they get the correct value.
  - Commercialization of agriculture and expansion of agroindustries, the liberalization of international trade and marketing for food and other agricultural products, the intensification and internal labour migration, the increasing privatization of resources and services and the wider use of information and communication and technologies
- Administration: The public sector has to compete with private sectors in case of cost, quality, and span of production otherwise it has to face elimination.
  - Banks, inflation, share prices, monetary and fiscal policy, budget are being finalized according to international financial market.
  - The scope of public sector is becoming limited so the powers and functions of bureaucracy have been reducing, due to the entry of foreign investors in telecommunication, roads, posts, airports, insurance, health, education and IT sectors.

Negative effects of globalization

- Widening inequality: In India after globalization process started in 1991, there has higher GDP and income growth leading to lower level of poverty in the country but inequality has increased because of distribution of income tilted in favour of rich.
  - The top 10% of the Indian population holds 77% of the total national wealth, while 67 million Indians who comprise the poorest half of the population saw only a 1% increase in their wealth.
- Education: With globalisation, more people are looking forward to higher education in foreign countries. This has led to the phenonena of brain drain.
- Pandemics: Globalisation has increased the chances of spreading more diseases from various foreign countries such as the most recent COVID-19 pandemic
- Child labour: The rising competition among country to pursue low cost manufacturing, has increased child labour within the country.Despite the restrictions on child labour, many sectors like servicing, manufacturing, and repairing have led to an increase in child labour in India.
- Family structure: Increasing mobility of younger generation in search of new employment and educational opportunities seemingly has weakened the family relations.
  - Greater majority of senior citizens have to look after themselves with no support from their children.

Conclusion:

- Cultural: There should be a dedicated and consistent effort to preserve and encourage India's local culture such as classical music, folk dances, handicrafts etc. through the efforts of government and NGO's.

- Sharing benefits: The fruits of increasing economy should be shared proportionally among all the sections of the society.
- Enforcing rules against child labour, bonded labour and other forms of exploitation

8. How globalization has affected the cultural change in India w.r.t aspirations of middle-class? Analyze major step that have been taken to address these aspirations?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining what middle class aspirations are and how globalization has addressed them** ***(100 words)***
2. **Explain the government schemes that have tried to address middle class aspirations** ***(100 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Globalization has been a life changing phenomenon for India's middle class with variety of choices and better avenues are opened for them.

Major middle-class aspirations are:

- Better infrastructure and cleanliness in public places
- Punctuality in public transport
- Better markets and easy imports
- Quality jobs with better pay structure
- Weekend system, i.e. 2 days holiday in a week, was an unknown phenomenon in India 25 years ago.
- Transparency in governance system

How globalization brought the cultural change w.r.t aspirations of middle class

- Exposure to international media and films after opening up of Indian economy, revealed the quality of life and infrastructural standards in west.
- Once the students witnessed the quality education outside the other countries with good infrastructure facilities they wanted such facilities in India.
- The products available in the market made changes into the lifestyle of middle class. There are too many brands in the market, which is the effect of globalization, which in turn again shaping the aspirations of middle class to get those products.
- Through FDI, Investment in India has increased and new jobs has been created in MNC's with better paying jobs which led to the increase of middle class aspirations.
- Global constitutionalism which is seen as enhancement of rights of the people and more awareness about them specially in the educated middle class.

Major government schemes addressing the above:

- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** It is a campaign in India that aims to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas.
- **Right to Information:** to hold government accountable and bring transparency
- **Infrastructural schemes like, new railway policies on cleanliness and better trains-**
- **Bullet Train project:** To provide world class travel options to burgeoning Indian middle class.
- **Metro Train system:** to upgrade infrastructure and provide better and clean public transport which is punctual too.

Conclusion:

From an economic perspective, the middle class has been seen as a force for growth. A burgeoning middle class is seen as expanding the domestic market because of a rising share of income available for discretionary spending after satisfying its demand for basic necessities, that makes them a force for stability

9. Advertising is known as the art of impossible, i.e., the ability to create false need perception to sell products, however, this has disastrous effect on society. Elaborate.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining advertising and how does it work** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain how does advertising creates false images in mind of consumers and its impact on society** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Advertising is an encapsulated communication about the product or service beautifully designed, clear and concise giving an appealing message which is intended to attract the target consumers. Advertising is the most powerful tool used to persuade the target consumers to buy the product or service or just informing them about the availability of the product or service in the market.

Misrepresentation

Advertising aims to present a product in the best light possible. There is some leeway in the creative process. The problem arises when the dramatization crosses the line into falsely representing a product.

False Images

Advertising is ingrained in Indian culture, from children's programs on Saturday morning to talk shows and prime time TV. Advertising even invades movies through product placement. Advertising influences how people feel about themselves — often in a negative way. These images are often unrealistic and unattainable.

Promotion of Harmful Products

Widespread concern exists about the potential effects that media portrayals of drinking, alcohol product placements, and alcohol advertising may have on alcohol consumption and problems among young people. Television, radio, film, and popular music are often identified as potential sources through which young people learn about alcohol and as potential influences on young people's drinking and drinking problems.

Corrupting the Youth

The negative effects of advertising on teenagers include increased cigarette and alcohol use, obesity, poor nutrition and eating disorders, according to Pediatrics.

Impact on Children: Some of the negative effects of advertising on children include:

- Advertisements encourage children to convince or force their parents to buy the products they see in commercials, regardless of whether they need them or not and whether they are useful or not. Many throw tantrums and use different tactics to force the adults to get them what they want.
- Flashy commercials and ads on TV, the Internet, magazines, etc. create a tendency for impulse shopping
- Many advertisements seen today involve dangerous stunts which children try to imitate as they do not understand the statutory warnings that come with the ads.
- With so many attractive commercials, marketing junk foods and unhealthy beverages, children's health has been adversely affected. These ads encourage unhealthy eating, which in turn has led to an increase in obesity, diabetes, heart problems and other conditions in young children
- Child advertising may impact self-esteem, making them feel inferior to other children if they do not have the latest products that are seen in commercials.
- Sexually suggestive ads are everywhere these days. This makes children objectify women and also allows them to think that looking or acting a certain way is the only way to make friends or be popular. These ads also make young girl's body conscious and in many cases, can cause eating disorders like bulimia, anorexia, etc.

Conclusion:

- Advertising does not necessarily create needs, what advertising do is - "manipulate wants". It is the job of advertising to promote products (& their benefits) and persuade potential consumers to buy it. Because of competitive pressures advertisers cross the line of ethics quite frequently now a day, few people misuse advertising for promoting products & try to sell them by making false claims about the product.
- Advertising agencies and advertisers can get away with making false claims about the products and services that they are selling, because, in a country like India the judicial system is not so fast and companies know that by the time somebody will react the job will be completed.

10. Tribals in India have been on the receiving end of the globalization process. Critically examine the effects of globalization on the tribal population in India.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce tribals in India** ***(25 words)***
2. **Examine how globalization has impacted tribals in various ways** ***(150 words)***
3. **Illustrate with an example** ***(50 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Tribals are part of the Indian society, at the same time they are different. Age old exploitation and repression of the tribals, have cut them off from the main stream of socio-economic development of the country as a whole.

Impact of Globalization on Tribals

- The gains of globalization have so far accrued to those who already have education and skill advantage, easier market access and possession of assets for use as collateral to access credit. For the tribals, globalization is associated with rising prices, loss of job security, lack of healthcare and tribal development programmes.
- The new economic policies have serious impact on the adivasi lives whose right over access to natural resources, livelihood opportunities, right to primary education and health, protection from atrocities and human rights abuses and the right to uphold their traditional and customary practices, are under series threat due to the changes in laws and policies.
- One of the ways of globalization in India is disinvestment or privatization. Many Public sector Enterprises are being sold off to private sectors with the objective of raising revenues to meet the fiscal deficits and to improve efficiency. Profit making enterprises like BALCO, which are in the tribal belt, have been privatized.
- Public Sector Enterprises in the tribal belt were beneficial to tribal people giving them employment and livelihood. Privatization of these enterprises adversely affected the tribal people and disturbs the regional balance in terms of industrialization.
- The new Industrial policy paved the way for Tribal Land alienation. This results in the alienation of tribal lands for various purposes, like construction dams, mining projects, setting up of wildlife sanctuaries, construction of government infrastructure and encroachments by non-tribals.
- The most serious threat to the adivasi people on the country today is the pressure on the Fifth Schedule. Both Central and Several state governments are seriously making efforts to amend the laws prescribed under Fifth Schedule and their corresponding state laws in order to allow private and corporate players to take over tribal and forest lands.
- Violation of the Fifth Schedule has occurred in many states like in Andhra Pradesh where the Land Transfer Regulation Act was ignored while giving mining leases in Scheduled Areas to private companies. Private mining has been taking place in Rajasthan, M.P, Odisha, Maharashtra and other Fifth Schedule States.
- While the adivasis have been displaced and pushed into the fringes of globalization, the natural resources were victim to large scale destruction directly for industry purposes and indirectly by the non tribals.
- As a result the tribals ended up as debris in the globalised policies unable to access the

resources which were their life sustaining forces or to compete with the mainstream society to be absorbed into alternate economies. Those absorbed in the new industries and projects were minimal compared to the extent of displacement and the destruction of traditional livelihood.

Example:

- Several Adivasi communities or indigenous people are spread over the Eastern Ghats across the southern and eastern region of the Indian sub-continent. The macro economic and political policies of the state with their active promotion of globalisation have driven the adivasi people to the brink of survival. The effects of globalisation have had far reaching consequences in the Eastern Ghats.
- Over 360 families in the Lanjigada block of Orissa's Kalahandi district in eastern India have been forcefully pushed to a cultural extinction. Though government policy decision prescribes that "all development projects must be accompanied by a sensitive rehabilitation and employment package", these indigenous people continue to suffer as the rehabilitation measures are not adequate.

Conclusion:

Tribals are a part of the Indian society and general problems of consciously changing or modernizing Indian society are also applicable to them. But the tribals form a special case in this wider framework and the problem is the nature and type of this special category. Tribal development policies and programmes in India assumed that all the tribals will develop and will integrate themselves with the mainstream. This has happened only in a symbolic way. As a result of the planned tribal development, stratification on secular lines has taken place among tribals and only a small section has been able to take advantage of the development programmes.

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NOTES

SET-7: QUESTIONS

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Q1. What do you understand by social empowerment? What are the factors which inhibit social empowerment in India and how it affects Indian development process? What effective steps were taken to overcome these problems?

Q2. 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.

Q3. Untouchability is still a widespread problem, not only in rural India, but also in urban India. Enumerate the reasons. Do you think, developing awareness among children would address this problem, give your opinion?

Q4. "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.

Q5. Road to social empowerment goes through breaking away from shackles of poverty, patriarchy, and caste both in the public and private spheres. Analyze

Q6. 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.

Q7. "Government's schemes for social empowerment and welfare are static and these have no connection with dynamic factors, leading to more costs than benefits to society". Comment

Q8. What are the limitations in ensuring food security in India? Illustrate their impact on vulnerable section of the society.

Q9. "Forced incorporation of tribal communities into mainstream processes has had its impact on the tribal culture and society as much as its economy", do you agree? Analyse in the context of PESA Act that empowers the tribals to preserve their customs, culture, community resources and customary mode of dispute resolution.

Q10. Critically analyze, whether Dalit capitalism is the way to empowerment of exploited section of Indian society when castes consciousness in upper castes still dominates.

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SET-7: ANSWERS

1. What do you understand by social empowerment? What are the factors which inhibit social empowerment in India and how it affects Indian development process? What effective steps were taken to overcome these problems?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Give brief introduction about Meaning of Social Empowerment** ***(40 words)***
2. **Explain in detail regarding Factors inhibiting social empowerment** ***(60 words)***
3. **Discuss its Effects on Indian developmental process** ***(60 words)***
4. **Highlight different Steps to overcome the problems** ***(50 words)***
5. **Way Forward** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Social empowerment 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.

Poor people's empowerment, and their ability to hold others to account, is strongly influenced by their individual assets (such as land, housing, livestock, savings) and capabilities of all types: human (such as good health and education), social (such as social belonging, a sense of identity, leadership relations) and psychological (self-esteem, self-confidence, the ability to imagine and aspire to a better future). Also important are people's collective assets and capabilities, such as voice, organization, representation and identity

Factors inhibiting social empowerment in India

- Traditions, customs and some of corrupted religious practices has given low status to SCs, STs and women. This impacted there economic and social mobilization because they were denied access to education, standard of living, etc.

SCs did not have access to land resources or other means of permanent livelihood, along with this the social and political discrimination took a heavy toll on their educational development and self-esteem.

Women were also denied access to education, ownership of family resources and access to public places which negatively impacted their participation in various spheres of life.

Certain sections of society like trans-genders, disabled were seen with stigma and denied opportunities for healthy development.

STs because of their different language, culture was not incorporated into the mainstream and the ownership their resources were transferred to state or commercial entities. In this process, they were denied due share.

The long years of foreign rule lead to impoverishment of India. The disadvantaged section of society was to suffer most because of this colonialism led impoverishment.

What effective steps must be taken?

Social justice and equality were important objectives of Indian independence movement and post-independence many steps were taken to achieve them which were reflected in various provisions of the Indian Constitution.

Representation to SC/STs in Parliament and state legislatures so that their interests are protected. Later, through 73rd and 74th amendment reservation was also provided at the local level also.

Land reforms, reservation in jobs, various scholarship schemes, concessions in fees etc. were other instruments used.

Establishing institutions like NCSC, NCSTs, Ministry of Social Justice to take care of issues of marginalized sections.

Giving autonomy to STs in the governance through 5th and 6th Schedule areas.

Despite these efforts the literacy levels, poverty levels, level of malnutrition and the recent attacks on people of SCs in different areas of country, skewed sex ratio, etc. indicate that a lot needs to be done in this direction.

Way Forward

Strict propagation and enforcement of Constitutional values wherever they conflict with religious or customary values should be done. It will help in changing the attitude of both the marginalized and those who inflict violence.

Mobilizing the marginalized to form pressure groups, organizations and evolve leadership among them who can become role models for them.

Quality education has been missing for the marginalized. With increasing privatization, rising cost of education and low performance of government schools has not helped them. There is need to provide bridge courses for them so that they can upgrade their knowledge in areas where they are poor.

Focus on providing self-employment opportunities and inculcating entrepreneurial spirit through loan subsidies, technical support, etc.

If such steps are taken the objective of social justice and social empowerment as enunciated in Indian Constitution will be achieved to an extent. However, this is going to be long drawn effort and needs dynamisms in approach and patience in looking for the results.

2. 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.

(250 words)

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 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, contrary to the common perception, is rather dynamic with a great degree of flexibility in terms of internal structure and functions.

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 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 have political representation and 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:

Dalit women suffer from triple discrimination by the so-called high caste people (which equally affects both male and female Dalits), the design of the religious patriarchal system and lastly by the Dalit males:

- **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, more so than their male Dalit counterparts.
- **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.

3. Untouchability is still a widespread problem, not only in rural India, but also in urban India. Enumerate the reasons. Do you think, developing awareness among children would address this problem, give your opinion?

(200 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly introduce Untouchability as a widespread problem in India** ***(40 words)***
2. **Enumerate reasons for its prevalence in India** ***(90 words)***
3. **Discuss how explaining children the menace of caste discrimination can help in tackling the issue** ***(40 words)***
4. **Way Forward** ***(30 words)***

Hints

Untouchability is long standing social evil in India. Dalits who are at the bottom of the Hindu castesystem have been subjected to multiple form of discrimination, especially in the form of untouchability. Despite constitutional protection under Article 17 of the Indian Constitution and advent of modernity, its practice in real life, both subtly and overtly, has been still registered in many pockets of the country.

According to India Human Development Survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, 27% of the household still practice untouchability. Recent survey called Social Attitudes Research for India supports the claim.

Reasons for prevalence of untouchability in India:

Racial factor: Racial difference segments the members in the category of 'touchable' and 'untouchables.'

Religious factor: Existing religious literatures are both rigid and biased against Dalits/scheduled castes.In rural areas, concept of purity and pollution is still strictly practiced. Lower castes are understood to be not strict followers of hygiene and cleanliness.

Social factor: Indian continues to function within a deep rooted caste system. Mostly Endogamous marriages, thus, intermixing of lower castes with upper castes is limited. This perpetuates untouchability.

Psychological factor: Societal and cultural attitudes have not changed much even after people getting educated because of habitual obedience.

Economic factor: Poverty and illiteracy among lower castes resulted into unavailability of resources with them. This marred, in most cases, their economical upliftment.Unclean Occupation-Most of the jobs like cleaning sewage drains and other manual works are done by people of the lower castes. While these are important jobs in a society, they are essentially low paid and considered unclean.

Political factor: For political rivalry and greed of remaining in power, political parties have been exploiting existing social cleavage. This has made discriminatory caste practices and conventions a political agenda.

Reservation, relaxation and concessions in favour of SC have helped in their social and economic upliftment but it has also helped in perpetuation of old practices in social and political lives.

Educating children to curb untouchability:

- A child is first exposed to practice of caste discrimination at a young age. Awareness and education about this evil practice will discourage future generations to blindly follow them.
- Practical education is more important as it gives an insight to choose better than to discriminate on the basis of caste, creed, religion, sex, etc.
- Although the issue is more of moral and education is an enabler, moral education plays a more important role. The teachers if seen practicing discrimination, it gets imbibed in the children also. Thus, one must lead by example.

Way Forward

Thus, education might help the disadvantaged get better access to opportunities; it can reduce the effect but cannot eradicate untouchability completely. For that to happen, mindsets need to be changed.

4. "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.

(250 words)

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.
- 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 mobile 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.

5. Road to social empowerment goes through breaking away from shackles of poverty, patriarchy, and caste both in the public and private spheres. Analyze

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by stating necessity of social empowerment. Then state status of social empowerment in India.** ***(50 words)***
2. **Then you have to analyse, how breaking away from shackles of poverty, patriarchy and caste in both public and private sphere helps in achieving social empowerment.** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Social empowerment is necessary to live a dignified life. Social empowerment is a condition where 'social justice' is fulfilled. Social empowerment 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.

The composition of present Indian society includes some disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. These are poor, farmers, hitherto untouchables, tribals, women, disabled, etc. On the virtue of poverty, gender, disability, birth, etc. these section of society are negatively discriminated in the society and hence cannot make most of the life they are living. Such environment causes grave (social) injustice to such population.

India being Socialist, Democratic and Republic country, envisages egalitarian society and hence social empowerment of these vulnerable group is actively sought after via State and non state actors. The road to social empowerment goes through following milestones -

Breaking the shackles of poverty in both public and private spheres -

- Poverty is deprivations. Poor people cannot mix freely in the mainstream society due to financial disabilities. This poverty snatches many opportunities and dignity from poors. Hence, alleviation of poverty is considered as one of the tools for social empowerment. **Development** is considered as method of alleviation of poverty.
- Many schemes and programs related to employments, such as, MGNREGA, Aajivika, Deen Dayal Upadhy ayntodaya yojana, etc. Along with schemes involving subsidies, food security, Ayushman Bharat, Ujaala, etc. helps in poverty alleviation. Recently the idea of UBI- universal basic income was also considered for poverty alleviation.
- These Development measures helps in social empowerment, but issues in corruption, lack of awareness, inadequate funds, etc. hampers the progress in this direction.
- Similarly, in private sphere, **value education** teaching respect to disadvantaged people**, habit of philanthropy**, etc. will also help in alleviating poverty.

Breaking the s hackles of patriarchy in both public and private spheres

- Women form 50% of our population. Their empowerment is utmost necessity for achieving the objectives of empowered society. The women empowerment can be achieved through providing equality of opportunities and hence initiatives like - Naaritunarayani; BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO -> BADLAV – Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi, are considered.
- The civil society also actively engages in empowering the women through various ways, example - SHG. The cyber world has also gathered support for recognizing the women rights. Value education also plays critical role in this regard.
- Such measures help in breaking the shackles of patriarchy in both public and private spheres (such as domestic violence, marital rapes, etc).

Breaking the shackles of caste in both public and private spheres -

- Caste discrimination has been one of the biggest obstacles in social empowerment. Positive discrimination through reservations in public employments have helped in economic empowerment but social empowerment still seems a far cry as evident from news related to honour killings, mid-day-meal SC cook dismissal, issue of manual scavenging, denial of temple entry to SC, even cleaning of temple after president Ram Nath Kovind visited the temple, etc.
- The breaking of shackles of caste needs widespread reforms like inter-caste marriage promotion**,** discouraging compulsory surname pronunciation, value education, etc.

Conclusion:

The Objectives of State as per preamble of Indian constitution are Justice, Equality, Fraternity and Liberty. These objectives point towards social empowerment of the vulnerable and hitherto socially disadvantaged section. Social empowerment will help in political and economic progress of our country and in turn help us all. The India envisaged by our forefathers is a socially empowered India and with many political-economic and awareness interventions which we must carry forward in right direction.

6. 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.

(250 words)

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

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.

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.

Senior citizen -

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

Children -

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

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.

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.

7. "Government's schemes for social empowerment and welfare are static and these have no connection with dynamic factors, leading to more costs than benefits to society". Comment

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining that welfare programmes are often mistargeted** ***(25 words)***
2. **Examine the reasons behind inadequacy of government schemes and interventions** ***(100 words)***

3. Suggest few measures to improve policy implementation ***(100 words)***

4. Conclusion ***(25 words)***

Hints

Welfare programmes for women, SCs & STs and other vulnerable sections of the society are often mis-targeted and are more of a onetime dole rather than empowerment in terms of health, education and skill formation to enable the beneficiaries to get productive employment on a sustained basis or promote entrepreneurship.

The weakest links among the target groups remain excluded because of their inability to access the benefits of the scheme because of lack of education, awareness and confidence.

Issues with the design and implementation of government interventions in social sector in general

Despite so many programs, schemes and interventions Indian nation as a whole has not been able to transgress the set boundaries. Many factors remain inherent to this latent inability.

- There seems to be a lack of proper analysis regarding what all and how all to redistribute. This becomes a big impediment during the implementation of any intervention. To exemplify, certain reports pointed out that in Kerala due to lack of requisite resources (human and capital) there has been inordinate delays in the distribution of free generic medicines right from primary health centres to medical college hospitals.
- When, what is available is not clear then it automatically translates into ill perceived ideas about the requirements of the concerned sector. This factor becomes all the more prominent in the very design of the scheme, making it upside down hence resulting in absolute failure. Maharashtra has a robust agricultural sector yet the largest numbers of farmer's suicides are a reality of the state. The fact is glaring in the context of Maharashtra having the highest number of dams in the country. So the problem lies in poor long term vision and unequal water distribution. Both, emanating from the inability in comprehending the exact needs of the sector.
- Leakages and pilferages have been troubling the development process since long and continues to be at that very level. It so happens that due to these the real beneficiaries remain beneficiaries on paper while those who don't need the benefit gains it on one or other pretense.
- Apathy and indifference of officials who determines policies and programmes of Government. It has been pointed out that the government service in India is more concerned with the internal processes than with results. The systemic rigidities, needless complexities and over-centralization in the policy and management structures within which the public service functions, are too complex and often too constraining. The structures are based on hierarchies and there are a large number of veto points to be negotiated for a decision to eventually emerge. To compound it, the size and the number of ministries and departments have both overloaded the decision-making system and diminished the capacities of the individual public servants to fulfill their operational responsibilities.

The second administrative reforms commission's 10th report has brought out this facet in the open. The report has shown that:-

- Corruption is a matter of concern particularly at the cutting edge levels of the bureaucracy.
- There is a perceptible lack of commitment in public servants towards redressal of citizens' grievances.

- Red-tapism and unnecessary complex procedures add to the hardship of citizens.
- Government servants are rarely held account and complaints to higher authorities usually go unheeded.
- Generally the attitude of many public functionaries is one of arrogance and indifference.
- Frequent transfer of officers reduces their effectiveness and also dilutes their accountability.
- Sometimes there is "unholy" nexus between unscrupulous politicians and officers leading to poor governance.

- The beneficiaries don't possess a stake holder mentality which in turn indirectly refrains them from being an active partner in the development process as such. The proposition of citizen-centricity is somewhat missing from the development process. This in turns prevents recipients from becoming a pro-active participant.
- The unique federal structure necessitated a strong center to keep centrifugal tendencies in check. But it has slowly become a thorn in the friendly relationship between the two. Although the state has the responsibility of implementing centrally sponsored schemes but its own populist tendencies come in between the smooth implementation of the same. In recent years, there has been a paradigm shift in the Central Government strategy for implementation of flagship programmes and other centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) for poverty alleviation, health care, education, employment, sanitation, etc. Most of these schemes were earlier implemented on cost sharing basis with transfer of central share to State Government.

Measures:

- **Strengthening of Local Institutions -** With the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, several functions were transferred to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Since 2004, there has also been massive transfer of funds, especially after the enactment of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). But institutionally, the PRIs remain weak and they do not have the capacity to plan or implement programmes effectively.
- **Social Mobilisation -** The experience with Plan programmes has clearly established the central role of a socially mobilised and aware community as a decisive determinant of success. However, it is also clear that romanticizing community action and presuming that this will happen automatically, is to perpetuate a myth that actually hurts the poor. Local communities, left to themselves, will not necessarily allow the poor, dalits, adivasis and women, to express themselves. The States that have emphasised the role played by social mobilisers and have made specific financial and human resource provisions have, invariably, succeeded. It is the participation of users in planning, implementation and social audit of these programmes that has proved critical to their success. It is only when we recognise the key role of social mobilisers in raising awareness and engendering active participation of local people, especially women, that the true potential of demand-driven and bottom-up programmes such as MGNREGA, TSC and NRLM are effectively realised.
- **Role of Voluntary Sector -** To strengthen governance at the panchayat, block, district, State and Central levels with special focus at the critical level of the district planning board, it is essential to build mechanisms that institutionalise consultative planning to enable greater representation of the stakeholders. One way of achieving the same is through institutionalised consultations with the voluntary sector. The Voluntary Sector can help build a self-reliant, motivated and harmonious social order by enabling people and people's groups to access democratic processes and entitlements that lead to empowerment. It can also present a critique of public functioning and provide alternatives.

- **Effective Design and Implementation -** While formulating schemes, it is important to ensure that they are well-designed for the objective at hand and also that the guidelines and procedures help in effective implementation. The consultation with the stakeholders is one of the key requirements for ensuing that the architecture of these schemes meet the objectives. Often, the consultation process is not mandatory. The schemes which may require formulation of laws or guidelines would need to have extensive consultative machinery. Resources would need to be provided to improve the quality of consultations. The architecture of this scheme must have evaluation and feedback mechanisms.
- **Improving public service delivery -** A number of services are today provided by the State Governments and Central Ministries. These include ration cards, caste certificates, income certificates, certificates for proof of residence, passports and similar other services. It is important that these are available within a prescribed time line. Failures and deficiencies in delivery of public services lead to dissatisfaction and public anger against the government.
- **Dissemination of Information-** Government needs to communicate more effectively with the citizens. Citizens are not aware of many schemes set up by central and state governments for their benefit. Stakeholders, who will be affected by new government policies, realise only after the policies are announced, that they have great concerns whereas government departments claim that the policies were posted on their websites and views had been invited. Further, dissemination of information on existing policies, on availability of documents, written communications in the electronic media as well as newspapers can help citizens avail of benefits of government schemes.

Conclusion:

The need for dynamic social empowerment scheme is based on realization that partisan and discrimination based system should be short lived, lesser in degree, well targeted and avoid benefits to the same beneficiaries at individual or household levels frequently, including new beneficiaries, preparing the weakest among the weaker to take the benefits of such programmes.

8. What are the limitations in ensuring food security in India? Illustrate their impact on vulnerable section of the society.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining meaning of food security** ***(50 words)***
2. **Examine the limitations of ensuring food security in India** ***(75 words)***
3. **Assess the impact of limitations on vulnerable sections** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Food security has been defined as “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”. It involves strengthening the livelihood security of all members within a household by ensuring physical and economic access to balanced diet including the needed micronutrients, safe drinking water, and environmental sanitation, basic health care and primary education.

The Limitations of ensuring food security in India are:

In rural and tribal areas this is mainly due to lack of improvement in agricultural productivity owing to inadequate resources and markets needed to obtain agricultural stability. An agrarian crisis is currently being unleashed in India and it has a variety of causes, the prominent being the huge cut in government's development expenditure in the nineties, particularly in rural areas. This adversely affected the availability and expansion of irrigation facilities, improvement in agricultural technology and overall food grain output. Lack of education and job opportunities in rural areas have further added to the problems. Climate change too, has an impact on the agricultural productivity, which affects the availability of food items and thus, food security.

There is also an issue of wage differentials. In India, there does exist gender-specific wage rates differences. The females are at a more disadvantaged position compared to men in the rural labour market. The relative male-female wage gap is larger in non-agriculture sector where female workers earn 65 percent of male wages while in manufacturing, female wages are only 59 percent of male wages. All these factors contribute to limiting the productivity of women, in turn jeopardizing their long term purchasing power.

Further inadequate distribution of food through public distribution mechanisms (PDS, i.e., Public Distribution System) is also a reason for growing food insecurity in the country. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has the disadvantage in the sense that those people who are the right candidates for deserving the subsidy are excluded on the basis of non-ownership of below poverty line (BPL) status, as the criterion for identifying a household as BPL is arbitrary and varies from state to state. Besides this, low quality of grains and the poor service at PDS shops has further added to the problem.

The Limitations of National Food Security Act

The biggest challenge as faced by the country in wake of NFSA, 2013, in implementation is to ensure an adequate supply of grains every year. Huge climate changes are inflicting larger challenges to Indian agriculture. Indian agriculture is still largely rainfed, and it experiences drought almost every 4-5 years. Climate change is indicating that the frequency and intensity of such droughts and extreme weather events is going to increase. Under such circumstances, production and procurement can fluctuate widely.

The Act provides for a Force Majeure clause (Clause 52) that "the Central Government, or the State Governments, shall not be liable for any claim by persons belonging to the priority households or general households or other groups entitled under this Act for loss/damage/compensation, arising out of failure of supply of foodgrains or meals when such failure of supply is due to conditions such as, war, flood, drought, fire, cyclone, earthquake or any act of God." It provides immunity to both the Centre and the States against any claim by beneficiaries entitled under this Act for loss, damage, or compensation arising out of failure of supply of foodgrains or meals in force majeure conditions which have been defined widely, including droughts and floods, which are likely to increase in intensity and frequency due to climate change effects.

Further the financial challenge is huge. The current estimate is that the direct cost of the food subsidy for a full-year roll-out to distribute 61.2 million tonnes of grains will cost the government 1,25,000 crore, and there are pending costs like owing to FCI costs being under-accounted, etc., ranging between 47,000 and 50,000 crore. According to a Ministry of Finance report, the food subsidy with NFSA implementation is estimated to increase to 1,40,192 crore and 1,57,701 crore in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

The vehicle through which the identified benefits or entitlements will be delivered is the archaic PDS. The system is plagued by inefficiencies and leakages. Studies based on NSSO data show that on an average, 40 per cent of what is supplied by all the states/UTs of India does not reach the intended consumers. In States like Bihar, the rate of leakage is 71 per cent.

Impact of food insecurity on vulnerable section of the society

Vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, ethnic minorities, and low-income households are disproportionately affected by food insecurity.

For children, experiencing food insecurity can result in near-term developmental delays and poor health outcomes, longer-term educational setbacks, and negative impacts on the economy when educationally unprepared children become unprepared members of the labor force.

For adults, experiencing food insecurity can result in poor health status, leading to illness and development of chronic diseases, and can contribute to mental health issues such as depression. Adults experiencing food insecurity may also be less prepared for a competitive workforce because of diminished development of human capital, lowered productivity and more sick days.

Seniors experiencing food insecurity may have accelerated declines in health and cognitive function and increases in chronic disease development. Poor health status can increase health care usage (and thus, potentially increase costs to Medicare and Medicaid) and can further stress an already burdened health care system.

Conclusion:

Food insecurity imposes both direct costs such as food assistance programs and health care, and indirect costs such as worker absenteeism, on society. Thus, food insecurity impacts not only those who are at-risk, but the nation as a whole.

9. "Forced incorporation of tribal communities into mainstream processes has had its impact on the tribal culture and society as much as its economy", do you agree? Analyse in the context of PESA Act that empowers the tribals to preserve their customs, culture, community resources and customary mode of dispute resolution.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce tribal life in India and explain how there mainstreaming has had an impact on their culture and society** ***(75 words)***
2. **Examine PESA act and its impact on preserving customs, cultures etc of tribal society** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

Tribals are considered as the indigenous people of India, usually staying in jungle areas, in a small locality, absolutely illiterate poor, hardly clad in clothes, usually dark and frail, fully living within their own community whose marriage always takes place among themselves, engaged in hunting and searching for roots, shoots and fruits as their veg food and roasted animals as non-veg food, completely oblivious of the country's political and economic condition, resisting all efforts of development and have a strong dislike for strangers and educated modern community.

- There has not been any change of tribes in their belief, life style and religion which prevent them from mixing with any outsider or educated community whom they greatly dislike.
- Tribal people live within nature and absolutely clean environment and this determines their economic activity which consists of hunting small animals and look for food like roots and wild fruits.
- They hardly have any transaction because nobody has any currency or coins and do not have any knowledge and experience of organizing market.
- Rampant land acquisition and displacement due to development projects had led to large scale distress in tribal communities living in Scheduled Areas (such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas).

Panchayats (Extensions to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA)

- Considering this the Government of India under provisions of Part IX of the constitution enacted the Panchayats (Extensions to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 popularly known as PESA in order to mainstreaming the tribals into developmental path.
- PESA sought to enable the Panchayats at appropriate levels and Gram Sabha to implement a system of self-governance with respect to a number of issues such as customary resources, minor forest produce, minor minerals, minor water bodies, selection of beneficiaries, sanction of projects, and control over local institutions.
- However, even after two decades since the passing of the Act, the implementation of the Act is sketchy at best. The state government is reluctant to devolve the power that needed to accrue to the Gram Sabha.
- One of the most severe violations arose in the context of rights over minor forest produce. The Forest Rights Act defines even Tendu and Bamboo as a tree and is not in the list of minor forest produce.
- Section 4 (m) (ii) of PESA gave to the Gram Sabha the ownership over minor forest produce (MFP). However, most of the States retained monopolies over minor forest produce, ostensibly for protecting tribal communities.
- Control over Tendu and bamboo trade, two of the most lucrative of MFP, remained in the hands of the forest department in most states; and, thus affecting Tribal's economic independence.
- However, PESA's sincere implementation has not been seriously attempted by the government, which is still dominated by centralized structures and laws that are in contradiction with the progressive provisions of PESA. The non-implementation of provisions of the PESA in its true spirit has adversely affected the Tribal, their culture, economy and their day to day life.
- Local disputes to be resolved by the Gram Sabha, Gram Sabha to manage and protect common properties based on their traditional systems of management and protection. The administration has to seek permission from the Gram Sabha in case of land acquisition.

For PESA Gram Sabha are the units at the ground level. Most states have enacted laws that provide the bulk of the powers to the Gram Panchayat, and not the Gram Sabha hence they remain subordinate to Gram Panchayats.

- Panchayats have not been given adequate responsibilities to levy and collect taxes, fees, duties or tolls.
- Recommendations of State Finance Commissions have been either accepted partially or implemented selectively.

- Government functionaries treat tribals as inferior and, District administration and forest departments subordinate the Gram Sabha hence making the Act ineffective.
- There is no provision for appeal against the decisions of the Gram Sabha, which is prerequisite for true democratic governance.

Conclusion:

The tribal communities who had earlier suffered tremendously from engagement with modern development process and from the operation of both colonial laws and statutes made in independent India. They have been grossly affected by the land reform and have lost their right of access to forest; land and other community resources which had increased their vulnerability

10. Critically analyze, whether Dalit capitalism is the way to empowerment of exploited section of Indian society when castes consciousness in upper castes still dominates.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining dalit capitalism** ***(50 words)***
2. **Examine if dalit capitalism can lead to empowerment of vulnerable sections** ***(100 words)***
3. **Suggest some measures** ***(50 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Dalit capitalism refers to control of production units by Dalit. In other words, it refers to Dalits carrying out their own businesses and welcoming the economic reforms and globalization with open arms, and getting themselves along with the capitalist class and market forces. Though, government had bet on Dalit empowerment initiating several measures to boost entrepreneurship among youth, and especially among Dalits. But there has been resistant from the upper section of society, Patels in Gujarat, Kapus in Andhra, Jats in Haryana also asserting for reservations and more opportunities. In such situations Dalits are facing direct challenges.

Challenges to Dalit Capitalism:

- Dalits in Indian economic scenario is a reflection of unevenness and highly skewed distribution of assets and means of production as a result of the caste system.
- Dalits occupy a different place in production chain and are found to be at the bottom of the ladder characterizing low productivity, survival activities etc. As a result, entrepreneurship for social mobility remains an unattained dream in India.
- Knowledge intensive production systems are dominated by upper castes and Dalits serve only as wage laborer in these production structures.
- Majority of dalits today continue to live on subsistence wages and are found working in informal labour market arrangements, both in the rural and urban areas.

- Skill difference between SC/ST employees leads them to doing unskilled jobs in construction and other high labour intensive industries as opposed to the higher castes who occupy skilled jobs at production sites. Their dependency for survival on upper castes is more visible in rural area and invisible in urban regions.

Initiatives and way ahead:

- Programmes and initiatives such as PradhanMantri Mudra Yojana, Venture Capital Fund scheme, Stand Up India initiative has been tailored to support Dalits turn into capitalists, with an expectation that it could empower and emancipate Dalits. i.e. engagement with capital will make dalits better off and increase their economic well-being and make them less dependent on upper castes for employment.
- It will emancipate them from the shackles of poverty and as wage labourers of upper castes and intends to prepare them to become potential capitalists who in turn will employ other dalits.
- Babasaheb had strongly believed that 'acquiring and consolidating political power would be the first key to emancipate dalits from all forms of social odds'.

Conclusion:

- The defense of dalit capitalism rests on viewing dalits as employers not employees - this is based on the assumption that it will provide equal opportunities and space for prosperity for dalits. Capitalism by its nature tends to undermine efforts to address the larger social question of equal access to market and non-market systems.
- It systematically sets the rules of social relations between different groups in society and reproduces hierarchy based on material wealth. This system primarily focuses on individual gains and privileges the notion of 'private' at the cost of larger social gains. Endorsement of the capitalist system can be a great risk for a majority of dalits and it has bigger costs than benefits for the larger dalit community. Social democracy must be a precondition for capitalism to exist. In the absence of social democracy, imagining 'Dalit capitalism' would mean compromising on larger struggles for social emancipation initiated by our great leaders.

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NOTES

SET-8: QUESTIONS

COMMUNALISM, REGIONALISM & SECULARISM

Q1. Indian secularism has been identified both by its proponents and opponents alike exclusively with the defence of minority rights "Critically analyse

Q2. Before independence, communalism formed an integral part of the national discourse of India". In light of the above statement, discuss the evolution of communalism in India. Also, how is it different in present times than it was in the past?

Q3. Discuss the impact of media on Indian society? How media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony?

Q4. Do you think the structure of federalism in India furthers or narrows the rift caused due to the forces of regionalism? What lessons could be learned from the socio political model of other countries to ensure bridging the regional divide?

Q5. Politics give birth to communalism or communalism gives birth to politics. Critically assess.

Q6. Regionalism in India has taken the form of parochialism due to socio-economic factors. Substantiate with examples

Q7. There have been instances of people advocating that they be given the major, if not the sole right to work in their states or regions. Analyse the economic, demographic and socio-cultural factors which has given rise to these 'sons of the soil' movements

Q8. Secularism, despite its much abuse, remains a basic need for making a modern Indian state. Discuss.

Q9. "The tradition of accommodation, tolerance and interdependence of Indian society has been existence in India for long and still present." Elaborate.

Q10. With movement of people across regions, language becomes both a bonding factor and a point of conflict. Elucidate by giving examples from the Indian context.

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SET-8: ANSWERS

1. Indian secularism has been identified both by its proponents and opponents alike exclusively with the defence of minority rights "Critically analyse

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by highlighting importance of secularism. Then elaborate both the views – proponents and opponents of secularism.** ***(40 words)***
2. **For critical analysis, we need to address if fears of opponents sound and real meaning of Indian secularism.** ***(170 words)***
3. **Provide suitable conclusion.** ***(40 words)***

Hints

Indian preamble describes India as a secular country, moreover the Supreme Court has stated that 'Secularism' is a part of basic structure of Constitution. India is a mega diverse country with 6 minority religions - Islam, Sikh, Buddhism, Jain, Christianity and Parsi. However, the majority religion, Hinduism has around 80% strength in population.

Views of proponents and opponents of secularism

- India is mega diverse country, not only in terms of religions but also in terms of ideology towards secularism. The proponents of secularism, identified as leftist and centrist in political spectrum, **advocate that 'hallmark of Indian secularism is protection of minority rights'**.
- This group advocates positive discrimination, non interference in the personal laws, policy of appeasements, concessions, etc.
- On the other hand, the opponents of secularism, identified as rightist and fundamentalist in the political spectrum, advocate for dominance of majority, non appeasements, etc.
- They **effectively points out non-necessity of 'excessive protection of minority rights' (accusing that there is too much protection to minorities)**. Example, Ram temple in Ayodhya, Citizenship amendment act with element of religion in it.
- **In this context it is said that, Indian secularism has been identified both by its proponents and opponents alike exclusively with the defence of minority rights.**

Rationalisation of minority rights

- The focus of secularism seems to be on 'defence of minority rights'. This is just one of the components of Indian secularism. Indian secularism is inspired by the Gandhiji's idea of 'Sarva Dharma Samabhav - equal protection of all religions'. This concept opposes 'Dharmanirapekshata - remaining distant from religions'.
- In our mega diversity, where majority and minority stay together, equal **treatment** to all religions (dharmanirapekshata) will naturally bring disadvantage to minorities. Hence there was need of equal **protection**. This forms basis of 'protection of minority rights'.
- **Indian secularism is also about coexistence, fraternity, unity in diversity, etc. Hence exclusive focus on one element, i.e., 'defence of minority rights' is also not correct.**
- Having said that, too much appeasement to minority has also rightly brought resentment in majority community. In Indian democracy, there is rule of law, but there are personal laws which are different to different communities. This has created resentment in majority community about population growth of Islam and its repercussions on limited resources.
- In this background, discourse on the UCC - universal civil code, as per article 44 of DPSP is also a step in right direction.

Conclusion:

Hence, 'defending minority rights' is necessity for secularism and democracy. What is needed is periodic rationalization of minority rights and robust grievance redressal mechanisms. With these we will reform ourselves as strong India.

2. Before independence, communalism formed an integral part of the national discourse of India". In light of the above statement, discuss the evolution of communalism in India. Also, how is it different in present times than it was in the past?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Define communalism** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain the origin and growth of communalism** ***(100 words)***
3. **Differentiate between communalism in past and present forms** ***(70 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(30 words)***

Hints

Communalism is described as a tool to mobilize people for or against by raising an appeal on communal lines, mainly religious. Communalism as a political doctrine makes use of religious and cultural differences to achieve political ends. It can take dangerous forms when people start believing that their religious interests and principles are superior to other religions.

Historian Bipan Chandra in book India's Struggle for Independence categorises communalism or

communal ideology in three stages:

- First, it is the belief that people who follow the same religion have common secular interests, which is a common political, economic, social and cultural interest. These religious units are seen as the fundamental units of Indian society.
- The second element of communal ideology rests on the notion that the secular interests of one community are divergent and dissimilar to the interests of the followers of the other community. The second stage is called liberal communalism. The liberal communalist was basically a believer in and practitioner of communal politics; but he still upheld certain liberal, democratic and nationalist values.
- The third stage of communalism is reached when interests of different communities are seen as mutually incompatible, antagonistic and hostile. So communalism is basically an ideology on which communal politics is based. Extreme communalism is the third or the last stage of communalism.

Evolution of communalism in India:

- The economic backwardness of India and rampant unemployment provided ample scope for the colonial government to use concessions, favours and reservations to fuel communal and separatist tendencies.
- Before independence, Muslims were generally looked upon with suspicion initially by British policymakers, especially after the Wahabi and 1857 revolts, and were subjected to repression and discrimination by the Government.
- The Government used persons like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to counter the growing influence of the Congress. He had a broadminded and reformist outlook initially but later he started supporting the colonial government, exhorting the Muslim masses to stay away from the Congress and not to get politicised.
- Reform movements such as Wahabi Movement among Muslims and Shuddhi among Hindus with their militant overtones made the role of religion more vulnerable to communalism.
- With the coming of militant nationalism, a distinct Hindu nationalist tinge was palpable in the nationalist politics. For instance, Tilak's Ganapati and Shivaji festivals and anti-cow slaughter campaigns created much suspicion.
- The communal element in the Lucknow Pact (1916) and the Khilafat agitation (1920-22) was too visible to be of insignificant consequences.
- After the Muslim League performed badly in the 1937 provincial elections, it decided to resort to extreme communalism. From now onwards, communalism was organised as a mass movement with its base among middle and upper classes.

Difference between communalism in the past and the present:

- The origin of communalism in India was engineered by the colonial British government for its own sake and convenience to rule.
- The government played a key role in creating rift between the two until now harmonious communities, viz Hindus and Muslims. Also the effect of communalism was limited to matters of politics and not to the common people as such.
- However, in its present form, communalism is resorted to by the communal leaders for personal vested interests.
- 2002 Gujarat riots, 2013 Muzzafarnagar riots, the recent 2019 Chandni Chowk Delhi Communal tension, etc are examples of the communalism as witnessed in present form.

- Vote bank politics has been an important player in keeping alive the evil of communalism. Although rise in literacy rates and education levels helps people in relying on rationality, but at the same time use of smartphones, internet and social media has been pouring fuel to the fire.

Conclusion:

Hence, communalism has been viewed as major hindrance to constitutional values like unity and integrity of the country, fraternity and so on.

3. Discuss the impact of media on Indian society? How media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by examining he role of media in society** ***(50 words)***
2. **Analyse how can media play role in bringing communal harmony** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

The media, known as the fourth pillar of democracy, has a huge impact on the society. Media's impact on society can be judged from three perspectives - social, economic and political. Generating awareness on various social evils like dowry, female foeticide and infanticide, etc. This has led to the decline in the incidence of them. Bringing into focus any atrocities faced by weaker sections of the society this has brought in a sense of security to the weaker sections in the longrun this will bring peace and tranquility among communities. Generating awareness about good practices like health, hygiene, nutrition, etc thereby improving the living standards. Media has been bringing out corrupt practices practiced by our political leaders this has enabled people to make more rational choices when electing their representatives.

Role of media in Communal harmony

Media owes a very special responsibility to the country in promoting communal peace and amity. In times of conflict the onus is primarily on the Government and also on various otheragencies to try and restore normalcy in the country. Among all these agencies the Media isprobably the most powerful single influence today, helping mould public opinion with regard tothe need of fostering friendly and harmonious relations between various communities and religiousgroups and thereby also promoting national solidarity.

News, views or comments relating to communal or religious disputes/clashes should bepublished after proper verification of facts and presented with due caution and restraint in amanner which is conducive to the creation of an atmosphere congenial to communal harmony,amity and peace. Sensational, provocative and alarming headlines are to be avoided.

Acts of communal violence or vandalism should be reported in a manner and may not undermine the people's confidence in the law and order machinery of the state.

Conclusion:

The curative role of media in maintaining communal harmony, post a communal event is immense. Steering away from any exaggeration or unmindful indulgence in blame game, media must confine itself to facts, without stressing on religious affiliations. The need of the hour is to invoke the humanity, which forms the base of all religions, rather than focus on the religious hues of the victims or perpetrators. Media can be the calming influence, working in tandem with the administration to bring a semblance of sanity back in the locality. It must relay the message of peaceful coexistence by broadcasting messages of reconciliation, brotherhood and harmony. Media must return to the basic of upholding national interest against any other narrow plausible gain while delivering its report.

4. Do you think the structure of federalism in India furthers or narrows the rift caused due to the forces of regionalism? What lessons could be learned from the socio political model of other countries to ensure bridging the regional divide?

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduction** ***(50 words)***
2. **Discuss how federalism in India furthers the rift caused due to the forces of regionalism.** ***(75 words)***
3. **Discuss the suggestions to ensure bridging the regional divide.** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusions** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Introduction

Federalism is an important feature of the constitutional structure of the Indian Democracy. Though the constitution has tried to make provisions for equal distribution of resources and equal development of the country, yet the disparity is so wide that centre's apathy towards some of the areas has led to strong feeling of regionalism in the country. Also provision of strong centre / weak states has led to too much interference from centre in the matters of states. These have kept our country on toe for many decades and are expected to keep same for long.

It has resulted in rise of so many regional political parties and secessionist movements like:

- An inequitable share in the fruits of economic progress, unequal say in decision making for their own development or geographical isolation in case of the North Eastern states-regional groups come into being.
- Regional disparity in development causes challenges like **violent conflicts, unplanned and haphazard migration** e.g. **Insurgency** in North-east and **Left wing extremism** in large parts of central and eastern states of India.
- The voice for the demand of more states has become more prominent in recent times, especially after the formation of Telangana in 2014.

- Recent demands like **four-fold division of Uttar Pradesh and the creation of Gorkhaland from West Bengal** are instances of aggressive regionalism that pose a **threat to the federal structure of India.**
- New demands for a separate **Vidarbha State in Maharashtra, and Harit Pradesh and Poorvanchal in Uttar Pradesh**. The more the number of states the more the centre will be held hostage to state parties on matters of national importance.
- **West Bengal threatened India's Teesta river waters treaty with Bangladesh because of its possible potential costs for West Bengal**. Even growing regional powers may affect effective foreign policy as the federal government may bow to the will of an individual state
- The **very idea of fiscal federalism** is not percolating down and the packages promised to the backward region is not able to meet the immediate aspirations of people like in **Bundelkhand region from where voices have been coming up to have separate state.**
- Regional grouping creates **vote bank politics and affects democratic structure of nation** which takes the **shape of Separatism, threatening the national integration and federalism.**

Suggestions:

- There is increasing call for integration of economy like **European Union, ASEAN**, India must too show economic common sense by integrating its disparate economy.
- **Recent Goods and services Tax (GST),** a pan India economic integration plus e-NAM in agricultural marketing are new development along with various initiatives for Cooperative Federalism make it imperative for India to really show political and economic solidarity across the region.
- **NITI Aayog** has replaced the planning commission and **pursued bottom to top approach** and gave more say to the states in matter of planning.
- 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.**
- Subsidies, exemptions and tax breaks given to industries for investing in backward regions. **For instance North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP 2007)** for Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura; Special Package Scheme for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and J&K.
- Make balanced regional development through us of public sector undertakings and giving concession in case of investment in the underdeveloped areas**. Recent initiatives like Aspirational District Program is a welcome initiative.**
- The **Inter State Council** has become significant in the backdrop of tensions brewing between centre and some states regarding resource allocation and disputes related to jurisdiction. It can act as a forum for ironing out these disputes in pursuance to cooperative federalism.

Conclusion:

Federalism best thrives as a democratic system when it mitigates the centralization of power sharing between the centre and the states. The need of the hour is to develop each region of India, through devolution of power to local Governments and empowering people for their participation in decision-making. As the very Indian concept of "Salad Bowl" is in its ethos, it must make all effort to integrate each difference to uphold the core of Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam. Regionalism must be only for overall good of India society to make it truly and welcoming and unique in present era when centrifugal forces are at worst all over the world.

5. Politics give birth to communalism or communalism gives birth to politics. Critically assess.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining communalism** ***(50 words)***
2. **Examine Communalism as a result of politics** ***(75 words)***
3. **Examine Politics as a result of communalism** ***(75 words)***
4. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Communalism is associated with religious fundamentalism and dogmatism. It is described as a tool to mobilize people for or against by raising an appeal on communal lines. In India, it is blind loyalty to one's own religious group.

Communalism as a result of politics

- **Communal Politics** is a politics based on the belief that people who follow the same religion has common political, economic, cultural and social interests; the common interests of the followers of one religion are dissimilar and divergent from the interests of the followers of another religion, and the interests of the followers of different religions or different communities are seen to be mutually incompatible, antagonistic and hostile.
- **Pre-Independence:** In India, till 1880 communal consciousness as a driving force was absent both in the Hindus and the Muslims. After the foundation of Indian National Congress in 1985 sowed the seeds of communal differences as according to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, congress was a Hindu body.
- The concept of elections and consequential power made Muslims to oppose the Congress and as desired by the government, the Muslims began to be loyal to the British. In such a situation, the Indian Muslim League was founded in 1907 by big landlords and Zamindars. This loyalist, communal and conservative political organization supported the partition of Bengal, demanded separate electorates and made its motto to oppose Congress but not colonial rule.
- 1937 was the dividing landmark and pre 1937, was an era of liberal communalism and the post-1937 phase was that of extreme communalism. Communal politics emerged as consequence of the modern politics based on mass mobilization and politicization which has become evident in the Indian context from 1930.
- The communal consciousness arose as a result of the transformation of Indian society under colonialism and it spreads the new idea of nationalism based on cultural and religious ground, which finally led to partition of British India.

Politics as a result of communalism

Post-Independence: After independence there was a short break in communal politics due to the absence of external fuelling by British Government, but it emerges in very short span with Hindu Code Bill-1950.

- It is evident that year after year each political parties are selecting their candidate on any seat with due consideration of communal approach of that area and they are flaring up religious sentiments at the time of election.
- Even after paying a heavy price of partition, in many riots provoked thereafter, there were involvement of political parties or their supporters, directly or indirectly viz.:
  - Post-Independence/ Partition riots 1947-48
  - Anti-Sikh riots, 1984
  - Genocide of Kashmiri Pandit, 1989
  - Babri Masjid demolition, 1992
  - Gujarat riots, 1969 & 2002
  - Assam Communal violence, 2012
  - Muzaffarnagar violence, 2013

Conclusion:

Thus historically, it's evident that politics gave birth to communalism in India as well as communalism gave birth to politics.

6. Regionalism in India has taken the form of parochialism due to socio-economic factors. Substantiate with examples

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce by explaining regionalism** ***(75 words)***
2. **Explain how regionalism has given rise to parochialism and its impact** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(25 words)***

Hints

The Indian Constitution and the process of nation-building is based on the basic principle of unity in diversity i.e. the Indian nation shall not deny the rights of different regions and linguistic groups to retain their own culture. We decided to live a united social life without losing the distinctiveness of the numerous cultures that constituted it. Indian nationalism sought to balance the principles of unity and diversity. The nation would not mean the negation of the region.

- India adopted a democratic approach to the question of diversity. Democracy allows the political expressions of regional aspirations and does not look upon them as anti-national.
- Besides, democratic politics allows parties and groups to address the people on the basis of their regional identity, aspiration and specific regional problems. Thus, in the course of democratic politics, regional aspirations get strengthened.
- At the same time, democratic politics also means that regional issues and problems will receive adequate attention and accommodation in the policy making process.

Regionalism giving rise to parochialism

Regionalism is a feeling or an ideology among a section of people residing in a particular geographical space characterized by unique language, culture etc., that they are the sons of the soil and every opportunity in their land must be given to them first but not to the outsiders. It is a sort of Parochialism. In most of the cases it is raised for expedient political gains but not necessarily.

In the Indian context generally the term regionalism has been used in the negative sense. Indian regionalism has come in three forms, namely, regionalism, parochialism and secessionism.

Parochialism is the state of mind, whereby one focuses on small sections of an issue rather than considering its wider context. Parochialism is when a person views the world solely though his or her own eyes and perspectives. People with a parochial attitude do not recognize that other people have different ways of living and working.

Parochial Regionalism sometimes leads to tensions and problems. Sometimes, the concern for national unity may overshadow the regional needs and aspirations. At other times a concern for region alone may blind us to the larger needs of the nation.

Tensions due to parochial regionalism

- Immediately after independence our nation had to cope with many difficult issues like partition, displacement, integration of Princely States, reorganisation of states and so on. Many observers, both within the country and from outside, had predicted that India as one unified country cannot last long. Soon after independence, the issue of Jammu and Kashmir came up. It was not only a conflict between India and Pakistan.
- More than that, it was a question of the political aspirations of the people of Kashmir valley. Similarly, in some parts of the north-east, there was no consensus about being a part of India. First Nagaland and then Mizoram witnessed strong movements demanding separation from India. In the south, some groups from the Dravid movement briefly toyed with the idea of a separate country.
- These events were followed by mass agitations in many parts for the formation of linguistic States. Today's Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat were among the regions affected by these agitations. In some parts of southern India, particularly Tamil Nadu, there were protests against making Hindi the official national language of the country.

Yet this did not lead to resolution of all problems and for all times. In some regions, like Kashmir and Nagaland, the challenge was so complex that it could not be resolved in the first phase of nation-building. Besides, new challenges came up in new forms in States like Punjab, Assam and Mizoram.

Conclusion:

- In the positive sense it is a political attribute associated with people's attachment for their region, culture, language, etc. with a view to maintain their independent identity. Positive regionalism is a welcome thing in so far maintaining as it encourages the people to develop a sense of brotherhood and commonness on the basis of common language, religion or historical background.
- But in the negative sense, it implies excessive attachment to one's region is preference to the country or the state. In the negative sense, regionalism is a great threat to the unity and integrity of the country.

7. There have been instances of people advocating that they be given the major, if not the sole right to work in their states or regions. Analyse the economic, demographic and socio-cultural factors which has given rise to these 'sons of the soil' movements

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Briefly give an introduction about the issue of 'sons of the soil' or nativist movements. Explain what nativist movements are.** ***(100 words)***
2. **Discuss the socio-cultural, demographic and economic factors that may give rise to these movements.** ***(110 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(40 words)***

Hints

- The 'sons of soil' or nativist movements emerged in the sixties and seventies in some parts of India. The 'sons of the soil' began to demand that they be given the major, if not the sole right to work on the soil of their linguistic states and reap the economic benefits therein without interference from people belonging to other linguistic communities. The demand was economic but was mediated through specific linguistic identities.
- Example: The Shiv Sena of the sixties and seventies and the Assam movement, which culminated in 1985, may be considered to belong to this genre. In both cases, the enemy is within, the 'aliens', who by careful manipulation deny the native sons of the soil the benefits of economic advancement that their native state offers.
- These movements thus carry with their economic demands a vital linguistic element, and it is on the basis of discrimination on linguistic grounds that the economic demands are sought to be worked out. Other states and that too some linguistic groups from these other states are seen as threats by the natives and singled out as particularly offensive. Never is the whole country held responsible. They acknowledge that it is only through the machinery at the Centre that their grievances can be redressed. Though these movements usually have strong popular support, but they lead to an intractable conflict as they press actively for discrimination against other citizens who, in principle, should enjoy equal rights in matters of state employment.

Factors Responsible:

Socio-cultural and demographic factors:

- Cultural prejudice can be one of the reasons behind the rise of nativist movements. More dissimilar the immigrant population is ethnically or culturally, stronger is likely to be the opposition.
- It is possible that racial and cultural prejudices that inform opinions on immigration are really epiphenomena of economic self-interest concerns.
- Normally, an increase of labour supply, such as that due to immigration, increases labour competition and depresses wages, hurting the low skilled ones the most. That union members, in some cases, have been found to favour immigration restrictions supports this line of argument. Further, it has been found that less-skilled ones want more restrictions on immigration and the more skilled ones want fewer.

- As communities and groups that were once backward in education became educationally more advanced, they demand that their states ensure them a larger share of jobs in public services.
- Areas with nativist movements are found to be mainly those which have experienced a rapid growth of educational opportunities for the lower middle classes.
- Political Competition is another factor. The desire of regional elites to capture power has also led to the rise of nativist movements. Many states in India have more than two significant parties and interstate migrants often are an ethnic minority, living amidst a native, ethnic majority. In such a situation, a party may seek to make ethnic identities relevant through actions against a minority.

Economic Factors:

- Economic self-interests: while the poor believes easily that immigration hurts them the most, workers can be led to believe that it also depresses wages.
- There is also a widespread notion that migration from other states burdens the public budget of the state as well.
- During economic downturns, the frequency and intensity of nativist movements generally see a rise.
- Growing unemployment, particularly among the educated.
- Uneven development.
- Continuous neglect of an area or region by the ruling parties may be another factor.

Conclusion:

Being a vast and diverse country, India has seen multiple challenges emanating from regionalism based on multiple factors. However, the spirit of unity in diversity and constitutional mechanisms of democracy and federalism has enabled it to ward of these challenges from becoming destabilizing.

8. Secularism, despite its much abuse, remains a basic need for making a modern Indian state. Discuss.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce India as a pluralist society** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain how secularism is the basic need for making of Modern Indian state** ***(150 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

In a pluralist society like India, secularism remains to be the binding force. The state has to remain indifferent among different groups as far as treatment of the citizens before the law is concerned or issues regarding employment, residence, livelihood, education or religious practices are concerned.

Secularism and making of modern Indian state

- The issue of secularism could be seen in two perspectives- individual freedom of speech and expression and the sentiments of community. In modern states individual freedom is absolute in case of Europe and America. But in countries like India where variety of cultures and religions co-exist, there may be at times need for reasonable restrictions on individual freedom of speech and expression. For the sake of absolute individual freedom, the sentiments of a majority or minority community or their security or overall peace and harmony cannot be compromised. Likewise the whims and fancies of the majority at times need reasonable restrictions to safeguard the minority from violence and subjugation.
- Any homogenization project by majority in terms of culture, tradition or living style would be divisive and demoralizing. Secularism, therefore, warrants that the majority should not encroach upon the freedom, identity or security of the minority. However, minority is also needed to care of the collective sentiments of the majority and help strengthening the Indian nation.
- Appeasing minority or majority for the vote bank politics should be avoided by the political parties. Societies which are multicultural, multi ethnic, multi religious and marked by migration from one area to the other do not afford to create religious ghettos, force a particular religion or way of life on others, discriminate in employment or education or general living. This is the proper meaning of secularism in the Indian context.
- A modern Indian state therefore could only be created by equality before law, equality of opportunity, security and safety of the minorities, respecting the sentiments of majority, etc. But the binding force for the nation would be economic and social development, scientific temper and education rather than religion or superstition.

Conclusion:

Secularism is first and foremost a doctrine that opposes all such forms of inter-religious domination. This is however only one crucial aspect of the concept of secularism. An equally important dimension of secularism is its opposition to intra-religious domination and thus important for establishing a state on lines of modern ideas.

9. "The tradition of accommodation, tolerance and interdependence of Indian society has been existence in India for long and still present." Elaborate.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Write an introductory paragraph on spirit of accommodation and assimilation features of Indian society.** ***(50 words)***
2. **Explain how the tradition of Interdependence, accommodation and tolerance existed in past and still present in the current times. Explain with the help of examples.** ***(170 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(30 words)***

Hints

The spirit of love, tolerance, accommodation and interdependence of Indian society has led to acceptance of various kingdoms and dynasties which came here to rule and it led to assimilation of various cultures. Starting with humanity, people of India are thought of for their humanness. Tolerance played a big part in a traditional Indian society. One understands the different races, beliefs, and practices brought into their country and doesn't step back and judge.

The spirit and tradition which was present in the past and still exist in the present is strengthening the cause of unity and diversity. Tradition of Interdependence, accommodation and tolerance can be seen in the past and in the present.

Examples of tolerance in the past

- Indo-Aryans came to India their language and culture spread into northwest India around 1500 BCE. They were accepted in the Indian society, their culture got assimilated into our society and it is one of the pillars of our tradition.
- Rise of Buddhism and Jainism because of religious unrest in India in the 6th century B.C. Both were founded on the principle of tolerance, love, accommodation and interdependence. Both religion Buddhism and Jainism and one which was advocated by Vedic period existed side by side.
- Kingdoms like Greeks, Shakas, Hunas and Kushanas were accepted by the Indian society. They brought various cultures which got assimilated into our culture.
- Essence of both Bhakti and Sufi movements dissolved the separate religious identities to a great extent and provides a great contribution to India's composite culture. It brought to fore the universal brotherhood, equality and oneness of God while rejected castes, rituals, idol worship which promoted the tradition of accommodation and interdependence among various sections of society.
- Different regions of India contributed to promotion of literature and higher learning to the composite culture of India. For example Vedas were developed in Sapta-Sindhu regions, Upanishads in Magadha, Sangam literature in South are shining examples of accommodation of diverse literature in India.
- Though it is believed that India's continuity as a civilization was social and cultural rather than political; yet idea of bringing entire country under one central authority has been dream of great kings, sultans, emperors and rulers. This idea was put into practice by Chandragupta, Asoka, Harsha, Akbar and British rulers.
- Indian society in the medieval period accepted the rule of Sultanate and Mughals and their culture got assimilated in Indian society forever.
- The tradition of accommodation and interdependence can be seen during the reign of Akbar. Akbar propagated his ideas of tolerance through sulh-i-kul which promoted harmony between various religions. He and other rulers appointed Hindus as their highest military officers.

Even in the present times these traditions are intact

- The Cultural unity in diversity of India is generally denoted with the phrase "Ganga-Jamuni Tahjeeb" or India's composite culture.
- India has multitude of religions including majority Hinduism and minority Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, and Judaism. This diversity has many a times kept the country united in difficult times. Religious unity is particularly visible when a war or a disaster happens. Time and again, India has stood united in crisis, and that is what religious unity in diversity of India is.

- This apart, we see everyday examples of religious harmony such as use of Ganapati Pandal as a makeshift mosque for Muslims and Hindus participating in Eid festivities, Sikhs building mosques for Muslims, Muslims kids robed as Krishna for Janmasthmi festivals and so on.
- Since Independence India have accepted streams of refugees like Tibetians, Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, Chakma and Hajong refugees which shows the tradition of accommodation.
- Tradition of Interdependence as element of unity in diversity can be seen in rural areas and in joint family structures. One socio-economic activity is linked to the other which is beneficial for both.
- Acceptance of all people whether they are citizens or non-citizens at workplaces like Cinema, music industry etc. - all are accepted and working in harmony.

Conclusion:

Unity in diversity is an important feature of Indian society. Its core idea is "unity without uniformity" and "diversity without fragmentation". It is based on the notion that diversity enriches human interaction. There are reports from various sources that there is a rise in religious intolerance. But except few incidents, the social fabric of Indian society remains strong.

10. With movement of people across regions, language becomes both a bonding factor and a point of conflict. Elucidate by giving examples from the Indian context.

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Discuss the diversity and importance of language in India** ***(50 words)***
2. **Describe how language becomes both a binding factor and a point of conflict through examples** ***(50 words)***
3. **Conclusion** ***(50 words)***

Hints

Introduction

More than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongues. Of the total population of India, 96.71 percent have one of the scheduled languages as their mother tongue, the remaining 3.29 per cent is accounted for other languages. India therefore is a vast kaleidoscope of linguistic diversity across its spatial extent with the linguistic extent often porous and mingling with another in a fluid fashion. The flux of migrants brings another dimension various a group of linguistic community emerges in the wider pool of another.

Language furthermore is an emotionally binding factor for people across the world. Hence this intermingling of languages weaves a yarn of both close bonding and cross-cultural conflicts.

Language as a binding factor

- **Interstate Migrants:** Migrants from one state (usually low income states) to another (high income states) face high risk of alienation and marginalization. Due to their inability to understand native language they develop close bond between themselves
  - Migrants from Bihar celebrate their '**Chatth'** festival despite protests from certain fringe groups in Maharashtra.
  - Migrants from North East states who belong to same state and stay in metro cities such as Delhi and Bangalore for jobs and education form close groups because of greater trust within the group and risk of racism outside their social group
  - Sindhis and Parsis are another example of communities within India that have a close group and have been able to preserve their cultural heritage for generations.
- **Foreign migrants**: A lot of migrants who visit foreign countries for job and education stick together for better survival and growth.
  - Associations of Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil and Telugu speaking population etc are spread across countries like Europe and North America.
- **Indian communities abroad:** Tamil Indian communities in Singapore and Malaya have also formed close associations to preserve their culture and heritage.
  - The Gujarati Network is a closely knit group in South Africa that aims to preserve the culture and linguistic diversity of Gujarati speaking population there.

Conflict due to Language

- National language Issue:
  - It was desired by constitution makers that Hindi should replace English as official language after 1965 to make it as a medium of expression in composite culture of India. But non-Hindi speaking people criticized this decision leading to riots in many south Indian states.
- **A reason to create regionalism:**
  - The people of different linguistic groups who are concentrated in a state seem to think only in terms of interests of their own States. This undermines consideration of national issues and causes parochial feelings.
  - For e.g. riots in Assam in the early 1980s, Anti-Hindi riots in southern India by ethnic Dravidians in 1965, etc.
- Regional political parties formation on linguistic lines
  - Linguism has resulted in regionalism which has ultimately led to the formation of regional political parties in some state. Such political parties in power often complicate Centre-State relationship. For example: AIADMK, TDP
- Persecution of Linguistic Minorities
  - As the political and cultural context privileges some major languages, linguistic minorities often feel discriminated against by the current language policy of the Union and the States.
  - States have been accused of failure to fulfill their obligations under the national constitution to provide for the education of linguistic minorities in their mother tongues, even when the minority language is a Scheduled Language.
- Demand for separate states

- After the independence states were demanding reorganization on the basis of language, so committees like linguistic provinces commission and SVP were formed which accepted this criteria.
- This led to the separation of Andhra Pradesh from Madras presidency in 1953 and then on similar pattern more reorganization were done but keeping the basic principle of unity. For e.g. Gujarat and Maharashtra were carved out from the Bombay state.

- Inter-state Border Disputes
  - Language problems have created tensions in the boarder which are bilingual. For example, the Goans are divided on the basis of Konkani and Marathi languages.

Conclusion:

Language is one of the principal powerful symbols of identity in India. Peoples are identified with certain linguistic, ethnic, religious, or cultural groups through ones mother tongue. It provides the means by which ideas and experiences are communicated from one individual to another. But at the same time undue importance to linguistic sentiments has resulted in Bias, prejudice about particular groups. However the linguistic reorganization of Indian States in post-Independence India was a positive recognition of this fact. Now, it is the duty of every Indian to lift oneself above these parochial tendencies and work towards national unity and integrity. As our honorable PM has rightly said that "Unity in Diversity is India's strength. There is simplicity in every Indian. There is unity in every corner of India. This is our Strength".

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NOTES

PREVIOUS YEAR SOLVED PAPERS

QUESTION

2020

Question: 1. **Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.**

Question: 2. **COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment.**

Question: 3. **Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue.**

Question: 4. **Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer.**

Question: 5. **Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?**

Question: 6. **How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer.**

2019

Question: 1. **What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.**

Question: 2. **Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss.**

Question: 3. **What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism?**

Question: 4. **Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.**

Question: 5. **What are the continued challenges for the women in India against time and space?**

Question: 6. **Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss.**

2019

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

Question: 2. **'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons.**

Question: 3. **How the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.**

Question: 4. **Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.**

Question: 5. **Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success.**

Question: 6. **Women's movement in India has not addresses the issues of women of lower social strata.' Substantiate your view.**

Question: 7. **'Globalisation is generally said to promote cultural homogenisation but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.' Elucidate**

Question: 8. **'Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.' Argue by giving suitable illustrations.**

2019

Question: 1. **In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.**

Question: 2. **What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?**

Question: 3. **The spirit of 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.**

Question: 4. **Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving on example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent Indian.**

Question: 5. **"The growth of cities as I.T hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems." Substantiate this statement with examples.**

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ANSWERS

2020

Question: 1. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.

Solution:

Introduction

Famous sociologist David Mandelbaum has said that the key to understanding the Indian society lies in Indian Village, Joint Family and Caste system. This provesthe importance of caste system as one of the most important dimensions to know the multi-cultural Indian Society.

Compare with past: how the role of caste is evolving with time

- With the breakdown of the closed village economy and the rise of democratic politics, the competitive element embedded in caste has come to the fore. This has eroded the role of caste as a system of economic interdependence and social coercion.
- With the advent of Indian Constitution and the inception of democratic polity in India, two opposing socio-political phenomena occurred. First, the modern technological education and economic activities inculcated into the society which eroded the role of caste and second, it gave rise to the subaltern assertion.

Caste relevance in the contemporary society with examples

- Many scholars thought that the caste system will fade out in background. But on the contrary, it proves itself to be quite adaptive and responsive to changing socio political environment.
- The democratization has resulted in caste politics which has further led to the politization of the caste consciousness.
- Caste has emerged as a pressure group having roles in many contemporary agitations viz. Jat agitation, Patel agitation, etc.
- It is now acting as a welfare unit providing free coaching, residential facility, scholarship, etc.
- Nowadays, the caste identity has strengthened itself in contemporary times as seen in various Dalit literatures, Cinema such as Sairat, Media such as National Dastak.

- Furthermore, the alternative Indian history, which was introduced by Jyoti Rao Phule, can be seen as gaining traction in the political sphere.
- Also, the subaltern society has provided itself an economic platform viz. the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry which was founded in 2005 by Milind Kamble.
- Further, many caste icons have come to the fore such as Savitri Phule, Shahuji Maharaj, and most importantly, Dr. Ambedkar.
- Even among Muslims, a social reform dedicated to the emancipation of the Dalit Muslims, called Pasmanda movement, can be observed.

Conclusion

In the contemporary Indian society, a basic shift took place in caste; from ritual hierarchy to identity politics, from ascribed and designated status to negotiated positions of power, from ritual definitions of roles and positions to civic and political definitions of the same. The caste system eroded at the ritual level, but emerged at the political and economic levels. Therefore, the importance of the caste system in understanding the Indian society cannot be ruled out at present and in future.

Question: 2. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment.

Solution: Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic is a great leveler. Unlike tuberculosis, which is largely regarded as a poor man's disease, COVID-19 has affected everyone, irrespective of their social or economic status. It has, however, also exacerbated several inequalities.

COVID-19 accelerated class inequalities

- **Inter- and intra-state disparities**: In India, there are significant inter- and intra-state disparities. Rural–urban differentials are also severe. For instance, there is a huge skew in the distribution of doctors working in urban and rural areas, with the urban to rural doctor density ratio being 3.8:1.
- In terms of availability of hospital beds, states like Bihar are well below the national average of 0.55 beds in the public sector per 1000 population while others like West Bengal (2.25 beds/1000) and Sikkim (2.34 beds/1000) have considerably more.
- The union government has been providing supplementary resources as well as offering free testing and treatment for COVID-19 to 50 crore beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana through empaneled laboratories and hospitals in the private sector, in addition to government facilities. However, at a time when the entire country is amidst an outbreak of a highly contagious illness, underlying health system inequalities are undoubtedly intensified.
- **Gender inequality**: With work-from-home guidelines issued by private companies and a strictly enforced social distancing policy, families are at home with kids, without any help from nannies or cooks.
- Women, with full-time paid employment, will now also end up executing most of the household chores like cooking, cleaning, and childcare. This would result in many women working with reduced efficiency because of the additional and disproportionate share of the workload.

- Further, there are concerns of rising domestic violence and sexual abuse. It is well-known that many crimes against women are carried out by people close to them, often in their own homes. Due to social distancing, it has become even more difficult for women to report their experiences and seek help.
- **Migrants:** Differential safe passage arrangements for international and domestic migrants and differential quarantine facilities for different socio-economic strata have their roots in a society stratified by caste, class, gender and ethnicity.
- **Access to education**: The access to education, for instance, is becoming more challenging for children from poorer households. For a majority of Indians, digital learning is still not a viable option. Even though the mobile phone and internet penetration has been quite rapid and high over the last few years, the digital divide is still quite significant.
- The children from poor households that will lose out on vital access to education as long as the pandemic continues will hardly see an improvement in their conditions after that. These children will witness their households slide further into poverty over the coming year.

COVID-19 accelerated class inequalities and poverty

- The World Bank has noted that India is at risk of losing many of its hard-won gains against poverty. In its 2020 India Development Update in July, the World Bank noted that half of India's population is vulnerable with "consumption levels precariously close" to the poverty line.
- India's most vulnerable are moving from poverty to hunger. In 2019, 14.5 percent of India's population — 195 million people – were malnourished, largely due to extreme inequality. An OXFAM India survey found that half of the rural households were having to cut back on their meals five weeks after the Indian government instituted a 21-day lockdown.
- Following the COVID-19-induced economic disruptions, millions jobs have been lost and million people pushed back into poverty in India, all of which have a hit on consumer income, spending and savings, says a report.
- Poverty alleviation received a set-back, significantly changing the fortunes of many, putting people into poverty and some into abject poverty.

Suggestion

- **Strengthen the "safety net" significantly for the most vulnerable:** The government could consider expanding the scale and duration of direct benefits for the poor by transferring an additional INR 15,000 to INR 18,000 per head to 300 million Indians under the Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Yojana (welfare-for-the-poor plan) and providing other forms of support such as universalizing social security, increasing the monthly pension payout for senior citizens to INR 1,000 per month, and universalizing healthcare
- **Enable survival of small and medium businesses:** Provide direct assistance covering 70% of the payroll of small businesses, with a Small Business Corpus of USD 60 billion.
- Restart the rural economy: Increase the maximum support price of critical crops, particularly priority cereals and pulses, and boost the funding and scope of the employment guarantee to all rural districts.

- **Provide targeted assistance to at-risk sectors:** The government should devise sector-specific "rescue and revival packages" structured as five- to eight-year convertible loans for several capital and labor-intensive sectors such as manufacturing, retail, hospitality, healthcare, travel and automotives.
- With a focus on export-oriented industries such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, renewables, medical devices, food processing, electricals, precision components, heavy engineering, chemicals and textiles, a renewed push should be made to attract investments and improve the ease of doing business.
- Accelerate Digital India and innovation: We propose that the government catalyze a "Digital Team India" initiative along with leading global technology leaders and select local players to implement digital collaboration and cyber security solutions for Indian companies.
- The government could accelerate deployment of high-speed fiber-based broadband and accelerate India's transition to 5G.

Conclusion:

The country needs to work towards reducing the vast inequality in education access, health facilities, livelihood opportunities, etc. to prevent accentuating its societal inequality in the future.

Question: 3. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue.

Solution:

Introduction

Regionalism is a feeling of pride and loyalty that people belonging to a region have. It is sometimes associated with a feeling of superiority of belonging to one region as compared to those belonging to other regions. It is regional loyalty in place of national loyalty. It gives rise to the regional autonomy and in extreme case, the demand for the creation of a separate state. It favors the son of soil theory.

Relationship between regionalism and cultural assertiveness with illustrations.

- Generally, having pride in one's way of life is not a bad thing and it works under the aegis of the larger national sentiment. It instills confidence in the local community and plays an important role in bringing out the positive developments in the socio-economic conditions. But whenever the other factors are also there such as if there is perceived threat on the cultural identities, political dissatisfaction, and discontent in the socio-economic conditions of the regional community, it becomes more assertive in nature. For example, local Marathi people against non-Marathi's, Gorkhas against mainstream Bengalis, Bodoland territorial region in Assam, etc.
- There are many aspects of culture such as language, religion, and ethnicity which have given rise to regionalism and demand for the new states. For example, many states have been formed on the basis of language after Independence. There were demands of separatism in erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir for the three major religions. Despite not having the same language, there has been demands for the creation of a Greater Nagaland based on the common ethnicity. Likewise, there was the demand for the adoption of NRC in Assam, based on religion and language.

- It is important to note that regionalism is both the effect and feedback to the culture assertiveness. The regional politics usually strengthen the feeling of the cultural regionalism. It eventually gives rise to the extreme feeling of the assertiveness which ultimately becomes exclusionary. Due to this, secessionism, separatism, and violence to people from other religious, linguistic, and ethnic groups are the results. For example, people from north-east India and from East India were targeted in Bangalore and Mumbai respectively.

On other hand, other factors also play equal important role.

➤ Political Factors:

- India's politics and its political parties showcase the regionalism present in our country. They are broadly divided into: National Parties and Regional Parties.
- National parties have a strong hold in many states. Their work is based on an all India agenda. For Example, The Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

On the other hand, the Regional parties are mostly confined to a single state. They work based on the interest of the state. For Example, Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

Political aspirations of leaders remain a major source of regionalism. For example, regional political parties have used the regional and linguistic identities to secure votes. They have created an imaginary threat from outsiders and promise their vote bank for securing their land for themselves and to eliminate outsiders. Regional parties and fringe elements in various states have campaigned for this agenda.

➤ Economic Factors:

- Economic factors also contribute to the development of regionalism. For example, some states and regions are better in terms of development like infrastructure, healthcare, job opportunities etc. These economic factors cause inequality problems between regions. For example, the formation of states like Jharkhand and Telangana were based on lack of development. The problem of Naxalism has its roots in economic deprivation of people belonging to this region.

Conclusion

Regionalism in India is rooted in India's diversity of languages, cultures, tribes, and religions. It is also encouraged by the geographical concentration of these identity markers in particular regions, and fueled by a sense of regional deprivation. The cultural assertiveness is one of the factors of the regionalism in India along with regional politics, economic deprivation and unsatisfaction. There has been a long history of regionalism as a tool for the political assertiveness which poses a threat to the national integration in India if it becomes exclusionary.

Question: 4. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer.

Solution: Introduction

Being a diverse civilization, India is a land of myriad tongue with over 1650 spoken languages and dialects. Despite of different cultures, religions and languages, people of India live together with love and brotherhood. The immense unity in diversity and pluralism makes India an example of cultural brotherhood.

However, globalization has a profound effect on all our cultures and on the ways we live our lives. It has affected what we eat and the way we prepare our food, what we wear and the materials from which our clothing is made, it has affected the music we hear, the books we read, even the language we use to communicate with others. In spite of "unity in Diversity, India is not immune from negative impact of globalizing.

Threats due to globalization on Diversity and pluralism in India

- The biggest challenge for diversity of nation through social networking site is cyber terrorism. Today terrorists select Social Media as a practical alternative to disturb the function of nations, create religious hatred among the masses.
- Popular social networking websites are another means of attracting potential members and followers. These types of virtual communities are growing increasingly popular all over the world, especially among younger demographics. This can build Anti-national Sentiments among Society which in turn can threat the pluralism in India.
- National subversive groups (Marxist-Leninist groups, anarchist-insurrection list groups) are influenced by other countries and get involved in violence, threatening the diversity of the nation.
- The false propaganda of some international media to malign particular religion has impacted India as well. Its effects are visible mostly in urban areas. For example, there is some instance that in cities the rental rooms are denied by some landlord to particular religious community.
- Globalisation has led to increased economic and cultural hegemony. With globalisation there is arguably less cultural diversity; however, it is also led to more options for some people.

Positive impact of globalisation on Indian diversity and pluralism

- Due to globalization, there has been expansion of economic opportunities, education and liberal thoughts, which has resulted in weakening of the caste system.
- Inter caste marriages are becoming more common and are being accepted gradually.
- With globalization, women's employment opportunities have increase, and now they are also contributing in family expenses which support the creation of new resources and raise the level of income of family.
- The international writers, philosophers and thinkers have further assisted Indian people in having more tolerance, strengthening the "unity in diversity".

Conclusion:

The people of India, despite having different faiths, religions, castes, languages, food habits, dresses, music, and dances, have been living more or less peacefully through the ages. Some sorts of tensions, disputes, and conflicts have always existed because of the inherent contradictions and differences that exist in such diversity. The underlying spirit of respect for plurality, synthesis, and coexistence has transcended over the factors of ethnicity, language, religion, and subregional identity.

Question: 5. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?

Solution:

Introduction

Customs are traditional and widely accepted course to behave or do something that is clearly defined to a particular society, whereas traditions are about the transmission of these customs or beliefs from generation to generation. The fact is that they have to be passed on in this manner. Unless customs are followed and practiced with lots of self-control and discipline, they can't be passed on from one generation to another as unique cultural traditions specific to their society. This means it is limited, or in fact, no scope for change.

How the customs/traditions suppress rationality

We encounter frequently these traditions in our daily lives, starting from the harmless ones to the most brutal and inhumane customs. Some of the them that prevail in India are as follows:

- Made Snana is a ritual where devotees roll over leftover food by Brahmins to cure skin diseases, marriage problems and infertility. It is conducted during three-day annual celebration outside Kukke Subramanya temple in Dakshina Kannada district between November-December. It is also practiced in parts of Tamil Nadu.
- FGM is the name given to procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical or cultural reasons, and is recognized internationally as a violation of human rights and the health and integrity of girls and women. It is one of the most brutal ritual that is practiced in various countries including India among the Dawoodi Bohra community.
- Self-flagellation is a ritual of religious significance done in the name of atonement of one's sins is practised widely even today and the people engaging themselves into the act confess that they do not experience any sort of pain as they are in a religious trance.It is a ritual involving hitting oneself with a whip or whips of chains with attached blades. Practised among the Christian communities in the Phillipines and Mexico on Good Friday and among the Shi'a sect of Islam in countries like India, Pakistan, Iraq and Lebanon during the month of Muharram.
- The Devadasi is a Sanskrit term which means servant of Deva (GOD) or Devi (GODESS). This is a kind of religious practice carried on basically in the southern part of India in which a girl in her pre puberty period was dedicated to worship and service of deity or a temple for the rest of her life by her parents.

How it leads to obscurantism?

- Often these traditions are justified using either pseudo-science or interpretation of religious texts. For example, triple talaq and nikah halala have been defended irrationally by quoting various texts. In Sabarimala case,despite the ban on the entry of women is against the Right to Equality as ensured in the Constitution, has been also defended.
- Since the change in these customs is not welcomed at all, these justifications even suppress the reason of the greatest importance. Sometimes they stand so rigid that a reason looks completely helpless and further leads to obscurantism.
- These obscurantisms protect the customs and traditions from reason, evolution of human and dynamic social order.

- Communal politics, lack of spirit of rationality, lack of education, etc. further aggravate the situation.

Conclusion

In a democratic polity, whenever there is a conflict between reason and customs, state apparatus esp. judiciary has the task to strengthen the idea of rationality. But, in many cases, state too struggles in doing so. This is the reason that despite the Constitution in Article 51A (h) directs state to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform among the citizens, still the situation is far from the desired result.

Customs and traditions need to make people the rational beings taking account of reasons, rather than becoming a reason for obscurantism, ignorance and faithlessness.

Question: 6. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer.

Solution:

Introduction

Digitalization is the trending term in 21st century. Right from a child to an experienced old person, they are surrounded by laptops, computers, tablets and smartphones. Educational system is also getting influenced due to the digitalization era.

Contribution of digital initiatives on the functioning of the education system in India

- Education is the pillar of any country. Education transforms the person and leads him/her on the path where he can strive for the economic and social development of the country. The educational system is going through rapid transformation due to which, the children of this generation are be limited to traditional textbooks.
- Their thirst for knowledge cannot be quenched using the age-old methodologies and pedagogies. Their hunger for ever-increasing information can be satisfied by the use of digital tools and Internet in the form of e-learning courses, digital textbooks, interactive animation videos and integrating ICT in classrooms.
- The traditional classrooms are getting transformed to “SMART” classrooms. However, this process of digitalization has not touched the rural areas of India effectively. This has created a digital divide between the urban areas and rural areas. “Digital India” aims to bridge this gap by connecting the remotest villages through WIFI and broadband.
- The “Digital India” programme is a flagship programme aiming to transform India into a digitally powerful and energized society and skilled economy.
- The Government of India visions to see the most secluded, inaccessible village to be connected by high-speed internet and broadband facilities. This will help in bridging the digital divide between rural and urban areas. This will help in achieving social inclusion and financial inclusion of the rural areas. This also ensures that there is uniformity in the services provided to urban and rural areas.

- **e-Basta:** To be consistent with the Government's Digital India initiative, this project has been created to make school books approachable, easy-to-use and user-friendly. e-Basta books are available in digital format. E-Bastas can be read and used on tablets and laptops. The main idea is to bring various publishers and schools together on the same stand. The participants of the e-Basta framework are publishers, schools, teachers and students. The e-Basta app can be easily downloaded by the students from all over the world. The contents required are selected by the schools and teachers. The publishers upload and manage content in the portal.
- **E-Pathshala:** It is an app developed by NCERT. This app is house for different kinds of quality textbooks, audios and videos. It addresses a wide audience and also helps in bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas. It has variety of accessibility options. It can accessed through mobiles (android or IOS) or through web platforms on laptops or desktops.
- **Shaala Siddhi:** It is a platform initiated by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration. It aims at evaluating the schools to achieve the goal of sustainable improvement. They can also take sensible decisions for achieving their goals by comparing their performance with the criteria specified by the Schools Standards and Evaluation Framework.
- **e-Education:** Digital India aims to connect all the schools in India through Wi-Fi and broadband facilities. This again ensures that all the schools, be it in urban or rural, are able to access the state of art facilities.

Digital India would enable inclusive growth by providing access to better educational facilities. People who had to quit school education can make use of online educational facilities like Swayam. This would in turn increase the literacy rate in India.

Digital Tools Used and Impact of Learning Outcomes in the Indian Schools

- Primary and Secondary schools across the country appear to be more advanced in the adoption of technology. Teachers in primary schools use smart boards and LCD screens to teach concepts in Mathematics, Science, and English Grammar.
- Schools across the country are using technology seamlessly to engage with students and achieve desired results through well-planned learning methods.
- Most schools utilize digital tools such as smart boards, LCD screens, audio-visual videos, digital recordings of older lectures and so on to teach children difficult as well as easy concepts.
- Moreover, the role of a teacher has always been to impart knowledge to students and become facilitators using digital tools.
- However, many school heads concur that these technologies will never replace the physical presence of a teacher, instead complement the entire teaching process.
- In India, most of the school's teachers are conducting 'Smart Classes for 6-12th standard and teachers have been trained with the software to use it for main subjects (Maths, Science, History and Geography). The teachers are using it extensively in all the classes; and they plan ahead.
- The schools will soon be a place where the students will learn to study on their own with the help of computers while the teacher being a mere facilitator.

- For a Digital India to succeed in impacting education, it needs a vision and mission to integrate technology as an important part of our large and complex school system. It must have a targeted approach to improve education through digitalization and by providing better teachers and with a comprehensive vision to provide benefit to a large extent of children.
- Some of the techniques that can be incorporated in schools-Introduce benefits of technology in education–The very basic thing is to teach children how to incorporate technology with their education, to gain benefit and to use it as a tool to compete with the ever-growing world. This is mainly required in rural areas where children are very far away from this piece of knowledge. E learning apps–After this some innovative tools can be introduced for providing notes, books, resolving queries of student, practicing question etc. There are 100's of app and software available for students to learn. Smart schools Government should try to incorporate technology from the ground level that is school, more smart school should be open, public schools must be digitalized, classes must be provided to teach student and teachers about the benefits of digital world and everybody must have basic computer proficiency. Smart tools-Schools should be digitalized and must use smart tool to provide education to students like smart board, visual/audio education, school management software for management of school data.

Conclusion

As the access to internet in India has increased over the years and still rising due to the Bharat Net program, there should be more convergence between traditional and digital education. To achieve the highest potential, the digital divide must be narrowed down further. The digital platform has been the sole medium in the testing time of Covid-19 pandemic which indicates the success of the Digital India Mission. In the coming future one can expect the rise in investment in edutech startups in digital education that can take India to better position of growth and development.

2019

Question: 1. What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.

Solution:

Introduction

Culture is a way of life of people. It includes architecture, literature, art, science etc. Although Indian Society is multi cultural, plural, diverse having different religions, traditions, philosophies and lifestyles yet it is able to sustain its diverse culture. The various aspects which results in the sustenance of culture are as follows:

Features of Indian Society which led to sustainability:

- Principles of Tolerance and Respect: Indian society has been founded upon these which result in mutual respect and understanding for each other. The religions like Buddhism and Jainism have been founded upon these.
- Assimilation process: The migrants from the times of Aryans to the Mughals have come and lived in India peacefully assimilating into the Indian way of life. Thereby sustaining the culture of the nation.

- Spiritualism: The Indians have always curious to find a unique way of life giving rise to spiritualistic elements in the way of life. The various philosophies have given way to a spiritual dimension in the living way of people.
- Geographical: The monsoon makes the Indian subcontinent very suitable for the development of Agriculture. Thereby Agricultural way of life is lived by the people in various states still today. Agriculture gives way to tradition, festivals, interaction which over a long period turns into lifestyles of people.
- Governance was basically based upon the Agricultural aspects, resulting in the Unified administration giving way to sustaining Indian way of life. This administration remains more or less similar from the times of Asoka to times of Akbar.
- Political: The democratic threads have always been in the Indian polity though ruled by the King. Sabhas and Samitis in the Ancient to the Janapadas in the, medieval have always been focused on the promotion of interests of the people.
- Social: The tribals today also are living their unique life depicting that they have been able to sustain their culture irrespective of foreign dominations on the country. Various castes also have unique way of living.

Conclusion:

Though the foreigners have come to India looking at her as Golden Bird, but they assimilated into the culture of the Indian people and interacted with the commoners in their unique way and settled here as Indians. Thereby giving rise to the Great Indian way of life depicting Unity in Diversity where everyone would live with dignity and fraternity. The villages in India are still based on the Harappan architecture which shows that the ancient wisdom is still used by the people of our country in the present times.

Question: 2. Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss.

Solution: Introduction

Empowerment refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

Problem of population growth:

- The population growth is the big challenge which is being faced by India. It is affecting the polity, economy, society of the country. It is also affecting rate of Urbanization and Modernization. The Economic Survey (2018-19) has mentioned the steps to tackle Population Growth.

How women empowerment will help in tackling population growth:

- Political Empowerment would result in increase in women's participation in the political processes, structures, institutions. This would enhance the voice of women at different platforms. Hence, women will be able to raise awareness about need of small families and birth control. At the same time increased awareness will lead to spread of benefits of smaller families.

- Economic Empowerment: This will lead to the participation of women in the economic activities. This will lead to the increase in the family income and also improve the situation of women in making financial decisions. Thus there will be less requirement of income generating options one= of which is, giving birth to more children. Thus this would lead to population check.
- Social Empowerment: This would result in the improved status and boost confidence of the women. This confidence would ultimately affect the decision making ability of the women. They would be able to take decisions regarding number of children they want. Thus it can check the population growth.
- Constitutional Empowerment: This would result in raise in awareness of the women about their constitutional rights including right to life and liberty, freedom, and equality. Hence women will be able to make choices in the family planning and number of children they want to have. Thus it would lead to tackling population growth.
- Technological Empowerment: If women are able to use technology like mobile phones etc, they would be able to receive the information about the advantages of small families and right age of having children. Also this would lead to the improved reproductive and general health of women. As the women would be aware of the options of various birth control measures like pills, tablets, etc. Also the test tube baby option would lead to checking population growth by restricting no of children.

Educational steps would lead to better knowledge about the benefits of small families. Thus women would be inclined to have less children and thus checking population growth.

Conclusion:

Hence there is a saying that if "You educate a man, you educate only a man, but if you educate a woman, you educate a whole generation". This is the kind of effect women have and hence population control can be achieved by the empowerment of women in various spheres. This would have multiplier effect on other institutions of the society and economy and lead to sustainable development.

Question: 3. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism?

Solution: Introduction

Secularism in India is different from western concept. It stands for mutual respect, understanding and tolerance for all the religions, major or minor and accepting difference of opinions.

Context to the Challenges faced by Indian Society:

However, there are many incidents like Mob lynching in name of religion which questions this concept in India. The death and violence of people in name of cow protection. The dilemma and abnormal behavior over conversion issues. Political violence especially at the time of elections. Communal violence, extremism and spread of hatred among the people. These affect the way of life of people in various parts of the country.

Cultural practices are the living ways of life of people, individual or collective, in the political, economic, social spheres.

Various challenges faced by the cultural practices in name of secularism are:

- Intolerance and Violence: This leads to lack of tolerance and respect for each other. Deaths and violence in name of cow protection are examples of this.
- Majoritarianism: This reflect upon use of religion for political mobilization of the people and spreading hatred against the minorities may be it Muslims, like case of Muzaffarnagar, Sikhs as in 1984, Christians as in Kandhamal.
- Radicalization: The people are taken into believing ideologies which are extreme and may harm unity and integrity of the country. Security situations can be faced by the expansion of terrorism and exploitation of the vulnerable masses.
- Fundamentalism: The belief in the fundamentals can pave way to deviant behavior leading to disruption of normal life in the name of religion.
- Alienation: The people get distanced away from their traditional roots and feel socially, psychologically distance from other people in name of religion. The people going to Middle east for ISIS etc is an example of this.

Moreover the various challenges may hamper the inclusiveness of Indian democratic culture by promoting the ideological alienation. The above can result in Distance from Education, Employability, Excellence, fraternity and dignity of individual.

Conclusion:

Thus, the challenges to the cultural practices in the name of secularism are several, affecting the people's rights to life and liberty, dignity and fraternity. However, in essence, our cultural practices are founded upon the principles and philosophies of tolerance, non-violence, truth,

Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam(world is one family), etc, which in turn are reflected in our modern constitutional principles. Thus, following them in practice would act as an effective check and balance against the challenges of modern times.

Question: 4. Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.

Solution:

Introduction

A nation is a stable community of people, formed on the basis of a common language, territory, history, ethnicity, or psychological make-up manifested in a common culture. While the idea of small India all over the nation highlights the presence of different and diverse cultures of country. Hence we have cultural pockets of small India all over nation.

Different cultures in the nation:

The state of Jammu and Kashmir have cultural pockets of Kashmir and Ladakh. The state of Uttar Pradesh has the people speaking Khari boli, Braj, Awadhi, Urdu, thus depicting cultural pockets of small India. The north eastern states have different

cultural pockets based upon tribes, language, practices, tradition. Similarly there are various states based upon languages like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala depicting cultural pockets of small India. Himachal Pradesh has Buddhist and Hindus. We have several tribes, castes living together who tend to practice their own traditions. We have many religions in the parts of our country with people believing in different faiths. The Marwaris, Sindhis, Parsis, Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, state people living in different parts of the country. Hence cultural pockets of small India i.e. different cultures present all over the nation.

Different nations in the cultures:

At the same time we have nations in the cultural pockets of small India. The various communities which lived in the various states form stable and sustainable lifestyle, hence depicting nations. The Khasis, Garo, jaintia tribes are a community formed on basis of common culture. The states like Andhra, Punjab, Gujarat have a stable community based upon common language. The people of North eastern states have common ethnicity. The people of Telangana have common psychological make-up based upon backwardness of state. The Gorkhas have same similar psychological makeup. Hence there are multiple nations in the culture of India.

Conclusion:

Therefore India is a diverse, plural, multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual society with different cultures forming nations and while different nations forming cultures. This has given rise to the sovereign, secular, democratic, republic with unity and integrity, fraternity and dignity of individuals.

Question: 5. What are the continued challenges for the women in India against time and space?

Solution: Introduction

Women are the building blocks of the society. They are traditionally referred as Goddesses. However in the Indian society, they continue to be exploited for the sake of the conventions of the society and face challenges which are as follow:

Challenges faced by the women:

- Patriarchy: The women face the male dominance in the various institutions, structures of the country. This has hampered the overall development and rise of women in the societal roles.
- Political participation: The women are not able to express themselves politically. The reservation for women is still pending in the parliament.
- Economic participation: Women are not able to reach the top most positions in the corporations, private or public except a few. Also women are imparted roles which are regarded as specifically for women like Pink Jobs, Health sector etc.
- Education: they are still considered as burden in the villages of many states, though the situation has improved in many.
- Discrimination: The women are discriminated in the various spheres affecting their overall participation and development of their personalities. They are still discriminated in the villages, families.
- Alienation: The women are socially and psychologically alienated which results in the non participation of the women in the various spheres of life.

- Exclusion: The women are excluded from the decision making roles in the society which eventually affect the health of the society and the nation.
- Crimes and atrocities: NCRB data shows that the women are faced with crimes such as rapes, abuse, sexual harassment at workplaces and thus face deviant behavior.
- Domestic violence and Non participation in the decisions of families in the villages. The Khap panchayats and patriarchal attitude exacerbate the position of women.

Rural scenario: Women have little choices, have to face crimes while going out for work, leads to mental health problems, affect reproductive health and affect critical decision making power. Trafficking, bride buying etc are also faced by women.

Conclusion:

At the same time, the tribes of North eastern India exercise matriarchy which leads to women empowerment through the traditional structures, thus raising the status and decision making power of women. The Government legal steps, like Sexual harassment prevention, women help lines, schemes aimed at welfare of women, targeting of schemes like LPG DBT transfer into women account etc would go a long way to provide a way for the empowerment and encouragement among the women.

Question: 6. Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss.

Solution: Introduction

The Globalization and modernization era has resulted in the development of a global identity. This identity is based upon modern, secular ethos of the members of the society where individualism and materialism are primary to the social interactions.

The local identity is based upon the traditional structures, institutions, processes and where communitarian, collectivistic ethos and social obligations are primary to the social interactions.

Coexistence of Global and Local identities:

- The Geographical and social mobility has resulted in the movement of the people from one area to another and from one society to another respectively. For example People working in the United Nations work for the humanity and the whole world irrespective of the nations they belong. Although they aim at promotion of national interests (localized) but at the same time form one unified humane= identity (Globalized).
- The economic progress has led to the diverse workforce entering into the labour markets. This workforce belongs to the diverse local backgrounds but work for the organization for the public interest. For example in MNCs the workers though show local identity in interpersonal relations but work for the larger public and societal interest (globalized identity). Hence local identity is kept at a distance from the global identity.
- The scientific progress has led to the development of the inventions, innovations. This has brought about a change to rational outlook and thinking. Thus the aim is the progress of humanity (global identity). At the same time the local identity is kept to personal sphere. For example Chandrayaan 2 mission was for the finding

of elements at moon for whole of humanity, however the mission started with the offerings to God. Hence although it aimed at global endeavours but localized elements provided it the legitimacy or credibility.

- The Dependent of the underdeveloped countries on the developed world shows that the global identity (in form of developed) is used for the localized development (underdeveloped).
- Similarly the Indian Diaspora, Indian companies invest in other countries and aim at betterment of the people (global identity). But they make sure that local identity (Indian) is not forgotten while pursuing various tasks The working for the purpose of humanity and while practicing spiritualism in personal life also shows that global and local identity are kept together.
- The terrorism, fundamentalism, Radicalization processes often lead to security concerns by developing a global identity (destruction of society) based on religion, state, ideology and forgetting local ones.

Conclusion:

Hence, the economic and scientific progress at a large scale in the world has resulted in the attainment of the global identity at the macro level while keeping, and restricting the local identity to the micro structures such as the individual, family, and the community.

2018

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

Solution:

Introduction

Textually, Caste system is a hierarchical, regressive institution where individuals are ascribed social positions, powers, access to important social resources (like education, jobs) differentially from their being part of a certain caste grouping. Be it Brahmins, Kshtriyas or Vaishyas etc. there are many castes and sub-castes in India.

Prevalence of Khap Panchayat, demand for caste based reservations (as in Patel, Jat agitation), political parties giving tickets based on castes (Ex: Akali dal), Ccste based political mobilisation like Bahujan Samaj Party and Coalition-Politics (Ex: Alliance btw Congress and JDS in Karnataka elections), Regional caste associations like Dalit Mandals, Fragmented Habitations /Colonies in urban areas where dalits, lowers caste reside ——examples which show that caste in India assuming new identities and forms

Regressive attributes of Caste system:

Dowry, caste conflict, child marriage, jajmani inter-caste relationship, patriarchy and its impact on women and children, purdah and restriction on sexuality of women, authoritarianism classification of work and social life as pure/impure.

Before it assuming new identities and forms one has understand the reasons for its perpetuation, rigidity and its all pervasiveness

- Slow Economic Growth and increasing population during medieval times and 19th C resulted in resource scarcity. This led to exclusive control of important resources by upper caste to reduce competition
- Lack of Modern Education based on science, rationalism and more emphasis on literature, religion, law.
- Lack of a Modern Secular State with Rule of law, Political and Social rights to citizens.
- Lack of Physical and Social infrastructure that could create employment, integration, collective mobilisation. This would have contributed for upward social mobility, breaks the old social relationships and forms new identities.

Western societies have through socio-economic changes have replaced old social institutions, relationships through modern institutions. However

Post independent India with:

- Modern Constitution, idea of individual-civil rights, social legislations like "Right to Education", Dowry, Sati acts, New Industrial Policy Resolutions, Representation of People's act disallowing political parties to ask votes based on Caste gives freedom for choice of occupation, mobility, migration and participation.
- Modern Infrastructure and facilities, public places are open to all irrespective of caste promotes secularism in public place.
- Public and private employment is equally open to all based on merit and not on social positions

Despite these changes, caste appears to be taking new forms, transforming, reviving itself to make itself relevant in modern political and secular Indian society than altogether disappearing.

Reasons for its prevalence and new forms:

- Today caste system has transformed into Political Pressure group (vote banks), Cooperative, educational to protect, promote their interest unlike a closet, controlled, power group of the earlier times. This is because Indian secularism doesn't disengage completely with caste but recognises all equally and intervenes for social upliftment ex: Art 15, Art 16(4b), Art 17. Hence protecting their identity serves their sociopolitical interests
- Reservation on basis of caste and unequal growth between regions, community and groups has resulted in a sense of relative deprivation in excluded groups making caste mobilisation, identification more relevant.
- Modern society is changing too fast and getting instrumental, bureaucratic, and uncertain that people want some emotional bonding to identify themselves which Caste provides. When rural workers migrate, they tend to look for people from their caste who can help them, strengthening caste groupings.
- Marriage within caste is most preferred through Gotra
- Caste like many traditions has origin in supernatural belief. Science hasn't answered the uncertain phenomena's of universe (big bang theory). This reinforces peoples beliefs in caste. This explains why Higs Boson is called "God Particle".
- Modern uncertainties sudden shocks like landslides, tsunami, earthquake, rapid economic slump, Job loss, lifestyle disease feel the want of emotional wellbeing which the caste community provides. Caste groups provide subsidy, scholarships for higher education among their communities.

Caste institutions today has proliferated into various institutions like Educational Institutions, Political system, pressure groups, Grass-root community groups like Self-help groups etc where they have changed their earlier role of stratification, control, closet community to economic mobilisation for the purpose of development(both qualitative and quantitative).

However some aberrations in the form of Hate-speeches, Dalit violence (as in Bhima-Karegoen), caste conflicts (ex: Lynching of dalits, honour killings) castisation of politics and politicisation of caste are becoming more menacing.

In India people attach their caste identity with their names as in Aggarwal, Gowdas etc. to identify and ensure that society identify their social positions all the while ensuring that they act secular in their public interaction.

Lower caste still prefers to identify with word "Dalit" than Scheduled caste to manifest their identity and reassertion. Hence caste may not be eliminated rather will evolve to suit the times making it immortal Indian legacy.

Question: 2. 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons.

Solution:

Introduction

Poverty is a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information.

From "garibihatao", to Reservations to Rozgharyojana to Skill Training to Priority Sector Lending to Self- Help Grouping to Targeted Subsidies Indian public debates ,political mobilisation have been centred around "POVERTY ALLEVIATION". Yet today as Per Committee reports namely Rangarajan and Tendulkar reports poverty rate ,its reduction and its spread and prospect of its reduction in near future isn't encouraging.

Reasons:

- It is multi-dimensional menace which needs convergence, synergy from all level of institutions which we lack today.
- Poverty has certain behaviaral attributes—"culture of poverty"—relatively high rate of abandonment of wife and children ,strong feeling of marginality, of helplessness, of dependency, absence of childhood as a specially prolonged and protected stage in the life-cycle, early initiation into sex, free unions or consensual marriages, a tend toward female or mother-centered families, a strong predisposition toward authoritarianism, lack of privacy, verbal emphasis upon family solidarity which is only rarely achieved,

  Child Marriage, Trafficking, short time gratification, sex as the only source of entertainment, high rate of juvenile delinquency——These have not been suitably into policy convergence.
- Sudden Social and Economic shock of Industrial society---Climate change, Jobless growth, high inflation/ commodity products.

World Development Report 2017 highlights India's lagging in encashing Digital dividend resulting in which it calls "Digital Divide" (poor not able to reap benefits of Digital Technologies),

Way forward: Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 should be completed; National Citizen Registry like it's done in Assam recently should be carried for all India, Formalisation of informal workforce through transferring social benefits like pension, insurance etc.

Digital literacy and mohalla healthcare as in Delhi and PMBJP yojana, Swatch Bharat Abhiyan, Poshan Abhiyan, Greater convergence and transparency in governance so poor can demand what services they are entitled to, Enactment of Right to Public Delivery of Services Act, Citizen's charter, using innovative solutions like waste-to-money models as in Kolkata, revitalising Indian Civil Society including Media (print and Broadcast) encouraging decentralised, local based solutions.

Making new products of technology, Public Transport accessible to disabled (Braille friendly Currency notes, ATMs, Buses)

Cost of access to Justice at all levels should be made accessible through use of E-courts, gramnyayalas, special courts and revitalise the instrument of PILs for greater good of poor.

Corporate Social Responsibility of adopting villages as by Digi-goan by ICICI, recognising Environmental, Mineral, land Rights of Vulnerable specially tribals, farmers. Flagging problems in their early stage, Universalising higher education and tertairy healthcare, Mid-day meals not only to School-Going Children but to Senior Citizens etc, financial sector reforms in micro-insurance during disaster management. Disaster and related hazards impact the poor and increase their vulnerability hence inclusive policies should take into account land-use pattern, planned urbanisation etc. into account.

Question: 3. How the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.

Solution: Introduction

Secularism, as a political concept evolved post French Revolution and has been adopted, cherished as dominant ideology in most modern nation states of the 20th century. It means separation of state,institutions of governance from the religious activities,either by following, preaching and enforcing. This is largely synonymous with the idea of liberty and freedom of thinking.State shall not preach any religious instructions using public funds.

Thus, one of the major difference between Indian and western concept of secularism is that while western concept of secularism maintenances complete separation between government and religion, Indian secularism encourages government to keep equal distance from all religion. Indian government support all religion equally.

Western concept evolved due to their hatred-ness towards the church. Moreover, since the majority were Christians, challenge of co-existence didn't pose a serious challenge.

Indian concept of secularism should be understood in the context of cultural diversity, dominance of hindu majority groups, past experience of unique cultural co-existence with tolerance,pre-dominance of religion in the life of citizens and above all need for reform within the religion.

This unique desire and direction to embrace such secularism can be traced back to national freedom struggle.

Prominent leaders like M.G Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Swami Vivekananda worked for reformation of religion, its regressive institutions like untouchability, sati,Purdah than completely embracing western concept of "secularism".

Though, Constitution of India doesn't define secularism it is can be understood from the rights(in Constitution) and other legislative, judicial decisions that have followed. Post Independence, Art 25-30 provides for every citizen to protect, promote,and practice his/her religion.In doing so,it empowers state to put "reasonable restriction" in the interest of Public health,morality and public order.

Under Art 17 ban on Untouchability and Art 14 (forcing all public authorities to treat all citizens equally) and Prevents discrimination based only on religion, caste, race etc. This prevents misutilisation of power for pursuance of sectoral interests.

Dowry Prohibition Act, Hindu succession act 1956,Child Marriage Prohibition act with recent nullification by Supreme Court of Provisions of The Shariat Act (Triple talaq), IPC section 497 etc strike at the heart of regressive religious practices for the purpose of social and individual welfare. Indian secularism therefore imbibes concept of equal treatment of all religion,promote tolerance among them,initiate reform and enable continuity and change of the institutions.

It is for this reason that today state subsidy for Haj pilgrimage, Organisation of Amarnathyatra, preaching all religious texts in state sponsored public schools, undertaking de-radicalistion programs in minority institutions among many other initiatives.

Despite being one of the largest Muslim populated countries, ISIS and other radical organisation have failed to woo Indians into their fold that the cultural-mixing has been evolving so uniquely that Indian has been recognised as the micro-cosm of the world society.

Question: 4. Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.

Solution:

Introduction

Reorganisation of states has been one of the most contentious issues since the Independence of India.

Besides political bargains, creation of new states has attracted the attention of policy makers and intellectuals who hold divergent views regarding the formation of smaller states. The economic viability of smaller states and their promise of development of undeveloped terrain is the opinion of one section whereas contrary to this, dividing existing states can breed animosity to an extent that the national political stability can come under threat.

Under this situation, the best way to analyse whether the small states would usher in economic growth and development of the country would be through underscoring the performance of recently created states of Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh carved out of Bihar, UP and Madhya Pradesh respectively on the basis of economic development and good governance.

Small states as boon for economic development:

A new paper by the economists Sam Asher of university of Oxford and Paul Novosad of Dartmouth College provides the first systematic evidence of the impact of redrawing of boundaries of new states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand:

There is marked increase in economic activity immediately across the border in the new states as per their findings. School enrolment also increased suggesting greater investment in human capital. Durable goods remained comparable across the two sides of the state border, suggesting that free movement of labour and capital can mitigate differences in economic opportunities across proximate geographies.The results provide new evidence that institutions matter for development, and local control of institutions can have large economic impacts.

- The findings underlined that the new states are growing faster than the old states; by 2008 the difference between economic activity in old and new states is no longer statistically significant, and the gap continues to close until the end of the data in 2013.
- The findings suggest that new state borders have 25 per cent more economic activity than the parent state.
- Given the greater social heterogeneity of India, there should be higher number of states. When there are too many diverse groups in a large state, conflict emerge. And instead of public-good provisioning, redistribution of resources among regions becomes the central political issue. In other words when the diversity effects becomes greater than the scale effect, there is an economic case for a smaller state.
- Small states, it is being argued are able to use funds efficiently, focus on those regions which have been neglected by the erstwhile big states.
- Economic integration sought under a centralised development planning model on the failed promise of bringing about equitable development across the regions has acted as an incentive for political separation.
- Political conflicts like those in Telangana or Gorkhaland have been breaking out over failed redistribution policies as the difference in terms of income distributions within regions keep increasing, and the gains from agreeing to remain part of the parent state seem small for the marginal regions.
- In the case of the three new states mentioned above culture or ethnic factors were added as instrumental factors for mobilisation but arguably, decades of underdevelopment was the driving force behind the movement.

Economic backwardness of sub-regions within large states has also emerged as an important ground on which demands for smaller states are being made. This is evident from the immediate demands for the formation of Vidharbha, Bodoland and Saurashtra, among other states. These developments have been responsible for a shift away from issues of language and culture – which had shaped the earlier process of reorganisation – to those of better governance and greater participation, administrative convenience, economic viability and similarity in the developmental needs of sub-regions.

Small states as no guarantee for economic development:

While analysing the socio-economic development of the new states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand, there is a contrary opinion as well. According to this opinion, smaller states are no guarantee for better lives and economic development for those social groups for whom new states have been created.

They hold this opinion on the following premises:

- Uttarakhand continues to be at the end in the Human Development Index. The recent floods showed the inability of the state to deal with rehabilitation of the displaced residents.

- Chhattisgarh has witnessed largest tribal displacement in the recent times. The inclusive economic development is far from the reach of the state giving the increased miserable conditions of the tribal and their forceful displacement.
- Jharkhand has failed from the governance and administrative perspective and became state of coal scams and corrupt practices.
- Telangana recently carved out from the state of Andhra Pradesh is heavily relying on the central grants to pay for its newly created administrative and institutional machineries.
- To catch up with the growth trajectory of the other states, the above mentioned states started unmindful exploitation of resources such as mining of the minerals, converting agricultural land into real-estate which is not sustainable as far the economy of the country is concerned in the long run.

  Small states do not generate enough revenue for the state, thus are heavily dependent on the central assistance.

- Creation of new states means establishing new administrative machineries and new institutions which leads to increased revenue expenditure in turn puts pressure on fiscal pressures for the government.

A small state is likely to face limitations in terms of the natural (physical) and human resources available to it. Moreover, it will lack the kind of agro-climatic diversity required for economic and developmental activities. It would also be restricted in its capability to raise resources internally. All these factors would only make it more dependent on the Centre for financial transfers and centrally-sponsored schemes. Further, increasing the number of states in the country would expand the span of control of the central ministries dealing with states and of party high commands dealing with state party units.

Middle Ground:

Evidence shows that both large and small states have fared well and that poor performance is not necessarily linked to size. In fact, today, technology can help make governing larger territories easier and bring even farflung areas closer

Question: 5. Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success.

Solution: Introduction

The transformation of aspirational districts in India aim to quickly and effectively transform some of India's most underdeveloped districts. It will identify areas of immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts. The states are the main drivers in the programme. Deliberately, the districts have been described as aspirational rather than backward. The motive is to view them as areas of opportunity and hope rather than of distress and hopelessness.

Core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India:

- To establish aspirational districts on the lines of great federal relations between the Union and the state governments. With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.

- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a spirit of mass Movement.

Convergence, collaboration and competition for success of aspirational districts:

- The 115 districts were chosen by Union government. This was in consultation with State officials on the basis of a composite index. The parameters included are -deprivation enumerated under Socio-Economic Caste Census key health and education performance indicators state of basic infrastructure.
- The present ranking is based on 49 indicators across 5 sectors. These sectors are areas that have been targeted for transformation -health and nutrition education agriculture and water resources financial inclusion and skill development basic infrastructure.
- A minimum of one district was chosen from every State. Apparently, the largest concentration of districts is in the States which have historically under-performed. This includes states such as UP and Bihar, or which are afflicted by left-wing extremism such as Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. The present ranking would be followed by delta ranking of these districts based on their "incremental progress".

NITI Aayog in partnership with the government of Andhra Pradesh has created a dashboard. This is for monitoring the real-time progress of the districts. District collectors of all the aspirational districts can input the latest available data of their respective districts. The dashboard will also be open to the public.

- Governance: Achieving success in this programme necessitates the contribution of all 3 tiers of government.
- Competitive federalism: The spirit of cooperation needs to be supplemented by a culture of competition.
- Civil society: It has opened its door to civil society and leveraged the tool of corporate social responsibility.
- Efficiency: Many schemes of the Centre have flexible spending components, permitting autonomy at local level.

India is on a high economic growth trajectory. What urgently needed was the enhancement of the Human Development Index and reduction in the significant inter-state and inter-district variations in development.

For this to happen, the government launched transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme which will go long way in reduction of poverty, interstate and inter district disparity and to spur a sense of competition among the dynamic teams in the districts.

Question: 6. Women's movement in India has not addresses the issues of women of lower social strata.' Substantiate your view.

Solution: Introduction

India has witnessed since 1980s women-centred movements highlighting issues faced by India in women. Be it Jessica Lal, Aarushi Talwar murder case, Temple entry movement in Gujarat among many others. These have largely voiced injustice in socio-

economic issues like Equal Remuneration, Recognition for their Work, Leadership roles Sexual Harassment at Workplace, Right to Privacy and live-in relationships, Dowry Related violence, IPC section 497. These are largely aspirational choices of Upper and upper middle class women

Women at lower strata face wide and serious issues which doesn't get highlighted (barring few)in public discourse hence lack momentum in making it a successful social movement Some of them are –greater rate of abandonment by husbands, Child marriage, lack of choice in marital relationships, Trafficking, Prostitution(ex: devadasi in Karnataka) alcoholism and resulting violence by husbands, high maternal mortality, poor life expectancy, rigid caste system with low level of literacy and greater control on their sexuality, denial of right to work, visit parental home, creamation etc.

Women in poor household have to work entire day collecting firewoods, using unhealthy chulha, fetching waters from far away wells, live in unhygienic habitat without electricity, and nourish child, in-laws all by herself. Subjected to marital rape, being treated only as sexual toys of their men is considered as their only service.

Reasons for this are varied:

- Corporate and money centric media don't bring these issue to limelight since they don't attract much TRPs
- Lack of women leaders from lower strata despite grass-roots panchayats. Men take up roles of their wives to exercise power in Panchayats. Once they raise their social status, they voice concerns of the new social group than their older counterparts.

  Ex: Film actresses
- Lack of recognition for their leadership in small industrial units (MSMEs), Modern Scientific Education, skills of social empowerment (like confidence, soft-skills etc).#Meetoo campaign highlighted Sexual harassment at workplace

  Lack of job opportunities and socio-economic infrastructure in Rural areas. Upward social mobility through migration is more among men while women are restricted to low-paying agricultural jobs, informal sector jobs like Beedi-making etc lacking awareness of their rights
- Strong control on women's life through Caste panchayats, patriarchy through honour killings, Kangaroo courts, moral policing .Customary morality are too much internalised by women that they tend to perceive exploitation as normal, right.
- Poverty breeds more children, put burden on women who cannot afford time for their individual selfexpression Legislative measures like Dowry Prohibition Act, Child Marriage (Prohibition) Act, Hindu Marriage Act,

Special Marriage Act and many others have not percolated deep into poor women's lifestyle. Current news: Perumal Murugan's a dalit writer from Tamil Nadu was recently attacked for his book Mathorubhagan (translated into English as One Part Woman) highlighting problems of lower caste women.

Off late reformative initiatives like Ban on Triple talaq, Niqah halala, Polygamy, IPC 377 nullity purdah (issues of lower strata) have begun to make public space with greater intervention of the Supreme Court. The political leadership shouldrefrain from appeasement policies as in amendment to Shah Bano verdict, Civil Society

and media should actively work on developing consensus on Uniform Civil Code, women leaders from elite sections should highlight, train next generation leaders from lower strata, Women oriented movies like Gulaab gang, Bandit Queen should get more media spacehelp deepen democracy in general and new women movement in particular.

Question: 7. 'Globalisation is generally said to promote cultural homogenisation but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.' Elucidate

Solution:

Introduction

Globalisation is the inter-mixing of cultural, political and social institutions, relationships through greater interaction between people, civil society, governments etc. It is an outcome of free international trade, migration of workforce.

Remix of Western Songs to evolution of new styles of dressings, new Indian art to renaming Eanglish names of city to Indian names to a New (Devagiri) Rupee symbol to revival of Yoga (AYUSH) to encouraging

Indian products (as in Patanjali) globalisation has manifested differently in India with Indian Cultural Specificities.

It is characterised by:

- Industrial manufacturing with large domestic and international migrant workforce
- Globalisation of capitalism, Culture of consumerism, materialism
- Breakdown of Trade Unions due to emphasis on individual achievement orientation
- Nuclearisation of joint family, emergence of new families and relationships (single, same-sex marriage)
- Decrease in role and influence of religion and also its reform.
- Greater participation of women in workforce and pay-parity
- Separation of workplace and residence

These homogeneities have similarities all over the developing world .While India has embraced it, some unique cultural responses specific to India has been seen.

- Elsewhere role of religion, caste and other traditional institutions has decreased in public and personal life due to scientific education, industrialisation. Yet during launch of Mangalyaan, ISRO scientists went to temple to rest their hopes on almighty, Politicians take oath in name of god, we all still visit temples.
- Festivals like Holi, Diwali, Ramadan etc don't seem to have disappeared. People embrace e-friendly ganesha idols, green-diwali in different ways. Amarnath Yatra, Haj pilgrimage still draws large public interest.
- Tribal festivals like Losar, Saga Dawa have manifested more strongly and gathered public space, media than earlier so with folk dance, arts like Yakshagana, Bharatanatyam

- Caste system being a traditional, hierarchical, regressive institution hasn't disappeared completely. It has reformed to perform new economic and political roles as in Elections, demand for reservations in jobs etc. Political leaders still visit temples, religious places make their religion relevant, movies, and children in Tamil Nadu are given Tamil names as a cultural reaction.
- Protect their traditional practices like Jallikattu, Kambala are often defended based on their cultural identity.
- Though nuclear families have proliferated in urban and semi-urban areas,there is increasing jointness seen today. For ex: during birth, Death Ceremononies, birthday celebration there is collective gathering and mutual integration.
- As a response to Capitalism which imbibes values of individualism, instrumentalism, India has embraced collective capitalism through initiatives like Corporate Social Responsibility, Jan-Dhan and Ayushman Bharat etc
- Our cellphones, ATMs have embraced local languages despite increase in English usage.

Reasons:

Modern world is changing with greater uncertainties and losing their old identities like caste, village, legacy etc. In India people want to be keep intact their old identities for a greater emotional satisfaction and overcome extremely bureaucratic, instrumental lifestyle, hail their unique-ness. NRIs now have established greater bonding due cultural affinity, communication infrastructure, participate in Pravasi Bharatiya divas. Globalisation is an all-embracing process whose pace might disturb the local cultures creating various social menaces due to maladjustments. Ex: Radicalisation of Youth, increase in life-style diseases, Suicides, Juvenile delinquency, relative deprivation. Thus India has been unique in ensuring that modern values, changes are adapted to India society in an Indian way.

Question: 8. 'Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.' Argue by giving suitable illustrations.

Solution:

Introduction

Communalism is an ideology (set of ideas) which states that society is divided into religious communities whose interest differ and are, at times, even opposed to each other. The antagonism practiced by the people of one community against the people of other community and religion can be termed as 'communalism'.

For Indian society with large diversity across geographical distribution, ensuring unity and curtailing forces/ causes of communalism becomes all the more challenging.

If we do an anatomy of communal conflicts (pre/post-independence) one can identify either power struggle or sense of being excluded, deprived of one's rights relative to others in the society to be main causes.

Pre-independence:

During freedom struggle British sought to create conflicting interests groups based on religion through Divide and rule. They offered reservation in public employment

(GoI 1909), appeased them by declaring Delhi as capital, partition of Bengal etc. These appealed to minority community largely because they felt deprived of their rights, access to power during moderate phase of Indian politics. Strong Hindu religious element in nationalist thoughts and propagandas made presence in Congress. For example Bal Gangadhar Tilak popularised

Ganesh pooja and Shivaji Mahaotsav and taking dip in Ganga, etc. The programmes related to "Ganesh Pooja" and "Shivaji Mahotsav" was not initiated to support the interests of Hindus. However, both "Ganesh" and "Shivaji" were associated with the emotions of a number of Hindus. This was to be used by Leaders as tool to politically awaken Indians. This kept Muslims largely away from Congress till 1919.

Post Independent India has been testimony to many Communal Conflicts largely because communal colour being attached to most social and political processes.

Minorities –religious/linguistic/ethnic –because of their poor numerical strength cannot fully take part in institutions of power. They are apprehensive of Majority Hindu Strength, their outnumbering in political system, bureaucracy, Economy and Education.

Political parties exploit this for capturing power resulting in "appeasement politics"/"vote bank politics".

Gharwapsi, Lynching, anti-cow slaughtering, denial of minority status to add fuel to this communal atmosphere and result in polarisation.

This accentuates minorities to capture position of power to address their apprehensions. Unbalanced Development among Socio-economic groups what Sachar Committee calls "Exclusive

Urbanisation" has not resulted in changes in traditional occupations like butchering, barber, trading restricting their upward mobility. When political parties/civil society groups give communal colour to issues like TRIPLE TALAQ, UNIFORM CIVIL CODE, NIQAH HALALA and infuriate through demolition of Temples (Babri Masjid), church attacks, target particular community for terrorism it results in relative deprivation escalating struggle for power.

The Khalistan Secessionist Movement was one such culmination of appeasement politics which ended in changing the course of modern Indian history. It was perceived Insult, deprivation to Sikh community in 1970s that fuelled violence.

Communalism is a FASCISM OF INDIA as Pandit Nehru put it. It demolishes social fabric of trust, tolerance, and respect. It deviate public focus/mainstream issue from economic growth, development to insecurity, hatredness. Indian society is a micro-cosm of world society. Prescriptive measures to deal with Communalism:

Long term:

- In initiating the process of de-communalising the people at all levels, say, by bringing home to them that communal assumptions are false, by explaining to them the socio-economic and political roots of communalism.
- Communalisation of the state and of the political elite has to be checked because it leads to inaction against communal violence and covert or overt political and ideological support to communalism by the state apparatus.
- The communalisation of civil society also needs to be checked because it leads to riots that are more communal. People with communal ideas and ideologies pressurize the government to act in a manner, which is always against the principles of secularism.

- The role of education, particularly emphasizing on value oriented education both in schools and colleges is important in preventing communal feelings.
- The media can also prove to be significant in preventing communal feelings. Communal press can be banned and legal action can be taken against communal writers.

Short term:

- Peace committees can be set up in which individuals belonging to different religious communities can work together to spread goodwill and fellow feelings and remove feelings of fear and hatred in the riot affected areas.
- The state has to plan and use new strategies in dealing with communal violence. Whenever strong and secular administrators have used or threatened the use of strong steps, riots either did not occur or were of short duration.
- The role of media is immensely highlighted during the course of communal violence. The fear and hatred can be checked if the press, radio and TV report the events in a way conducive to soothing the frayed nerves of people instead of inflaming the temper further.
- Lastly, the government in power has to treat the extremist communal outfits as its immediate targets and cripple their capacity to disrupt law and order.

The secessionists in Kashmir, the militants in Punjab, the ISS now banned in Kerala and other extremist organisations of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communalism have to be dealt with by the state through its law and order machinery.

The small insecure communities always look to government or move towards communal parties for protection. The Pundits in Kashmir, the innocent victims of communal riots in Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and other states, and the sufferers of violence of extremists in Bihar, Assam, look towards the secular state of India for the security of life and property.

2017

Question: 1. In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.

Solution:

Introduction

The Indian nation-state is socially and culturally one of the most diverse countries of the world. The billion plus people speak about hundreds of different languages and dialects. Language coupled with regional and tribal identity and other factors such as food habits have therefore provided the most powerful instrument for the formation of ethno-national identity in India

Regions as cultural units:

- India can be divided among may major regions, such as southern peninsular India, gangetic belt in north India, western India, North-east of India. While states have been redrawn several times as per popular demand and administrative convenience, regions can't be predetermined as per wish of people and government and it takes a very long time to introduce new regional identity.

- For example, the region of chota-Nagpur has been divided among various states in past, such as MP, Bihar and Bengal and Orrisa. However, the people in this region always found more affinity with people of their region even in other states than the people outside their region within their state. This was also the reason, two new states were carved out in that region.

Thus, in the creation of three new states in 2000, namely Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand, language did not play a prominent role. Rather, a combination of ethnicity based on tribal identity, language, regional deprivation and ecology provided the basis for intense regionalism resulting in statehood.

- With respect to food despite diversity clearly visible dishes are regionally dominated like south Indian delicacies like Dosa, Idli are part of not just a particular state but southern region as a whole.
- Despite Delhi being separate political entity along with NCR which is from a different state across it becomes a cosmopolitan cultural region.
- The staple food depends on regions rather than states like Rice is mostly eaten in southern states and West Bengal whereas predominant use of Wheat is in the Northern region.

States as cultural units:

- Language was the main aspect which made states cultural units. For instance, People from Tamilnadu speak Tamil. And this was the precise reason for creation of Andhra Pradesh. Thus, while a region certainly has a culture and social character, a further specialization happens at even smaller levels, which has been the reason to create various states.
- Some states like Goa, Kerala have unique cultures which are different from other states whether it is with respect to food, dressing, religious views, etc.

Question: 2. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?

Solution: Introduction

India has over 10 crore population of 700 tribes which have been notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India but lack significantly with respect to social parameters like education, health like IMR and MMR etc.

The two most important legal initiatives taken to uplift scheduled Tribes are:

- Reservation: – The Constitution prohibits untouchability under its Article 17, and obligates the state to make special provision for the betterment of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes
  - India provided reservation to scheduled Tribes in education and jobs with 7.5% reservations in government-aided educational institutions and public sector in 1982.
  - In parliament, tribe based reservations are provided to make it more representative. Today, out of 543 seats in India's parliament, 47 (8.66%)for ST/Tribes.
  - According to a new study, 26% male and 35% female students from India's most disadvantaged castes and tribes in 245 engineering colleges would not be there without reservation.

- Forest rights act: – The Act provides for recognition of the rights of communities to govern, use, and conserve forests they have traditionally managed and used, reversing 200 years of colonial and postcolonial history in which the state had taken over control of forests.
  - Grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities, partially correcting the injustice caused by the forest laws.
  - Makes a beginning towards giving communities and the public a voice in forest and wildlife conservation

Some further initiatives are:

- Encouraging CSR initiatives in education for disadvantaged students.
- Counsel students about opportunities in employment and higher education as well Beyond principle of 'free and prior informed consent' (FPIC) deeper democratic reforms would help tribal people get political, economic, and legal powers through grass-roots collectives that enable them to take decisions affecting their lives.

Question: 3. The spirit of 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.

Solution:

Introduction

Spirit of tolerance and love are an integral part of India's tradition. India has a long history of the culture of tolerance. India is a multi-religious society and has proved to be a peaceful haven for different religions and cultures. From the time of Buddha to Gandhi India has been an exemplary example of tolerance.

Tolerance in India:

- According to the traditional way of thinking, India believes in plurality, or in the words of the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, "the many ness of reality"
- In India traditional belief system says that every human being has a content of divinity and accords equal position to every man and woman. This is the genesis of the culture of tolerance in India. This has been applicable for all the religion that were founded in this region, such as Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism, and Sikhism.
- Swami Vivekananda at the Parliament of the World's Religions said "We believe not only in universal toleration but we accept all religions as true."
- Tolerance is essential because it recognises that there can be more than one path for the attainment of truth and salvation. A tolerant society protects the right to dissent. If there is pervasive intolerance the inevitable consequence will be violence and that would ultimately pose a serious threat to democracy.
- In recent years, there have been various instances of communal and caste clashes, many people in India do not want to rent homes to Muslims, single women and men and people from the northeast but these have largely been in isolation overall India still in fraternity and brotherhood and is one of most tolerant nations in the world.
- It is this tolerance which also shows less recruitment of youth into ISIS when compared to other nations.

Spirit of Love in India:

- Love is intrinsic part of Indian community, because since ancient times, be it works of great poets like Kalidasa love is the tradition whether it is in the bhakti tradition, love and respect towards parents, elders, and god have been intrinsically part of Indian thought process.
- Even today when intolerance and respect towards people is being lost India is revered as one of the most cultured countries with respect to family life and relations. Despite the increasing communalism, the situation in India is much better than rest of the world, given its diversity.

Question: 4. Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving on example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent Indian.

Solution: Introduction

Religiousness /religiosity:

- The terms religiousness/religiosity are used interchangeably, but often defined as an individual's conviction, devotion, and veneration towards a divinity.
- However, in its most comprehensive use, religiosity can encapsulate all dimensions of religion.
- The concept can also be used in a narrow sense to denote an extreme view and over dedication to religious rituals and traditions. This rigid form of religiosity in essence is often viewed as a negative side of the religious experience and can be typified by an over involvement in religious practices which are deemed to be beyond the social norms of one's faith.

Communalism:

- The word 'communalism' refers to aggressive chauvinism based on religious identity. It is an attitude that sees one's own group as the only legitimate or worthy group, with other groups being seen as inferior, illegitimate and opposed Communalism is also an aggressive political ideology linked to religion: One of the characteristic features of communalism is its claim that religious identity overrides everything else. Whether one is poor or rich, whatever one's occupation, caste or political beliefs, it is religion alone that counts.

Differences:

- Communalism is mainly a political ideology linked to religion whereas religiosity is about religion only.
- Rigid form of religiosity in essence is often viewed as a negative side of the religious experience but there is broader view which shows positive side too, but communalism has a strictly negative connotation.

How religiosity got converted into communalism post-independence?

- After independence, despite predominantly Hindu population, scars of partition especially in Northern states, consequences of divide and rule policy of British, political representatives taking advantage of these sensitive attitudes for vote

banks converted the religiousness nature of people in to communalism and communal riots.

- With respect to the Ram Mandir issue believing in Ram and following his principles shows the religiousness of a person, but when the person believes that Ram mandir was where Babri Masjid was built and mosque has to be demolished leads to communalistic attitude.
- Similarly, Hindus consider cow as a holy animal which is religiousness but trying to punish and killing the people who make livelihood with the skin of this animal and taking law into own hands is communalistic tendencies.
- In the later part of post independent India, religiousness is relegated to backseat and communalism emerged as the main force for electoral gains across many States. Communalism thrives on frenzied emotions raked up by vested interests for immediate gains.

Question: 5. "The growth of cities as I.T hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems." Substantiate this statement with examples.

Solution:

Introduction

IT sector has been one of the most important sectors to help India achieve good growth and provide avenue for employment of rapidly growing engineering graduates every year.

Advantages of this sector:

- The industry continues to be a net employment generator making it a dominant player in the global outsourcing sector. NASSCOM has confirmed that the industry continues to be a net hirer and reports that 2.5-3 million new jobs will be created by 2025.
- Probably no sector is untouched by information technology. As a result, the I.T industry employs professionals from all other fields which could also be non-technical in nature.
- The rapid development of technologies such as networking, multimedia and the Internet have created totally new job categories where none existed a few years ago.

Problems created by this sector are:

► Urbanization issue:

- Due to concentration of IT companies only in few cities, urban population swelled leading to endless traffic jams, over-crowded public transport, etc.
- The cities are booming with malls, shops and offices of multinational companies, but completely lacks the infrastructure to support this growth.
- Led to the compact growth at central core areas of cities and sprawl at outskirts which are deprived of basic amenities.

Water Crisis

► Psychological Issues:

- Extended work timings, competition and, most importantly, insecurity at work are contributing to an increase in people's stress levels.
- People working as per client timing in foreign countries have disturbed life and sleeping patterns, and in many cases, have almost no family life.
- Neglect to all other traditional disciplines of education that stood as backbone of country's development.
- The applications of computers in many other fields like natural resource development, utilization of such resources for overall regional balanced growth, and many such developments never occurred in India because of excessive growth of IT.
- It is not able to create jobs proportionate to the graduating youth every year.

► Migration:

- Similarly, this also lead to increase in migration with demand for domestic labour on rise. However, these problems have been faced not just by the IT sector, but by all the high growth sectors of late and they have occurred due to improper urban planning rather than the sector itself.

There needs to a be transformation in urban governance by making India's municipal administrations politically strong also cities need to implement plans for service delivery, including routine maintenance to prevent the gradual degradation of assets. Similarly, We need to create planned cities with proper infrastructure and promote the growth of such sectors there. For example, the recent development of GIFT city for financial sector in Gujarat is on correct lines. We need more such specialized cities.

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