

Syllabus Essentials



English

Weekly Compilation
[27th Oct – 01st Nov, 2025]

Regionalism

About:

- Regionalism is loyalty to a particular region, seeking autonomy, recognition, or development.

Types:

- **Cultural:** Identity-based, e.g., Tamil language demand in Tamil Nadu.
- **Economic:** Demand for fair development, e.g., Bihar or UP packages.
- **Political:** Autonomy or statehood movements, e.g., Telangana.
- **Geographical:** Based on physical features, e.g., Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Secessionist:** Calls for independence, e.g., Kashmir, North-East.
- **Administrative:** State reorganization for better governance, e.g., Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh.

Dimensions of Development

Overview:

- Development is a **multidimensional process** that goes beyond **economic growth**.
- It aims to create conditions for people to lead **long, healthy, and creative lives**.

Key Dimensions:

1. Social Dimension:

- Ensures access to **quality education, healthcare, and equal opportunities**.
- Promotes **social equity, inclusion, and gender justice**.

2. Economic Dimension:

- Focuses on **inclusive and sustainable growth**.
- Promotes **financial inclusion, agricultural progress, and quality employment**.
- Aims to improve **living standards** and ensure **equitable distribution** of wealth.

3. Political Dimension:

- Ensures **transparent** and accountable governance.
- Upholds the **rule of law** and **citizen participation** in policymaking.
- Strengthens **democracy** and **institutional integrity**.

4. Environmental Dimension:

- Promotes **sustainable use of natural resources**.
- Balances economic growth with **ecological conservation**.
- Encourages **intergenerational equity**—meeting current needs without harming the future.

Inclusive Growth:

- Ensures **development benefits** all sections of society.
- Reduces **poverty and inequality**.
- Integrates **social, economic, and environmental goals** for a sustainable and equitable future.

Middle Income Trap (MIT)

Definition:

- A situation where fast-growing economies **stagnate** at **middle-income levels** (~11% of U.S. GDP per capita) and **fail to become high-income nations**.
- Only **34 countries** have escaped the trap since 1970.

India's Vulnerabilities:

- **Skill Gap:** Only **51% graduates employable**; **2.3% formally trained**.
- **Low Innovation:** R&D at **0.64% of GDP**, below China (2.4%) & U.S. (3.47%).
- **Inequality:** **Top 1% hold 22.6% income**, risking social unrest.
- **Weak Industrialization:** Manufacturing **below 20%**; jobless growth in agriculture & services.
- **Global Headwinds:** Tech shifts, low-wage competition, geopolitical tensions, and rising debt (+6.4%, 2024).

Way Forward:

- Strengthen skills, innovation, manufacturing, and inclusive growth to escape the trap.

Bhakti Movement

Meaning

- The term '**Bhakti**' means **devotion**.
- Emphasized **emotional love and attachment** between a devotee and a personal God.

Origin

- Began in **South India (7th–10th CE)** through the **Alvars (Vishnu devotees)** and **Nayanars (Shiva devotees)**.
- Poems composed in **Tamil**, expressing intense personal devotion.

Spread

- It reached **North India** around the **10th century CE** (Bhagavata Purana).
- Spread rapidly between the **15th–17th centuries CE**.
- Opposed **ritualism** and emphasized **devotion (Bhakti)** as the path to **salvation**.

Philosophical Basis

- **Bhagavad Gita** mentions **Bhakti-marga (path of devotion)** as **superior** to the paths of
 - **Jnana (knowledge)** and **Karma (action/rituals)**.

Reasons Behind the Movement

- **Reaction to social evils** and rigid caste practices.
- **Spread of Islam** promoting equality and monotheism.
- **Emergence of reformers** preaching simplicity and devotion.
- **Influence of Sufi traditions** of love and devotion.
- **Impact of Vaishnavism and Shaivism** on devotional practices.

Teachings of the Bhakti Movement

Core Teachings

- **Equality:**
 - Rejected caste, gender, and religious discrimination.
 - **Example:** Ramananda's disciples included people from diverse castes (weaver, cobbler, barber).
- **Universal Brotherhood:**
 - Promoted love, compassion, and unity among all.
 - **Example:** Kabir's *Dohas* preached harmony beyond religion and caste.
- **Reform of Society:**
 - Condemned blind rituals and social evils.
 - **Example:** Guru Nanak opposed caste distinctions and ritualism, emphasizing moral conduct.
- **Path of Devotion (Bhakti):**
 - Stressed inner devotion over external rituals as the true means to attain God and salvation.

Alvars and Nayanars

About

- Tamil poet-saints who played a major role in the **Bhakti Movement in South India** (5th–10th centuries CE).

Alvars

- Devotees of Lord Vishnu.
- Expressed Bhakti (devotion) through **love and emotional poetry**.
- Their hymns are collected in the **Divya Prabandham**.
- Their literature emphasized devotion as the path to salvation, breaking away from **ritual-based Vedic religion**.
- Helped shape a culture centered on **personal devotion and equality before God**.

Nayanars

- Devotees of **Lord Shiva**.
- Prominent saints include **Tirugnana Sambandar (Nanachampantar)**, **Appar**, and **Sundarar (Chuntaramurti)** — collectively known as “the three.”
- Their hymns were compiled by **Nambi Andar Nambi** in the 10th century into an anthology called the **Tevaram**.
- Their works are revered and their images are **worshipped in South Indian temples**.



Stay Tuned!