

**NEXT IAS****MAIN TEST SERIES 2.0 - 2025 (SLT)**

(To be filled by candidate)

**TEST CODE : SLT2501****Test No. : 01**Name of Candidate: Chiranshu Taneja Mobile No. ....Roll No. : MT25SLTON 032 Start Time ..... End Time.....Date of Examination: 12/08/2025 Medium : English  Hindi 

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.	10	
2.	10	
3.	10	
4.	10	
5.	10	
6.	10	
7.	10	
8.	10	
9.	10	
10.	10	
<b>TOTAL MARKS - 100</b>		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11.	15	
12.	15	
13.	15	
14.	15	
15.	15	
16.	15	
17.	15	
18.	15	
19.	15	
20.	15	
<b>TOTAL MARKS - 150</b>		

**GRAND TOTAL** - ...../ 250

EVAL CODE: ..... EVAL DATE: .....

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
- Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
- Candidate is expected to attempt all 12 questions within the given timeline.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
- Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
- Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
- Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.

**सामान्य निर्देश**

- QCA पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर कृपया तुरंत जांच लें कि इस QCA पुस्तिका में कोई पृष्ठ या सामग्री आदि गलत छपी हुई या फटी हुई या गायब तो नहीं है। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे एक नई QCA पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
- अभ्यर्थियों को सभी प्रासंगिक विवरण जैसे नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल नंबर आदि का आवंटित स्थान पर उल्लेख करना होगा।
- अभ्यर्थियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह आवंटित समय-सीमा के भीतर ही सभी 12 प्रश्नों के उत्तर-लेखन का प्रयास करें।
- प्रत्येक उत्तर, प्रवेश के समय चुनी गयी भाषा के माध्यम में ही लिखे जाने चाहिए।
- अभ्यर्थियों को विशिष्ट प्रश्न के उत्तर संबंधित प्रश्न के नीचे ही लिखने होंगे। आवंटित स्थान के बाहर लिखे गए किसी भी उत्तर को क्रेडिट नहीं दिया जाएगा।
- कृपया साफ-सुथरा लिखें। अपठनीय लेखन से बचें।
- QCAB में अप्रासंगिक तथ्यों को न लिखें / न ही चिह्नित करें।

REMARKS: .....

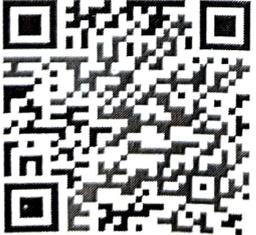
<u>Student Concerns / Query</u>	<u>Evaluator's Feedback / Response</u>
1 .....	1 .....
.....	.....
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2 .....	2 .....
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3 .....	3 .....
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<u>MARKING SCHEME *</u>			
Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 3.00	3.00 - 3.75	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.50	4.50 - 5.75	6.00 and above

\* Subject to change without prior notice.

### IMPORTANT QR CODES

 <p>Topper's Copy</p>	 <p>Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB</p>
 <p>Copy Scanner App</p>	 <p>Next IAS Test Centre Location</p>

**MACRO COMMENTS**

*The Purpose of MTS 2.0 Score Improvement Program (SIP) is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.*

Q1.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q2.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q3.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q4.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q5.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

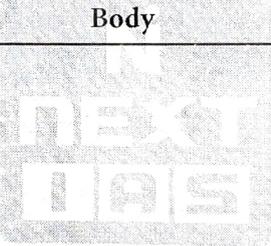
Q6.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q7.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q8.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion
		

Q9.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q10.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

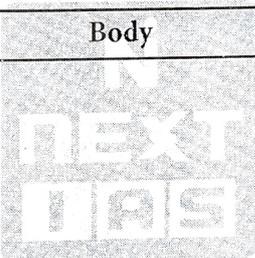
Q11.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q12.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q13.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion
		

Q14.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q15.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

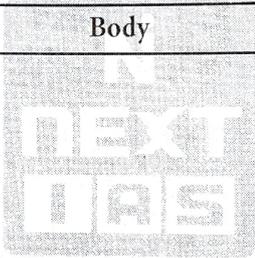
Q16.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q17.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q18.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion
		

Q19.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q20.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion



1.

शैल चित्र (Cave paintings) प्रागैतिहासिक मनुष्य की दृश्य आत्मकथा हैं। भारत में शैल चित्र से हम प्रागैतिहासिक विश्वासों और सामाजिक प्रथाओं के बारे में क्या अनुमान लगा सकते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Cave paintings are the visual autobiography of a prehistoric man. What can we infer about prehistoric beliefs and social practices from the cave paintings in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Cave paintings across different parts of India open a window to the rich tapestry of prehistoric traditions and culture.

Inferences about prehistoric beliefs and social practices

- 1) Anthropomorphic images are shown through sticks of equal sizes, indicating egalitarian society
- 2) Hunting scenes are depicted which give information about dietary habits.
- 3) Community life was vibrant as highlighted by celebrations of festivals.  
eg) Bhimbetka caves (MP)
- 4) Music and dance constituted an element source of entertainment.

Candidates must write on this page



5) Some paintings depict men involved in hunting and women doing domestic chores indicating prevalent division of labour.

6) Importance of nature worship is evident through the depiction of sun and moon.

7) These paintings also showcase domestication of some animals

eg depiction of Horse

Despite the absence of literary evidences, we have been able to understand the prehistoric times primarily because of such Cave paintings. It is crucial to preserve this rich heritage of visual autobiography.

2.

“औपनिवेशिक शिक्षा नीति, जिसका उद्देश्य आज्ञाकारी क्लर्क बनाना था, राजनीतिक जागृति और राष्ट्रीय स्वाग्रह (self-assertion) का माध्यम बन गई।” विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

“Colonial education policy, intended to create obedient clerks, became a channel for political awakening and national self-assertion.” Discuss (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Colonial education began in 19<sup>th</sup> Century with the objective to create a loyal class of Indians but it also ended up creating political awakening.

Intent behind colonial education

- ① 1813 Charter Act had set aside 1 lakh rupees to provide English education
- ② English speaking Indian rooted in Victorian values are supposed to assist British in administration
- ③ 1834 Macaulay's Minute highlights the efforts to anglicize Indian elite, making India a market for British goods
- ④ 1854 Woods Dispatch showcased British efforts to involve Indians in lower administration

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## Channel for awakening and nationalism

- ① English education opened the doors to the ideas of modernity, leading to social reforms  $\rightarrow$  Raja Rammohan Roy
- ② Indians became aware of French Revolution and ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity ~~justice~~  $\rightarrow$  Derozians of Bengal
- ③ Indian students in England witnessed working of democracy and they came back as leaders to fight for own rights  $\rightarrow$  Pt. J L Nehru, MK Gandhi
- ④ Imposition of western values through education led to pushback in form of revivalism  $\rightarrow$  Tilak

However, other factors like discriminatory British policies, drain of wealth, social reforms too contributed to awakening.

Thus, colonial education introduced with negative intent, ended up with positive consequences for Indians

3.

गुप्त अर्थव्यवस्था ने किस हद तक सांस्कृतिक और वैज्ञानिक प्रगति को सुगम बनाया, इसका मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Evaluate the extent to which the Gupta economy facilitated cultural and scientific advancements.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Gupta era (c. 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century (E))  
was a period of economic excellence  
that saw significant cultural and  
scientific advancements.

Economy facilitating Cultural developments

- ① Guptas had a stable good supply of revenue. This ensured political patronage of court authors  
eg Harisena (Samudragupta)
- ② Kings used to conduct ritual ceremonies with grandeur  
eg Ashwamedha Yagya
- ③ Scholars were attracted to economic centres like Pattiputra where they compiled Puranas, epics etc

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- ④ Guptas gave land grants to Buddhist monks eg Nalanda

Economy facilitating scientific advancement

- ① Metallurgy - Mehrauli Iron Pillar is a testament to how rich empires could attract the best artisans.

- ② Navratna of Chandragupta-II had scientists and mathematicians like Aryabhata and Varahmira

- ③ Flourishing economy helped them in supporting artisans who could build civil engineering marvels in form of temples

Thus, favorable <sup>no</sup> economic conditions during Gupta rule played an important role in these advancements.

4.

बदलती पारिवारिक संरचना और प्रवासन प्रवृत्ति किस प्रकार भारत में बुजुर्गों के सामाजिक अलगाव को बढ़ावा दे रही है? 10 अंक

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

How are changing family structures and migration trends increasingly leading to the social isolation of the elderly in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

As per the agewell foundation, India's rapid socio-economic transformation has left the elderly vulnerable to social isolation.

Impact of changing family structures and migration trends

- ① Empty Nest Syndrome : As their children move out to urban centres for education and employment, elderly in rural areas experience isolation.
- ② Nuclearisation of families due to rising cost of living is reducing social interactions between family members.
- ③ Digital divide which prevents elderly from adapting to newer means of communication with their children.

- ④ Outsourcing of child-rearing to external agencies prevents grandparents from bonding with grandchildren
- ⑤ DINK (double income no kids) couples don't get much time to spend with parents post working hours.
- ⑥ Cultural shock experienced by elderly when they move out to big metropolitan cities, causing social isolation.
- ⑦ Elderly care has become complex due to new diseases, with children often leaving parents in hospitals as they have to go back to urban centres for job.

The rising social isolation amongst elderly is a cause of concern.

Efforts must be made to ~~er~~ curb

the problem to fulfil SDG 3 -

wellbeing of all ages and also to involve elderly in the silver economy

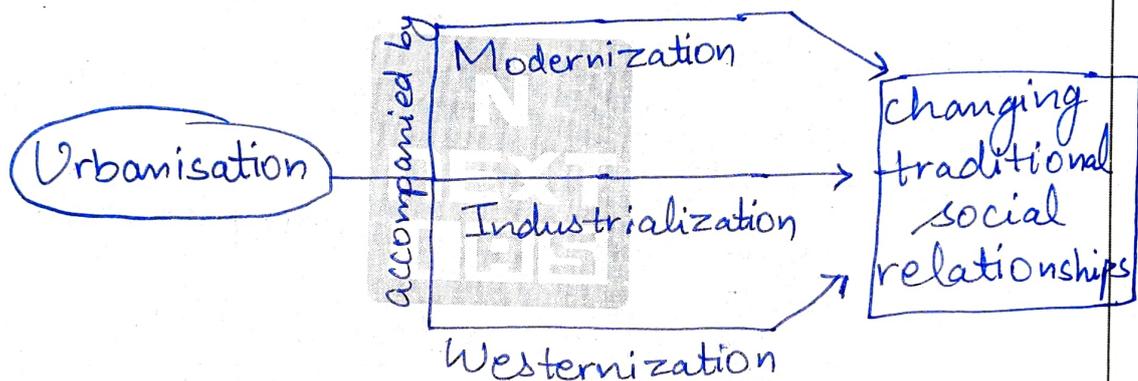
5. शहरीकरण, भारतीय समाज में सामाजिक सामंजस्य की पारंपरिक धारणाओं को किस प्रकार चुनौती देता है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In what ways does urbanization challenge traditional notions of social cohesion in Indian society?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Urbanisation is the process of increasing population concentration in urban centres due to migration, natural growth and expansion of urban lifestyle.



Urbanization challenging traditional social cohesion:

- 1) Class over Caste: Caste no longer holds prominence in social relationships as much as class or financial level does.
- 2) Marginal Man: Migration leads to person being left out of both the urban and the rural social groupings.

- 3) Transactional relationships become the norm replacing the spirit of selfless community living.
- 4) The dawn of the digital age, more prominent in urban centres, has changed the mode of social interactions.
- 5) Adoption of western values has altered the social landscape.
- eg festivals <sup>not</sup> being celebrated together with the community
- 6) Changing nature of worklife which now demands several hours everyday, reduces the time for bonding or interaction. eg marriage or death in villages sees entire population together but not in urban centres.

However, urbanization has increased social cohesion between people belonging to diverse backgrounds as <sup>they</sup> come to work at the same place. Thus overall, it has changed the notion of social cohesion.

## NEXT IAS

6.

सुरक्षा और गतिशीलता लैंगिक बाधाएँ हैं जो भारत में श्रम बल में महिलाओं की भागीदारी को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से प्रभावित करती हैं। परीक्षण कीजिए।  
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Safety and mobility are gendered constraints that significantly influence women's participation in the labour force in India. Examine.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

According to the latest PLFS Survey, the labour force participation rate for women in India is still low at 41% in 2025.

Safety - a gendered constraint

- ① Sexual harassment at workplace is the biggest impediment.
- ② Several industries (eg chemicals, mines) are located at far-off places without safety measures for women
- ③ Women are unable to work in night shifts due to high crime rate
- ④ Lack of safe transport facilities creates another hurdle (UN-Women)
- ⑤ This constraint exists for women

Candidates  
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of all ages

## Mobility - a gendered constraint

- ① Lack of affordable transport facilities prevents women from working at distant locations
- ② Public transport is often inaccessible for women, with no last-mile connectivity.

While mobility can be a constraint for men too, the above factors primarily affect women.

### Solutions

Regular affordable public transport eg free bus service for women in Delhi India

Strict enforcement of POSH Act 2013

Emergency Response Teams, CCTV Installation, Bus marshals

7. क्या वैश्वीकरण के कारण भारत में स्थानीय भाषाओं और पारंपरिक संस्कृति का क्षरण हो रहा है? अपने उत्तर की पुष्टि कीजिए।  
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- Is globalisation leading to the erosion of local languages and traditional culture in India? Justify your answer.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Globalisation is the process of increasing integration, inter-connectedness and interdependence of economies and societies (as per Anthony Giddens).

### Impact on local languages

- ① English is increasingly seen as an essential proficiency for employment.
- ② English literature gaining more prominence than vernacular literature.
- ③ English entertainment industry (eg films) are more popular, even amongst kids.
- ④ As diverse people meet, they adopt a common language like English, for conversation, thereby eroding local ones.
- ⑤ As people migrate, rare local languages and associated folklore dies when they stop using those languages.

## Impact on traditional culture

- ① Adoption of western values has changed the family values  
 [eg] ~~at~~ respecting elders - no longer a norm
- ② Increasing imitation of west in music and dance has led to decline to classical music and dance.
- ③ Traditional dressing attires have changed
- ④ Dietary habits are changing  
 [eg] 'Greek yogurt' over 'dahi'

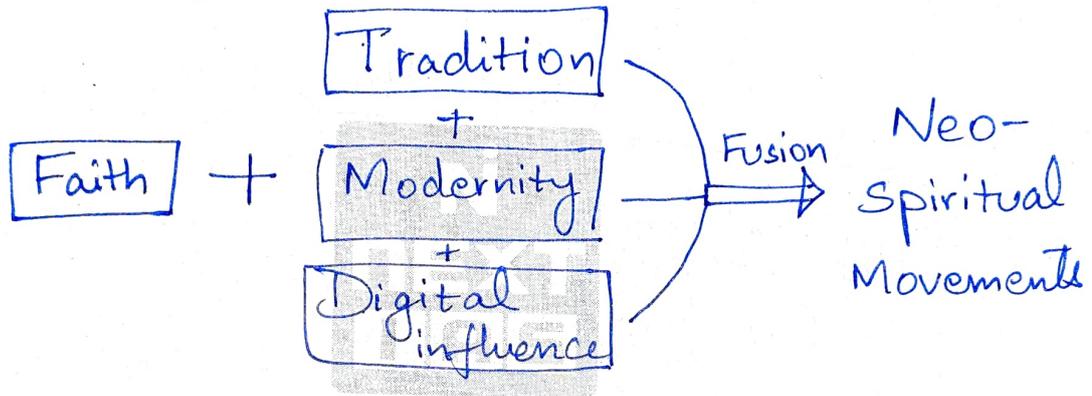
## Revivalism and Hybridisation

These changes have seen a pushback in terms of revivalist focus on traditional culture. Local languages are also being promoted through NEP-2020. New forms of music, dance and movies show the fusion of Indic and western elements

Thus, globalisation has changed the role and form but not eroded local languages and traditional culture.

8. भारत में नव-आध्यात्मिक आंदोलन आस्था के अभ्यास में परंपरा, आधुनिकता और डिजिटल प्रभाव के सम्मिश्रण को दर्शाते हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।  
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- Neo-spiritual movements in India reflect the fusion of tradition, modernity, and digital influence in the practice of faith. Discuss.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Neo-spiritual movements are the spiritual traditions and sects that have emerged in India since the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century CE.



Reflection of the fusion in practice of faith:

① Modern ideas of 'freedom' or 'liberty' integrated in teachings

eg Osho's Rajneesh Movement

② Traditional significance of 'meditation' fused with 'digital influence'

eg Sadhguru's teachings

- ③ These movements have adapted to the changing realities.  $\Rightarrow$  these sects opened doors to women
- ④ Their mass appeal often lies in their adherence to modern values without insistence of dogmatic principles.
- ⑤ Use of digital media has allowed their leaders to easily spread their teachings.
- ⑥ They also gained prominence in the West, post the counter-culture movement of 1960s  
 $\Rightarrow$  Beatles music band - follower of Maharishi Yogi
- ⑦ These movements often have followers of diverse backgrounds, necessitating adoption of modern ethos.

These neo-spiritual movements reflect the changing spiritual landscape of Indian society.

9. जनजातीय समाजों में महिलाओं की स्थिति और भूमिका, मुख्यधारा के भारतीय समाज में लैंगिक मानदंडों से किस प्रकार भिन्न है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- How does the status and role of women in tribal societies differ from gender norms in mainstream Indian society? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

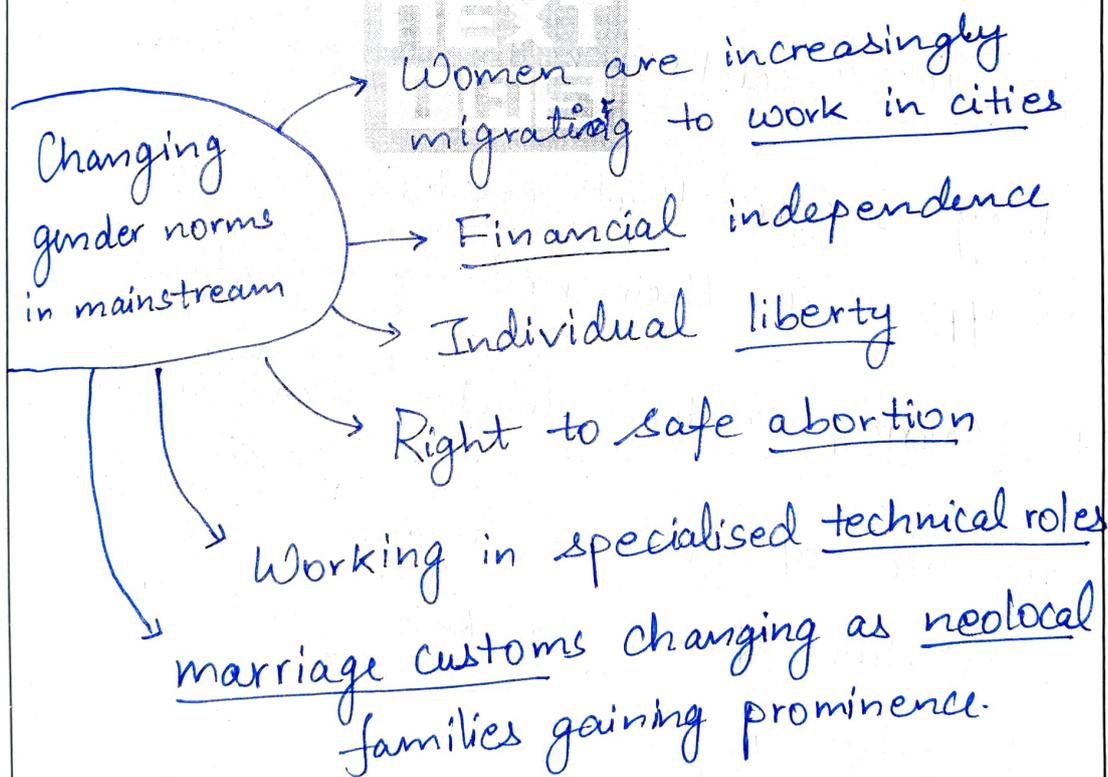
While tribal societies might be seen as economically and technologically 'backward', they are way ahead in terms of social and economic empowerment of women wrt mainstream society.

Difference in role and status of women

- ① Child sex ratio is higher among tribals highlighting female foeticide is prominent in 'mainstream' society.
- ② Labour force participation rate is lower for women in 'mainstream'
- ③ Egalitarian structure of tribal society where women equally supports the family in financial matters.



- 4) Child rearing is often seen as responsibility of the community in tribal societies while its entirely <sup>put</sup> upon the shoulders of mother in 'mainstream'.
- 5) Mainstream society is patriarchal and patrilineal while some tribal societies are matrilineal eg Khasis
- 6) Prevalence of dowry is more in the 'mainstream'



None-the-less, 'mainstream' has got a lot to learn from tribal societies to truly achieve SDG-5 (Gender equality)

10.

क्या प्रवासी समुदाय भारतीय सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं के संरक्षक या सांस्कृतिक परिवर्तन के एजेंट के रूप में कार्य करते हैं? उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Do diaspora communities act as custodians of Indian cultural traditions or agents of cultural change? Critically examine with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Indian diaspora has often been called the 'brand ambassador' of Indian culture in foreign countries.

### Custodians of Indian Cultural Traditions

① They continue to follow traditional practices and rituals even ~~is~~ abroad.

eg Diwali celebrations by Indian Americans

② They ensure that customs don't disappear in their next generations.

eg Marriage customs followed even by their children

③ The use of Indian languages leads to creation of a close-knit community

eg Punjabis in Canada

④ They introduce Indian culture to the world eg Yoga in West



- ⑤ They keep alive the traditional ways of worship  $\Rightarrow$  Ch<sup>h</sup>at Puja in Mauritius
- ⑥ Music and dance of Indian traditions gains popularity across the world.

### Agents of Cultural Change

- ① They also impact the traditions back home in India
- ② When they come back, they introduce foreign elements to local communities  
 $\Rightarrow$  Halloween celebrations by NRIs
- ③ Orthodox rituals come under scrutiny  $\Rightarrow$  Dowry challenged
- ④ They contribute in the continuous evolution of Indian culture, that has incorporated foreign elements since ancient times
- ⑤ They contribute to socio-cultural reforms  
 $\Rightarrow$  19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century London-educated Indians came back and brought reforms.

Thus, they play the dual role of custodian as well as agent of change

11.

अरब और यूरोपीय यात्रियों के विवरण मध्यकालीन भारत में सामाजिक और आर्थिक जीवन की प्रकृति के बारे में क्या बताते हैं?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

What do the accounts of Arab and European travellers reveal about the nature of social and economic life in medieval India?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Medieval India saw the arrival of numerous Arab and European travellers who have written in detail about the prevalent socio-economic conditions

Arab accounts of nature of social life

eg Al-Masudi in early-medieval era

- 1) These accounts give a dispassionate view of the social life
- 2) Al-Masudi wrote about the harmonious co-existence of people of different religions
- 3) Community life held significance especially during festivals.
- 4) Caste inequalities were evident in

Candidates  
write on this



the social interactions.

Arab accounts of nature of economic life

eg Ibn Batuta

- 1) Most of these were given patronage by rulers and hence are eulogistic in nature
- 2) Presence of merchant guilds (shrenis) is highlighted in urban centres
- 3) Maritime trade through ports to Arabian peninsula and "monsoon marketplace" in South-East Asia described
- 4) Prevalence of coins instead of barter system, especially after centuries of "monetary anemia" showcases economic revival under Delhi Sultanate.

European accounts of nature of social life

eg Domingo Paes (Portuguese), Afanasy Nikitin (Russian)

- 1) Paes wrote about social life in

Vijaynagara empire, describing the conditions of women.

2) Nikitin wrote about Hindu places of worship and prevalent rituals.

European accounts of economic life

eg Nuniz (Portuguese), Tavernier (French)

- 1) Nuniz described the prosperity of Vijayanagara highlighting foreign trade
- 2) Specialised classes of artisans existed for diverse job roles.
- 3) Tavernier wrote about wealth of Mughal empire including the peacock throne and kohinoor diamond
- 4) Mughal nobles were given jagirs which formed a part of the feudal structure.

Thus, these accounts offer significant insights into the socio-economic realities of medieval times.



12.

विभिन्न सामाजिक मुद्दों के समाधान में ब्रह्म समाज और आर्य समाज जैसे सुधारवादी संगठनों द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Examine the role played by reformist organizations like the Brahma Samaj and Arya Samaj in addressing various social issues.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

## The 19<sup>th</sup> century Indian Renaissance

which resulted in social awakening,  
was led by reformists organisations  
like Brahmo Samaj and Arya Samaj.

### Role played by Brahma Samaj

- ① Founded by Raja Rammohan Roy in  
in 1820s in Bengal
- ② It challenged the prevalent ortho-  
doxy by asking questions
- ③ It promoted Vedantic philosophy  
instead of ritualistic practices
- ④ Rammohan Roy translated and  
reinterpreted Vedas, making them  
available to common man in Bengali.
- ⑤ He highlighted the plight of

women, especially widows

⑥ His efforts resulted in passage of Sati Regulated Act 1829.

⑦ He promoted rationalism and humanism amongst his followers through newspapers like Mirat-ul-Akhbar

### Role played by Arya Samaj

① Founded by Swami Dayanand in 1875 in Bombay

② He advocated against idol worship and urged people to reinterpret Vedas

③ Arya Samaj was vehemently opposed to caste inequalities and worked for ending untouchability

④ He promoted women education and treating girl child as equal.

- ⑤ Establishment of DAV Schools from Lahore by Lala Hansraj fused western ideals of modernity and equality with ancient Indian values and traditions.
- ⑥ Arya Samaj was also involved in Shuddhi movement against missionaries.

### Limitations

While both organisations worked as harbingers of social revolution, their impact was limited wrt untouchability and in other religions (eg Sikh-Akali movement, Muslims - Aligarh movement).

Nonetheless, they helped create enlightenment in Indian society, starting the end of social orthodoxy in Indian society.

13. उन तरीकों का परीक्षण कीजिए जिनसे गांधीवादी जन आंदोलनों ने भारतीय महिलाओं के लिए राजनीतिक स्थान खोला।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Examine the ways in which Gandhian mass movements opened political space for Indian women.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

The arrival of Gandhiji in Indian National Movement was subsequently accompanied by involvement of women in the mass movements.

Gandhian movements opening political space of Indian women:

- 1] Non-violence: Gandhiji's insistence on peaceful methods allowed women to join without fear of violent demonstrations and lawlessness.
- 2] Simple methods: Making salt at Dandi connected emotionally with women who bore the brunt of inflation.
- 3] Vernacular languages: Gandhian phase

Candidates  
write on this



saw use of vernacular language which could be easily understood by non-english speaking women.

4] Advocacy of women rights: Gandhi

worked for emancipation of women through education and vocational training (eg) Nai Taleem

5] Integration of social reforms to the national movement through constructive programmes (eg prohibition of alcohol, widow remarriage)

6] Political Empowerment: He encouraged provincial congress committees to have women members, who will act as role models for others.

7] Satyagraha, which were peaceful protests against colonial policies, saw massive involvement of women (eg) Sarojini Naidu - Dharasana Satyagraha

- 8] Gandhian emphasis on sarvodaya meant that women of the lowest strata too became an important stakeholder in the national movement
- 9] The idea of swaraj resonated with Indian women who had been long subjugated due to orthodoxy and patriarchal society.
- 10] Gandhian mass movements brought together Indians from different parts of the country together leading to social awakening eg Rani Gaidinliu (Naga)

Therefore, Gandhian movements broke the barriers of the political space for Indian women to contribute in the national struggle.



14. कानूनी और शैक्षणिक प्रगति के बावजूद, आधुनिक भारत में दहेज, जातीय समोत्र विवाह या बाल विवाह जैसी कुछ सामाजिक प्रथाएँ क्यों जारी हैं? उदाहरण सहित विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
- Despite legal and educational advances, why do certain social practices, such as dowry, caste endogamy, or child marriage, continue to persist in modern India? Analyse with examples.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India has made tremendous progress in education and law, but certain outdated social practices still plague our society.

### Reasons for persistence of dowry

- ① It is increasingly being disguised as 'gifts' for the new couple.
- ② With emergence of neolocal families in urban centres, parents of bride feel they are only helping their daughter.
- ③ Groom's family often sees amount of dowry as a 'status symbol'
- ④ Dowry getting morphed into paying for the extravagant wedding celebrations
- ⑤ Normalisation by the society.

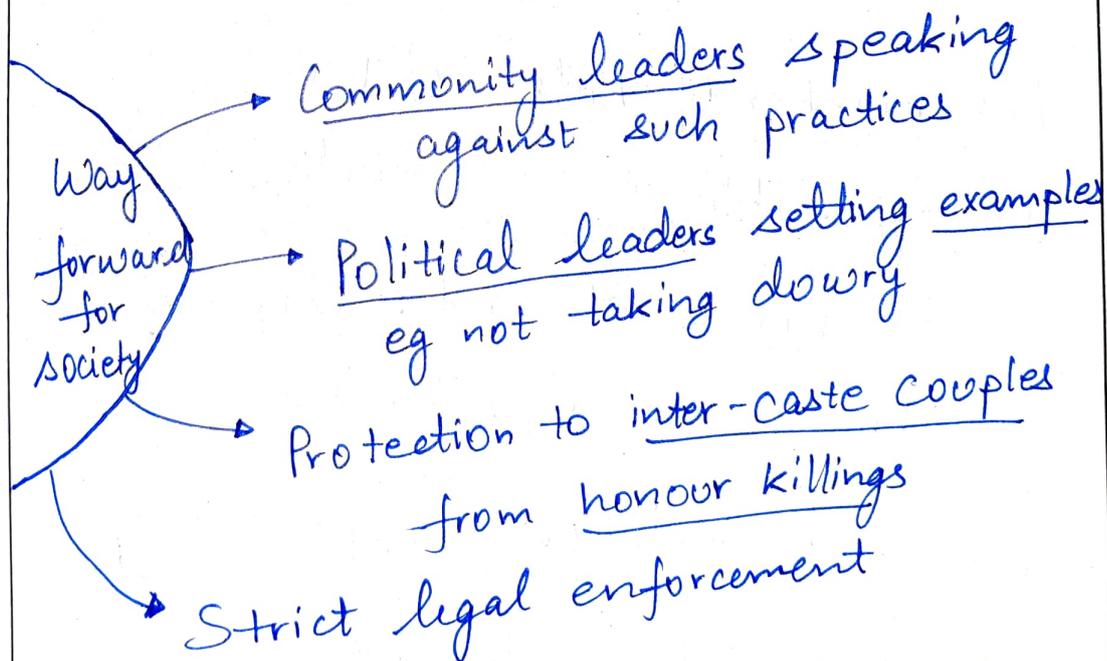
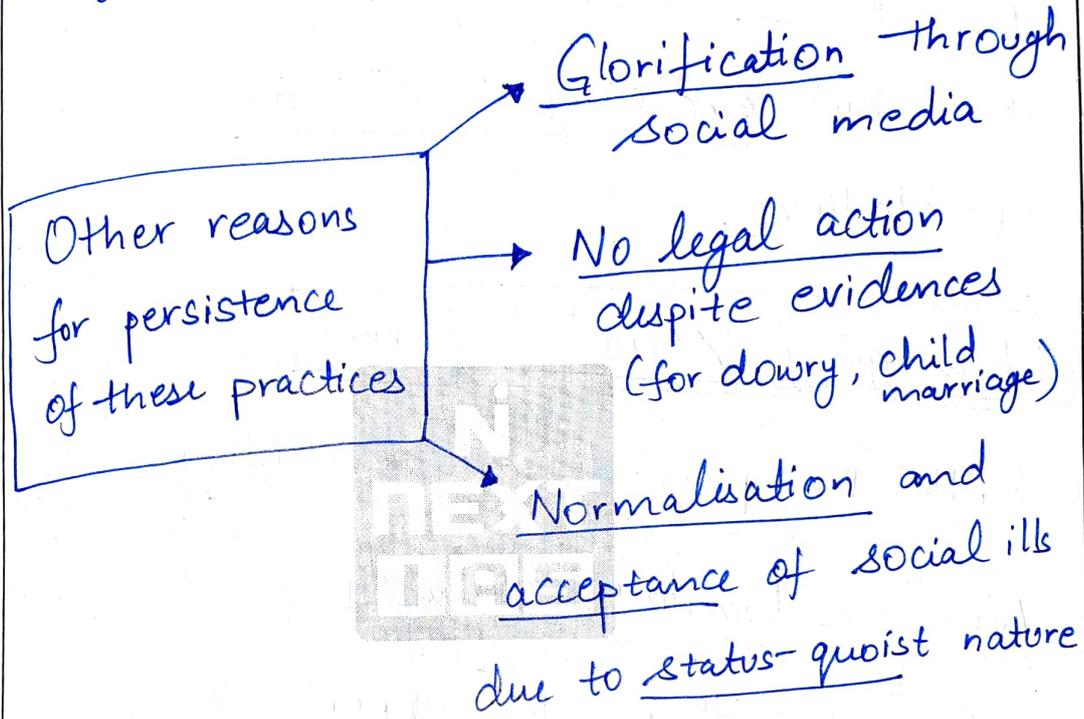
## Reasons for persistence of caste endogamy

- ① Caste is still <sup>an</sup> important part of social identity
- ② While commensality aspect has disappeared, convivium still holds relevance.
- ③ Arranged marriages are still prevalent leading to persistence of intra-caste marriages
- ④ Girls being married off at young age by their parents within their caste

## Reasons for persistence of child marriage

- ① While it has declined considerably, it still exists in some parts  
eg Rajasthan
- ② Child marriage seen as a way to protect "purity" of lineage as outdated fears of exogamy destroying the "purity"

③ Some parents fear that if their kids grow up, they would want to choose their own partner, something the parents aren't ready to accept.



A lot more needs to be done to eradicate these practices

15. "भारत में आधुनिक परवरिश (parenting) तेजी से पारंपरिक अपेक्षाओं और उभरते सामाजिक मानदंडों के बीच संतुलन बना रहा है। इस तनाव के सामाजिक निहितार्थों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।" (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
- "Modern parenting in India is increasingly balancing traditional expectations and emerging societal norms. Analyse the social implications of this tension." (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Modern parenting has become a complex process due to changing societal norms but enduring traditional expectations.

### Changing societal norms

- ① Both the parents are working
- ② Nuclear families - grandparents no longer there to support
- ③ Less number of kids - children not having siblings to socialize with
- ④ Social norms changed - corporal punishment no longer acceptable

### Continuing Traditional Expectations

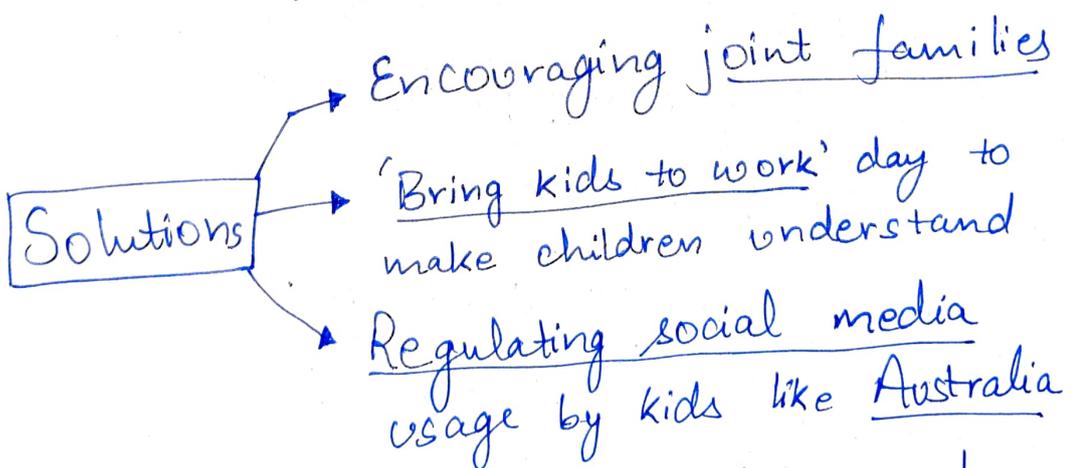
- ① Parents still have the primary responsibility of enculturation

- ② They are expected to teach their kids about cultural ethos and social norms
- ③ Traditional expectation of being strict when children err.

### Social implications of this tension

- ① Dual burden of job and child-upbringing leading to exhaustion, especially for working mothers.
- ② Children spending more time on phones as parents are working, preventing formation of close bond.
- ③ If parents seek external agencies' help for child rearing, it further increases their distance.
- ④ Individualism gaining prominence as familial bonds weaken.

- ⑤ Generation gap widening up as social values changing rapidly in the digital age.
- ⑥ Parents unable to comprehend the impact of social media on kids,  
eg Adolescent series (UK)
- ⑦ Parents feeling conflicted about fulfilling wishes of kids which ends up distancing them eg buying them a phone, paying for education abroad.
- ⑧ Some parents may end up resorting to violence, leaving indelible marks of childhood trauma on the kid.



This tension must be addressed holistically for a lasting solution.



16.

डिजिटल मीडिया प्रभावकों (influencers) के उदय के साथ, भारतीय समाज में पारंपरिक रोल मॉडल प्रतिस्थापित हो रहे हैं। युवा व्यवहार और मूल्य प्रणालियों पर इसके प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

With the rise of digital media influencers, traditional role models in Indian society are being replaced. Analyse its impact on youth behaviour and value systems. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Since access to internet and smartphones was democratized in India, we are witnessing a concerning cultural change, where digital media influencers are gaining in prominence over traditional role models.

### Impact on youth behaviour

- ① Shortcut to success: Young kids are increasingly getting lured into shortcuts for getting fame and money
- ② Lack of focus: Influencers make money by creating content which keeps viewers glued to screens. This constant dopamine rush is affecting youth's focus on studies
- ③ Impact on health: Influencers often showcase unrealistic fitness goals, creating body image issues and disorders

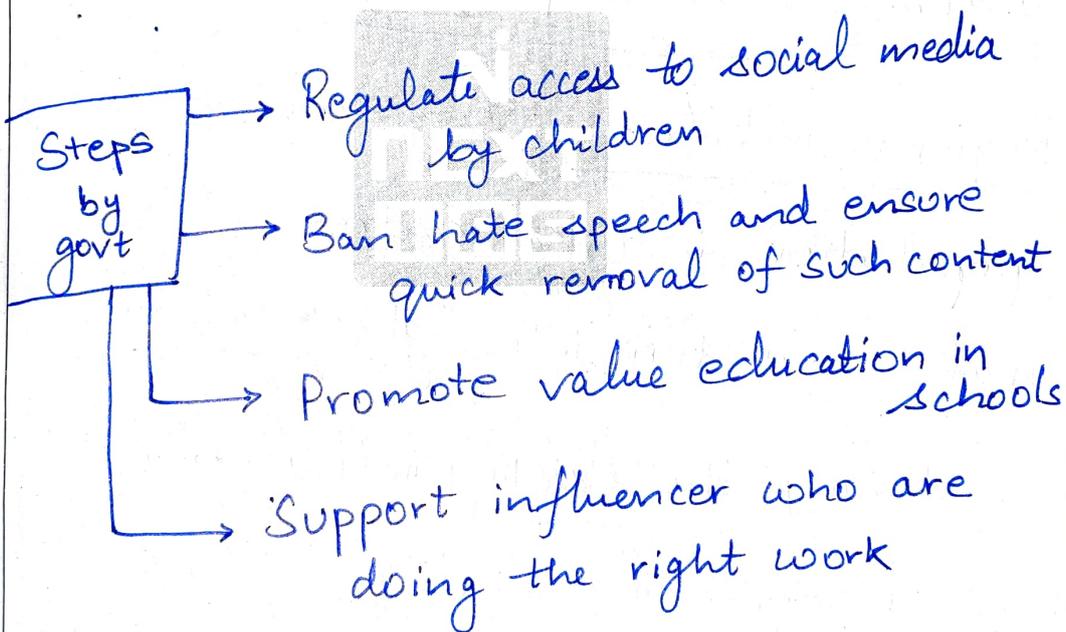
like anorexia nervosa.

- ④ Traditional role models often inspired youth to work hard persistently towards their goals.  $\rightarrow$  Abdul Kalam Ji
- ⑤ However, the digital media influencers are often exploiting vulnerabilities and creating hypes about unsustainable professions  $\rightarrow$  Futures trading promoted

### Impact on Value Systems

- ① Erosion of values  $\rightarrow$  young kids not respecting elders, using abusive language etc.
- ② Objectification of women worsening the situation of women.
- ③ Deterioration of morals due to mask of anonymity and no consequences  $\rightarrow$  youth engaging in cyber bullying, online harassment.

- ④ Fame and money gaining popularity rather than building one's own character
- ⑤ Pretentious display of even noble acts like charity <sup>and donations</sup> which were meant to be anonymous
- ⑥ Hateful videos getting more views threatening the syncretic culture of India.



Digital media is here to stay. To ensure our demographic dividend doesn't turn into demographic disaster, it is essential to take steps against this menace on war-footing.

17.

शहरीकरण मौजूदा शहरी अवसंरचना के लिए खतरा बन रहा है। इससे उत्पन्न विकासात्मक मुद्दों तथा शहरी समुदायों पर इसके प्रभाव पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Urbanization is posing a threat to the existing urban infrastructure. Discuss the developmental issues it poses and its impact on urban communities.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

According to the recent World Bank report, Indian cities are facing the threat of overpopulation and climate change, requiring over \$2-trillion to augment the infrastructure.

### Developmental issues posed by urbanization

① Regional imbalance: Over-concentration of population in urban centres while rural areas turn into 'ghost villages'

② Burdening the existing infrastructure thereby worsening quality of service

eg Mumbai Local Trains

③ Skewed development: Political leader

-ship will focus more on urban centres due to <sup>presence of</sup> more voters, thereby widening urban-rural divide and causing more

migration

- ④ Environmental degradation picking up pace due to breach of capacity limit
- ⑤ Rationing of public services due to burgeoning population  $\rightarrow$  door to door garbage collection not happening daily

### Impact on urban communities

- ① Housing becoming unaffordable leading to creation of slums
- ② Sewage management unable to cater to rising demand leading to sanitation and hygiene issues
- ③ Public schools's quality worsening due to declining teacher-student ratio
- ④ Public healthcare turning into 'clinical deserts' as manpower remains inadequate
- ⑤ Urban infrastructure has become highly vulnerable to weather events and disasters  $\rightarrow$  frequent roof collapse in Delhi and Mumbai

- ⑥ Disadvantaged communities bearing the brunt of climate change and heatwaves.
- ⑦ Concrete structures spreading to cater to rising population, exacerbating urban heat island effect.
- ⑧ Lack of industrialisation and job creation lagging behind influx leading to economic disparities

### Possible way forward

- ① PURA and Rurban Mission to tackle urban migration
- ② Planning new greenfield cities like Chandigarh
- ③ Enforcing building codes strictly
- ④ Promoting sustainable development
- ⑤ Heat action plans
- ⑥ Slum redevelopment.

A lot needs to be done to combat this threat.



18. भारत में जाति आज कठोर पदानुक्रम (rigid hierarchy) की बजाय पहचान पुष्टिकरण (identity assertion) की एक प्रणाली के रूप में अधिक कार्य करती है। जाति समूह लामबंदी और आर्थिक परिवर्तन के संदर्भ में इस रूपांतरण पर चर्चा कीजिए।  
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Caste in India today operates more as a system of identity assertion than of rigid hierarchy. Discuss this transformation in the context of caste group mobilisation and economic change.  
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Caste in India has undergone a significant transformation in the last hundred years and is today seen from the prism of identity, rather than hierarchy.

### Transformation of Caste

- 1] Affirmative action in form of reservation has politically empowered the "lower" castes and "untouchability" has been outlawed.
- 2] Rapid urbanization has reduced the relevance of caste in urban centres, ~~at~~ where class is the primary basis for social stratification
- 3] The idea of "purity" and "pollution" as well as the commensality aspect

## NEXT IAS

Candidates  
write on this

System has disappeared, thereby weakening the hierarchy.

4] The economic liberalisation of 1990s has opened vast avenues for the oppressed castes, promoting mobility.

5] Reservation in government jobs has allowed disadvantaged sections to reach upper echelons of bureaucracy.

6] Political mobilisation of caste groups has led to politicization of caste.

7] Reservation of seats in legislature and the use of votebank politics by parties has led to casteization of politics.

8] Caste identity is increasingly being used to bring people together under an umbrella for a social or political cause.

eg) Jat and Patidar reservation agitations

9] Pride in caste and identity assertion

is amplified through social media.

10] Caste identity getting linked to regional identity eg Vanniyar of Tamil Nadu

11] Social reform movements and affordable access to education has contributed in destruction of this rigid hierarchy.

12] However, caste inequalities still persist. eg Over 95% of manual scavengers in India are from Scheduled Castes (SCs) highlighting that caste-occupation linkage hasn't completely broken

13] Structural inequalities still persist which necessitate schemes like Standup India as access to capital isn't uniform as highlighted by proponents of 'Dalit Capitalism'.

Indian society has come far ahead in last 75 years of independence. However, continuous efforts are to required to attain "inclusive" Viksit Bharat by 2047

19.

क्या भारत में क्षेत्रीय पहचान, सांस्कृतिक अभिव्यक्तियों से विकसित होकर स्वायत्तता के संगठित अभिकथनों में बदल गई है? राष्ट्रीय एकता के लिए उनके निहितार्थों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Have regional identities in India evolved from cultural expressions to organised assertions of autonomy? Discuss their implications for national cohesion. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Regionalism involves people having greater attachment, commitment and identification with their region than the nation. It often begins as mere cultural expression of regional identity but sometimes converts to organised assertion of autonomy.

### Evolution of regionalism in India

- ① The first demand came after independence in form of linguistic states
- ② It started as a demand to preserve one's language and culture.
- ③ A similar expression of regional identity was observed in 1960s in South India during what was perceived to be "imposition of Hindi"

Candidates  
write on this

- ④ However, it quickly turned violent and took the form of organised demonstrations to call for a separate country "Dravida Nadu".
- ⑤ Cultural expression of ethnic identities also got converted into demand for autonomy in north-east
- ⑥ Khalistani Separatist Movement in Punjab too began an expression of Punjabi identity but later transformed into organised militancy.

### Causes for transformation

- ① Unheard demands: When demands, perceived to be legitimate cultural expression, go unheard, it leads to alienation
- ② Politicisation of such demands by interest groups and extremists.
- ③ Involvement of external state actors

## Implications for national cohesion

### ① Threat to unity and integrity

eg East Pakistan's demand for autonomy culminating in creation of Bangladesh

### ② Disturbs communal harmony

eg 1984 Anti-Sikh riots

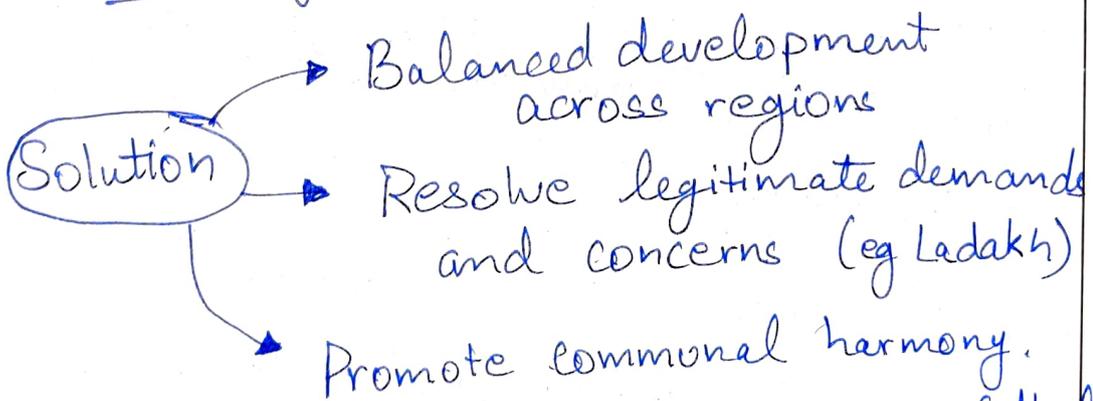
### ③ Weakening of centre's control

eg Autonomous tribal districts in Assam

### ④ Inter-state disputes

eg SYL issue - Haryana and Punjab

### ⑤ Prevents creation of a national identity



It is crucial to stay vigilant of such <sup>Cultural</sup> expressions before they turn into demand for autonomy



20.

भारत में नए मध्यम वर्ग का उदय उपभोग की संस्कृति से चिह्नित है। सचेतन उपभोग से आवेगपूर्ण उपभोग की ओर संक्रमण किस प्रकार शहरी भारत में पारिवारिक संरचना और गतिशीलता (dynamics) को प्रभावित कर रहा है?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The rise of the new middle class in India is marked by a culture of consumption. In what ways is the transition from conscious to impulsive consumption affecting family structure and dynamics in urban India?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Urban India has been witnessing a marked inclination towards consumerism being propelled by various drivers and this is having wide-reaching ramifications

Impact on family structure and dynamics

- 1] Traditional values emphasized moderation and financial savings. Current trends are conflicting these values.
- 2] The shift from conscious to impulsive buying has fueled the rise of credit instruments
- 3] Earlier finances were primarily managed by elders of the household. Today kids are living in 'perceived'

## NEXT IAS

Candidates  
write on this

financial independence through credit cards

- 4] Reckless shopping has raised the cost of living in urban centres
- 5] Rising costs impact family size, encouraging nuclearisation.
- 6] This impulsive nature is often fueled by peer pressure and urge for ostentation.
- 7] Instant gratification provided by purchase of goods is often short-lived. This is slowly eroding the value of temperance.
- 8] This culture also increases the dependence on electronic gadgets.  
The more time is spent on gadgets, the lesser the time is available for family.
- 9] This consumption culture also creates inter-generational conflicts with elders often advising restraint while youth urging for mindless consumption.

- [10] The financial burden on family increases which necessitates double income i.e. both parents should work. This further impacts family relationships
- [11] Unsustainable financial credit may lead to debt trap which can cause mental health issues and depression amongst family members.
- [12] Lastly, this culture also encourages transactional relationships which children treating elders with respect not out of love, but to get money.

Need of the hour is to take a step back consciously and opt for deliberate utilization rather than mindless consumption. This is essential for happy and healthy families and also for sustainable development in line with LIFE Mission.