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## GS 1: INDIAN SOCIETY



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(3 UPSC CSE Interviews, Mentor to 300+ Rankers  
Including AIR-1, Published Author)

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## Introduction to Indian Society

### PYQ

Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.(2015;12.5)

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.(2017:15)

What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.(2019;10)

Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (2020;15)

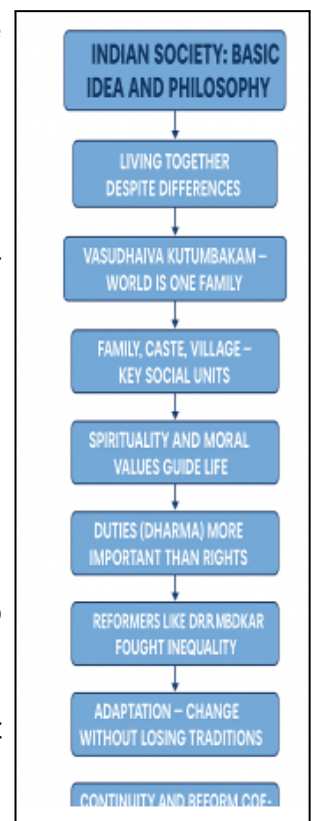
How does Indian Society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it (2021;15)

Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities.(2024;15)

Indian society is a mosaic of traditions, customs, and communities. As **Mahatma Gandhi** said, "**India's unity lies in its diversity.**" It is shaped by ancient institutions like caste, family, village, and religion. Over time, Indian society has adapted to changes brought by colonialism, reform movements, and globalization, while still preserving its deep-rooted cultural ethos.

### Salient features of Indian society/Cultural elements of diversity

1. **Social Stratification:** India remains stratified by caste, class, gender, caste and religion.
2. **Religious Diversity:** India is a secular nation, home to Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Interfaith respect and mutual coexistence are common, though tensions arise occasionally.
3. **Role of Women:** Women, who have traditionally played **key roles in preserving family and culture**, now contribute more widely thanks to better access to education and jobs. **Ex.: Gita Gopinath**, an Indian economist, became the First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF
4. **Linguistic Diversity:** India recognizes **22 official languages**, with hundreds of regional and tribal dialects.
5. **Youth and Aspirations:** With over **65% of its population under 35**, India's youth are driving change, innovation, and economic growth, often challenging regressive practices through activism.(ES 2024)
6. **Caste System:** Originating from the Varna system, the caste structure still influences social dynamics, despite legal reforms like affirmative action to address historical inequalities.
7. **Joint Family System:** Though nuclear families are rising in urban areas, joint families continue to thrive in rural regions, emphasizing mutual support and intergenerational bonds.



8. **Festivals and Cultural Practices:** Celebrations like Diwali, Eid, Christmas, and regional festivals like Bihu and Onam reflect India's diverse cultural and religious fabric, promoting social unity.
9. **Secularism and Democracy:** India's secular constitution ensures equal treatment for all religions, while its democratic institutions offer diverse voices a platform for governance.(Ex: Principle of Equal Respect and Equal Disrespect, Sarva Dharma Sambhava etc.)
10. **Rural vs Urban Dichotomy:** Rural India maintains agriculture-based economies with close-knit communities, while urban areas, influenced by globalization, exhibit cosmopolitan lifestyles.
11. **Respect for Elders:** Elders are revered for their wisdom, and family decisions often involve consulting them, reflecting traditional societal hierarchies.
12. **Spirituality and Religious Tolerance:** Spirituality, rooted in philosophy, yoga, and meditation, is central to Indian life, fostering religious tolerance and respect for all faiths.(Ex: Belief in Karma)
13. **Education and Knowledge:** India has a long tradition of valuing education, with modern initiatives like **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** and the **Right to Education Act** aiming to empower individuals.
14. **Agriculture's Importance:** Agriculture remains central to rural India, with many traditions, rituals, and festivals linked to agricultural cycles and seasonal changes.Ex: Festivals like Baisakhi are celebrated for harvesting season
15. **Tribal societies:** Indian constitution includes **5th and 6th schedule** for Tribal areas, India has 75 PVTG's highlighting the existence of rich diversity of tribal cultures.
16. **Coexistence of tradition and modernity:** Technological advancement, digital integration etc exist alongside traditional rituals, religiosity, and ancient philosophical values.(Ex: Digital Matrimony, E-commerce for Tribal products etc.)

#### Major issues associated with these salient features:

- **Caste System:** Discrimination persists, especially in rural areas, reproducing **graded inequality** despite legal abolition (**Article 17 and Prevention of Atrocities Act**).
  - Ex: 2016 Una flogging incident, Rohit Vemula Case.
- **Patriarchy:** Gender inequality remains, seen in practices like **dowry and low female workforce participation**.
  - Ex: LFPR figures show a gap of roughly **39.1 percentage points** between men and women.(PLFS)
- **Religious Polarisation :** Communal tensions arise, despite religious diversity.
  - Ex: The 2002 Gujarat riots, 2020 Delhi Riots and growing religious polarization in recent years.
- **Regionalism:** Political and sociocultural assertion of territorial identities based on language, ethnicity, culture, historical distinctiveness, or perceived economic neglect, which may sometimes challenge national integration.
  - Ex: The **Gorkhaland agitation** for a separate state in West Bengal, Ladakh statehood and sixth schedule autonomy protests.
- **Linguistic Issues:** Language conflicts cause tension in National Integration and Cultural pluralism.
  - Ex: The 1960s anti-Hindi agitation in Tamil Nadu and ongoing debates about the imposition of Hindi, NEP's Three language formula debates.
  - Ex: Sons of Soil movement in Maharashtra, Recent cases of linguistic intolerance in states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc.
- **Urbanization:** Rapid urban growth strains resources, creating slums and rising inequality in cities.
  - Ex: The slums of **Dharavi in Mumbai** and overcrowded urban areas like Delhi.
- **Socio-Economic Inequality:** The share of the top **1% accounts for 6-7%** of the total incomes earned, while the top 10% accounts for one-third of all incomes earned, classically represents the Class Inequality as propounded by Marx. (**The State of Inequality In India report**)

- **Education System:** The Indian education system faces issues like rote learning (**Banking model of Education**), outdated curriculum, lack of practical skills, unequal access, and poor infrastructure.
- **Women Related** - The practice of dowry and the underrepresentation of women in politics [13.8% Women Parliamentarians in 2025], structural patriarchy and glass ceiling.
- **Youth Unemployment:** Youth unemployment in India stems from outdated education, skill mismatch, social stigma around vocational jobs, and lack of industry-academia collaboration.
  - Ex: The unemployment rate for graduates under 25 years in India is approximately 40% (State of Working India 2026 Report).
- **Family Structure:** The rise of nuclear families weakens traditional support systems.(Ex: **Double Income No Kids(DINK) syndrome**)
- **Health and Healthcare:** Inadequate healthcare in rural areas and overcrowded urban hospitals affect access.
  - Ex: India faces an estimated deficit of approximately 2.4 million hospital beds.
- **Cultural Diversity:** Globalization challenges the preservation of traditional cultural identities.
  - **Ex:** The growing influence of Western culture, leading to a decline in traditional practices like folk arts in rural areas (**Cultural Homogenization**).

## How India Has Accommodated Challenges and Evolved as a Society/India's Journey of Social Transformation/Transformation of Indian Society: Continuity and Change

### Social Inequalities → Social Reform and Social Justice

- India confronted caste discrimination, untouchability, and social exclusion through reform movements and constitutional safeguards, promoting a more egalitarian society.
- Ex: The **Mahad Satyagraha (1927) led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** challenged caste-based exclusion from public water sources.

### Cultural and Linguistic Diversity → Unity in Diversity

- Rather than imposing a single identity, India accommodated diverse linguistic and cultural aspirations within a **federal framework**.
- Ex: The **States Reorganisation Act, 1956** reorganized states on linguistic lines, preventing linguistic conflicts and strengthening national integration.

### Colonial Legacy and Partition → Democratic Consolidation

- Despite Partition-related violence and widespread poverty, India **embraced universal adult franchise** and constitutional democracy from the outset.
- Ex: The first general elections (1951-52) enabled millions of illiterate citizens to participate in democratic governance.

### Gender Inequality → Women's Empowerment

- Indian society has gradually expanded **women's participation** in education, politics, sports, and the workforce.
- Ex: The **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023** reserves one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

### Poverty and Economic Stagnation → Economic Transformation

- India adapted to developmental challenges by embracing **economic reforms, entrepreneurship, and technological innovation**.
- Ex: The 1991 Economic Reforms transformed India from a closed economy into one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

### Marginalization of Vulnerable Groups → Inclusive Development

- The evolution of rights-based governance has enhanced opportunities for historically disadvantaged communities.

- Ex: **The Forest Rights Act, 2006** recognized land and livelihood rights of tribal communities.

### Communal and Regional Tensions → **Democratic Accommodation**

- India has largely managed **social conflicts** through constitutional mechanisms, dialogue, and democratic institutions.
- Ex: The **Mizo Peace Accord (1986)** transformed an insurgency-hit region into one of India's most peaceful states.

### Globalization and Modernity → **Cultural Adaptation**

- Indian society has **balanced modernization** with the preservation of its cultural heritage and traditions.
- Ex: The global celebration of International Day of Yoga reflects India's ability to project traditional knowledge in a modern world.

### Environmental Challenges → **Sustainable Development**

- India has increasingly integrated ecological concerns into its development trajectory.
- Ex: The **Chipko Movement** demonstrated grassroots environmental consciousness and influenced conservation policies.

### Digital Divide and Governance Challenges → **Digital Inclusion**

- India has leveraged technology to improve service delivery, financial inclusion, and citizen participation.
- Ex: The UPI revolution has democratized digital payments, empowering even small vendors and rural populations.

### Religious Diversity and Communal Tensions → **Secularism and Pluralism**

- India accommodated multiple faiths through constitutional secularism, interfaith coexistence, and equal respect for all religions.
- Ex: The **Ajmer Sharif Dargah** attracts devotees from different religions, symbolizing India's syncretic culture (**Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb**).

### Educational Backwardness → **Knowledge-Based Society**

- India has expanded access to education and skill development, transforming education into a key instrument of social mobility and empowerment.
- Ex: The Right to Education Act, 2009 made elementary education a fundamental right, promoting inclusive human development.

"India's evolution is rooted in its capacity to accommodate diversity, resolve conflicts democratically, and adapt to changing realities. From social reform to digital transformation, it exemplifies how a civilization can modernize while preserving its pluralistic ethos."

| <b>Correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities</b>                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Diversity → Socio-economic marginality</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>Diversity ≠ Socio-economic marginality (2024)</b>                                                                                                            |
| <b>Caste Hierarchy</b> : Social exclusion & limited access to resources causing graded inequalities.<br>Ex: Manual scavenging by Dalits.                          | <b>Diverse Political Participation</b> : All groups form parties, contest elections<br>Ex: BSP (Dalits), AIUDF (Muslims), regional tribal parties like BAP etc. |
| <b>Linguistic Divide</b> : Language barriers in jobs, education<br>Students from the North East face hurdles in national exams due to dominance of Hindi/English. | <b>Social Integration through Interactions</b> : Urban areas foster coexistence and exchange<br>Ex: Mumbai's mixed neighborhoods and markets                    |



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Religious Discrimination</b> : Unequal access to opportunities for minorities<br>Ex: <b>Sachar Committee</b> – Muslims in poor urban ghettos; Housing Discrimination discussions in metros.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Cultural Pluralism → Economic Growth – Diversity fuels tourism, arts, services<br>Ex: <b>Bollywood, Yoga, Handicrafts industry</b>                                                                              |
| <b>Regional Imbalance</b> : Neglect of tribal/Northeast areas, LWE affected areas etc.<br>Ex: Poor infrastructure in North eastern states, Manipur Governance crisis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Private Sector Inclusion – Caste/religion less relevant in startups, MNCs, <b>rationalisation of workforce</b> .<br>Ex: Tech sector in Bengaluru with diverse workforce                                         |
| <b>Intersectionality</b> : Double marginality (gender + community)<br>Ex: Low literacy/workforce participation of Dalit/Muslim women                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Resilience &amp; Innovation</b> : Cultural mix drives creativity and economic adaptability.<br>Ex: Restaurants and food startups draw on regional culinary traditions (Ex: Rajasthani thali, Kerala seafood) |
| <p>India's diversity is a <b>double-edged sword</b>-it can lead to marginality when inclusivity is lacking, but also fuels innovation, resilience, and growth.</p> <p>With the right policies, diversity becomes "Vikas ka engine" (engine of development), not a barrier.</p> <p>As PM Modi often says, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" reflects the path to an inclusive and empowered India.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### Continuity and Change in Indian Society/Adaptive Resilience of Indian Society/India's Social Evolution: Balancing Tradition and Modernity/Indian Society: Preserving Roots, Embracing Change

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Indian society is often described as a '<b>living civilization</b>' where centuries-old traditions coexist with the forces of modernity. Its distinctive feature lies in its ability to <b>preserve cultural continuity</b> while continuously adapting to changing social, economic, and technological realities."</li> <li>OR</li> <li>From the <b>village panchayat to digital governance</b>, from joint families to nuclear households, Indian society reflects a continuous process of adaptation without complete rupture from its cultural roots."</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>How Indian Society Maintains Continuity in Traditional Social Values</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Changes Taking Place in Indian Society</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Family and Kinship System</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The family continues to be the primary institution for transmitting values such as respect for elders, collective responsibility, and social obligations.</li> <li>Ex: Even among urban nuclear families, major decisions such as marriage and property matters often involve the extended family.</li> </ul> <b>Religion and Cultural Traditions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religious practices, festivals, pilgrimages, and the concept of</li> </ul>                                                               | <b>Urbanization and Modernization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Migration to cities has increased social mobility and weakened traditional barriers based on caste and region.</li> <li>Ex: Diverse workforces in metro cities.</li> </ul> <b>Changing Family Structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint families are increasingly giving way to nuclear families due to urban lifestyles and occupational mobility.</li> <li>Ex: Rising number of nuclear households in metropolitan cities.</li> </ul> |

Dharma continue to provide moral guidance and social cohesion.

- Ex: Massive participation in Maha Kumbh 2025 and continued celebration of festivals like Diwali, Eid, Pongal, and Onam.

#### Caste and Social Networks

- While its nature has evolved, caste continues to influence marriage, political mobilization, and community support systems.
- Ex: Prevalence of caste-based matrimonial preferences and caste associations.

#### Cultural Heritage and Oral Traditions

- Folklore, regional languages, folk arts, and storytelling traditions continue to preserve cultural values.
- Ex: Revival of folk music and regional culture through social media platforms.

#### Community and Collective Living

- Indian society retains a strong sense of community participation through festivals, local institutions, and social networks.
- Ex: Community-led celebrations and volunteer initiatives during festivals and disasters.

#### Women Empowerment

- Education, employment, and legal reforms have enhanced the status and participation of women in public life.
- Ex: Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 and increasing female representation in higher education.

#### Transformation of Caste

- Caste is increasingly functioning as a political and economic identity rather than solely a social hierarchy.
- Ex: Growing demand for caste-based representation and reservation benefits.

#### Digital Revolution

- Technology has transformed communication, education, and governance while accelerating cultural exchange.
- Ex: Expansion of UPI, online education, and digital public services.

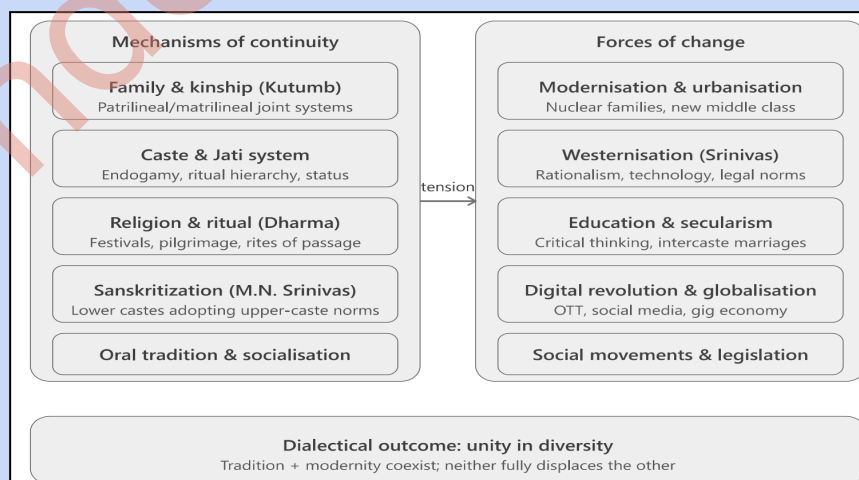
#### Rise of Individualism

- Personal choice in education, career, and marriage is gaining importance over traditional social norms.
- Ex: Increasing acceptance of inter-caste and inter-regional marriages in urban areas.

#### Globalization and Consumer Culture

- Global influences are reshaping aspirations, lifestyles, and consumption patterns.
- Ex: Growing popularity of global brands, OTT platforms, and remote work culture.

This diagrammatic framework can be used when two variables are simultaneously distinct and interrelated.



In India, tradition is not a relic of the past and modernity is not a break from it; together they form the twin engines of a resilient and ever-evolving society."

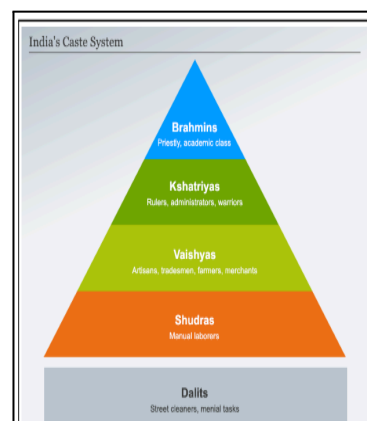
## Caste & Casteism

### PYQ

1. Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste.(2015;12.5)
2. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate
3. The caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, the caste system cannot be eradicated in India. Comment.(2018, 10)
4. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.(2020, 10)
5. Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static?(2023, 10)
6. Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment.(2024;15)
7. Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss.(2024;10)

1. *Caste is not just a division of labor, it is a division of laborers.* - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
2. *Caste is not a static phenomenon. It is a dynamic social structure which changes and adapts to the political, economic, and social changes of a society.* - M.N. Srinivas
3. *The caste system is the poison of society. The root of evil lies in the mind of the people.* - Mahatma Gandhi
4. *Indian caste system as a major obstacle to the country's progress, arguing that its rigid hierarchy hindered social and economic development and prevented the formation of a unified, productive society.* - 'The Future Results of British Rule in India', Karl Marx

- **Caste:** Caste is a social hierarchy based on birth, occupation, or status, primarily in Hinduism. It determines **roles and opportunities**, with limited mobility and often involves discrimination, especially for lower castes.
- **Casteism:** Casteism refers to the **practice of discrimination** or prejudice based on caste. It involves the perpetuation of caste-based inequalities and social exclusion. Casteism manifests in various forms, including social, political, economic, and educational discrimination.



### Evolution of Caste System in India

- In the **early Vedic period**, the caste system (**varna**) was relatively flexible, mainly based on occupation and qualities (guna), allowing some social mobility.
- Over time, caste identity became hereditary, **with birth determining one's caste**.
  - This shift entrenched social divisions and reduced mobility.
- The **varna system evolved into numerous jatis (sub-castes)**, based on occupation, region, and endogamy (marriage within the group), increasing social fragmentation.
- **Concept of Purity and Pollution:**
  - To justify and enforce social boundaries, ideas of **ritual purity and pollution** were **introduced**, especially in Brahmanical texts like **Manusmriti**.

- Brahmins and higher varnas were associated with purity, while lower castes and “untouchables” were labeled as polluting.
- Purity-pollution norms regulated daily life-diet, water use, temple entry, and social interactions-creating strict social segregation and hierarchy.
- The concept served as a tool to legitimize caste-based discrimination and reinforce hierarchy.

### Main Features of the Indian Caste System(G.S Ghurye - Caste and Race in India)

1. **Segmentary Division of Society:** Indian society is divided into distinct groups or castes, and membership is determined by birth rather than **individual accomplishments**.
  - Ex: A Brahmin’s role is traditionally linked to religious duties, regardless of personal interests.
2. **Social Hierarchy:** Castes are ranked hierarchically, assigning social status, privileges, and responsibilities, with upper castes historically enjoying more power and resources reflecting the **graded inequality**.
  - Ex: Upper castes hold the highest status, while Lower castes face marginalization.
3. **Restrictions on Social Interaction:** There are **strict codes** governing who can interact socially or share food with whom, based on the belief in maintaining caste purity.
  - Ex: Dalits may be excluded from eating with higher castes.
4. **Purity and Pollution Ideology:** A core belief of the caste system is the notion of purity and pollution, which regulates social interactions between castes.
  - Ex: Dalits, considered **“polluted,”** were historically assigned “unclean” jobs.
5. **Endogamy:** Marriage is strictly confined within one’s caste or sub-caste. This practice ensures that caste identity is preserved and that social boundaries are maintained. As **B.R. Ambedkar quoted** - **“Endogamy is the essence of caste.”**
  - Ex: Inter-caste marriages are often met with social resistance.
6. **Norms and Sanctions:** The caste system is governed by prescribed norms, values, and social sanctions that regulate behavior, ensuring individuals adhere to their caste roles and responsibilities.
  - Ex: Lower caste individuals often face restrictions like using **separate utensils or sitting separately** during social functions
7. **Restricted Occupation Choices:** Traditionally, each caste is associated with specific occupations, limiting individuals’ career choices based on their caste identity. **B.R. Ambedkar stated** - “Caste is not merely division of labour but also division of labourers.”
  - Ex: Dalits were historically confined to manual labor and “unclean” jobs like **Manual Scavenging**.
8. **Civil and Religious liability:** Institutionalized exclusions of certain castes from temples, education, public resources and ritual participation.
  - Ex: Temple Entry restriction for Dalits.

### Causes of Casteism in India

1. **Historical Legacy:** Past injustices and inequalities continue to shape social behaviors, perpetuating discriminatory practices.
  - Untouchability practices that originated centuries ago still influence social exclusion of Dalits in rural India
2. **Economic Disparities:** Marginalized groups, like Scheduled Castes and Tribes, face economic inequalities, limiting their access to education and resources, which perpetuates **lesser life chances** and hence casteism retains into society.



- According to the 2011 Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey, Scheduled Castes and Tribes constitute half of the total "poor, deprived households"
- 3. **Cultural Norms and Traditions:** Social rituals and restrictions on inter-caste marriages reinforce caste distinctions, making change difficult.
  - Ex: Society against Inter Caste Marriage.
- 4. **Desire for Caste Prestige:** The drive to elevate one's caste leads to exclusivity, seen in caste-based vote banks and political alliances.
  - Ex: Caste Sabhas like Jat Mahasabha, Gurjar Mahasabha etc.
- 5. **Urbanization:** Migrants often turn to caste networks in cities for support, replicating rural caste structures in urban areas.
  - Ex: **Caste based dharamshalas** in urban spheres .
- 6. **Caste as Social Capital:** Caste provides social and economic support, particularly in crises, sustaining caste-based interactions.
  - Ex: Caste based hiring in Urban spheres.
- 7. **Political Influence:** The caste system also influences political dynamics in India. Caste-based voting patterns, reservations (affirmative action), and caste-based political parties often shape elections and policies. Politics has not destroyed caste but it has politicised and solidified it.
  - Ex: Affirmative action policies like reservations aim to address caste-based disparities.
- 8. **Role of Social Media:** virtual platforms frequently mirror real-world caste prejudice.
  - Ex: Caste pride pages, **Cyber bullying** and Harassment, Algorithmic Bias etc.

The caste system has evolved from a flexible structure to a rigid hierarchy, sustaining casteism through endogamy, caste prestige, and political and economic inequalities. Despite reforms, caste-based discrimination continues, requiring ongoing efforts for a more inclusive society.

### Challenges and Issues associated

1. **Social Inequality**
  - Caste-based discrimination perpetuates graded inequality, as lower castes are socially excluded from many social spaces and opportunities.
  - **Ex:** In rural areas, Dalits often face social exclusion, such as being denied entry into temples or not being allowed to draw water from public wells, a practice rooted in untouchability. **Khairlanji massacre (2006) in Maharashtra** where Dalit family was brutally murdered by members of a dominant caste community.
2. **Economic Disparities**
  - The caste system restricts access to economic resources, leading to poverty and inequality, especially for those from lower castes. Economic exploitation overlaps with **social hierarchy**.
  - **Ex:** Dalits and Adivasis are often confined to low-paying jobs, with many still forced into manual scavenging.
3. **Political Manipulation**
  - Political parties often exploit caste identities for electoral gains, which reinforces caste divisions rather than addressing caste-based disparities. **Politics has politicised caste.**
  - **Ex:** During elections, political parties frequently use promises of caste-based reservations to appeal to voters from specific communities, thereby perpetuating caste-based voting patterns, rise of **Caste based parties**.
4. **Violence and Oppression**
  - Caste-based violence remains widespread, with lower castes subjected to atrocities such as physical violence and **exclusion**.

- **Ex:** In 2024, Dalit youth Pankaj Prajapati was shot dead in Madhya Pradesh after a dispute over ration distribution, highlighting ongoing caste-based violence.

#### 5. Educational Barriers

- Discrimination in education leads to high dropout rates among Dalit and lower-caste students, preventing them from achieving academic success.
- **Ex:** A study in Tamil Nadu revealed that Dalit children were segregated in schools and often faced discrimination from teachers, leading to poor academic performance and high dropout rates, Rohith Vemula Case.

#### 6. Cultural and Psychological Effects

- The caste system causes psychological trauma, especially among lower castes, affecting their self-esteem and sense of identity.
- **Ex:** Dalit children often face bullying and social exclusion, leading to feelings of inferiority. In rural areas, children of lower castes are subjected to societal pressures that negatively affect their mental well-being.

#### 7. Caste and Marriage

- Caste-based endogamy restricts individuals from marrying outside their caste, perpetuating the caste system. **Endogamy reproduces caste** as its child and lets it survive generation after generation.
- **Ex:** Inter-caste marriages, particularly between Dalits and upper castes, often face severe opposition, as seen in the 2014 Haryana case where a couple was murdered for eloping across caste lines.

#### 8. Resistance and Social Movements

- Various social movements, especially those led by Dalit leaders, resist caste-based oppression, though challenges remain.
- **Ex:** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's movement for Dalit rights led to the drafting of the Indian Constitution, which outlawed untouchability, though the practice still persists in many areas.

#### 9. Impact on Gender

- The intersection of caste and gender amplifies the oppression faced by Dalit women, subjecting them to both caste-based and gender-based violence.
- **Ex:** The **Hathras rape case** (2018), where a Dalit woman was gang-raped and murdered, drew attention to the unique vulnerabilities of Dalit women, who face compounded oppression due to their caste and gender.

#### 10. Modernization vs. Tradition (**Cultural Lag**)

- While urbanization and modernization have reduced caste-based discrimination in some areas, it still persists, particularly in rural regions.
- **Ex:** In cities like **Mumbai**, caste-based discrimination is less pronounced in professional spaces, but in rural areas, practices like manual scavenging continue to exist, showing a cultural lag in the eradication of caste-based oppression.

#### 11. Neo-Casteism

- Evolution of traditional caste-based discrimination into covert, insidious forms.
- **Ex:** **Housing and Matrimonial Gatekeeping**, Domestic worker segregation etc.

**Decasting in India** refers to the process of dismantling caste-based discrimination and hierarchies, challenging the biases and prejudices associated with the caste system.

## Steps taken to prevent Casteism in India

- The caste system in India has deep-rooted social implications, but **legal and policy measures** have been introduced to promote equality and empower marginalized communities.
1. **Constitutional Safeguards:**
    - The Constitution directly attacks caste discrimination through its provision shifting ascriptive hierarchy to a more constitutional citizenship society.
    - Ex : Article 17 (Abolition of Untouchability), Article 46 (Promotion of educational/economic interests of weaker section), Article 330, 332, 334, 335 etc.
  2. **The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955:**
    - This law criminalizes the practice of untouchability and prescribes punishments for caste-based discrimination.
    - **Ex:** The Act has led to the prosecution of individuals who deny Dalits access to public spaces like temples and wells.
  3. **The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:**
    - This Act aims to prevent atrocities and discriminatory practices against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
    - **Ex:** The Act has been invoked in several cases of **caste-based violence**, ensuring legal action against perpetrators.
  4. **The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013:**
    - This law prohibits the employment of individuals as manual scavengers and mandates their rehabilitation.
    - **Ex:** The Act has provided compensation and rehabilitation to those formerly employed in manual scavenging, aiming to eliminate the practice.
  5. **Reservation Policies:**
    - Reservation in education, employment, and political representation for SCs, STs, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) ensures better access to opportunities and social justice.
    - **Ex:** The reservation policy has helped increase Dalit and Adivasi representation in educational institutions and government jobs.
  6. **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):**
    - A skill development program aimed at increasing youth employment through vocational training, thus improving their career prospects.
    - **Ex:** PMKVY has provided training to thousands of individuals from marginalized castes, enhancing their skills and employability.
  7. **Stand Up India Scheme:**
    - Launched in 2016, this scheme promotes entrepreneurship at the grassroots level, focusing on women, SCs, and STs by providing access to institutional credit.
    - **Ex:** The scheme has facilitated loans for women and **Dalit entrepreneurs** to start their own businesses, promoting economic independence.
  8. **Other Measures**
    - Social Reform Movements: Structural changes through social consciousness.
    - Judicial Interventions: Giving effect to Institutional and constitutional morality in the country.
  9. **Promotion of Inter-Caste Marriages**
    - The government encourages inter-caste marriages as a means to **reduce social barriers** and foster integration.
    - Ex: Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages.

## Quota to Equality: A Journey Half Travelled

- The Indian Constitution envisions social justice through affirmative action to uplift historically marginalized communities.
- However, despite robust policies, systemic barriers continue to hinder full and equitable access to these benefits as equality of opportunity does not automatically translate into equality of outcomes when underlying social hierarchies persist. .

### Why Underprivileged Still Miss Out:

#### Urban-Rural Divide

- Urban elites within reserved groups benefit more than rural poor.
- NITI Aayog (**SDG India Index 2023**) shows backward districts, especially tribal ones, lag in access to quality education and healthcare.

#### Caste-Based Discrimination Persists

- Formal inclusion doesn't eliminate bias.
- Ex: **Rohith Vemula case** highlights institutional discrimination.

#### Creamy Layer Issue (**Elite Capture**)

- Dominant sections within OBCs monopolize benefits; extreme backward classes remain underrepresented.
- Ex: **Justice G Rohini Commission** exploring the further sub categorization.

#### Poor Monitoring and Data

- Vacant reserved posts show weak implementation creating **implementation deficit**.
- Ex: Ministry data (2022) shows **over 40% of faculty seats** for SC/ST/OBC vacant in central universities.

#### Private Sector Exclusion

- Affirmative action not mandated in private jobs, limiting scope in the post-liberal economy.
- **NITI Aayog's Strategy for New India** stresses inclusive growth but lacks concrete private-sector reservation proposals.

#### Intersectional Disadvantage

- Multiple layers of exclusion affect outcomes and create a vicious cycle.
- Ex: Tribal women suffer in **employment and education**.

#### Lack of Awareness & Accessibility

- Many remain unaware or face bureaucratic hurdles (**Capability deprivation - Capability approach of Amartya Sen**).
- Ex: NITI Aayog notes digital divide prevents marginalized groups from accessing welfare schemes effectively.

### Areas Where Affirmative Action Has Worked:

#### Political Representation

- SC/ST reserved seats have enabled increased participation in governance.
- Ex: 131 Lok Sabha seats currently reserved for SC/ST candidates.

#### Educational Advancement

- Access to premier institutions is improving.
- Ex: NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme notes progress in enrolment and school access in backward areas.

#### Social Mobility of First-Generation Beneficiaries

- Emergence of Dalit/OBC middle class in states like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra due to consistent reservation policies.

## Way Forward

1. **Periodic Review of Criteria:** Regularly reassess the socio-economic criteria for reservation to ensure inclusion of genuinely disadvantaged sections.
2. **Data-Driven Policies:** Implement reservation based on reliable socio-economic data (like **caste census**) for evidence-based policymaking.
3. **Strengthen Education & Skill Development:** Focus on **capacity-building** through quality education and skill programs, especially at grassroots levels.
4. **Time-Bound Benefits:** Introduce periodic evaluation mechanisms to phase out reservations for families that have benefited sufficiently ("**creamy layer**").
5. **Promote Social Harmony:** Balance affirmative action with efforts to reduce caste-based polarization and encourage meritocracy alongside **inclusivity**.
6. **Improve Delivery Mechanisms:** Ensure transparency, accountability, and proper grievance redressal in the implementation of reservation policies.
7. **Weakening the caste identity:** Removing caste markers, revising curriculum, and promoting social justice to create inclusive learning environments.
  - a. **Ex: Justice Chandru Committee in Tamil Nadu.**

Ensuring equity requires going beyond quotas towards a rights-based, inclusive development model. Empowering the underprivileged through quality education, skill-building, digital access, and institutional accountability is essential to make affirmative action truly transformative.

| Has Caste Lost Its Relevance in Contemporary India?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <b>Why Caste Remains Relevant</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Politicisation of Caste</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per M.N. Srinivas's <b>Dominant Caste</b> concept, caste today is a major tool of political mobilisation and <b>electoral arithmetic</b>.</li> <li>Ex: Post-1990 Mandal politics and growing caste-based political alliances.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Persistence of Endogamy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marriage remains overwhelmingly caste-based, ensuring the <b>reproduction of caste across generations</b>.</li> <li>Ex: Most marriages continue to occur within the same caste despite urbanization.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>Continuing Discrimination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Untouchability and caste-based violence persist despite constitutional safeguards.</li> <li>Ex: Recurring atrocities against Dalits and deaths linked to manual scavenging.(Rohit vemula cae)</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <b>Caste in Modern Institutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caste influences access to opportunities through social networks and inherited social capital.</li> <li>Ex: Diversity deficit in IIMs, IITs just 23 STs and 157 SCs in 9,640 faculty posts</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <b>Legal Recognition of Caste Inequalities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent judicial interventions indicate the</li> </ul> </li> </ol> | <b>Arguments that Caste is Losing Relevance</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Urbanization and Anonymity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cities promote interactions based on occupation and income rather than caste, weakening <b>traditional caste boundaries</b>.</li> <li>Ex: In metropolitan cities workplace relationships are largely caste-neutral.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Expansion of Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education fosters scientific temper, constitutional values, and merit-based competition, <b>reducing caste prejudices</b>.</li> <li>Ex: Students from diverse caste backgrounds study together in universities and professional institutions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>Economic Liberalization and Market Forces</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The market increasingly rewards skills, entrepreneurship, and productivity rather than hereditary status.</li> <li>Ex: <b>India's startup ecosystem</b> has enabled first-generation entrepreneurs from varied social backgrounds to succeed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <b>Rise in Inter-Caste Marriages and Social Interaction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing mobility and exposure have encouraged greater social mixing across caste lines.</li> <li>Ex: Inter-caste marriages are steadily rising in urban areas, aided by platforms such as</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |



|                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>continuing relevance of caste-based disparities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex: 2024 Supreme Court judgment allowing sub-classification within Scheduled Castes.</li> </ul> | <p>the Special Marriage Act.</p> <p><b>5. Emergence of New Identities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class, profession, education, region, and digital communities are increasingly competing with caste as sources of identity.</li> <li>Ex: IT professionals, gig workers, and social media influencers often identify more with their occupation than their caste.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Caste has not vanished from Indian society; it has changed its grammar. From ritual hierarchy to socio-political identity, its relevance is evolving rather than ending."</p>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

### Caste Identity

- Caste identity refers to the **sense of belonging** and **social recognition** an individual derives from their **jati (birth-based group)** within the caste system.
- It includes both **ascriptive traits** (birth, kinship, ritual status) and **achieved expressions** (political assertion, economic mobilization).

| Characteristics of Caste Identity |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trait                             | Description                                                                 |
| <b>Ascriptive</b>                 | Assigned at birth and remains central to one's social status.               |
| <b>Hierarchical</b>               | Traditionally arranged in a graded inequality (Brahmin > Kshatriya > etc.). |
| <b>Endogamous</b>                 | Marriages typically occur within the same caste.                            |
| <b>Occupational</b>               | Linked historically to hereditary occupations.                              |
| <b>Community-centric</b>          | Reinforced through festivals, rituals, and caste associations.              |

### Static vs. Fluid Nature of Caste Identity

- Caste identity in India has traditionally been seen as **static**, fixed by birth and tied to occupation and social hierarchy.
- However, social changes like modernization, mobility, and political assertion have introduced a **fluid** dimension, where caste can be reinterpreted, negotiated, or strategically used. This creates a tension between its inherited rigidity and its evolving flexibility.

| Dimension               | Static Features                                    | Fluid Features                                                   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ascription</b>       | Birth determines caste.                            | Individuals and groups may reclaim or reinterpret caste status . |
| <b>Endogamy</b>         | Strong preference for <b>intra-caste</b> marriage. | Rise in <b>inter-caste</b> marriages.                            |
| <b>Social Practices</b> | Persistent caste-based discrimination.             | Urbanization, education, and law reduce its influence.           |

|                                |                                                    |                                                                              |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Political Identity</b>      | Loyalty to caste-based parties.                    | Emerging Cross-caste coalitions and issue-based politics.                    |
| <b>Cultural Assertion</b>      | Caste-based norms dictate festivals, rituals, etc. | Dalit literature, media, and art challenge caste hierarchy.                  |
| <b>Caste Based Reservation</b> | Reservation based on social backwardness.          | Demand from other castes to be included under reservation. Ex: Patel Andolan |

### Sub Categorisation of Caste

- In **State of Punjab vs Davinder Singh case**, a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court declared that Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) do not form a socially homogeneous group.
- The court affirmed that states have the authority to sub-classify SCs/STs to provide reservations for the more disadvantaged segments within this category.

### Significance of the judgement

- **Overruling Past Ruling:** The Supreme Court overturned the **E.V. Chinnaiah judgment**, which had barred sub-categorization of SCs/STs under **Article 341**.
- **Constitutional Validity:** The Court ruled that sub-classification doesn't violate Articles 14 or 341, affirming it is constitutionally permissible recognizing the inequality within the **marginalized communities**.
- **State Empowerment:** States can now legally create sub-categories within SC/ST groups to address internal disparities.
- **Revival of State Laws:** Laws like Punjab's 1975 notification (favoring Valmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs) are now upheld, reversing earlier invalidation.
- **Improved Targeting:** This allows for more equitable and targeted reservation benefits within marginalized groups.
- **Nationwide Implications:** Sets a precedent for similar sub-categorization efforts across other states.

### Arguments for Sub-classification

- **Enhanced Targeting:** Helps ensure benefits reach the most deprived sub-groups within SC/ST communities which are deprived due to **elite capture**.
- **Promotes Social Justice:** Aligns with the constitutional vision of equitable upliftment through tailored interventions marking a shift from formal **equality to substantive equality**.
- **Constitutional Backing:** Supported by **Articles 15(4), 16(4), and 342A**, which allow special provisions for backward classes.
- **State-Level Flexibility:** Empowers states to respond to local inequalities and socio-economic variations within SC/ST groups.

### Arguments against Sub-classification

- **Threat to Homogeneity:** May dilute the uniform identity of SCs/STs as recognized in the Presidential list under Article 341 causing threat to **collective identity**.
- **Intra-Community Tensions:** It can trigger friction and create divisions among marginalized groups, leading to fragmentation of social fabric.
- **Risk of Fragmentation:** Could intensify **intra-group rivalry** and social divisions, undermining solidarity among marginalized groups.
- **Political Misuse:** Politicisation of social categories for political benefit.

- **Complex administrative process** : Implementation is difficult as it requires accurate socio-economic mapping, revised rosters, dynamic classification and monitoring systems.

### Challenges in Sub-classification

- **Reliable Data Need**: Accurate socio-economic data is essential for fair sub-categorization, but often hard to obtain.
- **Evidence-Based Policy**: States must justify sub-classification with solid empirical evidence, which can be inconsistent.
- **Balancing Equity**: Ensuring justice to the most deprived without alienating other sub-groups is a delicate task.
- **Uniformity vs. Flexibility**: Custom state policies may cause inconsistency with national reservation norms. Conflict between **distributive justice vs collective solidarity** arises.
- **Political Sensitivity**: Risk of political pushback from groups fearing loss of benefits or support.
- **Social Fragmentation**: May deepen divides within SC/ST communities, leading to friction and conflict.
- **Administrative Complexity**: Requires extra resources for managing, updating, and overseeing new sub-categories.

### Caste Census

- The Indian government has **approved caste enumeration in the postponed Census 2021**, responding to rising social and political demands.
- A caste census is a systematic collection of data on individuals' caste identities during a nationwide **population census**.
- **Objective** - It aims to understand the socio-economic distribution of various caste groups to inform policies on social justice, reservations, and welfare.

### Historical Context

- **British Era Practice**: Caste was regularly recorded in Censuses from 1881 to 1931; 1941 data was collected but unpublished due to World War II.
- **Post-Independence Shift**: From 1951 onwards, caste enumeration stopped for all except SCs and STs, leaving OBC data largely unaccounted.
- **State-Level Surveys**: In 1961, states were permitted to identify and list OBCs through local surveys. This created fragmented caste data regimes.
- **SECC 2011**: The last major caste-based data collection occurred during the 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census, combining socio-economic profiling with caste data.

### Need of Caste Census

- **Data Gap on OBCs**: Reliable national data exists for SCs/STs, but OBC data is outdated, hampering effective policy-making.
- **SECC 2011 Flaws**: The 2011 census lacked a standard caste list, allowing random entries and producing unusable data.
- **Improved Enumeration Aim**: The upcoming caste census seeks accurate, structured data to overcome past inconsistencies.
- **Revisiting Reservations**: Updated data will help reassess reservation policies, as outdated OBC estimates (1931) no longer reflect ground realities.
- **Bihar's Ex**: The 2023 Bihar caste survey revealed 63% OBC/EBC population, fueling national demand for updated caste figures.
- **Equity Through Sub-Categorization**: Accurate data will support OBC sub-grouping, ensuring fair reservation distribution (as advised by **Rohini Commission**).

- **Political Representation:** Better caste data enhances political inclusion of marginalized communities.
- **Inclusive Development:** The census can expose intersecting inequalities and guide equitable welfare strategies via **data driven policy making**.

### Challenges of Caste Census

- **Reinforcing Caste Identities:** A caste census may entrench caste divisions, contradicting the constitutional aim of fraternity and equality.
- **Equity vs. Social Cohesion:** Micro-fragmentation of quotas risks social disunity and may marginalize smaller backward groups due to scale bias.
- **Political Exploitation:** Accurate caste data could fuel vote-bank politics and demands for reserved status by dominant groups resulting in **politicisation of caste**.
- **Competitive Backwardness:** Groups may claim backward status for benefits, distorting the purpose of affirmative action. Ex: Reservation demands from Jats in Haryana and Marathis in Maharashtra.
- **Legal and Constitutional Concerns:** While **Article 340** supports backward class identification, caste enumeration lacks a clear constitutional mandate.
- **Quota Pressure and Policy Impact:** Updated data may lead to **demands for proportional quotas**, challenging the **51% cap** and potentially affecting welfare and population control efforts.
- **Challenges in conducting accurate caste census -**
  - Lack of **Standardised Caste list**
    - **Identity categories are socially fluid, not bureaucratically neat.**
  - **Misclassification of caste** due to similar surnames 'Dhanak', 'Dhankia', 'Dhanuk', and 'Dhanka' belong to different caste categories

### Way Forward

- **Ensure accuracy:** Integrate unique identification like Aadhar for preventing duplication and ensuring data accuracy.
- **Integration of technology:** Use of AI and ML models for data analysis and suggesting policies.
- **Holistic listing of castes:** Preparing a holistic, state wise list of castes to ensure efficient and accurate caste census.
- **Avoid isolation of caste census:** Include other indicators along with caste census like MPI, HDI, calculating Men-Women gaps etc.
- **Sub-classification of castes:** Implement sub classification for OBC, SC, ST for data accuracy and targeted service delivery.

The caste census represents a crucial step toward **data-driven governance in India**, addressing long-standing gaps in representation and welfare. Its success depends on strong safeguards and transparent implementation aligned with **SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.

| Assertion as an Instrument of Caste Annihilation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                       |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>B. R. Ambedkar</b> argued that caste cannot be reformed but must be annihilated by dismantling the ideology of graded inequality.</li> <li>• Contemporary Dalit movements seek this goal through <b>identity assertion</b>, creating a tension between mobilizing caste identity and ultimately transcending it.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                       |
| How Dalit Assertion Promotes Annihilation of Caste                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Why Assertion May Not Fully Annihilate Caste                                                                                          |
| <b>1. Political Empowerment and Counter-Hegemony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalit movements have transformed</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>1. Reinforcement of Caste Identities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political mobilization based on caste</li> </ul> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p>marginalized communities into <b>influential political actors</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex: <b>BSP under Mayawati</b> and the rise of the <b>Bhim Army led by Chandrashekhra Azad</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Cultural Assertion and Dignity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dalit literature, cinema, and Ambedkarite movements challenge dominant narratives and reclaim identity.</li> <li>Ex: <b>Jai Bhim</b> and growing celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti as a symbol of constitutional consciousness.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Legal Activism and Social Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dalit organizations use legal instruments to combat discrimination and caste violence.</li> <li>Ex: <b>Mobilization around the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act</b> and debates following the 2024 SC sub-classification judgment.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Digital Democratization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media has amplified Dalit voices and enabled nationwide mobilization.</li> <li>Ex: <b>#DalitLivesMatter</b> and digital activism after the Una flogging incident (2016).</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Intersectional Mobilization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dalit feminism</b> highlights the intersection of caste, class, and gender inequalities.</li> <li>Ex: Mobilization around the Hathras case (2020), emphasizing both caste and gender justice.</li> </ul> | <p>may strengthen caste consciousness rather than eliminate it.</p> <p><b>2. Intra-Dalit Inequalities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SC category itself contains hierarchies and unequal access to benefits.</li> <li>Ex: 2024 Supreme Court verdict permitting <b>sub-classification</b> within Scheduled Castes.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Persistence of Endogamy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most marriages remain caste-based, ensuring caste reproduction across generations.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Competitive Identity Politics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assertion by one group often triggers counter-mobilization by others.</li> <li>Ex: Maratha, Jat, and Patidar reservation agitations.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Symbolic Inclusion Without Structural Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dalit icons may be celebrated without fundamentally altering social hierarchies.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Contemporary Dalit movements have democratized power, culture, and public discourse. However, true annihilation of caste lies not merely in asserting identities, but in creating a society where such identities no longer dictate life chances."</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Inter-caste and Inter-religious Marriages in India

- Inter-caste marriage:** Marriage between partners belonging to different castes.
- Inter-religious marriage:** Marriage between partners belonging to different religions.
- B. R. Ambedkar** famously argued, **"The real remedy for breaking caste is inter-marriage."**

## Advantages of intercaste marriages

- Social Integration:** Promotes inclusivity, reduces caste-based discrimination (Ex: aligns with Article 15 of the Indian Constitution prohibiting discrimination).
- Cultural Exchange:** Leads to pluralism and tolerance in families and society due to shared domestic multiculturalism.
- Legal Support:** Protected under the **Special Marriage Act, 1954**, which allows civil marriage irrespective of caste/religion.
- Empowerment of Women:** Especially in inter-caste unions, women often challenge patriarchal norms. Control over marriage is control over women's autonomy. (Ex: increased autonomy in marital choice).
- Government Incentives:** Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration: ₹2.5 lakh incentive for SC-general inter-caste couples (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, 2023 data).



## Challenges of intercaste marriages/ interfaith marriages

- **Social Backlash:** Families may ostracize or disown couples, especially in rural areas.
- **Violence and Honour Killings:** Ex: **2021 Tamil Nadu: V. Shankar** (Dalit) killed for marrying an upper-caste girl. NCRB reports show 100+ honour killing cases since 2017.
- **Legal Hurdles:** Under the Special Marriage Act, a 30-day notice invites social resistance. Fear of harassment, especially in interfaith cases.
- **Religious Conversion Pressure:** Often seen in interfaith marriages, leading to family disputes and legal scrutiny (Ex: Hadiya case, 2017, Kerala – Supreme Court upheld an adult's right to marry by choice).
- **Surveillance by Society:** Moral policing, particularly when a woman is Hindu and man is Muslim.

## Inter-caste Marriage Trends (Rising)

- Higher among urban, educated, and wealthier households.
- **Factors Boosting It:** Urbanization, education, social mobility, job migration, dating apps (like Bumble, Tinder) Ex: In cities like Bengaluru and Mumbai, inter-caste unions are more normalized.

## Inter-religious Marriage Trends (Stagnant or Low)

- **NFHS-5 Data:** Only 2.1% of marriages in India are inter-religious, showing minimal change from previous NFHS rounds, indicating persistent stagnation despite modernization.
- **Strong Community Control:** Religious institutions (like **Khap Panchayats**, church councils, local mosque committees) actively discourage or obstruct interfaith unions, especially in conservative areas.
- **Politicization of Interfaith Marriages:** Ex: 2020 UP ordinance (Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion) requires prior district magistrate approval, intimidating genuine interfaith couples.
- **Anti-conversion Laws:** Over 10 states (incl. Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, MP) have laws regulating religious conversion in marriage context, often weaponized against interfaith couples.
- **Lack of Government Incentives:** Unlike inter-caste marriages (Ex: Ambedkar scheme), no central incentives exist for interfaith unions, indicating passive state discouragement.
- **Societal Prejudices & Communal Divide:** Religion in India is tied to identity, morality, and honor, making interfaith unions a greater taboo than inter-caste.
- **Media and Misinformation:** Social media propaganda, WhatsApp forwards, and communal TV debates fuel suspicion about inter-religious relationships. Ex: Fake cases of "Love Jihad" being widely circulated despite police clarifications.
- **Family Surveillance & Gender Control:** Families often track mobile usage or movements of young women dating across faiths.
- **Loopholes:** The Special Marriage Act, 1954, requires a 30-day public notice which allows the community or family to intervene.
- **Urban-Rural Divide:** Interfaith marriages are more common in urban areas (like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru), but even there, the rate remains below 3% due to fear of **societal policing**.
- **Gendered Nature of Resistance:** Hindu woman + Muslim man marriages draw more scrutiny than the reverse due to patriarchal notions of community purity.

## Way Forward

- **Uphold Right to Choice :** Ensure Article 21 (Right to Life & Liberty) protects the individual's right to marry across caste and religion.
- **Reform Special Marriage Act :** Amend 30-day notice rule to safeguard privacy
- **Strict Action Against Violence:** Enforce Shakti Vahini guidelines against honour crimes and intimidation by families or vigilantes.

- **Promote Social Acceptance:** Use **storytelling, cinema**, and public figures to normalize such marriages (Ex: films like Article 15, Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan).
- **Community Engagement:** Encourage NGOs, civil society, and religious leaders to hold interfaith dialogues promoting tolerance.
- **Regulate Hate Speech:** Monitor and penalize fake news, communal propaganda around “love jihad” or “religious conversions”.
- **Use Digital Platforms for Positive Messaging:** Promote social media campaigns highlighting real-life stories of inter-group love.’

Advancing inter-caste and inter-religious marriages is pivotal for **fostering social cohesion, constitutional morality, and individual liberty**. Current barriers reflect deep-rooted identity politics and structural discrimination that require multidimensional redressal. A shift toward inclusive modernity demands legal reform, civic awareness, and rights-based governance.

## Tribes in India

### PYQ

How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes?(2015, 12.5)

Why are the tribals in India referred to as 'the Scheduled Tribes'? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment. (2016, 10 Marks)

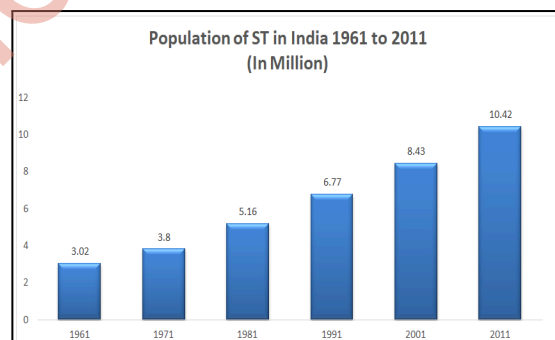
What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?(2017, 10)

Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems.(2021, 10 Marks)

Given the diversities among the tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? (2022/10)

Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion. (2025/15)

- As per the **Imperial Gazetteer of India**, a tribe is a group of families sharing a common name, language, and territory.
- India, often called a **melting pot of tribes and races**, has the world's second-largest tribal population after Africa.
- Scheduled Tribe (ST) population recorded at 10.45 crore, or 8.6% of the total population (2011 Census).
- These communities, comprising over 705 distinct groups, are spread across the country, often living in remote and inaccessible areas.



### Defining & Identifying Scheduled Tribes

#### Article 342: Scheduled Tribes

- The President, after consulting the Governor of a State, specifies which tribes or tribal communities will be recognized as Scheduled Tribes (STs) in that State or Union Territory.
- Once the list is notified, only Parliament can add or remove any tribe from the ST list through a law.

Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Shri Durgadas Uikey informed in the Rajya Sabha that the criteria followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are: - (10/12/2025)

- Indications of primitive traits,
- Distinctive culture,
- Geographical isolation,
- Shyness of contact with the community at large, and
- Backwardness.

### Constitutional Safeguards for Scheduled Tribes (STs)

1. **Article 14:** Equality before law and equal protection of laws.
2. **Article 15(4):** Special provisions for educational advancement of STs.
3. **Article 16(4):** Reservation in public employment.
4. **Article 46:** Promotion of educational and economic interests of STs and protection from exploitation.
5. **Article 244:** Administration of Scheduled Areas through the Fifth and Sixth Schedules.
6. **Fifth Schedule:** Protection and governance of Scheduled Areas through Tribes Advisory Councils (TACs).
7. **Sixth Schedule:** Autonomous District Councils for tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
8. **Article 275(1):** Special Central grants for tribal welfare and development.
9. **Article 330:** Reservation of seats for STs in the Lok Sabha.
10. **Article 332:** Reservation of seats for STs in State Legislative Assemblies.
11. **Article 338A:** Establishment of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).
12. **Article 342:** President specifies Scheduled Tribes; Parliament can amend the list.

### Key features of a Tribes:

- Tribes live in definite geographical areas, often isolated.
  - Ex: Munda, Santhal, Oraon, Ho, and Gond of Chotanagpur
- They show ethnic distinctiveness from mainstream society.
  - Ex: Negrito (Andamanese), Proto-Australoid (Gond), Mongoloid (Naga), Nordic (Toda)
- They possess a strong sense of unity and group identity.
  - Ex: Resistance to outsiders with bows/arrows
- Tribal economy is based on their natural environment.
  - Ex: Hunting (Baiga), Shifting cultivation (Jhum)
- They follow a communitarian land-holding pattern.
  - Ex: Bhil and Munda traditional territories
- Tribes have poor access to literacy and formal education.
  - Ex: Low female literacy among Santhals
- They are generally endogamous, marrying within the tribe.
  - Ex: Marriage within Oraon tribe
- A common dialect is spoken within the tribe.
  - Ex: Gondi spoken by Gond tribe
- They have a distinct political organization.
  - Ex: Tribal chief and councils in Nagaland
- A common culture exists within each tribe.
  - Ex: Santhal folk songs and dances

### Contributions of Tribal Communities in India:

- Sustainable Environmental Practices
  - Ex: Chenchus of Andhra Pradesh safeguard Nallamala forests.
- Preservation of Sacred Groves
  - Ex: Khasi and Garo tribes in Meghalaya protect sacred groves.
- Forest-based Livelihoods: Tribals depend on forests for food, fodder, and minor forest produce.
  - Ex: Baiga tribe collects tendu leaves and medicinal herbs.
- Indigenous Agricultural Techniques: They use traditional eco-friendly farming like shifting cultivation.
  - Ex: Angami Nagas practice terrace farming in Nagaland.
- Traditional Handicrafts and Art
  - Ex: Gonds of Madhya Pradesh are famous for Gond paintings.
- Medicinal Knowledge Systems
  - Ex: Siddi tribe known for honey hunting and medicinal plants.
- Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
  - Ex: Santhal dance and Karma festival in Jharkhand and Odisha.
- Promotion of Tribal Languages
  - Ex: Bodo, Santhali, and Ho languages now recognized in 8th Schedule.
- Grassroots Democratic Participation: Active involvement in Panchayati Raj and self-governance.
  - Ex: PESA Act empowers tribal Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They follow egalitarian values with minimal social hierarchy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ex: Equal gender status among Bhils</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tribes follow rudimentary religions with animistic elements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ex: Totem worship among Gonds</li> </ul> </li> <li>• They believe in myths, totems, magic and fetishism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ex: Tree worship in Juang tribe</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resistance Movements and National Contribution: Tribals have led struggles against colonialism and injustice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ex: Birsa Munda led anti-British tribal revolt in Chotanagpur.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Restoration of Natural Ecosystems: Participation of tribal communities has helped in restoration of threatened ecosystems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ex: Maldharis in Gujarat revived the rich Banni grasses by eliminating the Prosopis juliflora.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wildlife preservation: Tribal communities play a key role in preserving wildlife. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ex: Blshnoi community preserving the Blackbuck, Chunkara etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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### Uniqueness of Tribal Knowledge

- **Nature-Centered Wisdom:** Tribal knowledge is rooted in coexistence with nature, emphasizing harmony and sustainability. Ex: The Aka tribe of Arunachal Pradesh uses eco-friendly methods of hunting and resource extraction.
- **Experience-Based Learning:** Knowledge is passed through lived experience and observation, unlike scientific validation in modern systems.
  - Ex: Tribals in Andaman & Nicobar recognized tsunami signs in 2004 due to generational awareness of ocean patterns.
- **Oral Preservation:** Knowledge is maintained through stories, songs, and rituals, ensuring intergenerational transfer without written records.
  - Ex: Santhal songs and folklore preserve history and customs.
- **Holistic and Interdisciplinary:** It integrates agriculture, medicine, spirituality, and governance, offering a complete worldview.
  - Ex: Many tribes use herbal medicine with spiritual practices for healing.
- **Tradition-Integrated Education:** Learning is community-based and practical, with traditions forming the foundation of knowledge sharing.
  - Ex: Children among Naga tribes learn farming, weaving, and hunting through participation.
- **Inclusive and Accessible:** Tribal knowledge is open and equitable, unlike formal education systems that may be restricted by cost or social barriers.
- **Adaptive and Sustainable:** Tribal practices adapt to the environment while maintaining balance and biodiversity, unlike extractive modern approaches.
  - Ex: Apatani tribe (Arunachal Pradesh) uses integrated rice-fish farming with water conservation.

### Challenges faced by tribals in India:

- **Land Alienation and Displacement**
  - **Ex:** The Dongria Kondh tribe's resistance against bauxite mining in Odisha's Niyamgiri Hills.
  - Over 40% of displaced persons due to development projects (like dams, mining) are tribals (Xaxa Committee, 2014).
- **Limited Access to Education**



- **Ex:** Many tribal children in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha discontinue education due to lack of schools and resources.
- Drop-Out Rates in School secondary Education for Scheduled Tribe Students is 16.62 (MoTA)
- **Healthcare Challenges**
  - **Ex:** In remote tribal regions, absence of medical facilities contributes to high infant mortality rates.
  - The mortality rate in **tribal** areas is **44% higher** than the national average, and infant mortality is 63% higher [Ministry of Tribal Affairs]
  - **NFHS-5 (2019–21):** 40.9% ST children under 5 are stunted; anemia prevalence in tribal women aged 15-49 years is 64.6%.
- **Economic Marginalization:** Dependence on subsistence agriculture and lack of market access keep tribals economically disadvantaged.
  - **Ex:** Average estimated MPCE in 2023-24 is observed to be Rs.6,996 in urban India while for tribals it remains Rs.5,414 (Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES))
- **Cultural Erosion:** Modernization and external influences threaten traditional tribal cultures and languages.
  - **Ex:** Younger generations of various tribes are losing fluency in native dialects.
  - Younger generations of tribes such as the Toda, Kuki, and Santhal increasingly shift toward dominant regional languages for education and employment.
- **Political Underrepresentation**
  - **Ex:** Limited representation of tribals in legislative bodies affects policy decisions (Xaxa committee report)
- **Exploitation and Human Rights Violations**
  - **Ex:** Instances of bonded labor among tribal communities in brick kilns have been reported.
  - Bonded labor among Sahariya and Bhil tribal communities has been reported in brick kilns and stone quarries in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Environmental Degradation**
  - **Ex:** Mining in tribal regions leads to loss of biodiversity and traditional livelihoods.
  - Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 implementation is patchy – only 3% of the potential Community Forest Rights claims have been settled (MoTA report).

### Government Initiatives for Tribal Welfare in India

- **Legislative efforts:** Forest Rights Act 2006, PESA act 1996, SC/ST act etc.
- **Tribal Panchsheel** refers to five key principles aimed at protecting the rights and welfare of tribal communities in India.
  - Self, non interference, non exploitation, free access to common resources and equality and protection
- **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:** Aims to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood development across approximately 63,000 tribal villages.
- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** To provide quality education to ST children in remote areas.
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN):** focusing on improving road connectivity, constructing Anganwadis and multipurpose centers, building school hostels.
- **Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRI):** Empowering TRIs to undertake research, documentation, training, and capacity-building activities.

- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) Development Program** :Around 7 lakh PVTG families across 22,000 habitations in 200 districts benefit from comprehensive development plans under this initiative.
- **Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)** :TRIs play a crucial role in preserving tribal culture and addressing their socio-economic challenges
- **The Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)** aims to provide basic infrastructure in villages with a significant tribal population. Under the scheme, 36428 villages having 50% tribal population and 500 Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been identified.
- **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)**: Financial assistance and skill development for ST communities.
- **Marketing of Forest Produce**: Van Dhan Yojana, TRIFED, MSP for MFP etc.

#### Best practice-

##### **RISA: Timeless Tribal – A Premium Tribal Brand**

- RISA, led by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, is a flagship initiative to position tribal crafts in premium domestic and global markets.
- Inspired by the traditional Risa fabric of Tripura, it blends heritage with contemporary design and branding.

### Framework of Tribal Development

#### 1. Displacement and Rehabilitation

- Development projects have caused disproportionate **displacement of Adivasis**, leading to loss of land, livelihood, culture, and identity, a form of ontological displacement.
- Ex: **Narmada Valley Project**, bauxite mining in Niyamgiri, Jaduguda uranium mines.
- Solution: **Strict implementation of FRA 2006**, LARR 2013, **Social Impact Assessment**, and Gram Sabha consent.
- Best Practice: **Niyamgiri Gram Sabha (2013)**, where Dongria Kondhs successfully exercised community consent rights.

#### 2. Self-Governance and Tribal Sovereignty

- Tribal development must shift from **welfare to self-determination**, empowering communities to control land, water, forests, and local governance.
- Ex: **PESA Act (1996)** recognizes Gram Sabhas as decision-making institutions in Scheduled Areas.
- Solution: Strengthen Gram Sabhas and institutionalize **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**.
- Best Practice: **Maharashtra's Mendha-Lekha village**, known for community-led forest governance.

#### 3. Ecological Stewardship

- Tribal communities embody **biocultural diversity**, where ecological conservation and cultural practices reinforce each other.
- Ex: **Sacred groves** of the Khasi and community-managed forests in Odisha.
- Solution: Incentivize conservation through **carbon-credit** and ecosystem-service models.
- Best Practice: Odisha's Community Forest Rights model linking **conservation with livelihoods**.

#### 4. Knowledge Sovereignty

- Tribal knowledge systems in medicine, agriculture, and biodiversity deserve **epistemic justice**, not mere extraction by external actors.
- Ex: Traditional medicinal knowledge of **Baiga and Kani tribes**.

- Solution: Strengthen **Biodiversity Registers**, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and intellectual property protection.
- Best Practice: Honey Bee Network documenting and commercializing grassroots innovations.

## 5. Health and Nutrition Security

- Poor tribal health outcomes arise from structural exclusion, remoteness, and erosion of traditional food systems, not cultural backwardness.
- Ex: High prevalence of **Sickle Cell Anaemia** among tribal populations.
- Solution: **Community-based healthcare**, tribal-language health workers, and nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- Best Practice: National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (2023).

## 6. Gender Justice within Tribal Development

- **Tribal women face intersectionality**, experiencing overlapping vulnerabilities of gender, ethnicity, and economic deprivation.
- Ex: High trafficking rates among tribal girls and women.
- Solution: Secure land rights, political representation, and gender-sensitive livelihood programs.
- Best Practice: **Matrilineal Khasi society**, where women inherit property and lineage.

## 7. Education and Cultural Continuity

- Education should promote inclusion without eroding tribal identity through culturally responsive pedagogy.
- Ex: High dropout rates due to language barriers in tribal regions.
- Solution: **Mother-tongue education**, local curricula, and tribal teacher recruitment.
- Best Practice: Odisha's Multilingual Education Programme in tribal languages.

## 8. Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods

- Tribal development requires economic sovereignty, enabling communities to benefit from their own resources.
- Ex: Dependence on middlemen in NTFP trade such as tendu leaves and mahua.
- Solution: Value addition, cooperatives, MSP for MFP, and GI-tag promotion.
- Best Practice: TRIFED's Van Dhan Vikas Kendras and **Chhattisgarh's C-MART initiative**.

## 9. Cultural Identity and Heritage

- Tribal cultures are living knowledge systems that require recognition, preservation, and transmission across generations.
- Ex: **Dhokra art, Warli painting, and Toda embroidery**.
- Solution: Cultural mapping, GI protection, digital archiving, and tribal tourism.
- Best Practice: Tribal museums and the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas initiative.

## 10. Political Economy of Development

- Tribal underdevelopment often reflects a resource curse, where resource-rich regions remain socially deprived.
- Ex: Mineral-rich Jharkhand exhibiting poor human development outcomes.
- Solution: **Equitable benefit-sharing**, local ownership, and stronger implementation of Fifth Schedule protections.
- Best Practice: **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)** funds directed toward tribal welfare and local infrastructure.

## 11. Digital Empowerment and Creator Economy

- Promoting digital connectivity and content creation enables tribal youth to preserve culture while generating income.
- Ex: Santali-language platforms such as Jangalwood and PM-JANMAN's digital inclusion efforts.

## 12. Sports as a Vehicle of Social Mobility

- Investing in sports infrastructure and talent identification can create livelihood opportunities and national representation.
- Ex: Tata Archery Academy and tribal athletes like Salima Tete.

### Tribals having better sex ratio

- According to **Census 2011**, the sex ratio among Scheduled Tribes (STs) was **990** females per 1000 males, significantly higher than the national average of **943**.
- This reflects relatively egalitarian gender relations within tribal societies.

### Reasons for better sex ratio among tribals:

- Egalitarian social structure:** Tribal societies are generally less patriarchal than mainstream society.
  - Ex: Khasi and Garo tribes of Meghalaya follow matrilineal traditions.
- Absence of son meta preference:** Sons and daughters are often valued equally in tribal households.
  - Ex: Tribes like Todas, Santhals etc. treat male and female equally.
- Economic empowerment of women:** Tribal women actively participate in agriculture, forest-based livelihoods, handicrafts, and household income generation.
  - Ex: Bodos, Mishing, Sentinelese etc. have significant female labour force participation.
- Higher participation in decision making:** Tribal women enjoy reproductive autonomy, equal say in household etc.
  - Ex: Jaintias, Chenchus, Yanadis etc.
- Social and cultural institutions:** Tribal socio-cultural institutions remove gender stereotypes, differences etc.
  - Ex: Co-ed dormitories, Cultural dances etc.

### Emerging Challenges:

- Mainstream assimilation:** Increased integration with non-tribal society is introducing patriarchal practices and son preference.
  - Ex: Gonds, Bhils accepting mainstream practices.
- Globalisation:** Leading to encroachment into tribal habitat by outsiders and introducing mainstream values.
  - Ex: Industrialisation in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh etc.
- Cultural erosion:** Erosion of tribal cultural values of egalitarianism, equality etc.
  - Ex: Decline in dormitories, cultural celebrations, exchanges etc.
- Health crisis:** Poor health conditions specially for tribal women leading to increasing MMR, IMR etc.
  - Ex: Tribals suffer from anemia, malnutrition, stunting, wasting etc.
- Loss of livelihoods:** Tribals are losing their traditional livelihoods and migrating to cities as laborers.
  - Ex: Chenchus migrating to cities and working as tourist guides.

The relatively favorable sex ratio among tribal communities demonstrates that gender equality is not solely a function of economic development but also of social values and cultural institutions.

| MAJOR COMMITTEES AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRIBAL WELFARE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| Key Committees that shaped Tribal Policy in India                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>1. XAXA COMMITTEE (2014)</b><br>High-Level Committee on Socio-Economic, Health and Educational Status of Tribal Communities in India<br><b>KEY RECOMMENDATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recognize development-induced displacement</b><br/>Acknowledge tribals as victims of development projects and ensure just rehabilitation.</li> <li><b>Implement Forest Rights Act (FRA) and PESA Act</b><br/>Ensure effective implementation of FRA, 2006 and PESA, 1996 to empower tribal communities.</li> <li><b>Improve representation in governance</b><br/>Increase tribal representation in legislature, bureaucracy and decision-making bodies.</li> <li><b>Protect tribal land rights</b><br/>Prevent land alienation and ensure return of illegally transferred lands to tribal communities.</li> <li><b>Promote education in tribal languages</b><br/>Provide mother-tongue based education and culturally relevant curriculum.</li> <li><b>Improve health and nutrition</b><br/>Focus on reducing malnutrition, maternal mortality and improving health infrastructure in tribal areas.</li> </ul> | <b>2. DHEBAR COMMISSION (1960-61)</b><br>Also known as the First National Commission on Tribal Development<br><b>KEY RECOMMENDATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Reduce exploitation and indebtedness</b><br/>Protect tribals from exploitation by moneylenders, traders and middlemen; regulate credit practices.</li> <li><b>Integrated Tribal Development Blocks</b><br/>Set up ITDP blocks for planned and integrated development of tribal areas.</li> <li><b>Education</b><br/>Expand facilities for primary education and vocational training in tribal areas.</li> <li><b>Healthcare facilities</b><br/>Improve access to healthcare, sanitation and drinking water in tribal regions.</li> <li><b>Economic development</b><br/>Promote agriculture, minor forest produce, cottage industries and cooperative societies.</li> <li><b>Training of tribal youth</b><br/>Provide skill development and training for employment and self-reliance.</li> </ul> | <b>3. BHURIA COMMITTEE (1995)</b><br>Committee on Tribal Areas and Tribal Population (Led to the PESA Act, 1996)<br><b>KEY RECOMMENDATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Empower Gram Sabhas</b><br/>Give Gram Sabhas the power to manage local resources and development in Scheduled Areas.</li> <li><b>Control over natural resources</b><br/>Tribal communities should have authority over land, water, minor minerals and minor forest produce.</li> <li><b>Customary laws and dispute resolution</b><br/>Recognize tribal customs and empower Gram Sabhas to resolve disputes as per local traditions.</li> <li><b>Consultation before land acquisition</b><br/>Gram Sabha consent mandatory for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement.</li> <li><b>Benefit sharing</b><br/>Ensure that tribals benefit from projects and mining activities in their areas.</li> <li><b>Protect tribal culture and identity</b><br/>Safeguard tribal traditions, customs, language and cultural practices.</li> </ul> | <b>4. LOKUR COMMITTEE (1965)</b><br>Committee to Review the Criteria for Identification of Scheduled Tribes<br><b>KEY RECOMMENDATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Criteria for identification of STs</b><br/>Suggested 5 main criteria: primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact, and backwardness.</li> <li><b>Periodical review of ST list</b><br/>Recommended regular review of the list of Scheduled Tribes to include/exclude communities.</li> <li><b>Focus on backward tribes</b><br/>Welfare measures should prioritize the most backward and vulnerable tribal groups.</li> <li><b>Education and awareness</b><br/>Promote education among tribals while respecting their social and cultural setting.</li> <li><b>Preserve tribal way of life</b><br/>Protect tribal communities from forced assimilation and external pressures.</li> <li><b>Economic upliftment</b><br/>Encourage economic development through suitable tribal-centric programmes.</li> </ul> |
| <b>OVERALL THEME:</b> These committees emphasize protection of tribal rights, empowerment through self-governance, socio-economic development, cultural preservation and inclusive growth with dignity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

"The true measure of India's progress is not how fast its cities grow, but how inclusively its tribal communities prosper. As the rise of Honorable president **Droupadi Murmu ji** demonstrates, India's tribal heritage is not on the margins of the nation, but at the heart of its democratic journey."



## Role of Women & Women Organizations, Issues Related to Women

### PYQs

|                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organizations free from gender bias. Comment.(2013, 10)                                                               |
| Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments.(2014, 10)                                                               |
| Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India.(2014, 10)                                                    |
| How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India?(2014, 10)                                                                                           |
| How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favorable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes?(2015, 12.5)                   |
| 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata. Substantiate your view.(2018, 15)                                                            |
| What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (2019,15)                                                                                                |
| "Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss(2019, 10)                                                                                                         |
| Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India.(2021,10)                                                                                           |
| Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society.(2023, 10)                                                                                                      |
| Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation?(2024,10) |

1. Women's employment rate nearly doubled between 2017-18 to 2023-24, shows PLFS data
2. Female Unemployment Rate (UR) dropped from 5.6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24
3. Rural India shows 96% rise in female employment, urban areas reflect 43% growth
4. 1.56 crore women have joined formal workforce in past seven years, attests EPFO payroll data
5. 429% rise in gender budgets over last decade; 70 central schemes and over 400 State-level schemes support female entrepreneurship
6. Nearly every second DPIIT registered startup has at least one-woman director
7. 68% of total MUDRA loans received by women; 44% beneficiaries under PM SVANidhi are women
8. Number of women-led MSMEs nearly doubled from 2010-11 to 2023-24, with Nari Shakti Steering India Towards Viksit Bharat

1. *"There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women."* – **Kofi Annan**, Former UN Secretary-General
2. *"Women's rights are human rights."* – **Hillary Clinton**, Former U.S. Secretary of State
3. *"Educate a man, and you educate an individual. Educate a woman, and you educate a nation."* – **Dr. Kiran Bedi**, Former Indian Police Service Officer
4. *"Empowering women is the key to building a future we want."* – **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, Former

President of India

5. "To call women the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to women. If strength is meant by moral power, then woman is immeasurably superior to man's superior." – **Mahatma Gandhi**

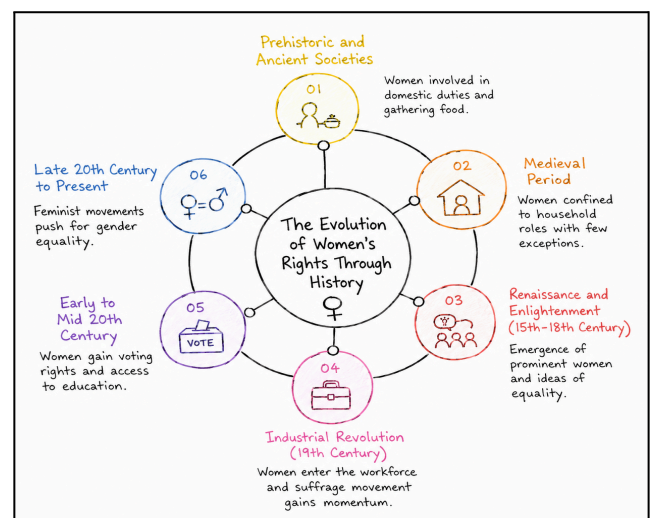
### Issues Faced by Indian Women

| Dimension                               | Issue                                                                                                                    | Example                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Patriarchal Family</b>               | Patriarchy and gender socialisation perpetuate son preference, domestic violence, and restricted autonomy.               | <b>NFHS-6:</b> ~22.3%% married women faced spousal violence.                                                         |
| <b>Safety &amp; Violence</b>            | Rape culture, honour crimes, and institutional apathy act as mechanisms of social control over women                     | Hathras case (2020),RG kar rape case.                                                                                |
| <b>Female Infanticide and Foeticide</b> | involve the intentional killing or abortion of female infants or fetuses due to a cultural preference for male children. | child sex ratio in Haryana was recorded as 834 girls per 1000 boys in 2011                                           |
| <b>Economic Marginalisation</b>         | Feminisation of poverty, unpaid care work, gender pay gap, and labour market exclusion.                                  | India's overall gender parity score of <b>64.4%</b> is among the lowest in South Asia.(Global Gender Gap Index 2025) |
| <b>Education Gap</b>                    | Access has improved but substantive equality remains constrained by child marriage and mobility restrictions.            | AISHE shows rising female enrolment, yet high dropout in secondary stages.                                           |
| <b>Health &amp; Reproductive Rights</b> | Women's bodies remain sites of control through anaemia, poor reproductive autonomy, and maternal health gaps.            | NFHS-5: 57% women anaemic.                                                                                           |
| <b>Barriers in career progression</b>   | Women face discrimination in the form of Glass ceiling, Sticky floor, Pink collar jobs etc                               | Women hold only 5% of CEO or MD positions and just 10% of executive directorships.                                   |
| <b>Honor codes and moral policing</b>   | restrict women's clothing, mobility, and freedom                                                                         | Cases of violence against women for violating dress codes                                                            |
| <b>Caste-Gender Intersection</b>        | Intersectionality and Brahminical patriarchy create layered discrimination for Dalit and Tribal women.                   | Hathras case highlighted caste and gender oppression simultaneously.                                                 |
| <b>Political Underrepresentation</b>    | Formal citizenship exists, but substantive representation remains limited.                                               | Women constitute approx 14% of Lok Sabha members.                                                                    |
| <b>Triple Burden of Labour</b>          | Women perform paid work, unpaid domestic work, and caregiving simultaneously.                                            | Time Use Survey: women spend nearly 3 times more time in unpaid care work                                            |

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Digital Divide &amp; Cyber Violence</b> | Digital patriarchy reproduces gender hierarchies through online abuse and unequal internet access.                                                                     | The <b>"Bulli Bai" app case (2022)</b> and <b>"Sulli Deals"</b> controversy (2021) targeted women                                     |
| <b>Religion &amp; Personal Laws</b>        | <b>Legal pluralism</b> often creates unequal outcomes in marriage, inheritance, and divorce.                                                                           | <b>Shayara Bano case (2017)</b> against instant triple talaq.                                                                         |
| <b>Mental Health Burden</b>                | Gendered expectations, violence, and caregiving pressures create hidden psychological distress.                                                                        | High prevalence of depression and postpartum mental health issues.                                                                    |
| <b>Climate Vulnerability</b>               | Disproportionately impacts women by increasing their unpaid care burden, livelihood insecurity, and exposure to disasters due to existing socio-economic inequalities. | 2026 heatwaves and water stress increased burden on rural women.                                                                      |
| <b>Pressure for Aesthetic Surgery</b>      | Societal beauty standards push women to undergo cosmetic surgeries to meet idealized body images.                                                                      | an increasing number of women are opting for cosmetic surgeries like breast augmentation and liposuction to conform to beauty ideals. |
| <b>Asset ownership</b>                     | skewed in favor of men                                                                                                                                                 | 13.96% of landholdings in India are in the names of women, as per <b>Agriculture Census 2015–16</b> .                                 |
| <b>Gender Stereotyping</b>                 | assigns women roles as caregivers and homemakers while portraying men as providers and leaders                                                                         | In textbooks, women are often depicted doing domestic work, while men are shown as professionals or leaders.                          |

### Evolution of women's role in society – different phases

- Traditionally, women were confined primarily to the domestic sphere, with clearly defined roles as **daughters, wives, and mothers**.
- Their identity and societal worth were measured by their adherence to these expectations, often leaving little space for personal aspirations or autonomy.
- Breaking Traditional Boundaries:** In recent years, this rigid framework has been increasingly challenged. Women across India are **asserting their individuality** and **redefining their roles** beyond the domestic domain.
  - Ex: **Avani Chaturvedi**, India's first female fighter pilot, has become a national icon by breaking into one of the most male-dominated domains-defence aviation.



- **The Power of Education and Economic Independence:** Education has been a **key enabler of change**. This **economic empowerment** enhances autonomy and decision-making power.
  - *Ex:* The rise in female entrepreneurs, like **Falguni Nayar** (founder of Nykaa), highlights the changing narrative in India's business ecosystem.
- **Emerging Role Conflicts:** While the rise of working women marks progress, it has also brought new challenges. Many face **role conflict**-struggling to balance professional aspirations with domestic responsibilities.
  - *Ex:* The **"Double Burden"** of work and home remains a major obstacle to gender equality.
- **Intersectionality:** It's vital to recognize that **gender inequality intersects with caste, class, religion, and region**, leading to diverse experiences and challenges.
  - *Ex:* Tribal women in Jharkhand may suffer exclusion from health and education services despite legal entitlements, highlighting the layered nature of disadvantage.

| Generic way forward                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Innovative way forward (can be used in other answers)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <p><b>Gender-Responsive Budgeting 2.0</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate gender <b>impact audits</b> in every ministry and flagship scheme.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> Gender budgeting cells in all states with <b>outcome</b>-based monitoring.</li> </ul> <p><b>Care Economy Recognition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise unpaid care work through crèches, elderly-care centres, and <b>time-use based policy design</b>.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> Expanding community childcare under Mission Shakti.</li> </ul> <p><b>Women-Centric Digital Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide smartphones, digital literacy, and cyber-safety training to women.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> <b>Digital Sakhi initiatives</b> in rural India.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gender-Smart Urban Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design safer cities through smart lighting, women-friendly public transport, and CCTV-linked emergency systems.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> <b>Pink buses</b> and women's safety command centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>Property and Asset Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote joint <b>land titles</b>, inheritance awareness, and women-owned enterprises.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> Reduced stamp duty for women property owners in several states.</li> </ul> <p><b>Political Leadership Pipeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create leadership academies for elected women representatives beyond reservation.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> Capacity-building of women</li> </ul> | <p><b>1. Creator Economy as a Tool of Economic Agency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote women-led content creation on YouTube, Instagram, podcasts, and ed-tech platforms to enhance <b>financial autonomy</b>, digital inclusion, and economic agency.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> Rural women creators monetising local cuisine, handicrafts, and folk culture.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Cloud Kitchens and the Care Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convert unpaid domestic skills into <b>income-generating enterprises</b> through cloud kitchens and home-based food startups, thereby recognising the care economy and fostering women-led entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> SHG women operating cloud kitchens through food-delivery platforms like <b>'Didi's Mealbox' in Gurugram</b></li> </ul> <p><b>3. Sports-Led Social Mobility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use sports as an instrument of social empowerment, <b>capability enhancement</b> (Amartya Sen), and leadership development among girls.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> Manu Bhaker and Salima Tete emerging as role models.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. STEM and Tech-Enabled Empowerment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase women's participation in AI, robotics, semiconductors, cybersecurity, and space technology to break the glass ceiling and bridge the gender digital divide.</li> <li>• <i>Ex:</i> Growing participation of women scientists in ISRO missions.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Gig Economy and Flexible Employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand women's access to the platform economy through <b>freelancing, e-commerce, telemedicine, and online education</b>,</li> </ul> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p>sarpanches through digital governance training.</p> <p><b>Gender-Sensitive Schooling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutionalise gender equality education from primary level to challenge patriarchal norms early</li> <li>• Ex: <b>Kerala's gender-inclusive</b> curriculum initiatives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Women-Led Climate Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place women at the centre of water management, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation plans.</li> <li>• Ex: Women-led self-help groups managing water conservation projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strengthening Women's Collective Power</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand Self-Help Groups (SHGs), producer collectives, and digital cooperatives.</li> <li>• Ex: Over 10 crore women linked through SHG networks under <b>DAY-NRLM</b>.</li> </ul> | <p>enhancing labour force participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ex: Women entrepreneurs selling products through digital marketplaces.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Drone Didi and Technological Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote women drone pilots in agriculture and logistics to achieve technology democratization and women-led development.</li> <li>• Ex: <b>Namo Drone Didi initiative</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Green Entrepreneurship and Climate Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support women-led ventures in renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture, advancing climate resilience and green livelihoods.</li> <li>• Ex: Women SHGs managing solar-powered irrigation systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Digital Safety and Digital Citizenship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen cyber-security mechanisms and digital literacy to combat digital patriarchy and ensure safe online participation.</li> <li>• Ex: Fast-track response mechanisms against cyber harassment.</li> </ul> <p><b>9. Women-Led Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move from welfare-based approaches to gender mainstreaming and transformative equality through leadership roles in governance and institutions.</li> <li>• Ex: <b>Capacity building</b> of elected women representatives under Panchayati Raj.</li> </ul> |
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The next frontier of women's empowerment lies beyond welfare and protection: it lies in creating a generation of innovators, athletes, creators, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers. **True Nari Shakti** will be realised when women become equal stakeholders in India's digital, economic, and developmental transformation.

### Government Steps for Women Empowerment

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p><b>Legislative &amp; Legal Reforms</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023:</b> 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.</li> <li>2. <b>Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:</b> Protection against domestic abuse.</li> <li>3. <b>Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (POSH) Act, 2013:</b> Safe work environment.</li> <li>4. <b>Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013:</b> Strengthened laws against sexual violence post-Nirbhaya.</li> <li>5. <b>Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017:</b> 26 weeks paid maternity leave.</li> </ol> | <p><b>Economic Empowerment &amp; Financial Inclusion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>PM Mudra Yojana:</b> Credit support for women entrepreneurs.</li> <li>2. <b>Stand-Up India Scheme:</b> Loans for women-led enterprises.</li> <li>3. <b>DAY-NRLM:</b> SHG-based livelihood promotion.</li> <li>4. <b>Mahila e-Haat:</b> Digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs.</li> <li>5. <b>Lakhpati Didi Initiative:</b> Creating women-led rural enterprises.</li> <li>6. <b>Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP):</b> Aimed at improving the productivity and income of women farmers by promoting agriculture-based livelihood options.</li> <li>7. <b>Udyogini Scheme:</b> empowering women,</li> </ol> |
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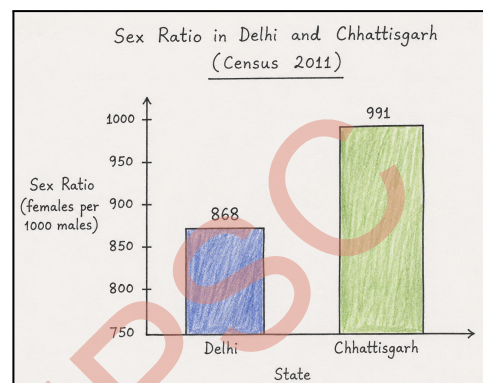


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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | this scheme offers financial assistance to women entrepreneurs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Education &amp; Skill Development</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):</b> Promoting girl child education.</li> <li>2. <b>National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:</b> Gender Inclusion Fund.</li> <li>3. <b>Women Scientists Scheme (WOS):</b> Encouraging women in STEM.</li> <li>4. <b>PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):</b> Skill training for women.</li> <li>5. <b>Women Entrepreneurship in Tech (WET):</b> A program designed to promote women entrepreneurs in the technology</li> </ol>                                                                | <b>Health, Nutrition &amp; Care Economy</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):</b> Maternity benefits.</li> <li>2. <b>POSHAN Abhiyaan:</b> Tackling malnutrition among women and children.</li> <li>3. <b>Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):</b> Safe institutional deliveries.</li> <li>4. <b>Mission Indradhanush:</b> Maternal and child immunisation.</li> <li>5. <b>Anaemia Mukh Bharat:</b> Addressing nutritional deficiencies.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Safety, Security &amp; Dignity</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <b>One Stop Centres (Sakhi Centres):</b> Integrated support for women facing violence.</li> <li>7. <b>181 Women Helpline:</b> Emergency assistance.</li> <li>8. <b>Nirbhaya Fund:</b> Financing women safety projects.</li> <li>9. <b>Fast Track Special Courts:</b> Speedy justice in sexual offence cases.</li> <li>10. <b>Cyber Crime Reporting Portal:</b> Addressing online harassment.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                     | <b>Digital &amp; Technological Inclusion</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <b>Digital Sakhi Programme:</b> Digital literacy among rural women.</li> <li>12. <b>Namo Drone Didi Scheme:</b> Women drone pilots in agriculture.</li> <li>13. <b>Common Service Centres (CSCs)</b> managed by women entrepreneurs.</li> <li>14. <b>Digital financial inclusion</b> through Jan Dhan-UPI ecosystem.</li> </ol>                                                                             |
| <b>Institutional Mechanisms</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>National Commission for Women (NCW):</b> Statutory watchdog for protection of women's rights.</li> <li>2. <b>National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW):</b> Convergence of women-centric schemes.</li> <li>3. <b>Mission Shakti:</b> Umbrella institutional framework for safety and empowerment.</li> <li>4. <b>One Stop Centres (Sakhi Centres):</b> Integrated support for women facing violence.</li> <li>5. <b>Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs):</b> Community-level interface between women and police.</li> </ol> | <b>Women-Led Climate and Rural Development</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Women-led SHGs</b> in watershed management.</li> <li>2. <b>National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)</b> and climate-smart agriculture.</li> <li>3. <b>Women participation in biodiversity conservation committees.</b></li> <li>4. Promotion of <b>women-led renewable energy</b> enterprises.</li> </ol>                                                                                               |
| <b>Vulnerable &amp; Marginalised Women-Focused Initiatives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>PM-JANMAN</b> for tribal women in PVTG communities.</li> <li>2. Hostels and <b>scholarships</b> for SC/ST/OBC girls.</li> <li>3. Support for women with disabilities under <b>Accessible India Campaign.</b></li> <li>4. <b>Ujjawala Scheme</b> for trafficking survivors.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Political Empowerment &amp; Leadership</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>50% Reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions</b> (many states).</li> <li>2. <b>Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023.</b></li> <li>3. <b>Leadership training</b> for elected women representatives.</li> <li>4. <b>Digital governance capacity-building</b> programmes for women sarpanches.</li> </ol>                                                                                                   |

India's approach has gradually evolved from **"women's welfare"** to **"women-led development."** The true measure of empowerment lies not merely in protection and participation, but in ensuring women become equal architects of India's economic, social, digital, and political future.

## Sex Ratio and Developed Regions

- Sex ratio is an important **demographic indicator** reflecting the status of women and the socio-economic characteristics of a society.
- Interestingly, a **paradox** exists wherein many developed regions experience relatively lower sex ratios than underdeveloped regions.
- According to **Census 2011 data**, Sex ratio in **Delhi was 868** while that in **Chhattisgarh was 991**.



### Reasons for this paradox:

- Male dominant migration:** Large numbers of men migrate abroad or to cities for employment, leaving behind a higher proportion of women.
  - Ex: Outmigration from UP, Bihar CG etc. towards areas like **Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab etc.**
  - Ex: **Gulf countries** have some of the **world's lowest** sex ratios.(UAE: 175.03 males per 100 females.)
- Industrial concentration:** Attracts migrants from underdeveloped regions.
  - Ex: Cities like **Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Gurgaon** etc. attract migrant labour.
  - Ex: Gulf countries like **UAE, Qatar, Bahrain** etc. witness male dominated migration.
- Feminisation of agriculture:** Females are left behind in rural areas to look after fields and agriculture.
  - Ex: **PLFS 2023-24** - 76.95% of rural women are engaged in agriculture.
- Delayed marriage and low fertility:** Developed areas witness delayed marriages, low fertility, awareness etc. leading to low sex ratio at birth.
  - Ex: As per 2011 Census, Child sex ratio in **Delhi and Chandigarh** stood at **871 and 880** respectively.
- Low mortality rates:** Better healthcare facilities in Urban areas leads to low mortality. While in many low-income societies, male mortality from conflicts, hazardous occupations, and migration risks can increase the relative share of women.

| Consequences of lower sex ratio in developed regions                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Positive                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Negative                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Higher participation</b> of women in education, workforce and decision making.</li> <li>Ex: Women Entrepreneurs like <b>Falguni Nayar(Nykaa), Vineeta Singh(Sugar Cosmetics)</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Marriage squeeze</b> for men leading to social frustration, increasing crimes against women etc.</li> <li>Ex: Cyber crimes against women like <b>Sulli Deals, Bulli Bai</b> etc.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater <b>investment</b> in girl child education, healthcare, nutrition etc.</li> <li>Ex: <b>Project Manzil</b> - Tech-Vocational Training.</li> </ul>                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Commodification</b> of women: practices like bride buying, exploitation etc.</li> <li>Ex: Advertisements showing women doing the household chores.</li> </ul>                               |

|                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social reforms</b> and gender sensitisation.</li> <li>• Ex: Increased women participation in household decision making.</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pink tax, Commodity feminism:</b> Women empowerment comes with additional economic burden.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated <b>demographic transition</b> towards gender equality.</li> <li>• Ex: Female participation in STEM economy, Gig economy etc.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gender stereotyping</b>, Glass ceiling, Dual burden etc.</li> </ul>                                   |

Thus, a low sex ratio in developed regions does not necessarily indicate poor gender outcomes; rather, it often reflects migration dynamics and demographic transitions. However, ensuring a balanced sex ratio remains essential for achieving **gender justice, social stability, and inclusive development**.

### Patriarchy and middle class women

- Patriarchy refers to a social system where **men exercise dominance** over women in social, economic, political, and familial spheres.
- Although education, urbanization, and economic development have expanded opportunities for middle-class women, patriarchal norms continue to shape their lives in subtle and complex ways.

#### Impact of patriarchy on middle class women:

1. **Dual burden:** Working women face a dual burden of balancing their employment and unpaid household work.
  - a. Ex: **Time use Survey(MoSPI)**: Female participants aged 15-59 years in unpaid domestic services spent about **305 minutes**.(PIB)
2. **Lack of control over life choices:** Patriarchal norms influence decisions regarding Marriage, Motherhood, Career choices, Mobility and lifestyle.
  - a. Ex: **NFHS-5**: Only about **74%** of married women participate in decisions regarding their own healthcare, major household purchases, and visits to family.
3. **Domestic violence:** Middle class working women face domestic violence.
  - a. Ex: **NFHS-5**: Around 29% of ever-married women in India have experienced spousal violence.
4. **Patriarchal bargaining:** Women often conform to traditional gender roles in exchange for social acceptance, security, and status.
  - a. Ex: Women **leaving jobs** for childcare to gain social acceptance.
5. **Gender stereotyping:** Women are expected to embody ideals of sacrifice, caregiving, and obedience.
  - a. Ex: Women are considered weak, emotional and less suitable for leadership.
6. **Workplace patriarchy:** Women face issues like pink collar jobs, glass ceiling, sticky floor effect etc.
  - a. Ex: Female CEOs head **only 5% - 8%** of companies in India.

#### Factors strengthening patriarchy in Middle class:

1. **Economic Dependence:** Career breaks due to marriage and childcare create financial dependence.
2. **Social conformity:** Families and spouses tend to go for social acceptance by confirming patriarchal norms.
3. **Upbringing in patriarchal environment:** Children's upbringing tends to hardwire their thoughts as per patriarchy.
4. **Social media:** Spreading of patriarchal content, unfiltered access etc.

#### Examples of women who beat patriarchy and rise:

1. **Falguni Nayar:** Started Nykaa at age 50 and became one of India's most successful self-made women entrepreneurs.
2. **Ritu Karidhal:** Played a crucial role in India's Mars Orbiter Mission and Chandrayaan missions.
3. **P. V. Sindhu:** Became India's first woman to win two Olympic medals.
4. **Shivangi Singh:** First woman pilot to fly the Rafale fighter aircraft.
5. **Kalpana Saroj:** Overcame child marriage, caste discrimination, and poverty to become a leading industrialist and Padma Shri awardee.
6. **Nisha Madhulika:** Started her YouTube channel in her late 50s from her kitchen and became one of India's most successful food creators with millions of subscribers.

"Patriarchy in the middle class is not always visible through exclusion; rather, it operates through subtle control over women's time, choices, aspirations, and opportunities, making genuine gender equality an unfinished project."

OR

"From **Savitribai Phule** opening the doors of education to women, to **Tessy Thomas** leading missile programmes and **P. V. Sindhu** winning Olympic medals, Indian women have consistently challenged patriarchal barriers and redefined the boundaries of achievement."

### Women and population control

- Population control is not merely about reducing birth rates but about empowering women with education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and reproductive choices.
- As emphasized by the **International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo (1994)**, women's empowerment is the most effective and sustainable path to population stabilization.

#### Role of Women in population control:

1. **Female education and Fertility decline:** Education enhances awareness regarding family planning, reproductive health, and child welfare.
  - a. Ex: **NFHS-5:** Fertility rates are significantly lower among women with higher education compared to those with no schooling.
2. **Delayed marriage and Childbearing:** Women with access to education and employment often delay marriage and motherhood.
  - a. Ex: India's TFR has declined to 2.0 (NFHS-5), below the replacement level of 2.1.
3. **Reproductive rights:** Women are the primary users of contraceptive and maternal health services.
  - a. Ex: Schemes such as **Mission Parivar Vikas** promote family planning in high-fertility districts.
4. **Economic empowerment:** Employment increases women's decision-making power within households.
  - a. Ex: Rising female workforce participation is associated with lower fertility rates globally.
5. **Maternal and Child health:** Better healthcare reduces infant and maternal mortality, decreasing the perceived need for larger families.
  - a. Ex: **Janani Suraksha Yojana and POSHAN Abhiyaan** contribute to healthier families and demographic transition.

#### Challenges faced by women in population control:

1. **Child marriage:** NFHS-6: Around 20 % women aged 20-24 years were married before the age of 18.
2. **Lack of access to contraception:** NFHS-6: Unmet need for family planning stands at about 8.5%.

3. **Son meta preference:** **UNFPA State of World Population Report** identifies son preference as a major demographic challenge in India.
4. **Limited access to reproductive healthcare:** NFHS-5: Significant interstate disparities exist in antenatal care and institutional delivery coverage.
5. **Patriarchy and violence:** **NFHS-5:** Around 29% of ever-married women have experienced spousal violence.

### Does Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam translate into Women Empowerment

The **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 (106th Constitutional Amendment Act)** provides **33% reservation** for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

#### Act promoting women empowerment

1. **Increased political representation:** Women constitute only about **14%** of Members of Parliament in the **18th Lok Sabha**.
2. **Gender Sensitive policy making:** Increased focus on Maternal health, nutrition, education etc.
3. **Role modelling:** Greater visibility of women leaders can inspire political participation among young women.
4. **Catalyst for socio-economic empowerment:** Political participation enhances women's bargaining power within families and communities.
5. **Social change:** Increased political participation will help tackle gender stereotyping and prejudices against women.

#### Case Study of PRI: Women led panchayats show better outcomes in health, sanitation, education etc.

- **Chhavi Rajawat (Soda Village, Rajasthan):** She tackled severe water scarcity by rejuvenating local reservoirs, championed digital education, improved banking access, and built waste management systems, fighting off entrenched caste and patriarchal resistance.
- **Bhakti Sharma (Barkhedhi Village, Madhya Pradesh):** She converted her village into an Open Defecation Free (ODF) zone, drove solar energy initiatives, and campaigned heavily for digital literacy.
- **Asha Devi (Uttar Pradesh):** She created women's grievance redressal cells, fought domestic violence, and boosted maternal healthcare in her community.
- **Rita Dhali (Kishorinagar Village, West Bengal):** She established "Mahila Sabhas" (women's assemblies) as safe spaces, successfully dropping school dropout rates to near-zero and pushing cross-departmental development.

#### Limitations: Reservation alone may not ensure empowerment

1. **Implementation timeline:** implementation after the next Census and delimitation exercise postpones immediate benefits.
2. **Proxy representation:** Experience from local bodies has shown instances of **"Sarpanch Pati"** culture.
3. **Patriarchy:** Patriarchal society expects women to restrict participation in politics, which is considered a male dominated field.
4. **Marginalised women:** Risk of exclusion is higher among women from SC/ST communities.

#### Way forward

1. Ensure timely implementation of the Act.
2. Promote leadership training and political capacity-building for women.(Ex: **"She is a Changemaker"** program by National Commission for Women)



3. **Intra party democracy:** Increase women's representation within political parties. (Ex: ECI has repeatedly proposed that political parties should allocate at least 33% of tickets to women)
4. **Complement** political reservation with economic and educational empowerment. (Ex: **Jan-Dhan yojana, MUDRA yojana, Beti Bahao Beti Padhao etc.**)
5. Strengthen gender-sensitive institutions and legal safeguards.

True women empowerment will be achieved only when political inclusion is accompanied by social equality, economic independence, and freedom from patriarchal constraints.

### Climate change and Women (Feminisation of Climate Change)

- Women, particularly in developing countries, are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change.
- Recognizing this, the **UNFCCC Gender Action Plan** emphasizes the need for gender-responsive climate action.

### Reasons for vulnerability of women to climate change

1. **Feminisation of agriculture:** Women are dependent on agriculture, hence climate change impacts their livelihoods.
  - a. Ex: **PLFS 2023-24:** 76.95% of rural women are engaged in agriculture.
2. **Care burden:** Climate change increases the burden of collecting water, fuelwood, and food.
  - a. Ex: In drought-prone regions of **Rajasthan and Bundelkhand**, women spend several hours daily fetching water.
3. **Health risk:** Women face greater exposure to malnutrition, heat stress, vector-borne diseases, and reproductive health complications.
  - a. Ex: **UN-Women:** When extreme weather disasters strike, women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men.
4. **Disaster risk:**
  - a. Ex: **UN-Women:** An estimated 4 out of 5 people displaced by the impacts of climate change are women and girls.
5. **Economic vulnerability:** Women often work in informal sectors with limited social protection.

### Case study: Women as agents of climate change resilience

1. **Climate Champions of Odisha (Coastal & Flood Resilience):** Women-led voluntary networks and "Climate Champions" pioneer adaptive farming techniques that can withstand rising tides and saline intrusion. They promote resource-sharing, water-efficient rice cultivation using fewer chemicals, and disaster preparedness.
2. **Women-Led Climate-Resilient Farming in Maharashtra (Drought Mitigation):** Facilitated by the NGO Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), women formed grassroots collectives to shift from water-intensive cash crops to diversified, climate-resilient food crops like millets and vegetables.
3. **Bhungroo Technology in Gujarat (Water Management):** Each unit conserves 1-4 million liters of runoff water and irrigates acres of land during dry winters. Women farmers have seen their revenues increase threefold, helping them obtain formal land ownership and participate actively in village governance.
4. **Mangrove Stewardship and Governance in West Bengal:** The planting of millions of mangrove saplings has successfully restored local ecosystems, blunted the impact of cyclones, and created new green livelihood opportunities for coastal communities.

### Way forward

1. **Gender-Responsive Climate Policies:** Integrate gender perspectives into climate adaptation and disaster management plans.(Ex: NAPCC, UNFCCC Gender Action Plan)
2. **Economic Empowerment:** Improve women's access to land rights, credit, insurance, and climate-resilient technologies.(Ex: **SEWA trains** women in climate-resilient agriculture and disaster preparedness.)
3. **Capacity Building:** Promote education, skill development, and climate awareness among women.(Ex: Women trained as **"Solar Mamas"** by Barefoot College install and maintain solar systems in rural communities.)
4. **Inclusive Governance:** Ensure meaningful participation of women in climate negotiations and local environmental institutions.(Ex: Women-led forest protection committees in **Odisha and Uttarakhand** have successfully managed community forests.)

Women are not merely victims of climate change, they are powerful agents of adaptation and resilience. Building climate-resilient societies therefore requires placing women at the center of climate governance, resource management, and sustainable development. As the saying goes, **"There can be no climate justice without gender justice."**

### Intersectional vulnerabilities among women

- The concept of **Intersectionality**, highlights how overlapping social identities create unique and compounded forms of disadvantage. Therefore, women's vulnerabilities cannot be understood solely through the lens of gender.

### Forms of inter sectional vulnerabilities

1. **Caste and Gender:** NCRB data consistently shows higher vulnerability of **Scheduled Caste women** to crimes.
  - a. Ex: **Hathras incident (2020)** highlighted the intersection of caste and gender oppression.
2. **Tribal identity and gender:** Tribal women face exploitation by employers, policemen etc.
  - a. Ex: Tribal women from communities like **Santhals, Bhils etc.** face exploitation in bonded labour.
3. **Poverty and Gender:** Poor women have limited access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and employment opportunities.
  - a. Ex: **PLFS 2023-24:** 76.95% of rural women are engaged in agriculture.
4. **Religion and Gender:** Minority women may face discrimination arising from both gender and religious identity.
  - a. Ex: Several exploitative practices like **Triple talaq**(Now banned), **Nikah Halala** etc. leads to exploitation.
5. **Disability and Gender:** Women with disabilities encounter barriers in education, employment, healthcare, and mobility.
  - a. Ex: **Census 2011:** women constitute nearly **45%** of India's disabled population.
6. **Age and Gender:**
  - a. **Before birth:** Female foeticide, Female infanticide etc.
  - b. **After birth:** Sexual exploitation, Child marriage, Violence etc.
7. **Sexuality and Gender identity:** **LGBTQ+ women** face discrimination based on both gender and sexual orientation.

As the principle of **"leaving no one behind"** under the **Sustainable Development Goals** suggests, women's empowerment must be inclusive, equitable, and sensitive to diverse lived realities.

## Women participation / movements / organizations in different phases

In the early 20th century, several national women's organizations emerged in India, advocating for women's rights and social reforms. These organizations played a key role in shaping the Indian women's movement, particularly between 1917 and 1927.

### Early Women's Reform Movements: Key Contributions

1. **Raja Ram Mohan Roy**: Opposed *sati* and polygamy; advocated for women's property rights.
2. **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar**: Advocated widow remarriage; key figure behind the **Widow Remarriage Act, 1856**.
3. **Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule**: Pioneered **girls' education**; established schools for girls and lower castes.
4. **M.G. Ranade, N.G. Chandavarkar, R.G. Bhandarkar**: Based in **Pune**; campaigned against **child marriage**; supported widow remarriage and education.

## Early Women Organizations

### 1. Bharat Stree Mahamandal (1910)

- Founded by **Sarala Devi Chaudharani**, the daughter of Swarnakumari Devi.
- The organization aimed to bring women from all castes and creeds together, focusing on the abolition of the **purdah system** and encouraging women to participate in public life.
- They were instrumental in promoting **female education** and established branches across India.

### 2. The Women's Indian Association (WIA) - 1917

- Founded by **Margaret E. Cousins** on 8 May 1917 in **Adyar, Madras**, with a secular agenda for women of all backgrounds.
- Notable leaders included **Annie Besant, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya**, and others.
- The WIA focused on **education, social reform, and women's empowerment**, paving the way for women's political participation.

### 3. The National Council of Women in India (NCWI) - 1925

- Established with the efforts of prominent women from **Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras**.
- It represented India's branch of the **International Council of Women**.
- The organization was dedicated to advocating for the welfare and rights of women and focused on social reforms.

### 4. The All India Women's Conference (AIWC) - 1927

- Founded by **Maharani Chimanbai Gaekwad of Baroda** with a focus on the upliftment of women and children.
- Prominent leaders included **Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya, and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy**.
- AIWC advocated for a **special form of education for women** and worked on various issues affecting women, including **untouchability and political rights**.

| Organization          | Key Person        | Year & Place   | Focus Areas                                                                            |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ladies Society</b> | Swarnakumari Devi | 1882, Calcutta | Education and livelihood for widows; edited <i>Bharati</i> (first Indian woman editor) |

|                        |                  |                       |                        |                                                                                   |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Arya Samaj</b>      | <b>Mahila</b>    | Ramabai Saraswati     | Pune                   | Women's education, opposed child marriage                                         |
| <b>Sharada Sadan</b>   |                  | Ramabai Saraswati     | 1889, Mumbai           | Education for child widows                                                        |
| <b>Bharat Parishad</b> | <b>Mahila</b>    | Women's wing of INC   | 1905                   | <b>Social reform:</b> child marriage, widow condition, dowry, and customs         |
| <b>Stri Mandal</b>     | <b>Zarthosti</b> | Patuck family (Parsi) | Bombay (early 20th c.) | Medical care, education, evolved from plague relief work; supported by Ratan Tata |

### Women's Participation in the National and Labour Movements

Women were actively involved in several important national and labor movements:

- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920):** Women organized protests, **picketed shops selling foreign goods**, and actively participated in civil disobedience, leading to many women being arrested.
- **Peasant Movements:** Women participated in the **Borsad** and **Bardoli Satyagrahas**, which were important peasant uprisings.
- **Revolutionary Activities:** Women such as **Kalpana Dutta, Nonibala Devi, and Preetilata Waddedar** were involved in revolutionary activities, including the **Chittagong Armoury Raid**.
- **Labor and Trade Unions:** **Anusuya Sarabai** led the **Ahmedabad textile workers** to strike in 1917 and founded the **Majdoor Mahajan Union** in 1920. **Maniben Kara** and others led the efforts to improve conditions for **railway workers**.
- **SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association):** Founded by **Ela Bhatt** in **1972**, SEWA focused on improving the conditions of women in the **unorganized sector**.

### Impact of Pre Independence Women's Organizations

#### Right to Vote:

- The **Montague-Chelmsford Act (1919)** gave women voting rights in state legislatures (not in the Council of State).
- **Travancore-Cochin (1920)** was the **first princely state** to grant women voting rights, followed by Madras and Bombay (1921) with restrictions.
- Punjab (1925) granted universal female suffrage, regardless of wealth or education.

#### Political Participation:

- Women gained entry into provincial legislatures in 1926, mostly via nomination.
- **Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya** contested elections in 1926 but lost; **Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy** was nominated.

#### Legal Reforms:

- The **Sarda Act (1929)** raised the marriage age to 14 for girls and 18 for boys.
- Women campaigned for adult suffrage and opposed separate electorates under the 1935 Government of India Act.

### Post Independence Women Movement In India

- **Chipko Movement (1973):** Women in Uttarakhand, led by **Gaura Devi**, protected forests by hugging trees to protest deforestation.
- **Anti-Liquor Movement (1990s):** Andhra Pradesh women led mass protests against alcohol abuse, resulting in a state-wide liquor ban.

- **AIDWA (1981)**: All India Democratic Women's Association advocates for gender justice, opposing dowry, domestic violence, and inequality.
- **Meira Paibi Movement (1977)**: Manipuri women formed torch-bearing groups to resist human rights violations under AFSPA.
- **Gulabi Gang (2006)**: A women-led vigilante group in **Uttar Pradesh** fights gender-based violence and corruption in rural areas.
- **Mathura Rape Case Movement (1979-80)**: Triggered nationwide protests demanding reforms in rape laws. Led to amendments in custodial rape laws under **Criminal Law reforms (1983)**.
- **Narmada Bachao Andolan (1985 onwards)**: Women actively participated against displacement caused by large dams. Led by **Medha Patkar**.
- **#MeToo Movement (2018)**: Digital feminist movement exposing sexual harassment and abuse.

## Evolving Women-Centric Issues Driving Movements in India

### 1. Safety and Gender-Based Violence

- Movements demanding stronger action against sexual violence, harassment, and domestic abuse.
- Ex: Nationwide protests after the **Kolkata RG Kar Medical College rape** and murder case.

### 2. Workplace Equality and Representation

- Demand for equal pay, leadership opportunities, and safe workplaces.
- Ex: Campaigns seeking greater female representation in corporate boards and the judiciary.

### 3. Political Empowerment

- Movements advocating greater participation of women in legislatures and governance.
- Ex: Support and advocacy surrounding the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**.

### 4. Reproductive and Menstrual Rights

- Demand for **menstrual dignity**, workplace support, and reproductive healthcare.
- Ex: Recent debates and petitions regarding menstrual leave policies across states and workplaces.

### 5. Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods

- Mobilisation of women seeking financial independence, credit access, and entrepreneurship support.
- Ex: Expansion of **Self-Help Group (SHG)** movements under initiatives like **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission**.

### 6. Digital Safety and Cyber Harassment

- Growing campaigns against online abuse, deepfakes, cyberstalking, and gendered misinformation.
- Ex: Public outrage and legal demands following cases involving **AI-generated deepfake** content targeting women celebrities and journalists.

## Why Women's Movements Often Fall Short: Limitations and Challenges

### 1. Urban-Elite Bias

- Many movements are led by educated urban women, while concerns of rural, tribal, and informal-sector women receive less attention.
- Ex: **#MeToo** gained traction in urban workplaces but had limited reach among agricultural and domestic workers.

### 2. Fragmentation and Lack of Unity

- Women's groups often differ on ideology, caste, class, religion, and priorities, weakening collective bargaining power.
- Ex: Divergent positions among women's organizations during debates on the **Women's Reservation Bill**.

### 3. Weak Grassroots Penetration

- Movements may generate social media visibility but fail to create sustained grassroots mobilization.



- Ex: Online campaigns against **cyber harassment** often have limited impact in rural areas with low digital awareness.

#### 4. Patriarchal Social Structures

- Deep-rooted social norms resist reforms even after legal victories.
- Ex: Despite the **prohibition of child marriage**, the practice persists in several districts due to social acceptance.

#### 5. Legal Reform Without Effective Implementation

- Laws are enacted, but enforcement remains weak due to institutional constraints.
- Ex: **PoSHW Act** is often poorly implemented, especially in the informal sector.

#### 6. Political Co-option

- Governments and political parties may absorb movement demands symbolically without addressing structural issues.
- Ex: Passage of the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023)**, but implementation deferred until delimitation, delaying actual representation.

#### 7. Digital Divide and Exclusion

- Online activism excludes women lacking internet access, digital literacy, or language accessibility.
- Ex: Rural women are less likely to participate in **digital advocacy campaigns** than urban women.

#### 8. Intersectional Blind Spots

- Gender issues intersect with caste, tribe, disability, region, and class, but movements sometimes focus on a single dimension.
- Ex: Concerns of **Dalit and Adivasi women** may receive less visibility than mainstream gender issues.

#### 9. Resource and Funding Constraints

- Many grassroots women's organizations struggle with limited finances and institutional support.
- Ex: Small NGOs working on trafficking and domestic violence often face operational challenges.

#### 10. Backlash and Social Resistance

- Women's movements frequently encounter resistance from conservative groups and entrenched power structures.
- Ex: Opposition faced by women entering traditionally **male-dominated religious** or occupational spaces.

Women's movements have challenged patriarchy and advanced equality, dignity, and rights. Yet, true empowerment requires translating legal gains into everyday social reality.

### Some terminologies

#### Anti-Stereotyping Principle

- "Equality means not only treating likes alike but also dismantling stereotypes that limit human potential."
- The **Anti-Stereotyping Principle** seeks to **eliminate discrimination** arising from generalized assumptions about individuals based on **gender, caste, religion, disability, sexuality, etc.**
- It promotes substantive equality by recognizing individuals as autonomous persons rather than confining them to socially assigned roles.

#### Key features:

1. **Challenges Gender Stereotypes:** Rejects assumptions that women are naturally suited only for domestic and caregiving roles.
2. **Equal opportunities:** in education, employment, leadership, and public life.

3. **Upholds Individual Autonomy:** Individuals should be judged on their abilities and choices, not societal expectations.
4. **Advances Substantive Equality:** Goes beyond formal equality to address structural discrimination.
5. **Protects Human Dignity:** Treating individuals according to stereotypes undermines their dignity and personhood.

#### 1. Judicial

- a. **Babita Puniya Case (2020):** Hon'ble SC rejected stereotypes that women are unsuitable for command roles in the Army. **Granted Permanent Commission** to women officers.
- b. **Joseph Shine Case (2018):** Struck down adultery law. Held that women cannot be treated as the property of their husbands.
- c. **Anuj Garg Case (2008):** Struck down restrictions on women's employment in establishments serving alcohol.

#### 2. Government policy making

- a. **"She is a Changemaker":** Women capacity building in politics.
- b. **Stand-up India:** Entrepreneurship promotion for women.
- c. **Vigyan JYOTI, KIRAN:** Female STEM education.

The Anti-Stereotyping Principle is a crucial tool for transforming constitutional equality into lived reality. By challenging entrenched social prejudices, it advances dignity, autonomy, and equal opportunities for all, particularly women and marginalized groups.

### Transformative Constitutionalism

- "The Constitution is a transformative document that seeks to remake Indian society on the foundations of liberty, equality, and fraternity." - Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.
- Transformative Constitutionalism refers to the idea that the **Constitution is not merely a legal document** but an instrument for bringing about social, economic, and political transformation.
- It seeks to dismantle historical inequalities and create a society based on justice, liberty, equality, and dignity as **envisioned in the Preamble**.

#### Key features

1. **Promotes Substantive Equality:** Goes beyond formal equality to address structural discrimination.
2. **Protects marginalized groups:** such as women, SCs, STs, minorities, and persons with disabilities.
3. **Challenges Social Hierarchies:** Aims to transform oppressive structures based on caste, patriarchy, and other forms of exclusion.
4. **Expands Fundamental Rights:** Interprets rights dynamically to meet contemporary needs.
5. **Balances Rights with Social Justice:** Harmonizes **Fundamental Rights with Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)**.

### Applications of Transformative Constitutionalism

#### 1. Judicial

- a. **Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018):** Decriminalized homosexuality and upheld dignity and equality of LGBTQ+ persons.
- b. **Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018):** Struck down adultery law based on gender equality and individual autonomy.

c. **Indian Young Lawyers Association (Sabarimala Case, 2018)**: Challenged exclusionary practices based on constitutional morality.

d. **Tirth Kumar v. Daduram (2024)**: The Court reaffirmed the inheritance rights of women belonging to Scheduled Tribes

**Transformative Constitutionalism** views the Constitution as a vehicle for social change rather than mere governance. It seeks to transform India from a society marked by inequality and exclusion into one founded on dignity, equality, and justice for all.

### Substantive Equality

- "There is no equality among unequals; true equality lies in recognizing differences and removing barriers that prevent equal participation." This is the essence of substantive equality in a democratic society.

#### Key features

1. Focus on **outcomes and opportunities**, not just equal treatment.
2. Recognizes **historical and structural inequalities** based on caste, gender, disability, and socio-economic status.
3. Supports **affirmative action** and protective discrimination to level the playing field.
4. Promotes **equity** over mere uniformity in laws and policies.
5. Aims to **remove systemic barriers** that hinder participation of disadvantaged groups.

Substantive equality is essential for transforming the constitutional promise of equality into a lived reality by ensuring that disadvantaged groups receive the support necessary to participate on an equal footing with others.

### Reproductive autonomy and Bodily Integrity

- **Reproductive autonomy** refers to an individual's right to make informed and voluntary decisions regarding their reproductive health, including choices related to contraception, pregnancy, childbirth, and family planning, free from coercion, discrimination, or violence.
- **Bodily integrity** is the **fundamental right** of every person to have control over their own body and to be protected from unwanted physical interference, violence, or medical procedures without consent. Together, these concepts uphold individual dignity, privacy, and personal liberty.

#### Key features

1. **Freedom of Choice**: Individuals have the right to decide whether, when, and how many children to have.
2. **Informed Consent**: Medical procedures relating to reproductive health must be based on free and informed consent.
3. **Privacy and Dignity**: Decisions regarding reproduction are part of the right to privacy and human dignity.
4. **Gender Equality**: Reproductive autonomy empowers women and marginalized groups by enabling control over their reproductive lives.
5. **Protection from Coercion**: Safeguards individuals against forced sterilization, child marriage, trafficking, and other forms of reproductive coercion.
6. **Access to Healthcare**: Requires availability of affordable reproductive and maternal healthcare services.

Reproductive autonomy and bodily integrity are essential components of constitutional morality, human rights, and gender justice. Ensuring these rights strengthens individual freedom, dignity, and equality, thereby contributing to a more inclusive and democratic society.

## Gender Justice

**Gender justice** refers to the principle of ensuring equal rights, opportunities, responsibilities, and treatment for all genders. It goes beyond formal equality by seeking to eliminate discrimination and create conditions for **substantive equality**.

## Agency of women

- It refers to the ability of women to make independent choices, exercise control over their lives, and participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their personal, social, economic, and political well-being.
- It encompasses the freedom to act, access opportunities, and influence outcomes without coercion or discrimination. Women's agency is a key component of empowerment and gender equality.
- **Key Features:** Decision making, economic empowerment, absence of coercion, leadership etc.
- As emphasized by economist **Amartya Sen**, development should expand people's capabilities and freedoms.

## Gender Equality

- **Definition:** Equal treatment and opportunities for individuals of all genders in rights, responsibilities, and access to resources.
- **Focus:** Same treatment regardless of gender.
- **Ex:** Equal pay for men and women for the same work.

## Gender Equity

- **Definition:** Fair treatment according to the needs and circumstances of different genders to achieve equal outcomes.
- **Focus:** Justice and fairness through differential treatment when needed.
- **Ex:** Providing maternity leave for women to ensure fair participation in the workforce.

## Feminism

- A **socio-political movement** and ideology that advocates for gender equality, with a focus on challenging the unequal treatment of women in society.
- While feminism began by addressing issues like voting rights and reproductive rights, it has evolved to include a broad range of gender-related issues, such as **intersectionality, male privilege, and LGBTQ+ rights**.

## Women's Empowerment

- **Definition:** Enabling women to have agency, control over their lives, and access to opportunities and decision-making.
- **Components:** sense of self-worth, right to have and to determine choices, right to have access to opportunities and resources, power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home, ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.
- **Focus:** Increasing women's power, confidence, and participation in all spheres.
- **Ex:** Promoting women's leadership in politics and local governance through reservation policies.

Despite countless challenges, Indian women continue to rise - echoing the bravery of Rani Lakshmibai, the resilience of **Savitribai Phule**, and the sky-reaching dreams of **Kalpana Chawla**. True progress lies not just in slogans but in transforming mindsets, where every woman walks free and fearless.

## Population and Associated issues

| PYQ                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades (2015;12.5)                            |
| Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India (2015;12.5) |
| Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail (2015;15)                    |
| What is the concept of a ' <b>demographic winter</b> '? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate. (2024;15)                     |
| Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries. (2024;10)    |
| Discuss the distribution and density of population in the Ganga River Basin with special reference to land, soil and water resources.(2025;15) |

- A population is a group of interacting individuals of a single species located within a particular area e.g. the human population on Andaman Nicobar would mean all the people who live on that island.
- The world's population is more than **three times** greater than in the mid-20th century.
- From an estimated 2.5 billion people in 1950, the global human population surpassed 8.0 billion in mid-November 2022.
- At present, India adds **15 million people** to its population base every year, which is by far the largest in the world.
- The problematic aspect is that India accounts for about **17 percent of the world population** worth only **2.2 percent of the world's land mass**.

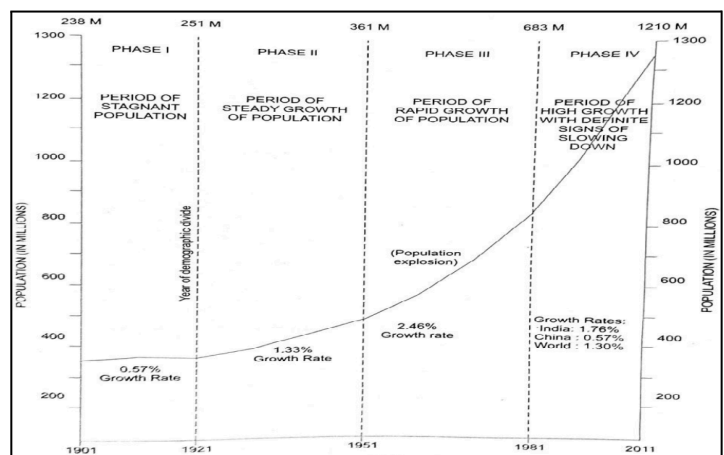
### Trends of population growth

#### 1. Phase I: Stagnant Population (1901–1921)

- This period saw low or negative population growth due to poor health, famines, and World War I. The British began focusing on public health to combat infectious diseases.
- High birth and death rates due to poor healthcare, illiteracy, and food shortages.

#### 2. Phase II: Steady Growth (1921–1951)

- Public health improvements, better agriculture, and government efforts led to steady population growth.





- Despite events like World War II, the freedom movement, and Partition, the population did not decline after 1921.
3. **Phase III: Rapid Growth (1951–1981)**
    - Post-Independence, India saw rapid development and a sharp drop in mortality due to peace and medical progress, while fertility remained high.
    - Growth rate peaked at 2.2% annually.
    - Economic development, better living standards, and migration (from Tibet, Bangladesh, etc.) added to the surge
  4. **Phase IV: High Growth with Signs of Slowing (1981–2011)**
    - For the first time since Independence, growth began to decline, falling below 2% annually.
    - Though India's demographic trends resemble the demographic transition model, its pattern was driven more by external health technologies and family planning, unlike the organic transitions seen in Western Europe.

## REGIONAL VARIATION IN POPULATION GROWTH

### Post-Independence Trends:

- Northern states have shown consistently higher population growth since Independence.
- Southern states had higher growth rates during the pre-Independence period.

### Most Populous States:

- **Uttar Pradesh** is the most populous state-its population is comparable to the combined population of Brazil and Ecuador.
- Bihar ranks third and has a population similar to Mexico (2022).
- Together, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar account for over one-fourth of India's total population.

### Kerala:

- **Highest growth** among southern states in 1951–61 and 1961–71.
- Growth rate dropped from 26.29% (1961–71) to 9.42% (1991–2001).

### Tamil Nadu:

- Recorded 22.30% growth in 1961–71.
- Reduced to 11.19% by 1991–2001.

### States with Growth Below National Average (1991–2001):

- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

### Chhattisgarh - A Special Case:

- Growth was below 20% in 1991–2001 but rose above 20% in 2001–2011.

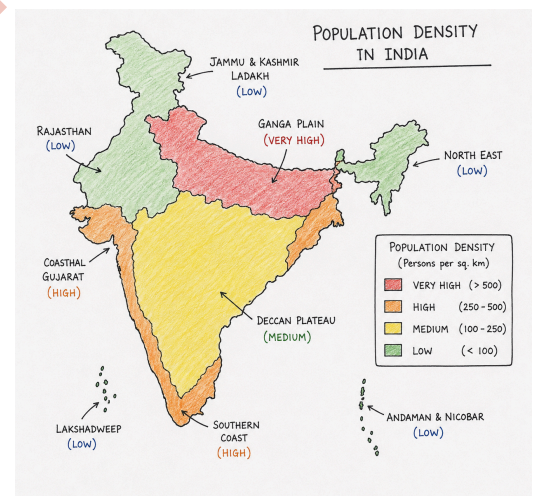
## Uneven Population Distribution in India

### High Population States:

- Uttar Pradesh has the highest population, followed by Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal.
- Along with Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Gujarat, these 10 states account for about 76% of India's total population.

### Low Population Share (Despite Large Area):

- Jammu & Kashmir: 1.04%
- Uttarakhand: 0.84%
- Arunachal Pradesh: 0.11%



### Densely populated areas:

- North Indian Plains, river deltas, coastal plains

### Sparsely populated areas:

- Himalayas, interior parts of southern and central India, northeastern and western states

### Exceptions due to human intervention:

- Rajasthan: Irrigation boosted population in arid regions
- Jharkhand: Mineral and energy resources attracted people
- Peninsular States: Transport networks increased population density

## Key Factors behind high Population Growth in India

### 1. Social Factors

- **High Fertility:**
  - Ex: In rural Uttar Pradesh, families often have 4–5 children due to limited access to contraception and cultural norms valuing large families.
- **Low Female Literacy:**
  - Ex: In parts of Bihar, low literacy among women leads to **poor awareness** of family planning, resulting in higher birth rates.
- **Child Marriage:**
  - Ex: In Rajasthan, child marriages still occur in remote villages, leading to early motherhood and longer reproductive spans.
- **Lower Mortality:**
  - Ex: Nationwide polio eradication and improved immunization have drastically reduced child mortality, increasing the number of people reaching adulthood.

### 2. Cultural Factors

- **Son Meta Preference:**
  - Ex: In Haryana, some families keep having children until they have a son, contributing to population growth and gender imbalance.
- **Religious Influence:**
  - Ex: In certain orthodox communities, religious teachings that discourage contraception lead to larger family sizes.

### 3. Economic Factors

- **Poverty:**
  - Ex: In tribal areas of Chhattisgarh, children are seen as helpers in farming and household work, prompting larger families.
- **Lack of Social Security:**
  - Ex: In rural Odisha, elderly parents often rely on their children for financial and caregiving support, leading them to have more children as a safety net.

### 4. Additional Factors

- **Weak implementation of family planning:** In rural Bihar, sterilization and awareness campaigns often miss targets due to poor outreach.
- **Early marriage:** In Rajasthan, many girls marry before 18, leading to early and multiple pregnancies.
- **Agrarian family needs:** In Madhya Pradesh villages, families have more children to help with farm work.
- **Healthcare disparity:** Tribal areas in Chhattisgarh lack access to health centers offering reproductive services.
- **Migration and refugees:** Assam's population has grown due to migration from neighbouring Bangladesh.

- **Political sensitivity:** Strict population policies have been avoided since the backlash against forced sterilizations in the 1970s.
- **Low contraceptive use:** In parts of Uttar Pradesh, myths about infertility discourage the use of modern contraceptives.

## Challenges Arising from High Population Growth

### 1. Rising Unemployment

- According to the India Employment Report 2024, **83%** of India's unemployed are youth, reflecting the job market's inability to absorb new entrants.
- Ex: In states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, millions of young people enter the workforce each year with limited employment avenues.

### 2. Pressure on Natural Resources

- India, with **18%** of the world's population, has access to only 4% of the world's freshwater (World Bank).
- Ex: Severe water stress in cities like Chennai during summers highlights the scarcity driven by population pressure.

### 3. Overloaded Infrastructure and Urban Congestion

- India's urban population is projected to reach 600 million by 2031 (**UN World Urbanization Prospects**).
- Ex: Cities like Mumbai and Delhi face daily congestion, slum proliferation, and inadequate public transport.

### 4. Overburdened Healthcare System

- India has approximately **1.3-1.5 hospital beds per 1,000 people**, compared to OECD average of 4.7.
- Ex: During COVID-19, hospitals in Delhi and Maharashtra struggled with bed shortages and oxygen supply due to high population density.

### 5. Education System Stress

- Despite near-universal enrollment at primary level, **ASER report 2024** notes that 50 percent of Class 5 students are not able to read Class 2 text.
- Ex: In rural Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, teacher shortages and overcrowded classrooms are common.

### 6. Environmental Degradation

- India ranks **third** globally in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (after China and the U.S.), much of it driven by population-driven consumption and urbanization.
- Ex: Delhi's AQI frequently exceeds 400, posing severe health risks, particularly in winter months.

### 7. Persistent Poverty and Inequality

- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2023 estimates that **16.4%** of Indians still live in multidimensional poverty.
- Ex: Large families in slums often have limited access to jobs, healthcare, and education, perpetuating intergenerational poverty.

### 8. Slum Expansion and Unplanned Urbanization

- As per Census 2011, **17.4%** of urban households live in slums, a figure expected to rise with increasing urban migration.
- Ex: In Dharavi (Mumbai), over 700,000 people live in just 2.1 sq km, with minimal sanitation or public services.

### 9. Food Security Concerns

- With over 1.4 billion people, food demand in India is growing rapidly; yet **over 189 million** Indians are undernourished (**FAO, 2023**).
- Ex: Drought-prone states like Maharashtra struggle with fluctuating agricultural output

### Demographic Dividend: India's Strategic Human Capital Window

- **Definition:** The **demographic dividend** refers to the potential economic boost when the working-age population (15–64 years) exceeds dependents (under 15 and over 64), boosting GDP growth.
- **Age-Structural Shift:** A favorable age structure can accelerate economic growth if supported by effective policies in employment, education, healthcare, and gender inclusion.
- **India's Opportunity:** Over **65%** of India's population is **under 35** years, making it one of the youngest labor forces globally.
- **Peak Dividend:** According to the Economic Survey 2018–19, India's demographic dividend is expected to peak around **2041**, with the working-age population forming 59% of the total population.
- **EY India@100:** India will have 1.04b working age persons by 2030. Correspondingly, India's dependency ratio would be the lowest in its history by 2030 at 31.2%.

### Unlocking Economic Potential: Benefits of India's Demographic Dividend

- **Productivity-Led Growth:** Favorable demographics could add **2% annually to per capita GDP** (IMF, 2011), as seen in China's rapid growth era.
  - Ex: India's **median age is around 28 years**, compared to China: ~39 years and Japan: ~49 years.
- **Higher Gross Domestic Savings (GDS):** Fewer dependents increase savings, enabling greater investments in infrastructure and industry.
  - Ex: East Asian economies like **South Korea and Singapore** used demographic-driven savings to finance industrialization.
- **Labor Force Expansion (LFPR):** Rising working-age population expands labor supply, especially with more women and youth entering the workforce.
  - Ex: Will lead to growth of sectors like IT, Semiconductors, Gig and platform economy etc.
- **Consumption-Led Demand Surge:** India's youth-driven market could account for **16% of global consumption (PPP) by 2050 (McKinsey)**.
  - Ex: India already has **over 800 million internet users** and one of the largest middle-class populations globally.
- **Improved Fiscal Space:** Reduced dependency allows governments to prioritize infrastructure, education, and healthcare investments.
  - Ex: Union Budget **CapEx** allocation crossed ₹11 lakh crore in 2024–25.
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** A younger population is more likely to embrace technology and start businesses, boosting the startup ecosystem.
  - Ex: India has **over 100+ unicorn** startups and the world's **3rd-largest startup ecosystem**.
- **Urbanization Push:** Demographic shifts accelerate migration to urban centers, supporting economies of scale and regional development.
  - Ex: India's urban population may reach nearly **600 million by 2030**.
- **Digital Economy Growth:** Tech-savvy youth drive digital adoption in sectors like fintech, e-commerce, and edtech.
  - Ex: Industrial surveys suggest that the Digital economy could contribute nearly **20% of GDP by 2029-30**.
- **Rise in Tax Base:** A larger employed population increases direct and indirect tax revenue, strengthening public finances.

- Ex: India's GST collections frequently **crossed ₹2 lakh crore monthly** during 2025.

### Challenges in harnessing the Dividend

- **High Youth Unemployment:** 83% of unemployed Indians are youth (**India Employment Report 2024**), reflecting job market constraints.
- **Skill Mismatch:** 47% of Indian workers lack job-relevant skills (**ILO, 2023**), affecting employability and productivity.
- **Health and Nutrition Deficits:** High rates of child stunting, anemia, and maternal mortality limit workforce effectiveness.
  - Ex: **NFHS-6:** Nearly one in three children under five in the state is still stunted
- **Low Female Labor Participation (FLFP):** The **PLFS Annual Report 2023-2024** highlights that the Female labour force participation rate remains at **41.7%**, indicating the need for more efforts to improve women's workforce engagement.
- **Regional Demographic Imbalances:** Southern states are aging, while northern states still have high fertility rates, complicating workforce planning. This leads to migration pressures, uneven labour availability etc.
- **Informal Sector Prevalence:** **Over 80%** of workers are in informal jobs lacking security, social protection, and upskilling opportunities.
- **Educational Quality Gaps:** Despite high enrollment, learning outcomes remain poor; ASER reports show deficits in basic math and literacy.
  - Ex: Grade 5 students struggle to read Grade 2 text (**ASER**).
- **Gender and Social Barriers:** Cultural norms, safety issues, and unpaid care responsibilities limit women's economic participation.
- **Slow Industrial Absorption:** The manufacturing sector's limited capacity to absorb labor hinders employment generation.
  - Ex: Manufacturing contributes roughly **16-17% of GDP**, lower than many East Asian economies during their industrialization phases.
- **Migration Pressures:** Internal migration from rural to urban areas strains city infrastructure, housing, and public services.
  - Ex: Overcrowding in cities like Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai etc.

### Declining Population Growth in India

- **Population:** ~1.46 billion (India Population 2025 - United Nations Population Fund)
- **Fertility Rate:** 2.0 children per woman (National Family Health Survey-6)
- **Population Growth Rate:** ~0.9% per year (World Bank Data, 2024)
- **Dependency Ratio:** Expected to rise post-2040 (Economic Survey 2022–23)
- **Youth Bulge Turning Grey:** India has the world's largest young population today, but by 2040s, many states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Himachal Pradesh will have aging populations.
- **Demographic winter** refers to a period of significant population decline due to low birth rates, an aging population, and potentially increased mortality.

| Advantages of Declining Pollution     |                                                                         |                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reduced Pressure on Natural Resources | Lower population growth eases demand for land, water, food, and energy. | declining populations in parts of Europe have reduced pressure on freshwater and urban infrastructure. |



|                                                  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Environmental Sustainability</b>              | Lower consumption can reduce carbon emissions, pollution, and ecological degradation.                  | Kerala with stable populations have witnessed slower growth in resource consumption.                   |
| <b>Higher Per Capita Income</b>                  | National income is shared among fewer people, potentially improving living standards.                  | Southern states continue to maintain high per capita incomes despite slow population growth.           |
| <b>Improved Human Capital Investment</b>         | Families and governments can invest more in each child's education, health, and skills.                | South Korea transformed its workforce through high educational investment amid declining fertility.    |
| <b>Reduced Unemployment and Underemployment</b>  | Slower labour force growth can ease competition for jobs and wages may rise due to labour scarcity.    | Labour shortages in Japan have pushed firms to increase wages and automation.                          |
| <b>Better Urban Planning and Public Services</b> | Lower population growth reduces congestion and pressure on housing, transport, schools, and hospitals. | Some shrinking cities in Europe have been able to improve per-capita urban amenities and green spaces. |

### Challenges of Population Decline

|                                     |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Labour Shortage</b>              | A shrinking workforce reduces productivity, innovation, and industrial competitiveness.                          | Japan faces acute shortages in manufacturing, construction, and elderly care sectors.                     |
| <b>Ageing Society</b>               | Rising proportion of elderly citizens increases demand for healthcare and caregiving services.                   | More than one-fourth of Japan's population is aged 65+, making it one of the world's oldest societies.    |
| <b>Dependency Burden</b>            | Fewer workers must support a larger retired population, straining public finances.                               | South Korea is witnessing a rapidly rising old-age dependency ratio.                                      |
| <b>Pension Crisis</b>               | Pension systems become unsustainable as contributors decline and beneficiaries increase.                         | France witnessed large-scale protests over pension reforms aimed at addressing demographic pressures.     |
| <b>Demographic Winter</b>           | Persistently low fertility can trigger long-term population contraction and economic stagnation.                 | South Korea's fertility rate has remained among the lowest globally, raising concerns over future growth. |
| <b>Population Implosion</b>         | Continuous decline can lead to shrinking domestic markets, reduced consumer demand, and lower investment.        | Italy's declining population has contributed to sluggish domestic consumption.                            |
| <b>Rural Depopulation and Ghost</b> | Migration and low birth rates leave villages sparsely populated, affecting local economies and service delivery. | Numerous villages in Spain and Italy have become "ghost villages."                                        |

| Settlements                                 |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Strategic and Geopolitical Weakening</b> | Smaller populations can reduce military recruitment pools, economic influence, and geopolitical weight. | China has expressed concerns over the long-term implications of population decline on economic and strategic power. |

#### India's declining population growth is a mixed blessing:

- In the short term, it allows for economic optimization and resource planning.
- In the long term, an aging and shrinking workforce pose risks unless policy adjustments (elderly care, skilling, pensions, labor reforms) are proactively implemented.

#### India's Ageing Population: A Growing Concern (UNFPA)

- Current elderly (60+): 153 million
- Projected by 2050: 347 million
- **Life expectancy** in India has increased from about 32 years in 1947 to nearly 70+ years today.
- States such as **Kerala, Tamil Nadu** already show higher ageing levels due to lower fertility rates, better healthcare, and higher life expectancy.

#### Complex Challenges of Ageing (UNFPA)

- 40% of elderly are in the poorest wealth quintile
- 20% have no income at all

#### Issues include:

- **Financial insecurity:** **40% of elderly** are in the poorest wealth quintile.
- **Social isolation:** Urbanization and migration are weakening traditional joint family systems. This has created "**left-behind elderly**" populations dependent on remittances but lacking emotional support.
- **Elderly abuse:** Surveys by organizations such as **HelpAge India** have reported that many elderly people experience mistreatment from family members, caregivers, or relatives.
- **Stigma of being a "burden":** This leads to **guilt, loss of self esteem and mental stress**.
- **Feminisation and ruralisation of ageing:** States with high widowhood rates among elderly women include **Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh** etc.
- **Health and Disability:** Common problems include diabetes, hypertension, arthritis etc.

#### Policy and Programmatic Responses

- **NPHCE: National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly**
  - To provide dedicated, specialized, and comprehensive health care to the elderly at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.
  - Includes **Geriatric OPDs, 10 Regional Geriatric Centres**, and district-level healthcare services.
  - Supports **capacity building**, training of health professionals, and research in geriatrics.
- **NSAP: National Social Assistance Programme**
  - A **centrally sponsored welfare scheme** providing financial assistance to elderly, widows, and disabled under BPL.
  - Includes **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)** for those above 60 years.
  - Ensures a **minimum social security net** for vulnerable elderly sections.
- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (2007)**

- Legally mandates **children and heirs to maintain parents/senior citizens**, allowing tribunal redressal.
- Covers **maintenance, welfare, shelter, and protection from abuse**.
- Provides for **establishment of Old Age Homes** in every district.
- **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana**
  - Umbrella scheme by MoSJ&E for **elderly welfare, care services, and capacity building**.
  - Supports **NGOs and institutions** providing integrated care, including day-care and home-care services.
  - Promotes **active and healthy ageing**, and intergenerational bonding.
- **Elderline: National helpline for seniors(14567)**
  - A **toll-free, dedicated helpline** offering emotional support, legal guidance, and emergency response.
  - Operational in partnership with **NISD and state agencies**, addressing issues of abuse, neglect, or abandonment.
- **National Policy on Older Persons (1999): Ahead of global MIPPA**
  - First national policy recognizing **elderly as a vulnerable but valuable demographic**.
  - Focuses on **financial security, healthcare, shelter, and protection** from abuse.
  - India's policy was **ahead of the global Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) 2002**, showing foresight in elderly care.

### Way Forward: A Multi-Pronged Approach

1. **Specialised Health Care**
  - Expand geriatric care, long-term care facilities.
  - Train healthcare professionals for senior-specific needs.
2. **Intergenerational Bonding**
  - Promote programs that connect youth with elderly.
  - Encourage mutual learning and social inclusion.
3. **Technology for Accessibility**
  - Use digital tools to deliver affordable care and services.
  - Promote digital literacy among the elderly.
4. **Disaster Preparedness**
  - Include elderly in emergency planning
  - Apply lessons from COVID-19
5. **Invest in the Silver Economy**
  - Develop markets for senior-specific services: insurance, travel, technology.
  - Encourage startups and innovations tailored to elders.
6. **Better Data Systems**
  - Improve data collection to guide planning and services.
  - Use data for forecasting and targeted interventions.

### Best model- Japan :

- Adaptive Infrastructure
- Public infrastructure is being reimagined:
- Closed schools are transformed into elder care facilities.
- Community spaces are redesigned for use across generations and to serve during disasters.
- Vacant homes are revitalized through grassroots, community-led initiative

India must seize the moment to ensure its elderly live with dignity and security. By embracing a “**Silver Dividend**”, India can turn a challenge into a transformative opportunity.

OR

Aligned with the **United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)**, India's journey toward **Viksit Bharat @2047** must combine the energy of its demographic dividend with the wisdom of the Silver Dividend, ensuring longer lives are matched by dignity, quality healthcare, and social security.

### India's Family Planning Policy

- India became the first country in the world to implement a **national family planning programme in 1952**.
- Initially aimed at population control, the focus has now shifted to ensuring reproductive rights, health, and informed choice, particularly for women and adolescents.

### Evolution of Family Planning Policy In India

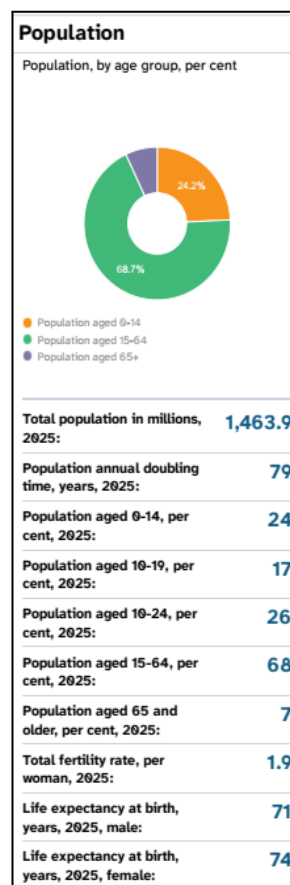
- **1952**: India became the **first country to launch a national family planning program**, focused on reducing fertility for economic development.
- **1970s**: The policy shifted to a **target-driven approach**, culminating in coercive sterilizations during the Emergency (1975–77), which led to public backlash.
- **Post-1977**: A shift to a **voluntary, welfare-based approach** occurred-emphasizing maternal and child health and renaming the department as the Family Welfare Department.
- **2000**: The **National Population Policy (NPP)** was adopted, aiming at **population stabilization by 2045**, promoting a target-free and rights-based approach.
- **2005–Present**: Integration with health missions like **NRHM** and introduction of schemes like **Mission Parivar Vikas** to boost contraceptive access in high-fertility districts.

### Present Family Planning Approach

- **Voluntary and rights-based approach**: No coercion; based on informed choices.
- **Integration with health services**: Linked with RMNCH+A (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health).
- **Decentralised planning**: States design interventions based on local needs.
- **Targeting high fertility districts**: Special efforts in Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, etc.

### Achievements

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has dropped from 5.9 in 1951 to **2.0 in 2024** (NFHS-6).
- Contraceptive prevalence has improved, particularly in urban areas.(Ex: Modern contraceptive prevalence rate among married women increased to around 56.5%.)
- Decline in maternal and infant mortality due to better spacing and health care.(Ex: MMR reduced from 556 1990 to 97 in 2020)
- India's policy is now recognised for its shift from coercive to choice-based family planning.



## Challenges

- **Regional disparity:** Fertility remains high in some northern and eastern states.
- **Method mix is skewed:** ~66% of users rely on female sterilisation (**tubectomy**), with minimal male participation.
- **Unmet needs persist:** About 9.4% of married women report unmet needs for contraception (NFHS-5).
- **Social stigma and myths:** Especially around male sterilisation and modern spacing methods.
- **Quality of services:** Gaps in counselling, follow-up care, and infrastructure. The **2014 Bilaspur Tragedy (Chhattisgarh)** where over a dozen women died and many more were hospitalized after botched tubectomies performed in unsanitary, rushed mass-sterilisation.

## Key Family Planning Schemes and Initiatives in India

1. **Mission Parivar Vikas (MPV)**
  - Targets 146 high-fertility districts across 13 states (7 high-focus + 6 northeastern states).
  - Aims to significantly improve access to contraceptives and family planning services.
2. **Expanded Contraceptive Options**
  - Adds Injectable Contraceptives (**Antara**) and Centchroman (**Chhaya**) to the existing methods (condoms, pills, IUCD, sterilisation, etc.).
3. **Post-Partum IUCD (PPIUCD) Services**
  - Offered immediately after childbirth to support early adoption of contraceptive methods.
4. **Home Delivery of Contraceptives**
  - ASHAs deliver contraceptives directly to beneficiaries' homes, improving reach and convenience.
5. **National Population Policy (2000)**
  - Sets TFR of 2.1 as a goal by 2010.
  - Advocates delayed marriage, spacing between children, and improved female education and empowerment.

## Migration in India

Migration refers to the movement of people from one geographical area to another, either within the country (**internal migration**) or across international borders (**external migration**), for various socio-economic reasons.

## Major Causes of Migration

1. **Push Factors.**
  - **Unemployment & Underemployment:** Lack of job opportunities in rural areas pushes youth to cities.  
Ex: Migration from Bihar and Odisha to Delhi and Mumbai for work.
  - **Agrarian Distress:** Crop failure, rising input costs, and lack of irrigation force farmers to migrate.  
Ex: Migration from Bundelkhand due to recurrent droughts.
  - **Natural Disasters & Climate Change:** Floods, cyclones, and droughts displace communities.  
Ex: Migration from coastal Odisha and Sundarbans after cyclones.
  - **Lack of Basic Amenities:** Poor healthcare, education, and sanitation services in villages drive migration.  
Ex: Rural to urban migration for better education and health facilities.



- **Conflict & Displacement:** Communal violence, insurgency, and development projects can uproot populations.  
Ex: Migration from parts of Chhattisgarh due to Naxalite conflict.

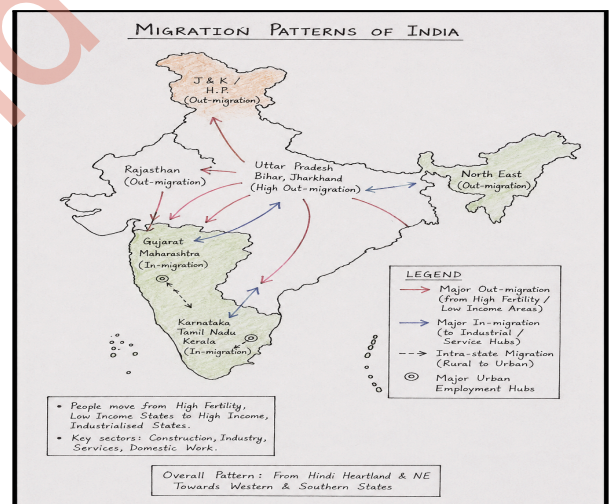
## 2. Pull Factors

- **Better Employment Opportunities:** Cities offer varied jobs in construction, services, and manufacturing.  
Ex: Migration to Surat and Bengaluru for textile and IT jobs.
- **Higher Wages & Income Potential:** Daily wage in urban areas is often higher than in rural economies.  
Ex: Laborers from Jharkhand working in Kerala's construction sector.
- **Access to Quality Education & Healthcare:** Urban centres have better schools, colleges, and hospitals.  
Ex: Migration to Delhi for coaching and higher education.
- **Urban Amenities and Lifestyle:** Aspirations for better living standards, entertainment, and infrastructure.  
Ex: Rural youth moving to metros for a modern lifestyle.
- **Social Networks & Chain Migration:** Presence of friends or relatives at the destination eases transition.  
Ex: Specific communities from UP in **Mumbai's informal settlements**.

## Data and Trends

As per Census 2011:

- Total migrants in India: ~450 million (37% of the population).
- Rural-to-rural migration: ~62% of internal migration.
- Rural-to-urban migration: ~18.9%.
- Marriage is the biggest reason, around 71% (especially among women, 86.8% of female migrants).
- Employment is the top reason among men (29% of male migrants).



## Changing Patterns of Migration

- **Increased Urbanisation:** Rural-to-urban migration is rising due to better job opportunities in **Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities**.
- **Feminisation of Migration:** More women are migrating independently for education, work, and not just marriage.
- **Reverse Migration** (COVID-19 Pandemic): During 2020–21, India witnessed massive reverse migration from cities back to villages.
- **Emergence of Circular Migration:** Many workers move seasonally between rural homes and urban job centers (Ex: Construction workers from Jharkhand working in Bengaluru).
- **Rising Educational Migration:** Youth from small towns and villages are increasingly moving to metro cities and education hubs like Delhi, Pune, Bengaluru, etc.
- **Technological Impact:** Better connectivity and digital platforms are enabling remote work, reducing the need for physical migration in some sectors.

### Consequences of Migration for Source

#### Positive

- **Remittances improve rural economy:** Migrants from Bihar working in Mumbai send money home, funding education, healthcare, and housing.
- **Skill and exposure gain:** Returnees from Gulf countries bring back skills in construction and small business ideas.
- **Reduced pressure on local jobs:** **Out-migration** from drought-prone Bundelkhand helps reduce unemployment locally.

#### Negative

- **Brain drain:** Educated youth migrate to metros, causing shortages of teachers, doctors, and professionals.
- **Social cost:** In Odisha, women and elderly manage households alone due to male migration, straining family dynamics.
- **Agriculture suffers:** With fewer people available for farming, traditional agriculture in villages like those in Chhattisgarh declines.

### Consequences of Migration for Destination

#### Positive

- **Labor supply supports growth:** Migrants from UP and Bihar work in Mumbai's construction and service sectors, keeping costs low.
- **Cultural diversity:** Cities like Delhi host festivals from across India (Ex: Chhath Puja), enriching the cultural fabric.
- **Economic boost:** Migrant-led industries (Ex: textile units in Surat, Gujarat) contribute significantly to local GDP.

#### Negative

- **Urban congestion:** Delhi and Mumbai face housing shortages, traffic, and sanitation issues due to high in-migration.
- **Rise in slums:** Migrant workers often settle in informal areas like Dharavi (Mumbai), facing poor living conditions.
- **Social friction:** In Maharashtra, political groups have protested against North Indian migrants, citing job competition.

### Government Initiatives to reduce Migrant Vulnerability

- **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC):** Ensures food security portability for migrant workers across states.
- **e-SHRAM Portal:** A national database of unorganised workers to improve welfare delivery.
- **PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (2020):** Launched to provide jobs to returning migrants in rural areas post-COVID.

### Measure to reduce Forced Migration

- **Rural Employment Generation:** Schemes like **MGNREGA (Now VB-G RAM G)** provide 100 days of wage employment to rural households, reducing distress migration during lean agricultural seasons.
- **Skill Development Initiatives:** Programs like **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** aim to equip rural youth with employable skills locally.
- **Promotion of Agro-Based Industries:** Schemes like **SFURTI** (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) promote rural and cottage industries, reducing urban pull.
- **Improving Rural Infrastructure:** Initiatives like **PMGSY** (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and **Jal Jeevan Mission** enhance connectivity and basic amenities, discouraging migration.
- **Decentralized Urbanization:** Development of **Smart Cities** and **AMRUT** towns in Tier-2/3 cities aims to create local job hubs and reduce pressure on metros.

- **Livelihood Support in Backward Areas: Rurban Mission** and **NRLM** (National Rural Livelihoods Mission) promote economic clusters and self-help groups to create income sources near home.

Migration is not merely the movement of people but the movement of skills, ideas, and opportunities that enrich both origin and destination regions. When supported by inclusive policies, migration can become a powerful driver of economic growth, social mobility, and national integration.

### The Next Big Step for India: Census 2027

- Census was proposed to be conducted in 2021, however due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the census work was postponed.
- First fully digital census with mobile app and online self-enumeration.
- To include caste enumeration for all communities.
- Two-phase rollout: Phase 1 i.e. Houselisting & Housing census will start from April, 2026. Subsequently, Phase 2 i.e. Population enumeration will be conducted.
- Census is the biggest source of primary data at village, town and ward level providing micro level data on various parameters including Housing Condition; Amenities & Assets, Demography, Religion, SC & ST, Language, Literacy & Education, Economic Activity, Migration and Fertility.
- The Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990 provide the legal framework for conduct of Census.
- The Census is a Union subject under the Seventh Schedule (listed at serial number 69) of the Constitution.
- As a Union subject, the exercise is centrally coordinated while implemented in close collaboration with State and Union Territory governments, enabling seamless execution across diverse regions.

### Ancient Foundations and Early Modern Census

- India has a long and rich tradition of conducting censuses.
- The earliest references of conducting census in the country can be found in Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' (321-296 BC) and later in the writings of Abdul Fazl's in 'Ain-e-Akbari' during the days of Emperor Akbar.
- The first modern population census in India was conducted between 1865 and 1872, though it didn't happen simultaneously across all regions.
- India conducted its first coordinated census in 1881.

| Census Year | Households (in million) | Population (in million) | Literacy Rate (in %) | Sex Ratio (No. of females per 1000 Males) | Urban Population as share of Total Population (in %) |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1981        | 118                     | 683                     | 43.1                 | 934                                       | 23.1                                                 |
| 1991        | 157                     | 846                     | 51.6                 | 926                                       | 25.5                                                 |
| 2001        | 194                     | 1028                    | 64.8                 | 933                                       | 27.8                                                 |
| 2011        | 250                     | 1210                    | 73.0                 | 943                                       | 31.1                                                 |

Source: A Treatise on Indian Censuses Since 1981, Census of India

### Revolutionary Changes in Census 2027

**Census 2027 will be the 16th in the series of Indian census and 8th since independence.**

#### Caste Enumeration

- For the first time since independence, Census 2027 will include caste enumeration for all individuals.
- To protect social harmony, it has been decided to include caste enumeration in the main census rather than as a separate survey.

#### Digital Transformation

- Census 2027 represents a paradigmatic shift as India's first digital census. The government has announced several technological innovations-
  - First-time use of Mobile Apps for data collection..
  - Code Directory to streamline data processing.
  - Training of more than 35 lakh field functionaries

## Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) portal

- Has been developed for managing and monitoring the entire Census process on a near real-time basis.

## Self-Enumeration Portal

- An optional 15-day Self-Enumeration period will precede the house-to-house field visit.
- The Self-Enumeration Portal is a secure web-based facility that allows eligible respondents within a household to submit their household information online prior to field operations.
- Upon successful submission, a unique Self-Enumeration ID (SE ID) will be generated.

## Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011

1. Conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development, SECC-2011 was a study of the socio-economic status of rural and urban households and ranking of households based on predefined parameters.
2. The Census in rural areas was conducted by Dept. of Rural Development, in urban areas by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
3. Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs provided technical support for SECC.
4. The purpose of SECC-2011 was to enable evidence-based policy making, targeted delivery of welfare schemes, and efficient identification of beneficiaries for various government programmes.
5. It included caste enumeration, but names of caste/tribe/religion were not shared publicly.
6. The SECC 2011 was a unique paperless Census utilizing over 6.4 lakh electronic handheld devices for enumeration.
7. This groundbreaking exercise demonstrated robust grievance redressal mechanisms, processing 1.24 crore claims and objections with 99.7% resolution rate.

## Advantages of Census

### 1. Evidence-Based Policymaking

- Ex: Census 2011 data was used for implementation of the National Food Security Act to identify eligible beneficiaries.

### 2. Resource Allocation

- Ex: The Fifteenth Finance Commission used population data for tax devolution among states.

### 3. Infrastructure Planning

- Ex: Expansion of schools under Samagra Shiksha relies on population and literacy data.

### 4. Social Justice Measures

- Ex: Census disability data helped design schemes such as the Accessible India Campaign.

### 5. Delimitation of Constituencies

- Ex: The 2008 delimitation exercise was based primarily on Census data to redraw parliamentary constituencies.

## Limitations of Census

### 1. Data Becomes Outdated

- Ex: India is still using 2011 Census figures despite major demographic changes over 15 years.

### 2. Exclusion of Migrants

- Ex: Large-scale migrant movements during the COVID-19 pandemic exposed gaps in population databases.

### 3. High Cost and Administrative Burden

- Ex: Census 2027 was expected to be India's most expensive census and was postponed.

### 4. Political Controversies

- Ex: Demand for a nationwide caste census has generated intense political debate.

### 5. Privacy Concerns

- Ex: Concerns were raised regarding digital data collection and storage in the proposed digital census.

## Issues of Census and South Indian States

### 1. Fear of Losing Lok Sabha Seats

- Ex: Tamil Nadu reduced its Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to around replacement level decades ago, while states such as Uttar Pradesh continue to have much larger populations.

Post-delimitation, UP may gain seats while Tamil Nadu's share may fall.

## 2. Punished for Population Control

- Ex: Kerala achieved one of India's lowest fertility rates through investments in health and education but fears reduced parliamentary weight.

## 3. Fiscal Federalism Concerns

- Ex: Southern states opposed greater weight to 2011 population figures in Finance Commission allocations, arguing it penalises states that controlled population growth.

## 4. Reduced Political Influence

- Ex: Leaders from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Telangana have repeatedly raised concerns that delimitation could shift power toward populous northern states.

## 5. Demographic Divergence

- Ex: Kerala's ageing population contrasts sharply with the younger demographic profile of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, creating different developmental priorities.

The Census is the backbone of evidence-based governance, guiding planning, welfare delivery, and democratic representation. A timely and credible Census is essential for achieving inclusive growth and cooperative federalism in Viksit Bharat.

| Some terminologies                     |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Silver Tsunami / Silver Economy</b> | Rapid increase in elderly population; economy focused on services/products for them.                                                                                  |
| <b>Population Momentum</b>             | Continued growth despite reduced fertility due to a large young base. India's fertility dropped to 2.0 (NFHS-6), yet the population is still growing due to momentum. |
| <b>Demographic Trap</b>                | A situation where high fertility and low development reinforce each other.                                                                                            |
| <b>Pronatalism</b>                     | Policy push to increase birth rates (tax breaks, parental leave) Hungary, Japan, are adopting pronatalist incentives due to declining populations.                    |
| <b>Population Implosion</b>            | Sudden, sharp decline in population, the reverse of explosion. Projected in East Asian countries and parts of Europe by mid-century.                                  |
| <b>Active Ageing</b>                   | Active aging is the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation, and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age.                    |

India's journey to Viksit Bharat @2047 depends on harnessing its demographic dividend while ensuring dignity and security for its ageing population. Balanced policies can convert demographic change into sustainable development.



## Poverty

- According to the World Bank, poverty is a "pronounced deprivation in well-being." The World Bank describes it vividly as hunger, lack of shelter, and loss due to unsafe water.
- "Poverty is the worst form of violence." – Mahatma Gandhi
- "The first thing to do is to relieve poverty. When that is done, everything else follows." – Jawaharlal Nehru
- "Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings." – Nelson Mandela
- "To end poverty, we must first address inequality, as both are intricately linked." – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- "A poor man is not necessarily one who lacks money, but one who has been deprived of opportunities to express himself fully." – Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

### PYQ

Establish the relationship between land reform, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in the Indian Economy. Discuss the difficulty in designing and implementation of the agriculture friendly land reforms in India.(2013)

Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India (2015;12.5)

"An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from deprivation."Substantiate this statement with suitable examples (2016;12.5)

'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing.' Explain by giving reasons (2018;15)

COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment (2020;10)

"How does Smart City in India address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice?"(2025;10)

### What is Poverty?

- Poverty refers to a situation where people lack the resources needed to meet basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, and education.
- **World Bank-** Poverty is "**pronounced deprivation in well-being**". The poor are those who do not have enough income or consumption to put them above some adequate minimum threshold.
- Traditionally, poverty is defined in economic terms such as income levels, property ownership, and living standards.
- Two key approaches are used: **absolute poverty and relative poverty**.

#### 1. Absolute Poverty

- Absolute poverty is defined by a fixed minimum income level (poverty line).
- Anyone earning below this threshold is considered absolutely poor.
- This approach focuses on basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare.
- Absolute poverty allows for comparison across countries and time periods.

#### 2. Relative Poverty

- Relative poverty is defined based on social context and prevailing living standards.
- It highlights income inequality within a society.
- A person is relatively poor if they earn less than a set proportion (usually 50% or 60%) of the median income.
- This approach shows that poverty is relative to societal expectations.

## Causes of Poverty

### Population Explosion

- The rapid growth of India's population strains limited resources, leading to deprivation of basic necessities.
- Ex: Overcrowded urban slums in cities like **Mumbai and Delhi** where a lack of affordable housing and basic infrastructure leads to poor living conditions.

### Lack of Agricultural Productivity

- Fragmented landholdings, outdated farming methods, low technological adoption, and water scarcity reduce productivity and income in **agriculture-dependent regions**.
- Ex: In **Uttar Pradesh**, smallholder farmers face challenges such as outdated irrigation systems, affecting crop yields and income.

### Lack of Education

- Limited access to quality education creates a **cycle of poverty** by preventing individuals from acquiring skills for better employment.
- Ex: In rural Bihar, children drop out of school to work on farms, missing opportunities for skill development and higher-paying jobs.

### Lack of Employment Opportunities

- Job growth hasn't kept pace with the rising population, especially in rural areas, and skill mismatches further limit employment prospects.
- Ex: **Unemployment Rate (UR)** on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years in the country in the year 2023-24 was 10.2% which is lower than global levels (PLFS annual report) .

### Inadequate WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Facilities

- Lack of proper WASH facilities adversely impacts public health, increasing health expenses and reducing productivity.
- Ex: NFHS-6 (2023–24): Only 63.3% of rural households have access to improved sanitation facilities.

### Climate Change and Natural Disasters

- Climate change, including unpredictable rainfall, droughts, and floods, disproportionately affects poor, rural, and agriculture-dependent communities.
- Ex: Droughts in **Rajasthan and Gujarat** have led to crop failures and rising rural poverty; floods in **Assam and Odisha** push millions into deeper poverty each year.

### Social Factors (Caste, Religion, and Gender)

- Marginalized groups such as Dalits, Scheduled Tribes, and religious minorities face systemic discrimination and limited access to resources.
- Ex: Due to fear and exclusion, **Dalit children** often drop out of school early, reducing their chances of securing stable, well-paying employment, thereby perpetuating intergenerational poverty.

### Low Per Capita Income

- A significant portion of the population lives on income below the poverty line, unable to afford essential services.
- Ex: The average **MPCE (Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure)** in rural and urban India in 2023-24 has been estimated to be Rs. 4,122 and Rs. 6,996, respectively. (Household Consumption Expenditure Survey: 2023-24).
  - Considering the imputed values of items received free of cost through various social welfare programmes, these estimates become Rs. 4,247 and Rs. 7,078 respectively, for rural and urban areas.

### Unequal Distribution of Resources

- A large wealth gap exists between the rich and the poor, especially in urban areas.

- Ex: In India, the richest 1% control more than **40%** of total wealth, while the bottom **50%** own merely 3% (Oxfam's India Inequality Report ).

### Limited Social Safety Nets

- The lack of widespread social protection programs makes vulnerable populations susceptible to economic shocks.
- Ex: During the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of migrant workers fell into poverty due to the absence of robust support systems.

### Regional Variations

- Poverty levels vary significantly across states due to differences in development policies and infrastructure.
- Ex: Kerala has low poverty due to strong education and health systems, while Bihar has high poverty due to weak public services.

### The Vicious Circle of Poverty

- A self-reinforcing cycle keeps the poor trapped in poverty due to the interlinkage of multiple factors:

#### Low Levels of Education:

- Ex: According to India's **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023–24**, rural literacy stands at just 77.5%, compared to 88.9% in urban areas.

#### Poor Health and Malnutrition:

- Ex: According to NFHS-6 (2023-24), the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years is 29.3% and the prevalence of wasting is 19.0%.

#### High Fertility Rates:

- Ex: According to NFHS-6 (2023–24): States like **Bihar** (TFR: 2.7) and **Uttar Pradesh** (TFR: 2.2) have **higher fertility rates** than the national average (2.0). These same states also report high levels of poverty:

These interconnected causes of poverty, combined with inequality and geographical challenges, create a cycle that is difficult for individuals and communities to break, thereby deepening poverty across generations.

### Consequences of Poverty

Poverty is not just a lack of material resources but also a cycle of social and psychological consequences that affect individuals and society. It results in a **"culture of poverty,"** worsens health outcomes, steals childhoods through inadequate education and child labor, causes social exclusion, and has severe mental health implications. Below are the key consequences of poverty:

#### 1. Culture of Poverty

- The **"culture of poverty"** theory suggests that poverty becomes ingrained in certain communities and passes down from generation to generation.
- Factors such as poor access to education, high unemployment, and inadequate housing often lead to a mindset of hopelessness and powerlessness.
- Ex: In areas like **Mumbai's Dharavi slum**, residents often face difficulties in breaking out of the poverty cycle due to limited access to education and job opportunities, leading to generational poverty.

#### 2. Effects on Health

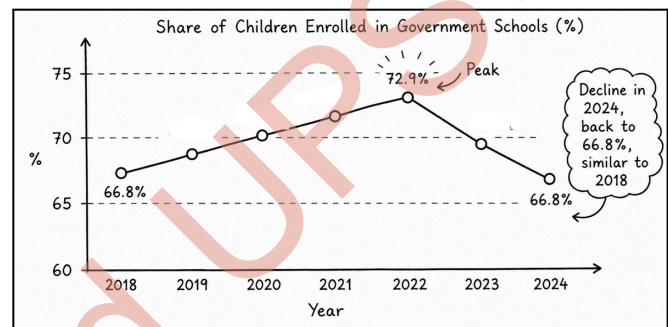
**Health Impact:** Poverty directly affects physical and mental health. Poor living conditions, malnutrition, and lack of access to healthcare contribute to a range of health issues such as:

- **Higher Infant Mortality Rates:** Children born into poverty often lack access to prenatal and postnatal care.

- **Hunger:** Children in poor households are more vulnerable to Stunting, wasting, underweight etc.(Ex: **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6)**: 29.3% of children under five years in India are stunted due to chronic malnutrition, largely because of poverty)
- **Increased Vulnerability to Diseases:** Lack of sanitation and proper nutrition increases susceptibility to diseases.
- **Mental Health Issues:** Chronic stress from financial insecurity can lead to anxiety, depression, and other mental health problems.
- **Statistic:**The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** found in its **75th round survey** that hospitalisation rates are significantly lower among the poorest, primarily due to financial constraints and inadequate infrastructure.
- **Ex:** In rural areas of states like **Bihar**, the absence of basic healthcare services leads to preventable deaths, especially among infants and mothers.

### 3. Stolen Childhoods: Limited Education, Child Labor, and Early Marriage

- **Limited Education:**The **ASER 2024** report indicates a decline in government school enrolment, returning to **66.8%**, similar to levels seen in 2018, dropping from a peak of **72.9%** in 2022 .
- **Child Labor:** According to **Census 2011** there are **10.1 million child labourers** in India.
- **Early Marriage:** Poverty, particularly among girls, often leads to **child marriage**. This restricts **girls' educational and career prospects** and leads to health risks associated with early pregnancies.
- **Statistic:** Poor girls are 2.5 times more likely to marry young than girls from wealthier backgrounds.(UNICEF)
- **Ex:** In Rajasthan, many young girls are married off at an early age due to poverty, cutting short their education and trapping them in **cycles of poor health** and limited economic mobility.



### 4. Social Exclusion and Stigma

- **Social Exclusion:** People living in poverty may be socially excluded or stigmatized. This exclusion can result in discrimination, limiting access to social services and reducing opportunities for upward mobility.
- Social exclusion can also lead to isolation, preventing individuals from building networks of support that could help them escape poverty.
- **Ex:** In urban slums, families often **face discrimination** in accessing better housing, education, or healthcare, which can lead to further marginalization and a lack of community support.

### 5. Psychological Effects

- **Mental Health Impact:** Constant financial struggles and the inability to meet basic needs can severely affect mental health. Individuals living in poverty often experience.
- **Low Self-Esteem:** Chronic stress and feelings of failure can lead to diminished self-worth.
- **Hopelessness:** The lack of upward mobility may result in feelings of despair and a belief that their situation will never improve.

- **Increased Anxiety and Stress:** The daily struggle to secure food, shelter, and safety creates ongoing stress that contributes to **anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders**.
- Ex: In economically disadvantaged areas like **Uttar Pradesh**, families often report high levels of stress and mental health issues due to the **constant struggle** to meet basic needs.

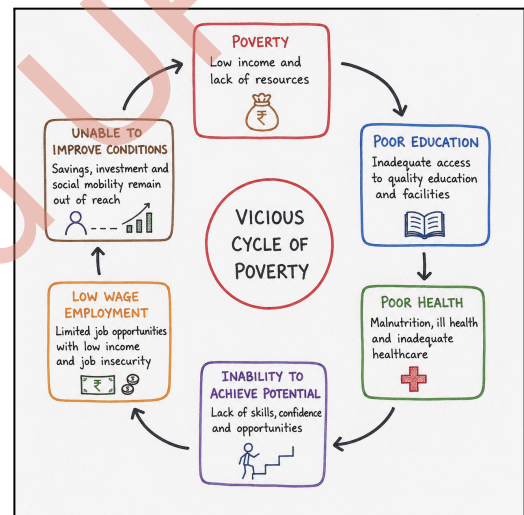
## Impact of Poverty On Different Sections of Society

### 1. Women

- **Data:** According to NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2023, women-headed households are disproportionately poor, especially in rural India.
- **Impact:**
  - Increased exposure to **gender-based violence** – NFHS-6 (2023–24) reports that **22.3%** of ever-married women have faced spousal violence.
  - Poor access to health: **57%** of women aged 15–49 are anemic (NFHS-5).
  - Lower participation in the workforce - **Female LFPR is only 41.7%** (PLFS 2023-24), partly due to unpaid care burden.

### 2. Children

- **Data:** 29.3% of India's children under 5 are stunted and 19.0% are wasted (NFHS-6).
- **Impact:**
  - Educational deprivation: ASER Report 2022 shows **only 73%** of children in Class 3 can read Class 1-level text in government schools.
  - Poverty pushes children into **labour** - **Census 2011** reported over **10.1 million child laborers** aged 5–14.
- Creates a **vicious cycle** of poverty, poor education and health, inability to achieve potential leading to low wage employment.



### 3. Elderly

- **Data:** India has over 103.8 million elderly (Census 2011, projected to reach 230 million by 2036).
- **Impact:**
  - Only **22%** of elderly are covered by formal pension schemes (LASI 2021).
  - High **healthcare burden**: Over 75% of elderly report at least one chronic illness (LASI 2021).
  - Poverty leads to **social neglect**, lack of dignity, and **financial dependency**.

### 4. SCs/STs

- **Data:** 5 out of 6 multidimensionally poor are from the households whose head is from Scheduled tribes, Scheduled castes or other backward classes (global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2021).
- **Impact:**
  - **Landlessness and job insecurity** persist - SC/STs dominate low-paid, informal labor.
  - **Limited access to education:** SC students GER was 25.9 and ST students GER was 21.2 in higher education (AISHE 2021–22).



Poverty in India is a complex issue rooted in historical and social inequalities. While progress has been made, challenges like unemployment, poor education, and unequal access to resources persist. A multidimensional and inclusive approach-focusing on health, education, employment, and social justice-is essential to eradicate poverty and ensure dignity and opportunity for all.

## Poverty Line

- The **poverty line** is a critical threshold used to determine the minimum level of income, consumption, or access to goods and services required for individuals to be considered non-poor.
- It represents the basic standard for living, encompassing essential needs like food, shelter, and clothing.
- **Poverty Line in India**
  - In **India**, the focus of the poverty line is primarily on the **cost of food** needed to meet minimum **calorie requirements** for an individual.
  - This approach considers the **nutritional intake** necessary for survival, emphasizing the role of food in determining poverty.
- **Global Poverty Line**
  - On a global scale, the **World Bank** sets an **International Poverty Line (IPL)**.
  - The **World Bank Group** has updated the international poverty line at **\$3.00 per person per day**, which **replaces the previous \$2.15** poverty line based on 2017 PPPs.
  - This line serves as a benchmark for measuring poverty across different countries and is regularly updated to reflect changes in global living standards.

## Poverty Estimation in India

### 1. Pre-Independence Poverty Estimation

- **Poverty and Unbritish Rule in India (1901)**: Dadabhai Naoroji, in his book '**Poverty and Un-British Rule in India,**' made the earliest estimate of the poverty line at 1867-68 prices based on the cost of a subsistence diet for emigrant coolies during their voyage.
- **National Planning Committee (1938)**: Set up under **Jawaharlal Nehru's chairmanship**, the National Planning Committee suggested a poverty line based on a minimum standard of living.
- **The Bombay Plan (1944)**: The Bombay Plan proposed a poverty line that was much more modest than that of the **National Planning Committee**.

### 2. Post Independence

#### Y.K. Alagh Committee (1979)

- **First committee to define the poverty line in monetary terms** linked to calorie intake. It classifies the poverty line based on **minimum consumption expenditure** to obtain the recommended calories intake plus essential non food items.
- Recommended calorie intake was **2400 kcal/day** for rural areas and **2100 kcal/day** for urban areas. Computation of headcount ratios **separately** done for rural and urban populations.

#### D.T. Lakdawala Committee (1993)

- It expressed the poverty line based on the minimum required nutritional level of **2100 kcal** per person per day for urban and **2400 kcal** per person per day for rural areas.

#### Prof. Suresh Tendulkar Committee (2009)

- It expressed the poverty line based on expenditure on a basket of commodities on food and selected non food items like clothing. It suggested the **same poverty line basket for both rural and urban areas**. It is indexed with **CPI based inflation**.
- The **poverty line is different for different states** because of the **difference in price levels** to buy the same basket of goods.

#### Dr. C. Rangrajan Committee (2013)

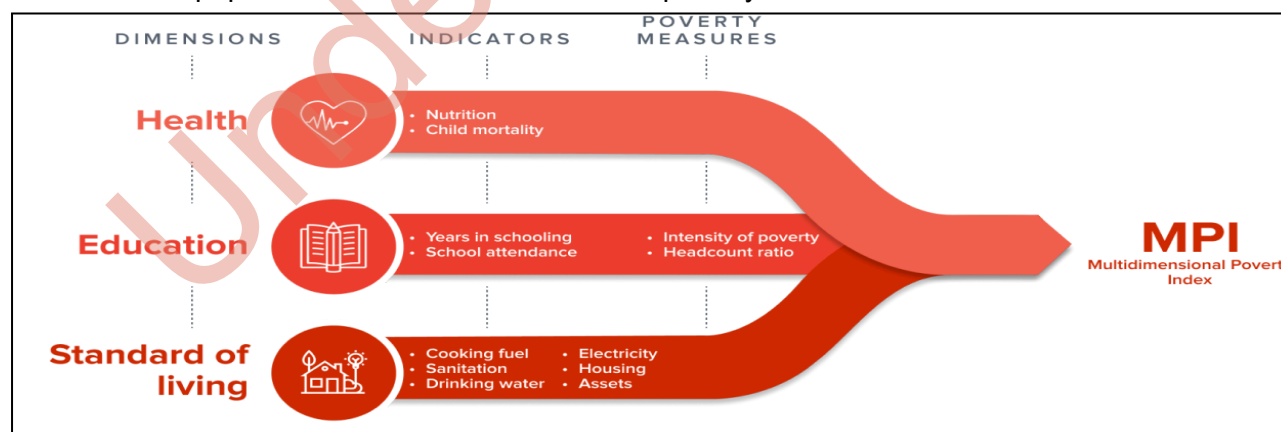
- Also expressed poverty line on the basis of expenditure on basket of commodities consisting of food and essential non food items. But, it suggested **different poverty line baskets for urban and rural areas**. However, it will **not vary state wise**. It is to be **indexed to CPI**.
- Recommended minimum calorie intake at **2155 kcal** per person per day for rural areas and **2090 kcal** per person per day for urban areas.

#### Reference Periods for Poverty Estimation

|                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Uniform Reference Period (URP)</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up till 1993 -1994, the poverty line was based on a Uniform Resource Period, which involved asking people about their consumption expenditure across a period of over 30-days</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Mixed Reference Period (MRP)</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 1999-2000 onwards, the NSSO switched to a method known as the <b>Mixed Reference Period (MRP)</b>.</li> <li>The MRP measures consumption of five low-frequency items (clothing, footwear, durables, education and institutional health expenditure) over the previous year, and all other items over the previous 30 days.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Modified Mixed reference Period (MMRP)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7- day recall period for <b>Edible oil; egg, fish &amp; meat</b>; milk and milk products; vegetables; fruits; spices; beverages and processed foods; pan, tobacco &amp; intoxicants</li> <li>30-day recall period for All other food items; fuel and light; miscellaneous goods and services including <b>medical (non-hospitalisation)</b> and rents</li> <li>365- day recall period is used for Clothing; bedding; footwear; education; medical (hospitalisation); durable goods</li> </ul> |

#### Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- The **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, released annually by the **UNDP**, measures acute multidimensional poverty across over 100 developing countries.
- It assesses poverty by evaluating deprivations in 10 indicators across three equally weighted dimensions: **Health, Education, and Standard of Living**.
- MPI Findings for India: According to the latest report released by NITI Aayog in 2024, **11.28%** of India's population lives in multidimensional poverty.



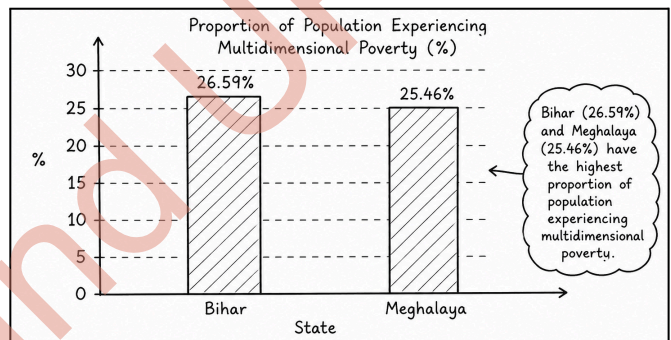
#### India's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- India's MPI, developed by **NITI Aayog**, is more comprehensive than the global MPI. NITI Aayog monitors this index to rank the performance of States and Union Territories.

- It is calculated on the dimensions of **Health, Education and Standard Of Living**.
  - These dimensions are further sub divided into **12 indicators** some of which are **nutrition, cooking fuel access, bank account etc**
  - Apart from MPI, it includes 2 additional indicators i.e Maternal Health(Health) and Bank Account (**Standard of Living**).

#### Findings (Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06 )

- 24.82 Crore people escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2022-23.
- The country registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in India's multidimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 11.28% in 2022-23.
- The rural areas witnessed the **fastest** decline in poverty, from 32.59% to 19.28%.
- Bihar, the state with the **highest MPI** value in NFHS-4 (2015-16), saw the fastest reduction in MPI value in absolute terms (**Headcount ratio**) with the proportion of multidimensional poor reducing to 26.59% in 2022-23.
- The fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor was observed in the **States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan**.
- The most notable reductions were observed in the following indicators: Sanitation and cooking fuel during the period from 2015-16 to 2019-21.
- It highlights that **Bihar**, with 26.59%, followed by **Meghalaya** with 25.46%, are the states with the highest proportion of population experiencing multidimensional poverty



#### Below the Poverty Line (BPL)

- The identification of poor households is essential for ensuring the effective targeting of beneficiaries in pro-poor programs.
- In rural areas, the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** was responsible for identifying **Below the Poverty Line (BPL)** households, while in urban areas, the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation** serves as the nodal agency..

#### India's Revised Poverty Profile (PIP 2025)

- India's latest **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)** adopted the **Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP) method**, replacing the outdated **Uniform Reference Period (URP)**. This shift:
  - Used shorter recall periods for frequently purchased items
  - Captured more realistic estimates of actual consumption
- As a result, consumption recorded in national surveys rose, leading to a drop in poverty estimates:
  - In 2011–12, applying MMRP reduced India's poverty rate from 22.9% to 16.22%, even under the older \$2.15 poverty line.
  - In 2022–23, poverty under the new \$3.00 line stood at 5.25%, while under the older \$2.15 line it dropped further to 2.35%.

#### Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), 2023–24 (can be used as dimension )

- Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) is designed to collect information on consumption and expenditure of the households on goods and services.
- Key highlights of the HCES for 2023–24 are:

- **Average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE):** In 2023–24, the average MPCE was ₹4,122 in rural areas and ₹6,996 in urban areas, excluding the value of items received free through social welfare programs. When these are included, the figures rise to ₹4,247 and ₹7,078, respectively. This is a significant increase from the rural MPCE of ₹1,430 and urban MPCE of ₹2,630 in 2011-12.
- **Urban-Rural Consumption Gap:** The **urban-rural consumption gap** has narrowed from 84% in 2011–12 to 70% in 2023–24, indicating a reduction in consumption disparities between urban and rural households.
- **State-wise Trends:** All 18 major states reported an increase in average MPCE for both rural and urban areas. Odisha experienced the highest rural increase (about 14%), while Punjab saw the highest urban increase (about 13%).
- **Consumption Inequality:** The **Gini coefficient**, a measure of consumption inequality, decreased from 0.266 to 0.237 in rural areas and from 0.314 to 0.284 in urban areas between 2022–23 and 2023–24, suggesting a reduction in consumption inequality across most major states.

### Action taken to deal with poverty and challenges associated with it

| Action taken                                                                                          | Challenges                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Solution                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Multidimensional Poverty Reduction- Addresses education, health, housing, and basic amenities.</b> | Ensuring sustained progress and addressing regional disparities.                                                                                                                                                                     | Use of AI for poverty mapping and real-time dashboards for policy tracking.<br><br><b>Raghauli, UP's first zero-poverty village under Ambedkar Scheme,</b> showcasing effective implementation of government initiatives |
| <b>Employment Generation Programs</b>                                                                 | -Corruption and delays in wage payments<br>-Poor implementation in some states<br>-Limited to unskilled work                                                                                                                         | Integration with digital platforms like the <b>PMEGP e-portal</b> for streamlined application and monitoring processes.                                                                                                  |
| <b>Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)</b>                                               | Leakages in PDS; identification errors.                                                                                                                                                                                              | Implementation of <b>ePoS (electronic Point of Sale)</b> to track ration delivery and reduce corruption.                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Ayushman Bharat – PM-JAY</b>                                                                       | -Limited infrastructure in rural healthcare delivery systems<br>-Awareness gaps among eligible beneficiary populations<br>-Delayed reimbursements to private empaneled hospitals<br>-Fraudulent claims and misuse of scheme benefits | <b>AI-powered claim verification</b> and telehealth to improve access, transparency, efficiency.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)</b>                                                                  | Inclusion gaps, technical glitches, beneficiary authentication issues.                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Aadhaar-based facial verification,</b> real-time transaction tracking systems.                                                                                                                                        |

|                                              |                                                                                     |                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jal Mission (Har Ghar Jal)</b>            | Infrastructure delays, water quality issues, remote access gaps, monitoring lapses. | <b>Real-time tracking</b> , Jal Darpan Portal, corrosion-proof pipes, community audits.  |
| <b>Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana</b> | Low outreach, skill mismatch, poor market access, financial barriers.               | Tailored skilling, SHG support, <b>“Million Designers” initiative</b> , digital finance. |

## Urban Poverty

Urban poverty describes the struggle of people living in cities who do not have enough income to cover their basic needs such as **food, shelter, and medical care**. In India, this issue is widespread, especially in major cities, where many face challenges like cramped living spaces, poor access to essential services, and a lack of stable job opportunities. Over **65 million people** live in slums (Census 2011) in India.

### Causes of urban poverty

#### Rural-Urban Migration

- Unskilled migrants from rural areas flood urban centers, often ending up in informal, low-paying jobs without security.
- Ex: Migrants to Mumbai working as hawkers after mill closures.

#### Evictions & Livelihood Disruption

- **Cause:** Unplanned evictions displace informal workers.
- Ex: In March 2025, a midnight eviction drive in **Ranchi's Morhabadi** area led to the destruction of vendors' goods, sparking protests over the abrupt loss of livelihoods.

#### Jobless Growth

- Urban economies often grow without generating enough employment.
- Ex: Despite India's **7%+ GDP** growth in 2023-24, urban youth unemployment remained above 17% (CMIE), especially in Tier-1 cities.

#### Rural-Urban Migration without Support Systems

- Migrants lack housing, education, and job security.
- Ex: In Delhi, post-COVID reverse migration was followed by re-migration without improved support, leading to **slum expansion** (2024 NITI Aayog report).

#### Deindustrialization & Informalization:

- Decline of formal industries leads to insecure, low-paid informal work.
- Ex: Closure of **MSMEs in Mumbai and Kanpur** during 2020-2023 pushed many into street vending and gig work.

#### Gendered Barriers

- Barrier: Women often lack land titles or legal documentation.
- Impact: They are excluded from welfare schemes and loans, reinforcing intergenerational poverty.
- Ex: Households with any usual female members owning a house and/or land (alone or jointly with others) (%) are merely **18.8% as per NFHS 6**.

#### Climate Vulnerability

- Urban poor are worst hit by extreme weather due to weak housing and limited resources.
- Ex: Delhi Heatwave (May 2024)-Temperatures crossed **45°C**; daily wage workers, rickshaw pullers, and street vendors suffered income loss and health issues.

#### Digital & Skill Divide

- Lack of digital literacy excludes poor from emerging jobs and welfare schemes.
- Ex: Many in informal jobs were unable to access **e-Shram portal** benefits due to lack of smartphones or ID documents.



## Challenges in Addressing Urban Poverty

### Lack of Accurate Data

- Inconsistent surveys and poor documentation in informal settlements make it hard to measure poverty levels and target schemes.
- Ex: Many urban poor in **Delhi's unauthorized colonies** are excluded from welfare schemes due to lack of official identification or address proof.

### Inadequate Infrastructure

- Cities struggle to provide clean water, sanitation, electricity, and housing to the growing urban population.
- Ex: In **Mumbai's Dharavi**, thousands live without proper toilets or drainage, risking frequent disease outbreaks.

### Political and Administrative Hurdles

- Governance issues like corruption, red tape, and lack of coordination stall poverty-alleviation programs.
- Ex: Delays in implementing the **Smart Cities Mission** in several states reflect poor coordination between state and urban local bodies.
- Ex: **Corruption Perception Index(2025)**- India ranks 91/182.

### Informal Economy Dependence

- A majority of urban poor work in informal jobs without job security, health benefits, or social protection.
- Ex: During the **COVID-19 lockdown**, daily wage workers in **Bengaluru** lost livelihoods overnight due to lack of formal contracts.

### Climate Vulnerability and Urban Disasters

- Urban poor are highly exposed to climate risks such as heatwaves, floods, and air pollution.
- Ex: In **Chennai**, informal settlements near rivers were submerged during the 2023 floods, displacing thousands who lacked resilient housing.

## Way Forward

### Improving Data Collection

- Build a centralized urban poverty database.
- Conduct regular surveys with NGO collaboration for grassroots insights.
- Ex: The **SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census)** has been a step, but needs regular updates.

### Promoting Inclusive Urban Development

- Involve communities in planning and execution.
- Support mixed-use housing and employment zones.
- Foster SHGs in low-income areas for local solutions.
- Ex: **Kudumbashree** in Kerala has successfully empowered women-led groups.

### Smart Technologies

- Use digital platforms for job matching, skill training, and service delivery.
- Ex: Urban Local Bodies using **GIS** for slum mapping in Bhubaneswar.

### Public-Private Partnerships

- Mobilize private investment for housing, transport, and health.
- Ex: **Affordable rental housing** schemes through PPPs.

### Community-Led Models

- Enable local NGOs to tailor education, healthcare, and livelihood programs.
- Ex: **Pollinators** provide solar lamps and water filters in slums, boosting livelihoods and health.

### Urban Employment Guarantee Schemes

- Ex: **Mukhyamantri Shahri Rojgar Guarantee Yojana (Delhi)**
- Similar to MGNREGA(Now **VB-G RAM G**), but for urban poor.

#### Microfinance + FinTech for Urban Poor

- Digital loans, savings, and insurance via mobile platforms.
- Ex: **Jana Small Finance Bank** or SEWA Bank supporting street vendors.

#### Case study

##### Waste-to-Wealth Models-Hasiru Dala (Bangalore)

- **Hasiru Dala**, meaning **Green Force in Kannada**, is a social impact organization dedicated to securing justice for waste pickers. Established in Bangalore, India, Hasiru Dala focuses on the socio-economic inclusion and empowerment of waste pickers through initiatives to promote identity rights, education,
- Helps 10,000+ families earn steady incomes.

### Comparative Analysis of Urban and Rural Poverty

#### Living Conditions

- **Urban:** Overcrowded slums, poor housing, and inadequate sanitation.
- **Rural:** More space, but homes often **lack basic amenities and clean water.**

#### Access to Services and Opportunities

- **Education:** Urban areas have more schools with varying quality; rural areas often have limited, under-resourced schools.
- **Healthcare:** Urban services are better but expensive; **rural regions often lack facilities.**
- **Employment:** Urban jobs are more available but mostly informal; rural areas rely on low-paying agricultural work.

#### Social and Economic Mobility

- **Urban:** Visible poverty, weak social ties, and stigma reduce upward mobility.
- **Rural:** Poverty is widespread but less visible; strong community bonds but fewer paths out of poverty.

#### Cost of Living

- **Urban:** Higher cost of housing, food, and transport strain limited incomes.
- **Rural:** Lower costs, but income levels are also very low.

#### Government Schemes Reach

- **Urban:** Schemes exist but often miss informal workers or migrants.
- **Rural:** Better penetration of schemes like **MGNREGA**, but often poorly implemented.

#### Environmental Vulnerability

- **Urban:** More exposed to air pollution, heat islands, and flooding.
- **Rural:** Faces climate risks like droughts and crop failure due to monsoon dependence.

Urban poverty remains a pressing challenge, but New India aspires to build inclusive cities where growth benefits all. With innovation, **data-driven governance, and empowered communities**, urban poor can become active participants in development. Bridging inequality is key to realizing India's vision of sustainable and equitable urban futures.

### Impact of Urban Poverty on Major Sections of Society

#### Children

- **Impact:** **Malnutrition, Stunting, Wasting**, low school attendance, child labor
- According to **NFHS-6 (2023-24)**, 29.3% of urban children under five are stunted due to poor living conditions and nutrition.

- **Government Response:** **POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018)** targets child nutrition through Anganwadi centres and digital monitoring.

#### Women

- Impact: Increased vulnerability to gender-based violence, limited access to healthcare, education and employment
- As per **Agriculture Census 2015–16**, only 13.9% of operational land holdings are held by women, limiting their economic independence.
- In urban slums, women are disproportionately employed in informal and low-paying jobs (**NSSO 2017–18**).
- **Government Response:** Schemes like **PM Ujjwala Yojana** improve women's health by promoting clean cooking fuel, especially in slums.

#### Elderly

- **Impact:** Neglect, health issues, financial insecurity due to rising living costs
- The **Longitudinal Ageing Study** in India (**LASI, 2020**) reported that **27%** of elderly in urban areas lack social or financial support.
- **Government Response:** **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** provides pensions for elderly below the poverty line.

#### Youth

- Many urban poor youth face interrupted or low-quality education due to poverty and lack of access to digital tools.
- During COVID-19 lockdowns, nearly 50% of students in urban slums lacked access to online classes, worsening educational inequality. (**ASER Report 2023**)
- **Government Response:** **PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme etc.**

#### Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

- Impact: Inaccessible infrastructure, unemployment, social exclusion
- The **2011 Census** reported that 36% of the population with disabilities were workers.
- **Government Response:** **Accessible India Campaign** and urban development policies promote inclusive infrastructure and employment incentives for PwDs.

#### Suggestions

##### Economic Growth with Inclusivity

- Boost broad-based economic growth that benefits all sections, especially the poor.
- Ex: India's MGNREGA(**VB-G RAM G**) program provides rural employment, lifting millions out of poverty by guaranteeing 100 days of wage work.

##### Education and Skill Development

- Invest in quality education and vocational training to improve employability and incomes.
- Ex: **Skill India Mission** helps millions of youth get industry-relevant skills.

##### Improved Healthcare Access

- Provide affordable healthcare to reduce poverty caused by medical expenses.
- Ex: **Ayushman Bharat** offers health insurance to over 50 crore poor Indians, reducing catastrophic health costs.

##### Agricultural Reforms and Rural Development

- Enhance productivity and incomes in agriculture, where most rural poor depend.
- Ex: **PM-KISAN** scheme provides direct income support to farmers.
- Economist's View: **Raghuram Rajan** advocates for rural credit access and market reforms to empower small farmers.

##### Social Safety Nets and Direct Transfers

- Strengthen welfare schemes to provide food, shelter, and cash to vulnerable populations.
- Ex: **Public Distribution System (PDS)** ensures subsidized food grains to millions.
- Economist's View: **Esther Duflo** supports targeted subsidies combined with social programs to effectively reduce poverty.

#### **Gandhian Method: Decentralized Self-Reliance**

- Promote village-level self-sufficiency through small-scale industries, cooperative farming, and community empowerment.
- Ex: Revival of **Khadi and village crafts** to create local jobs and reduce urban migration.
- Gandhi believed poverty can be tackled by empowering villages and reducing dependence on centralized economies.

#### **Gender Equality and Empowerment**

- Address gender disparities to unlock women's economic potential.
- Ex: **Women's SHGs under NRLM** have helped millions start micro-enterprises.
- **Economist's View: Abhijit Banerjee** emphasizes removing structural barriers to women's participation in the economy.

#### **Expanding Capabilities Beyond Income**

- Amartya Sen's "Development as Freedom" stresses poverty eradication by enhancing people's freedoms-like education and health-not just income.
- Ex: India's **Mid-Day Meal Scheme** boosts child nutrition and school attendance, improving future opportunities.

Poverty dims the dreams of millions, but with unwavering determination-**Sankalp Se Siddhi**-we can light the path to hope and dignity for all. Every effort counts in transforming lives and building a New India where no one is left behind. Together, let's pledge to end poverty and uplift every soul towards a brighter tomorrow.

**OR**

Poverty challenges our spirit, but with firm resolve-Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas-we can turn despair into opportunity and hope. Let's unite to build a New India where everyone thrives with dignity and pride. Together, we can break the chains of poverty and create a future full of promise.

## Developmental issue

|                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success.(2018;15) |
| Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.(2018;15)                                                                  |
| How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the educational system in the country? Elaborate your answer. (2020;15)                                  |
| What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global security? Has it been affecting Indian society also?(2021;15)                                                                  |
| Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?(2023;10)                                                                                         |
| In dealing with socio-economic Issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?(2024;15)                  |
| The groundwater potential of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India?(2024;15)                                                 |
| Achieving sustainable growth with emphasis on environmental protection could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India - Comment.(2025;15)             |

### Development

- Development is the process of improving people's quality of life by enhancing economic prosperity, social well-being, political empowerment, environmental sustainability, and human capabilities.
- **Amartya Sen:** "Development is the expansion of freedoms and capabilities that allow people to lead lives they value."

| Approaches to Development     |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Economic Approach</b>      | <b>Growth</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on increasing GDP, industrialization, investment, and income generation. It assumes that growth will eventually improve living standards.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Human Approach</b>         | <b>Development</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasizes health, education, nutrition, and overall well-being rather than income alone.</li> </ul>                                                         |
| <b>Capability Approach</b>    |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propounded by <b>Amartya Sen</b>, it views development as expanding people's freedoms, choices, and capabilities.</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>Sustainable Approach</b>   | <b>Development</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks to balance economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection for present and future generations.</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>Inclusive Approach</b>     | <b>Development</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures that the benefits of development reach marginalized groups, regions, and communities.</li> </ul>                                                     |
| <b>Rights-Based Approach</b>  |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treats access to education, health, food, and livelihood as fundamental rights rather than welfare measures.</li> </ul>                                      |
| <b>Participatory Approach</b> |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages people's participation in planning and decision-making processes.</li> </ul>                                                                      |



|                          |                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Gandhian Approach</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocates decentralized, village-centric, self-reliant, and sustainable development.</li> </ul> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| <b>The Dark Side of Development</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Economic Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Economic Inequality:</b> Benefits of growth accrue unevenly, widening income and wealth gaps.</li> <li><b>Jobless Growth:</b> Economic expansion without proportional employment generation.</li> <li><b>Regional Disparities:</b> Certain regions develop faster, creating developmental imbalances.</li> <li><b>Resource Concentration:</b> Wealth, industries, and investments become concentrated in select urban centers.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                       | <b>Social Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Displacement and Rehabilitation:</b> Infrastructure, mining, and industrial projects displace local communities.</li> <li><b>Migration Pressures:</b> Rural-to-urban migration strains urban infrastructure and services.</li> <li><b>Urban Poverty and Slums:</b> Rapid urbanisation leads to informal settlements and poor living conditions.</li> <li><b>Social Exclusion:</b> Marginalized groups may not equally benefit from development.</li> <li><b>Lifestyle and Health Challenges:</b> Rise in non-communicable diseases, stress, and mental health issues.</li> <li><b>Ageing Population:</b> Development and declining fertility increase old-age dependency.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Environmental Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pollution:</b> Air, water, noise, and soil pollution increase with industrialisation and urbanisation.</li> <li><b>Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss:</b> Expansion of infrastructure and economic activities degrades ecosystems.</li> <li><b>Climate Change:</b> Increased emissions and ecological stress contribute to climate risks.</li> <li><b>Resource Depletion:</b> Overexploitation of groundwater, minerals, forests, and energy resources.</li> <li><b>Urban Ecological Stress:</b> Loss of wetlands, green cover, and natural drainage systems.</li> </ul> | <b>Political and Governance Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Regionalism and Sub-Regionalism:</b> Uneven development fuels demands for autonomy and statehood.</li> <li><b>Resource Conflicts:</b> Competition over water, land, and natural resources.</li> <li><b>Governance Deficits:</b> Institutions struggle to manage rapid socio-economic transformation.</li> <li><b>Land Acquisition Conflicts:</b> Tensions between development needs and property/community rights.</li> <li><b>Centre-State Frictions:</b> Disputes over fiscal transfers, representation, and resource allocation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Cultural Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cultural Erosion:</b> Traditional lifestyles, languages, and indigenous knowledge decline.</li> <li><b>Homogenisation of Culture:</b> Globalisation and urbanisation weaken local identities.</li> <li><b>Loss of Heritage:</b> Urban expansion threatens cultural and historical sites.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Technological Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Digital Divide:</b> Unequal access to technology creates new forms of exclusion.</li> <li><b>Automation and Job Losses:</b> Technological advancement can displace labour.</li> <li><b>Privacy and Data Concerns:</b> Increased digitisation raises surveillance and cybersecurity issues.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Development should be a **ladder of opportunity**, not a source of exclusion. The challenge is to transform growth into equitable, sustainable, and people-centric progress.

### Why Human Development Lag Behind

- Human development refers to the process of expanding people's capabilities, choices, and opportunities, enabling them to lead healthy, educated, and dignified lives.
- It is measured through indicators such as health, education, and standard of living, as reflected in the **Human Development Index (HDI)**.

### Reasons for lagging human development

1. **Unequal Distribution of Growth:** Economic growth often benefits specific regions and sections of society, leaving vulnerable groups behind.
  - a. Ex: **India Inequality Report**: richest 1% control more than 40% of total wealth
2. **Inadequate Investment in Social Sectors:** Insufficient public expenditure on health, education, nutrition, and sanitation hampers human development outcomes.
  - a. Ex: In India, combined spending on health and education is between **4.5-5% of GDP**.
3. **Poverty and Unemployment:** Persistent poverty restricts access to basic services and reduces the ability of individuals to improve their quality of life.
  - a. Ex: **NITI Aayog in 2024**: 11.28% of India's population lives in multidimensional poverty.
4. **Gender Inequality:** Discrimination against women in education, employment, and decision-making reduces overall human development.
  - a. Ex: Prevalent domestic violence, harassment at workplace etc.
5. **Regional and Social Disparities:** Marginalized communities such as SCs, STs, minorities, and people in remote areas often have lower access to development benefits.
  - a. Ex: Hilly areas, North Eastern regions witness delayed development.
6. **Poor Governance and Service Delivery: Corruption, administrative inefficiency, and leakages in welfare schemes** prevent resources from reaching intended beneficiaries.
  - a. Ex: **Corruption Perception Index**: India ranks 91/182.
7. **Environmental and Health Challenges:** Climate change, pollution, malnutrition, and disease outbreaks disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.
  - a. Ex: **2024 AQI report**: 94/100 most polluted cities in India.

As emphasized by Amartya Sen, development should be viewed as the expansion of human capabilities and freedoms, not merely an increase in income. Therefore, inclusive growth, quality public services, and empowerment of marginalized groups are essential for achieving holistic human development.

### Displacement and Rehabilitation

- **Displacement** refers to the forced or involuntary movement of people from their homes, lands, or livelihoods due to development projects, natural disasters, conflicts, environmental degradation, or conservation initiatives.
- **Rehabilitation** refers to the process of restoring the affected persons' livelihoods, housing, social security, and dignity through resettlement and support measures.

### Issues associated with Displacement

1. **Loss of Livelihood:** People lose access to land, forests, water resources, and traditional occupations.
  - a. Ex: **Yanadis** displaced due to developmental projects in Nellore.
2. **Social and Cultural Disruption:** Displacement often breaks community networks, cultural ties, and traditional knowledge systems.
  - a. Ex: **Santhals, Bhils** etc. adopting mainstream practices.

3. **Economic Insecurity:** Compensation is often inadequate or delayed.
  - a. Ex: **Baigas, Konda reddies** etc. displaced due to developmental projects.
4. **Unemployment and poverty:** due to lack of availability of alternate livelihoods.
  - a. Ex: **Santhals** engaged in **Hali system bonded labour**.
5. **Psychological Impact:** Forced relocation can cause stress, insecurity, and loss of social belonging.
  - a. Ex: Increased suicide rate due to displacement.

### Rehabilitation initiatives

1. **Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013:** provides compensation, resettlement, and rehabilitation benefits.
2. **Forest Rights Act, 2006:** safeguards the rights of forest-dwelling communities.

Sustainable development requires a **"people-centric" approach**, where rehabilitation is not limited to compensation but includes restoration of livelihoods, social integration, and long-term well-being.

### Lifestyle changes and diseases

- Lifestyle diseases, also known as **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**, are illnesses primarily associated with unhealthy habits and changing patterns of living.
- Altered lifestyles are contributing to the growing burden of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, and certain cancers.
- As per **National Institute of Health**, NCDs contribute to around 38 million (68%) of all the deaths globally and to about 5.87 million (60%) of all deaths in India.

### How lifestyle changes contribute to diseases

1. **Sedentary Lifestyle:** Increased use of technology, desk-based jobs, and reduced physical activity have led to obesity and metabolic disorders.
  - a. Ex: **NFHS-5**: 24% of women and 23% of men are overweight or obese.
2. **Lack of exercise:** major risk factor for heart diseases and diabetes.
3. **Unhealthy Dietary Habits:** Increased consumption of processed foods, fast food, sugar, and unhealthy fats contributes to obesity, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases.
  - a. Ex: **Approximately 38%** of the Indian population regularly consumes fried snacks and processed foods.(DTE)
4. **Stress and Mental Health Issues:** Fast-paced urban life, work pressure, and social isolation have increased stress, anxiety, and depression.
5. **Tobacco and Alcohol Consumption:** Growing use of tobacco and alcohol is linked to cancer, liver diseases, and respiratory disorders.
  - a. Ex: India is the **second-largest consumer and producer** of tobacco globally, resulting in nearly 1.35 million deaths annually.(WHO)
6. **Sleep Deprivation:** Irregular work schedules and excessive screen time adversely affect physical and mental health.

### Steps taken

1. **Promotion of healthy diets and regular physical activity:** **REPLACE** initiative to tackle trans fats.
2. **Public awareness campaigns:** Fit India Movement, 5 minute yoga campaign.
3. **Early screening and preventive healthcare:** Digitalisation of healthcare via Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
4. **Stress management, yoga, and mental health support:** Promotion of **AYUSH** medicine.

Lifestyle changes have transformed disease patterns from communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases. As emphasized by the **WHO**, prevention remains the most effective strategy for reducing the burden of lifestyle-related diseases and ensuring long-term well-being.

## Waste Management Crisis

- A waste management crisis refers to the growing inability of societies to effectively collect, segregate, process, recycle, and safely dispose of waste generated by households, industries, agriculture, and commercial activities.

### Causes

1. **Rapid Urbanisation and Consumerism:** Growing urban populations generate large quantities of solid waste, often exceeding the capacity of local authorities.
  - a. Ex: The **2nd ARC in its Sixth Report** on Local Governance; projected that India's urban population will cross 800 million (over 80 crore) by 2050(>50%)
2. **Poor Segregation at Source:** Mixing of biodegradable, recyclable, and hazardous waste reduces recycling efficiency and increases landfill dependency.
  - a. Ex: **Approximately 1.71 lakh tonnes** of municipal solid waste are generated daily where the majority is not segregated at source.(Research gate)
3. **Plastic Pollution:** Single-use plastics and non-biodegradable materials accumulate in landfills, rivers, and oceans.
  - a. Ex: India generates **approximately 9.3 million tonnes** of plastic waste annually.(CPCB)
4. **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Many cities lack sufficient recycling facilities, waste-processing plants, and scientific landfills.
  - a. Ex: Majority of waste collection and processing is handled by the **informal sector**.
5. **E-Waste and Hazardous Waste:** Rising consumption of electronic devices has led to a surge in e-waste containing toxic substances.
  - a. Ex: India's emergence as **3rd largest startup ecosystem** also accompanied with E-waste generation like computers, solar cells, batteries etc.
  - b. Ex: India's e-waste surges by **73% in 5 years** i.e to 1.751 million MT in 2023-24(DTE).

### Way forward for waste management

1. **Segregation** of waste at source and promotion of the 3Rs i.e Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
2. Effective implementation of **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Plastic Waste Management Rules**.
3. Adoption of **circular economy** principles and **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**.
4. Public awareness and community participation through initiatives such as **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
5. **Formalisation and mechanisation** of waste collection and processing.

A shift from a **"take-make-dispose" model to a circular economy**, supported by responsible consumption and efficient waste governance, is essential for creating cleaner and more sustainable cities.

## Mental Health Issues

- Mental health refers to a state of well-being in which individuals realize their abilities, cope with normal stresses of life, work productively, and contribute to society.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), mental health is an integral component of overall health.
- According to a **NIMHANS survey**, **15% of India's adult population** experiences mental health issues requiring intervention.
- **Major issues**-Hypertension, Depression, Anxiety, Sleeping disorders, Drug abuse & High vulnerability among women, elderly, LGBTQ, SC/ST etc.

## Causes of mental health issues

1. **Rapid urbanization and changing family structures:** growth of nuclear families, single parent households etc.
2. **Social isolation:** due to the decline of traditional community support systems.
3. **Economic insecurity, unemployment, and poverty:** due to market level fluctuations, layoffs etc.
  - a. Ex: Recent layoffs by **Oracle India**.
4. **Stigma and lack of awareness regarding mental illnesses:** Mental illness is not considered as an illness and hence ignored.
5. **Digital addiction and excessive screen time:** Due to digitalisation of the economy.
  - a. Ex: The average screen time in India ranges between **6.5 to 7.4 hours per day for adults**.
6. **Traumatic events, disasters, and pandemics:** Mental illness, stress among farmers leading to cases of farmer suicides.
  - a. Ex: More than **3.9 lakh** farmers and agricultural labourers died by suicide between 1995 and 2023.(DTE)
7. **Lack of infrastructure and public spending:** Mental health is often ignored in public policy.
  - a. Ex: India spends approximately **0.05% of its GDP** on mental health.
8. **Treatment gap:** Lack of availability of assistance increases the prevalence.
  - a. Ex: The **2015-16 NIMHANS survey** also highlighted that **70% to 92%** of people with mental disorders do not receive proper treatment due to the lack of awareness, social stigma, and a shortage of professionals.
9. **More prevalent in vulnerable sections:** like women, elderly, differently abled etc.
  - a. Ex: According to a **NIMHANS study** from 2019, mental health disorders are more prevalent among women (20%) than men (10%)

## Steps taken for Mental Health

1. **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017** recognizes the right to mental healthcare and decriminalizes suicide attempts.
2. **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)** aims to provide accessible mental health services.
3. **Tele-MANAS:** Tele-counselling and digital mental health initiatives have expanded outreach.
4. **#ItsOkBaatKaro:** Awareness campaigns are helping reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.
5. **Civil Society Organisations:** like **The Live Love Laugh Foundation (TLLLF)**.
6. **National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS) - 2022:** Launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with Goal to Reduce suicide mortality by 10% by 2030.

## Way forward(2022 WHO "**World Mental Health Report,**")

1. **Integrate** mental healthcare into primary healthcare systems.
2. **Increase** the number of trained psychologists and psychiatrists.
3. **Promote** mental health education in schools and workplaces.
4. **Strengthen** community-based support systems and counselling services.
5. **Encourage** healthy lifestyles, physical activity, and work-life balance.

As the WHO emphasizes, "**There is no health without mental health.**" Ensuring accessible, affordable, and stigma-free mental healthcare is essential for building a healthy, productive, and inclusive society.



## Important Reports & Indices

### 1. UNDP Human Development Report (2025)

- Highlights the link between **social empowerment, education, and gender equality**.
- India ranks **130th out of 193** on the HDI.
- India's HDI value increased from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023, keeping it in the medium human development category and moving closer to the high human development threshold of 0.700.
- India's **Gender Inequality Index** value (2022): 0.437 (Rank: 108/193).

### 2. India Inequality Report – Oxfam (2023)

- Shows deep social inequalities based on caste, class, and gender.
- Notes that marginalized communities lag behind in **healthcare access, education, and income**.

Key findings include:

- The richest 1% in India own more than 40% of the country's total wealth.
- The bottom 50% of the population share just 3% of wealth.
- India ranks fourth globally in income equality with a **Gini score of 25.5**. (World Bank)

### 3. NITI Aayog's SDG India Index (2023)

- Tracks progress on **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** and **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**.
- Reveals need for focused interventions in socially backward districts.

### 4. Global Gender Gap Report – World Economic Forum (2025)

- India ranks **131 out of 148** countries.
- Highlights the importance of empowering women socially and politically.

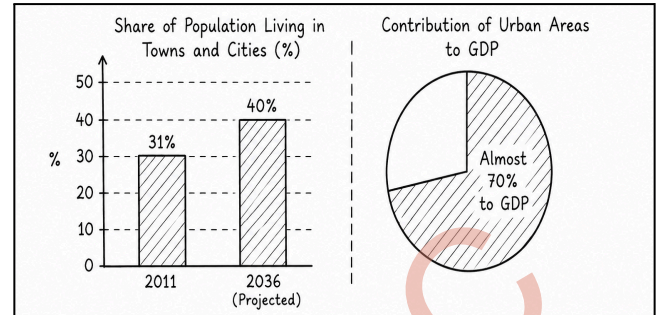
### 5. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6)

- Reveals continued disparities in **literacy, nutrition, and decision-making power** among marginalized women.

## Urbanisation

| PYQ                                                                                                                                                                                       |                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Discussion the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India (2013;10)                                                                      | <b>Urban Problem</b>          |
| Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration.(2015;12.5)                                                | <b>RuralUrban Integration</b> |
| Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country but the air pollution is a much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so?(2015;12.5) | <b>Urban Pollution</b>        |
| Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.(2016;15)                                                                                                 | <b>Urban disaster</b>         |
| With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'(2017;15)                                                   | <b>Programme</b>              |
| The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues employment but has also created new problems. Substantiate this statement with examples. Urbanization (2017;15)               | <b>Urban Problem</b>          |
| The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system." How can it be made effective in urban areas? (2018;15)                                       | <b>Water</b>                  |
| How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India? (2019;15)                                                                            | <b>Urban transport</b>        |
| Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.(2020;15)                                    | <b>Urban disaster</b>         |
| What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of development of IT industries in major cities of India (2021;15)                                                              | <b>Urban Problem</b>          |
| How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption? (2022;10)                                                    | <b>Urbanisation + Class</b>   |
| Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises? (2023;15)                                                                           | <b>Urban poverty</b>          |
| How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning?(2025;15)                                           | <b>Urban planning</b>         |

- 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). This usually occurs when a country is still developing.
- United Nations and World Bank** projections estimate that India's urban population will **cross the 50% mark by 2050**.
- According to **Economic Survey 2025-26**, India is far more urban in economic and functional terms than official definitions suggest.
- Based on satellite data from the Global Human Settlements Layer (GHSL) of the Group on Earth Observations at the European Commission, **India was 63 per cent urban in 2015**, which is nearly double the urbanisation rate reported in the 2011 Census.
- Economic Survey maintained that the World Bank also estimated that by 2036, India's towns and cities will be home to 600 million people, or **40 per cent** of the population, up from 31 per cent in 2011, with urban areas contributing almost 70 per cent to GDP.



**Census of India 2001**, the definition of urban area adopted is as follows:

- All statutory places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc.
- A place satisfying the following three criteria simultaneously:**
  - a minimum population of 5,000;
  - at least 75 percent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
  - a density of population of at least 400 per sq. km. (1,000 per sq. mile).

### Features of urbanisation

- Population Shift to Urban Areas:** Seen in India where people migrate to cities like Mumbai and Delhi for better job opportunities. As per **Census 2011**, India's urban population was **31.16%**. By **2023**, it is estimated to have grown to over **36% by 2023**.
- Growth of Cities:** Evident in Bengaluru, which expanded rapidly due to the rise of the IT industry. **Bengaluru's** population rose from **5.1 million (2001)** to **12.3 million**.
- Industrialisation:** Visible in Chennai, where the growth of automobile industries has driven urban growth.
- Infrastructure Development:** Demonstrated by the **Monorail systems in Mumbai** improving urban connectivity.
- Economic Transformation:** Reflected in **Gurugram's shift** from agriculture to IT and corporate services providing better employment opportunities.
- Change in Lifestyle and Occupation:** Observed in **Pune**, where rural migrants adopt urban jobs like factory or call centre work.
- Social and Cultural Diversification:** Found in **Mumbai**, which hosts a mix of cultures, languages, and traditions from across India.
- Environmental Impact:** Illustrated by **Delhi's air pollution** and traffic congestion due to over-urbanisation.
- Accessibility to services:** Urban areas provide better accessibility to services like **Healthcare, Education, Transportation** etc. (Ex: Growth of metro in Delhi, Bengaluru etc.)
- Cultural transformation:** Increased awareness, lack of interaction etc. reduce influence of social evils like **Caste system**, Growth of **Nuclear families**, **Women empowerment** etc.

## History of urbanisation in India

- **Ancient Urbanisation: Indus Valley Civilisation** (c. 2500–1900 BCE) Cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa featured advanced urban planning, drainage systems, and trade, marking India's earliest urban centres.
- **Post-Vedic and Early Historic Period (c. 1000 BCE–300 CE)**: Urban centres like **Pataliputra**, Ujjain, and Taxila emerged as administrative, religious, and trade hubs under empires like the Mauryas and Guptas.
- **Medieval Urbanisation (c. 600–1757 CE)**: Cities such as **Delhi, Agra, and Hyderabad** grew under Sultanate and Mughal rule as centres of administration, military, trade, and culture.
- **Colonial Urbanisation (1757–1947)**: The British developed port cities like **Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai** for trade and administration, creating spatial and economic imbalances in urban growth.
- **Post-Independence Planned Urbanisation (1947–1991)**: Focus on industrialisation and planned cities like Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar, with state-led development shaping urban patterns.
- **Liberalisation and Global Urbanisation (1991–Present)**: Economic reforms led to the boom of IT and service sectors in cities like **Bengaluru and Gurugram**, rapid migration, infrastructure expansion, and the emergence of megacities.

## Key Factors Fueling the Growth of Urbanisation in India

### 1. Economic Determinants

- **Industrial Expansion**: The proliferation of IT parks and manufacturing zones in cities like **Bengaluru and Pune** acts as a magnet for labor migration.
- **Employment Concentration**: Urban centers such as **Mumbai and Gurugram** serve as economic agglomerations, offering diverse job markets across sectors like finance, media, and outsourcing.
- **Growth of the Informal Sector**: The rise of unregulated employment in sectors like **construction and street vending** supports livelihood options for low-skilled migrants in cities like Delhi and Hyderabad.

### 2. Socio-Structural Shifts

- **Enhanced Human Development Indicators**: Access to superior **health, education, and sanitation** services in cities like Chennai fosters rural-to-urban migration.
- **Aspirational Migration**: The desire for **social mobility and individual autonomy** motivates youth from hinterlands such as Bihar to migrate to urban metros like Delhi.
- **Nuclearization of Families**: The decline of joint family systems in urban Maharashtra has increased demand for independent urban housing.

### 3. Demographic Drivers

- **Youth- Dominated Migration Flows**: **Education and employment** aspirations propel young migrants to hubs like Kota and Bangalore.
- **Urban Fertility Transition**: Cities such as Kolkata exhibit declining fertility rates, reflecting the demographic transition and urban reproductive behavior.

### 4. Technological Catalysts

- **Digital Penetration**: The urban digital economy enables **monetization through social media**; for instance, **content creators** in Mumbai thrive on platforms like YouTube and Instagram.
- **Smart Urban Infrastructure**: The **Smart Cities Mission** has led to urban infrastructure upgrades in cities, enhancing urban liveability and investment potential.

### 5. Policy and Institutional Enablers

- **State-Led Urban Development Schemes**: Programs such as **PMAY and AMRUT** incentivize urban housing, transportation, and basic service improvements.

- **Decentralised Urban Governance:** Institutions like **Resident Welfare Associations** in Bengaluru influence urban governance and spatial planning at the grassroots level.

## 6. Environmental Push Factors

- **Agrarian Distress and Climate Vulnerability:** **Droughts** in Marathwada and climate shocks in Assam and West Bengal accelerate eco-induced displacement towards urban peripheries.
- **Resource Depletion:** Degraded rural ecosystems push rural households to urban areas with better environmental security and services.

## 7. Cultural and Lifestyle Transitions

- **Urban Consumer Culture:** The proliferation of **malls, entertainment hubs, and branded consumption** in areas like Delhi NCR attract rural youth seeking modern lifestyles.
- **Education and Matrimonial Preferences:** Urban residency and educational attainment have become critical factors in urban marriage markets, especially among upwardly mobile women in cities like Chandigarh.

| Positive Effects of Urbanization  |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Effect                            | Brief                                                                                   | Example                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Economic Growth</b>            | Urban areas boost jobs, startups, and innovation.                                       | Bangalore, Mumbai and NCR top startup destinations with over 65% of the total Indian startups.                                                |
| <b>Infrastructure Expansion</b>   | Urbanization drives transport, housing, and utilities development.                      | Delhi–Meerut RRTS (Rapid Rail, 2023)                                                                                                          |
| <b>Education Access</b>           | Urban areas offer top-tier schools and colleges.                                        | Students from rural Bastar areas move to cities like Raipur & Bhillai for higher education.                                                   |
| <b>Healthcare Access</b>          | Presence of multispecialty hospitals and clinics                                        | 69 % of hospital beds in India are concentrated in urban areas : <b>State Of Healthcare in India - Housing.com Report.</b>                    |
| <b>Cultural Exchange</b>          | Urban centers promote multiculturalism and innovation.                                  | Mumbai hosts diverse festivals and global cuisine.                                                                                            |
| <b>Technological Advancements</b> | Cities adopt modern tech for governance and public services.                            | <b>Surat AI Water Pollution Detection</b> can identify a wide range of water pollution, including oil spills, chemical discharges etc.        |
| <b>Women Empowerment</b>          | Better job opportunities, improved services, lower fertility, and relaxed social norms. | Urban influencer economy-urban women earn by sharing fashion, education, fitness, and beauty content on platforms like Instagram and YouTube. |
| <b>Local civic participation</b>  | Through RWAs and community groups.                                                      | Bengaluru, RWAs actively engage in city planning and governance decisions.                                                                    |



|                                                  |                                                      |                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Social inclusivity</b>                        | foster more inclusive environments for marginalized  | Pride parades in cities like Delhi and Kolkata promotes LGBTQ inclusivity.   |
| <b>Reduced Caste &amp; Gender Discrimination</b> | Urban spaces tend to dilute rigid social structures. | Inter-caste marriages and women in Corporate jobs are more common in cities. |

### Challenges / Negative Effects of Urbanization

| Effect                                        | Brief                                                                                                | Example                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unplanned Slum Growth</b>                  | Overcrowded informal settlements due to migration and housing shortages.                             | <b>Dharavi</b> remains Asia's largest slum in Mumbai                                                                                      |
| <b>Housing Affordability Crisis</b>           | Real estate boom prices out lower-income groups, pushing them to slums or <b>peri-urban zones</b> .  | The number of affordable homes (₹1 crore and below) has declined by 36%-according to real estate data analytics firm <b>PropEquity</b> .  |
| <b>Air &amp; Water Pollution</b>              | Urban industrialization and vehicle growth lead to toxic air and contaminated water bodies.          | Delhi AQI exceeded 450 multiple times in winter.                                                                                          |
| <b>Urban Heat Islands (UHIs)</b>              | Dense construction and lack of green cover raises urban temperatures.                                | Hyderabad & Ahmedabad recorded +4°C temperature vs nearby rural areas in 2023.                                                            |
| <b>Waste Management Crisis</b>                | Rapid population growth overwhelms solid waste disposal systems.                                     | Chennai experienced a water crisis in 2019 and declared " <b>Day Zero</b> ," which meant the city's main reservoirs had run dry.          |
| <b>Social Alienation and Crime</b>            | Due to weakened community ties, economic inequality, and marginalization of vulnerable urban groups. | Gurugram & Noida witnessed a 30% rise in thefts and cybercrime (NCRB 2023).                                                               |
| <b>Mental Health Strain</b>                   | Fast-paced, high-pressure city life affects psychological well-being.                                | Rising urban anxiety and depression noted among youth in Tier-1 cities post-pandemic.                                                     |
| <b>Urban Flooding &amp; Drainage Failures</b> | Poor urban planning blocks natural water flow, encroachments, increasing flood risks.                | Chennai (2023) floods.                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Traffic Congestion &amp; Mobility Gaps</b> | Inadequate public transport increases vehicle dependence and commuting times.                        | Traffic congestion in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata costs India around ₹1.5 lakh crore annually, as estimated by BCG. |

|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Poor Urban Planning &amp; Land Use Mismanagement</b> | Haphazard expansion without integrated planning causes sprawl and inefficiency.                                                                 | <b>Bangalore-Bellandur and Varthur lakes</b> have shrunk drastically due to real estate and road encroachments. |
| <b>Corruption and Inequitable Development</b>           | Corruption in land acquisition, building approvals, smart city funds, and infrastructure contracts leads to inefficient spending and exclusion. | Adarsh Housing Society Scam (2010)                                                                              |
| <b>Evictions &amp; Displacement</b>                     | Infrastructure projects often displace slum residents without proper rehabilitation.                                                            | <b>Slum evictions</b> in Delhi (Yamuna floodplain) before G20 2023 sparked criticism.                           |
| <b>Erosion of Local Culture and Traditions</b>          | Rapid urban growth often displaces traditional lifestyles, community rituals, and local heritage in favor of a homogenized urban culture.       | In villages, marriage is still a sacred ceremony, whereas in urban areas, it has become more of a social event. |
| <b>Decline of Regional Languages</b>                    | In urban multilingual environments, dominant or global languages (Ex: Hindi, English) overshadow regional tongues.                              | <b>Maithili</b> in Patna and <b>Assamese</b> in Guwahati face reduced visibility in public and schools.         |

### Report “Moving Towards Effective City Government – A Framework for Million-plus Cities” by NITI Aayog

- The report identifies persistent governance issues, including weak and fragmented leadership structures, **constrained fiscal capacity**, and capacity gaps that limit service delivery and urban performance.

#### Key recommendations of the report include:

- Strengthening city leadership** through the introduction of a **directly elected Mayor** with a fixed tenure, supported by an empowered Mayor-in-Council system to ensure continuity, clarity, and accountability in decision-making.
- Integrating urban service** delivery by bringing key functions such as water supply, sanitation, and public transport **under the purview of city governments** to improve coordination and accountability.
- Enhancing municipal finances** by strengthening own-source revenues, ensuring more predictable and **timely fiscal transfers** through robust State Finance Commissions, and enabling access to market-based financing mechanisms such as **municipal bonds**.
- Undertaking institutional restructuring** by bringing multiple parastatal agencies involved in service delivery under city government oversight, with clearly defined roles and stronger coordination frameworks.

### Urban Flooding:

- Urban flooding refers to the inundation of land or property in densely populated areas, caused by heavy rainfall overwhelming the drainage capacity of cities.

| Causes of Urban Flooding |             |         |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Cause                    | Explanation | Example |

|                                             |                                                                               |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Poor Drainage Infrastructure</b>         | Outdated, clogged, or insufficient stormwater drains.                         | <b>Chennai floods (2015):</b> 490 mm rainfall in 24 hours overwhelmed old drainage. |
| <b>Unplanned Urban Growth</b>               | Concrete surfaces reduce natural absorption; wetlands and lakes encroachment. | Bengaluru has lost <b>79%</b> of its wetlands since 1973.                           |
| <b>Climate Change</b>                       | Increases intensity and frequency of extreme rainfall events.                 | Mumbai received 375.2 mm in 24 hours (July 2021).                                   |
| <b>Encroachment on Natural Water Bodies</b> | Lakes, riverbeds, and mangroves filled for construction.                      | Hyderabad lost many lakes like Balkapur, leading to floods in 2020.                 |
| <b>Blocked Drains and Solid Waste</b>       | Garbage clogs stormwater systems, preventing water flow.                      | Delhi faces waterlogging in monsoon due to solid waste in drains.                   |

### Learning from the Best: Global Urban Planning Practices India Can Adopt

| City             | Strategy                                                                | Lessons                                                                         |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Singapore</b> | Efficient public transport, green spaces, affordable housing.           | Transit-oriented development, integrated land-use and transport planning.       |
| <b>Seoul</b>     | Slum transformation, digital public services, inclusive infrastructure. | Urban tech adoption, slum redevelopment with tech and community participation.  |
| <b>Shenzhen</b>  | Massive job creation, infrastructure boom, global manufacturing hub.    | Link economic zones with urban planning, promote tier-2 city industrialisation. |

## Urbanisation and Disaster

Rapid and unplanned urbanization increases the risk of natural disasters by modifying landscapes, stressing infrastructure, and placing vulnerable populations in hazardous zones.

### Key Impacts of Urbanization

#### 1. Altered Landscapes

- Concrete replaces natural surfaces, reducing water absorption.
- Surface runoff increases, causing frequent urban flooding.
- Drainage systems often can't handle heavy rains.
- Ex: **Hyderabad floods (2020)** were intensified due to encroachment on lake beds.

#### 2. High-Risk Settlements

- Informal housing develops in low-lying, unstable, or unauthorized zones.
- These areas lack disaster-resistant structures.
- Ex: **Landslides in Munnar, Kerala (2020)**, killed several in settlements built on unstable hill slopes.

### 3. Population and Asset Concentration

- Cities house dense populations and critical infrastructure.
- Disasters disrupt transport, communication, and utilities.
- Ex: The **2001 Bhuj earthquake** caused heavy urban damage, collapsing thousands of buildings.

### 4. Unequal Access to Infrastructure and Services

- Slums and marginalized areas often lack proper sanitation, healthcare, and early warning systems.
- Evacuation and recovery become harder for the poor.
- Ex: **Mumbai's 2005 floods** hit slum areas hardest, where drains were clogged

### 5. Destruction of Natural Buffers

- Wetlands, mangroves, and forests are cleared for urban development.
- Loss of these buffers increases flood and heat risk.
- Ex: The **destruction of mangroves in Navi Mumbai** contributed to severe flooding during the 2019 monsoon.

### Types of Disasters Worsened by Urbanization in India

- **Floods:** Chennai floods (2015) due to blocked waterways and encroachments.
- **Landslides:** Shimla and other Himachal towns face frequent slides from slope cutting and construction.
- **Earthquakes:** Delhi-NCR remains highly vulnerable due to poor compliance with building codes.
- **Urban Heat Islands:** Cities like Ahmedabad experience extreme heat due to high-rise construction and low tree cover.

### Solutions and Mitigation Strategies

#### 1. Urban Planning

- Integrate hazard zones into city master plans.
- Enforce building codes and discourage risky land use.
- Ex: **Bhubaneswar Smart City Plan** includes green zones

#### 2. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- Develop early warning systems and community disaster teams.
- Strengthen emergency infrastructure.
- Ex: **Odisha's cyclone preparedness**, including shelters and alerts, saved lives during Cyclone Fani (2019).

#### 3. Green and Resilient Infrastructure

- Promote green roofs, urban parks, and rainwater harvesting.
- Restore water bodies and natural drainage.
- Ex: Pune's riverfront development includes floodplain protection and green buffer zones.

#### 4. Technology integration in disaster management

- **Drone** based hazard zone mapping and planning.
- **IoT** based sensors for early warning systems.

| Text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Context           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Cities</li> <li>• Affordable, Green, and Resilient Housing Environment</li> <li>• Promote Safe, Well Planned and Serviced Neighborhoods</li> <li>• Accountable and Efficient Urban Governance</li> <li>• Knowledge Systematization and Learning</li> </ul> | Solution oriented |

| Template for urbanisation related answers |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Social</b>                             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing &amp; Slums: Affordable housing, informal settlements, homelessness, rental housing</li> <li>2. Public Health: Disease outbreaks, healthcare access, environmental health risks</li> <li>3. Education &amp; Human Capital: Access to schools, skill development, digital literacy</li> <li>4. Safety &amp; Security: Women's safety, crime prevention, surveillance systems</li> <li>5. Social Inclusion: Gender inclusion, elderly-friendly cities, disabled-friendly infrastructure</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Economic</b>                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Employment &amp; Urban Economy: Informal sector, MSMEs, job creation, gig economy</li> <li>2. Urban Infrastructure: Roads, drainage, street lighting, public amenities</li> <li>3. Urban Finance: Property tax, municipal bonds, revenue generation</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Environmental</b>                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environment &amp; Ecology: Air pollution, urban heat islands, loss of wetlands, green spaces</li> <li>2. Climate Resilience: Flood management, heat action plans, disaster preparedness</li> <li>3. Water Supply : Access to potable water, groundwater depletion, water security</li> <li>4. Sanitation &amp; Sewerage: Toilets, sewage treatment, open drains, wastewater management</li> <li>5. Solid Waste Management: Waste segregation, recycling, landfill management, circular economy</li> </ol> |
| <b>Governance</b>                         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Governance &amp; Federalism: Centre-State-ULB coordination, 74th CAA implementation</li> <li>2. Land Use &amp; Urban Planning: Zoning, mixed land use, urban sprawl, TOD</li> <li>3. Peri-Urban Development: Unplanned expansion, land conversion, governance gaps</li> <li>4. Digital Urban Governance: Smart cities, e-governance, AI, GIS, digital divide</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                   |

### Future Directions

#### 1. Social and Economic Dimension

- **Goal:** Inclusive growth with better quality of life and economic opportunity.
- **Strategy:** Affordable housing, slum rehabilitation, health, education, economic hubs, MSME support, and skill development.
- **Ex:** **Shenzhen, China** transformed from a fishing village to a global tech hub through SEZ policies.

#### 2. Environmental and Technological Dimension

- **Goal:** Sustainable, resilient, and smart cities.
- **Strategy:** Green spaces, waste and water management, eco-transport, IoT, and smart infrastructure.
- **Ex:** **Barcelona** uses IoT for energy, waste, and water management.

#### 3. Governance and Institutional Dimension

- **Goal:** Participatory and efficient urban governance.
- **Strategy:** Empower ULBs, decentralised planning, state policy support, and public participation.
- **Ex:** **Kerala** known for effective decentralised urban governance.



#### 4. Spatial and Infrastructure Dimension

- **Goal:** Well-connected, compact, and livable urban spaces.
- **Strategy:** Integrated land-use and transport planning, TOD, and regional development.
- **Ex:** **Singapore** compact city model with integrated planning.

#### 5. Community and Civic Engagement Dimension

- **Goal:** Inclusive participation and social innovation.
- **Strategy:** NGO action, youth-led initiatives, and civic engagement.
- **Ex:** **The Ugly Indian** – Youth-driven urban cleanliness movement.

| Some keywords can be used in answers before generic content |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ministry</b>                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)</b> with executive authority.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Schemes</b>                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Smart Cities Mission</b>-initiative aimed at promoting sustainable and inclusive urban development through technology-driven, citizen-friendly infrastructure and services.</li> <li>● <b>AMRUT Mission</b>-initiative focused on improving basic urban infrastructure and services like water supply, sewerage, and urban transport in 500 cities to enhance quality of life.</li> <li>● <b>RURBAN Mission</b>-Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission) aims to develop rural areas by providing urban-like infrastructure and services, creating "<b>Rurban clusters</b>" that combine the essence of rural life with urban amenities.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Institutions</b>                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)</b> conducts research, provides technical support, and develops policy frameworks for urban development.</li> <li>● <b>Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)</b> Focuses on promoting green building practices in urban areas to ensure sustainable urban development.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Reports</b>                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NITI Aayog's Urbanization Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reforms In Urban Planning Capacity In India Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During 2011-36, urban growth will be responsible for 73% of the rise in total population in India.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Urban Transformation Sector Report</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Report on Urban Poverty and Slums (UN-Habitat)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

#### Important Terms

**Sub-Urbanization**-Means urbanization of rural areas around the cities characterized by the following features:

- A sharp increase in the '**urban (non-agricultural) uses**' of land
- Inclusion of surrounding areas of towns within its municipal limits, and
- Intensive communication of all types between town and its surrounding areas

**Out Growths (OGs)**- Urban extensions that develop just outside the boundaries of a statutory town or city but functionally depend on it. Some of the examples are railway colony, university campus, port

area, military camps, etc., which have come up near a statutory town outside its statutory limits but within the revenue limits of a village or villages contiguous to the town.

**Urban Agglomeration (UA)**- A town together with its outgrowth(s) is treated as an integrated urban area and designated as an **Urban Agglomeration (UA)**. It typically consists of:

- (i) A city or town with an outgrowth outside its statutory limits but within adjacent village boundaries;
- (ii) Two or more adjoining towns along with their outgrowths; or
- (iii) A city and one or more adjoining towns, with or without outgrowths, forming a single continuous spread.

**Urbanism**- Urbanism has been defined as patterns of culture and social interaction resulting from the concentration of large populations into relatively small areas.

It reflects an organization of society in terms of a complex division of labour, high levels of technology, high mobility, interdependence of its members in fulfilling economic functions and impersonality in social relations

## Globalization and its Impacts

### PYQs

To what extent globalisation has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.(2016 ;10)

Globalisation is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian Society." Elucidate.(2018;10)

Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss.(2019;15)

Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to Globalisation? Justify.(2020;15)

Elucidate the relationship between Globalisation and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India.(2022;15)

Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family? (2024;15)

Do you think that globalization results in only an aggressive consumer culture? Justify your answer. (2025; 10)

1. "In the age of globalization, borders are becoming bridges."- Kofi Annan
2. "Globalization is a fact of life. But I believe we have underestimated its fragility."- Kofi Annan
3. "Globalization is not just an economic process, it's also a cultural, political, and environmental one."- Joseph Stiglitz

### Meaning of globalisation:

- **Globalisation** refers to the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of the world's economies, cultures, technologies, and populations, brought about by **cross-border trade, investment, information flow, and migration**.

### Components of Globalization:

- **Economic Integration**: India exports software services to the USA and imports electronics from China.
- **Cultural Exchange**: Hollywood movies are watched in India, while Indian cuisine and yoga are popular globally.
- **Technological Flow**: Smartphones designed in **California, manufactured in China**, and sold in India.
- **Labour Mobility**: Indian nurses working in the UK and Indian tech professionals in Silicon Valley.
- **Global Brands**: McDonald's, Amazon, and Zara operate across multiple countries with local adaptations.
- **Financial Interdependence**: Stock market crashes in the USA can **impact** markets in India and other countries.

### Factors that led to India joining globalisation:

1. **1991 Economic Reforms**: Liberalisation policies reduced trade barriers, encouraged private sector growth, and opened doors for **foreign investment**.

2. **IT & Services Boom:** India became a global outsourcing hub due to its skilled, **English-speaking workforce**
  - **Ex:** Companies like Infosys, TCS attracted global clients.
3. **FDI Liberalisation:** Relaxed norms in sectors like telecom, retail, and defence drew in foreign capital, tech, and managerial expertise.
  - **Ex:** Amazon, Walmart, and Apple operations in India.
4. **Indian Diaspora Influence:** Over 30 million Indians abroad boost India's image, trade, and culture globally.
  - **Ex:** **Sundar Pichai (Google) and Rishi Sunak (UK PM).**
5. **World Trade Organization (WTO):** India's participation in **WTO** aligns it with global trade norms and dispute resolution frameworks.
6. **Infrastructure Push:** Upgrades in roads, ports, airports (like **Delhi T3, Sagarmala Project**) have improved global connectivity.
7. **Skilled & Diverse Workforce:** India offers talent in fields like IT, medicine, and engineering-making it a global outsourcing and innovation centre.
8. **Cultural Soft Power:** Global spread of yoga, Bollywood, Indian cuisine, and festivals promotes cultural exchange and global presence.
9. **Inter-governmental organisations:** Growth of groupings like **G-20, BRICS, BIMSTEC** etc. led to increased globalisation.

| Impacts of globalisation on different sections of society |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sections                                                  | Positive                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Negative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Children</b>                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access to global education resources and technology.</li> <li>Exposure to diverse cultures enhances awareness and tolerance.</li> <li>Increased international <b>health initiatives</b> <b>improve</b> <b>child healthcare.</b></li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rise in child labor due to global economic pressures.</li> <li>Exposure to harmful foreign content via media and internet.</li> <li><b>Urban migration</b> breaks traditional family support, affecting child care.</li> </ul>                               |
| <b>Backward Classes</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater job opportunities through globalized industries and outsourcing.</li> <li>Access to international scholarships and skill development programs.</li> <li>Increased <b>social awareness and activism</b> via global human rights movements.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic inequality can worsen as benefits of globalization often bypass marginalized groups.</li> <li><b>Cultural erosion</b> of traditional customs and languages.</li> <li>Competition with more skilled migrants can reduce local employment.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Senior Citizens</b>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to advanced healthcare technologies and medicines.</li> <li>Increased pension schemes and financial products influenced by global standards.</li> <li>Exposure to global social networks reduces loneliness.</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakdown of joint family system due to migration and urbanization.</li> <li>Difficulty adapting to rapid technological change</li> <li>Social neglect as the younger generation adopts <b>globalized lifestyles.</b></li> </ul>                             |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Disabled</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved assistive technologies and global advocacy for rights.</li> <li>Enhanced employment opportunities in IT and service sectors.</li> <li>Greater access to education through online platforms.</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social stigma persists, sometimes reinforced by changing societal structures.</li> <li>Unequal access to technology due to economic disparities.</li> <li>Lack of sufficient policy implementation despite global standards</li> </ul>                  |
| <b>Women</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased employment opportunities and economic independence.</li> <li>Global feminist movements influence policy reforms and social awareness.</li> <li>Access to education and health resources improved through international aid.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploitation in global supply chains. Ex: Garment industry sweatshops.</li> <li>Traditional gender roles challenged, causing <b>societal backlash</b>.</li> <li>Unequal access to benefits of globalization between urban &amp; rural women.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Youth</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater access to global education, jobs, and cultural exchange programs.</li> <li>Exposure to new ideas fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.</li> <li><b>Digital connectivity</b> enhances skill-building and activism.</li> </ul>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job insecurity due to automation and global competition.</li> <li><b>Cultural alienation</b> from rapid social changes.</li> <li>Increased mental health issues linked to social media and globalization stress.</li> </ul>                             |
| <b>LGBTQ+</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global movements inspire legal reforms and greater social acceptance.</li> <li>Access to global platforms for advocacy and community building.</li> <li>Improved <b>mental health awareness and support networks</b>.</li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural backlash and resistance due to traditional norms.</li> <li>Limited reach of global support in rural or conservative areas.</li> <li><b>Risk of tokenism and superficial inclusion</b> without systemic change.</li> </ul>                      |

### Impacts of globalisation on various institutions of the society:

| <b>Economy</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Positive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased foreign investment boosting industries and infrastructure.</li> <li>Growth of export markets and integration with global supply chains.</li> <li>Technology transfer improves productivity.</li> <li>Expansion of e-commerce (Amazon, Flipkart) due to integration into global value chains.</li> </ul> | <b>Negative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic industries facing tough competition from multinational corporations.</li> <li>Job losses in traditional sectors unable to compete globally.</li> <li>Economic vulnerability to global market fluctuations.</li> <li>Widening income inequality: Rich benefit more than the poor.</li> </ul> |



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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the DPIIT, India received <b>\$81 billion FDI in 2024–25</b>, compared to \$4 billion in 2000.</li> <li>• <b>Major global companies investing in India:</b> Apple manufacturing through Foxconn, Tesla exploring the Indian market, Samsung mobile manufacturing in Noida etc.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Gini coefficient for India</b> in 2023 was 0.410, which is higher than the 1955 Gini coefficient of 0.371. The Gini coefficient is a measure of income inequality, with a higher number indicating greater income disparity. Currently it is 0.255 out of 1.</li> <li>• While Bengaluru's tech sector thrives, <b>rural manufacturing in Vidarbha</b> declined due to global competition and lack of policy support.</li> <li>• Small-scale industries like <b>handloom, toys and local manufacturing</b> struggled against cheaper imported goods from countries like China.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <h3>Marriage</h3>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Positive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater acceptance of intercultural and interfaith marriages.</li> <li>• Exposure to progressive ideas about gender equality in relationships.</li> <li>• Increased autonomy in partner selection through online platforms.</li> <li>• <b>Digital Mate Selection:</b> A process where technology intermediates partner choice, blending traditional values with modern methods.(Ex: <b>shaadi.com, BhaaratMatrimony</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Individualised Marriage:</b> A form of marriage based on emotional intimacy, self-development, and egalitarian roles, rather than traditional duty.</li> <li>• The <b>National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21)</b> shows a rise in inter-caste marriages from 10% to 13% over the past decade</li> </ul> | <p><b>Negative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercialisation of Marriage-Lavish destination weddings, designer wear, and film-style celebrations reflect consumer culture. As per <b>Economist Report (2024)</b>, the Indian wedding industry is worth <b>₹10 lakh crore</b>.</li> <li>• Rising dowry expenses in some regions despite legal bans.</li> <li>• <b>Conspicuous Matrimony:</b> Marriages used to display wealth and social status, often leading to economic strain.</li> <li>• Delay in Marriages &amp; Decline in Fertility.</li> <li>• Urban youth delay or opt out of marriage for careers or lifestyle preferences.(Ex: <b>Double Income No Kids(DINK) Syndrome</b>, Single parent households etc.)</li> <li>• <b>Emerging Singlehood Norms:</b> A trend where staying single or childfree is seen as a valid life choice, especially among educated urban populations.</li> </ul> |
| <h3>Family</h3>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Positive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposure to nuclear family models promoting individual freedom.</li> <li>• Better communication with family members abroad through technology.</li> <li>• Access to diverse parenting and family welfare ideas.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>Negative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakdown of joint family systems leading to isolation of elderly.(Ex: Elderly parents in rural areas often live alone)</li> <li>• Increased migration causes family separation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumerist culture impacting family values.(Ex: Single parent households, <b>DINK syndrome</b> etc.)</li> <li>NCRB data indicates a divorce rate of approximately <b>1.1%</b> in 2020.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Positive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to global knowledge, online courses, and educational resources.(Ex: <b>SWAYAM</b>)</li> <li>Exposure to international educational standards and methods.(Ex: <b>Udemy, Coursera etc.</b>)</li> <li>Increased opportunities for student exchange and scholarships.</li> <li>Emphasis on STEM education and digital literacy.</li> <li>National Education Policy (<b>NEP</b>) 2020 promotes global collaborations.</li> <li><b>IIT Madras's campus in Tanzania (2023).</b></li> </ul> | <b>Negative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban-rural education divide widens due to uneven access.</li> <li>Commercialization of education with high costs.</li> <li>Loss of local knowledge and languages in curricula.(Ex: <b>Dominance of English</b>)</li> <li>High cost of MBA and engineering education in private colleges leads to student debt, and many end up unemployed due to skill mismatch.</li> </ul>          |
| <b>Media and Communication</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Positive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Digital Public Sphere:</b> More public dialogue and activism.Ex: <b>Farmers protests</b> organised via social media.</li> <li><b>Content Globalisation:</b> Indian content reaches global audience.Ex: <b>Netflix's "Sacred Games."</b></li> <li><b>Access to Information:</b> Rapid sharing of news and ideas.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Negative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Infodemic:</b> Spread of misinformation online.Ex: COVID-19 vaccine myths on whatsapp.</li> <li><b>Soft Power Invasion:</b> Western media overshadows local culture.</li> <li><b>Polarisation (Echo Chambers):</b> People consume biased content.</li> <li><b>Security concerns:</b> Use of social media for radicalisation of Youth.(Ex: J&amp;K radicalisation issue)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Political Institutions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Positive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Digital Governance:</b> Improved transparency and efficiency.Ex: <b>DigiLocker, UMANG</b> apps.</li> <li><b>Global Role:</b> India's voice in global forums enhanced.Ex: G20 presidency in 2023.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Negative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Policy Conditionality:</b> International agencies influence policies.</li> <li><b>Populism:</b> Social media amplifies divisive politics via hate speech, misinformation etc.</li> <li><b>Echo Chambers:</b> Deepening political polarisation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                          |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Citizen Engagement:</b> Online platforms increase participation. Ex: MyGOV, Online RTI.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Health Institutions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Positive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access to advanced medical technology and treatments.</li> <li>● <b>Health Diplomacy:</b> India helps others via vaccine exports.Ex: <b>Vaccine Maitri initiative.</b></li> <li>● <b>Pharmacy of the World:</b> Affordable medicines globally.Ex: Generic drug exports.</li> <li>● <b>Medical Tourism:</b> Foreign patients visit India for treatment.</li> </ul> | <b>Negative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Health Inequity:</b> Poor face lack of quality care and the share of <b>Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)</b> in total Health Expenditure (THE) 43.4%. (PIB)</li> <li>● <b>Pharmaceutical Dependency:</b> Reliance on imports for raw materials.</li> <li>● <b>Privatisation:</b> Increased cost of healthcare services.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Cultural Institutions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Positive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Cultural Soft Power:</b> Yoga and Bollywood gain global fame.Ex: <b>International Day of Yoga.</b></li> <li>● <b>Cultural Hybridisation:</b> Fusion of Indian and global cultures. Ex: Aaloo Tikki Burger, Jeans-Kurti.</li> <li>● <b>Revival of Traditions:</b> Global interest boosts some art forms. Ex: Global popularity of Toda shawls.</li> </ul>       | <b>Negative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Cultural Homogenisation:</b> Loss of unique local cultures,197 Indian languages endangered.</li> <li>● <b>Westernisation:</b> Youth favour global brands over local culture.</li> <li>● <b>McDonaldisation:</b> Fast, uniform lifestyles replace traditional values.</li> </ul>                                                    |

**Echo chambers** occur on social media platforms like **Facebook and WhatsApp**, where users mainly follow and interact with people who share similar political views, reinforcing their beliefs and limiting exposure to opposing opinions, which deepens social and political polarization in India.

### Challenges due to globalisation:

1. **Job Displacement & Inequality:** Globalization shifts manufacturing to countries with cheaper labor.
  - **Ex:** Many developed countries like the US and UK have seen deindustrialization and job losses in traditional sectors due to **outsourcing and automation**, leading to rising inequality and populist backlash.
2. **Cultural Homogenization:** Local cultures, languages, and traditions get overshadowed by dominant global cultures.
  - **Example - Western Lifestyle Influence in Urban India, Dominance of English Language**
3. **Exploitation of Labor:** Workers in developing countries may face poor working conditions and low wages.

- **Ex:** In 2024, several protests were held in **Bangladesh** over unsafe conditions and low pay in global garment supply chains serving brands like **H&M** and **Zara**.
- 4. Environmental Degradation**
    - **Ex:** **Amazon rainforest** deforestation linked to soy and beef exports to global markets like China and Europe.
  - 5. Tax Avoidance by MNCs**
    - **Ex:** In 2023, reports exposed how tech giants like **Apple and Google** continue shifting profits to low-tax jurisdictions, affecting revenues of countries they operate in.
  - 6. Health Risks**
    - **Ex:** **COVID-19** pandemic (2019–2022) spread rapidly across borders due to global interconnectedness.
  - 7. Economic Dependence & Vulnerability:** Over-dependence on global supply chains can backfire during crises.
    - **Ex:** During the **Russia-Ukraine war** (2022 onwards) many countries faced food and fertilizer shortages due to disrupted global supply chains.
  - 8. Digital Divide**
    - **Ex:** AI and tech-driven growth in the Global North contrasts with limited access in parts of **Africa and South Asia**.

### Deglobalisation:

- **Deglobalisation** is the global trend of turning inward, reducing cross-border trade, investments, and mobility, while reshoring supply chains and focusing on national self-reliance.

### Key triggers:

- Geopolitical Flashpoints:** Wars like **Russia-Ukraine** and **Israel-Gaza** strain global trade and trigger sanctions, leading to block-based economics.
- Weakening Global Institutions:** Bodies like the **WTO** and **WHO** are losing effectiveness, prompting countries to go solo on trade and crisis response.
- Return of Protectionism:**
  - **Examples:** **US Inflation Reduction Act**, **India's PLI scheme**, **UK post-Brexit tariffs** all promote domestic-first growth.
- Supply Chain Shocks:** COVID-19, **Suez Canal blockage**, and **Red Sea attacks (2024)** exposed overdependence on global supply routes.
- Job Anxiety in the West :** Offshoring to Asia fuels unemployment fears in the **US, UK, EU**, strengthening economic nationalism.
- Rising Inequality:** As per **Oxfam 2024**, the richest 1% control half the world's wealth - creating a backlash against global capitalism.
- Political Nationalism:** '**America First**' policies, sanctions on rivals, and rise of right-wing parties fragment the global economic order, **EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**.
- Fragmented Regionalism:** Events like **Brexit**, **US exit from TPP**, and EU divisions dilute regional cooperation.
- Exploitative policies:** **BRI** initiative of China following the "**debt trap policy**".

### Rise of India's New Middle Class

- Globalization has transformed India's social fabric, giving rise to a new middle class (NMC) that is reshaping the country's cultural and economic landscape. While there's no clear definition, the NMC is shaped by factors like **income, education, wealth, occupation, and lifestyle**.
- **Impact of Globalization**

- **Economic Growth and Consumerism:** Job creation in the service sector has increased disposable incomes, driving consumerism. However, aspirational lifestyles can lead to unsustainable debt.
- **Upward Mobility:** Access to global opportunities and education has provided pathways for social mobility.
- **Changing Family Dynamics:** More women entering the workforce has reshaped traditional family structures, fostering gender equality and new roles.
- **Challenges Faced by the New Middle Class**
  - **Work-Life Imbalance:** High work pressure causes stress and impacts personal and family life.
  - **Job Displacement:** Automation and outsourcing can lead to job losses in certain sectors.
  - **Rising Cost of Living:** Global market integration has raised the cost of essentials, reducing disposable income.
  - **Inequality:** The benefits of globalization are unevenly distributed, leaving some segments struggling.
  - **Cultural Homogenization:** Exposure to global cultures may challenge traditional Indian values.

**Globalization** offers **opportunities for growth and mobility** but also brings challenges like inequality and cultural homogenization, as India's new middle class navigates this changing landscape.

### India's Achievements in the Era of Globalisation

Globalisation has transformed India across multiple sectors, driving growth and global integration.

1. **Economic Growth and Global Integration:**
  - India is now the **sixth-largest economy**, with a GDP of \$4.15 trillion in 2026.
  - It attracts significant FDI, receiving \$84 billion in 2023, especially in sectors like IT and infrastructure.
  - The service sector, led by IT hubs in cities like **Bangalore and Pune**, is a global leader, with companies like TCS and Infosys driving growth.
2. **Technological Advancements:**
  - India is a leader in IT services, with major companies serving global markets.
  - Initiatives like **Digital India** and **UPI** have revolutionized digital transactions, with over 8 billion UPI transactions per month.
3. **Improved Trade and Economic Policies:**
  - India's exports, especially in pharmaceuticals, textiles, and engineering, have surged.
  - Trade agreements like **RCEP** have expanded global ties.
4. **Cultural Exchange and Soft Power:**
  - Indian culture, including Bollywood and yoga, is globally recognized.
  - The Indian diaspora contributes to cultural and economic exchange, with figures like **Sundar Pichai** and **Indra Nooyi** promoting India's influence.
5. **Social Mobility and Education:**
  - Indian students increasingly study abroad, while institutions like **IITs** attract global talent.
  - Urban living standards have improved, with e-commerce platforms like Amazon reshaping consumer habits.
6. **Environmental and Sustainability Efforts:**
  - India aims to be a global leader in renewable energy, targeting 500 GW of non-fossil energy by 2030.
  - It is the **fourth-largest solar producer** globally, with major projects like the **Rewa Solar Park**.



India has leveraged globalisation to boost its economy, technology, and culture, establishing itself as a key player in the global arena while facing challenges like inequality and sustainability.

### Globalization and the Environment:

- **Globalization** refers to the process of increased interconnectedness and interdependence among countries, primarily driven by advancements in trade, technology, communication, and the movement of people.
- It impacts many aspects of society, including the **economy, culture, politics, and the environment**.

#### Positive Impacts:

1. **Global Awareness:** Increased global attention on environmental issues through shared information.  
Ex: International agreements like the **Paris Agreement** to combat climate change.
2. **Green Technologies:** Spread of sustainable technologies, promoting cleaner energy and efficient practices.  
Ex: Global adoption of solar energy and electric vehicles, **International Solar Alliance**.
3. **International Cooperation:** Collaborative environmental policies and treaties.  
Ex: The **Kyoto Protocol** for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.
4. **Sustainable Development:** Encourages eco-friendly practices and renewable energy.  
Ex: Companies adopting sustainability measures like reducing carbon footprints and waste recycling.

#### Negative Impacts:

- **Resource Depletion:** Increased demand for natural resources due to global trade, leading to overexploitation.  
Ex: **Deforestation in the Amazon** for timber and agricultural products like soy and palm oil.
- **Pollution:** Industrial growth and transportation contribute to air, water, and soil pollution.  
Ex: Emissions from factories and vehicles, plastic waste accumulation in oceans.
- **Climate Change:** Higher greenhouse gas emissions from increased production and transportation.  
Ex: Rising carbon emissions due to the global supply chain, contributing to global warming.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** Habitat destruction and overexploitation of species.  
Ex: Loss of biodiversity from land conversion for agriculture in tropical regions.

#### Way Forward – G.L.O.B.A.L. Strategy:

- **G – Green & Inclusive Growth:** Push for sustainability (COP28, LiFE).
- **L – Local + Global:** Build resilient local industries with selective global ties (Atmanirbhar Bharat).
- **O – Open & Fair Trade:** Strengthen ethical, transparent trade (DPI, WTO facilitation).
- **B – Bridge Cultures:** Deepen people-to-people ties (G20, Yoga Day).
- **A – Adaptive Diplomacy:** Reform global governance, foster peace (UN, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam).
- **L – Leverage Tech for Good:** Share digital tools globally (UPI, AI Safety Summit).

### Globalisation and Consumerism

While globalization has accelerated consumerist tendencies, it has also empowered consumers and expanded choices.

#### Globalisation promoting consumerism:

1. **Expansion of global markets:** Globalization has led to diversification of choices.  
a. Ex: Popularity of **I-Phones** in India.
2. **Advertisement and social media growth:** Celebrity endorsements and **influencer culture** stimulate demand for branded products.

3. **Growth of E-Commerce and Digital Economy:** Platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart provide easy access to goods from across the world.
  - a. Ex: Strategies such as **competitive discounts, options for EMI** etc.
4. **Increased purchasing power:** Economic growth and expanding middle classes have enhanced disposable incomes.
5. **Cultural homogenisation:** Local traditions are often replaced by global brands and lifestyles.
  - a. Ex: Brands like **H&M, Zara** etc. gaining popularity.
6. **Changes in lifestyle and aspiration:** Globalisation has promoted individualism and material success as markers of social status.

#### Globalisation does not necessarily promote consumerism

1. **Greater Consumer Awareness:** Access to information enables consumers to make informed and rational choices.
  - a. Ex: Consumers increasingly prefer products with **eco-labels, organic certifications, and fair-trade standards** after researching online.
2. **Promotion of Responsible Consumption:** Global environmental movements encourage minimalism, recycling, and sustainable lifestyles.
  - a. Ex: **UN-SDG, Earth Hour, Mission LiFE** etc.
3. **Increased Competition Benefits Consumers:** Globalisation enhances product quality and lowers prices through competition.
  - a. Ex: Competition between **Xiaomi, Samsung, and Apple** has improved product quality while making technology more affordable.
4. **Preservation and Revival of Local Products:** Global markets provide opportunities for indigenous products such as handicrafts, handlooms, and GI-tagged goods.
  - a. Ex: **Banarasi Silk Saree, Darjeeling Tea, Pochampally Ikat, Toda Shawls** etc. have found international markets through globalization.
5. **Empowerment Through Choice:** Consumers enjoy greater autonomy and variety rather than being limited to domestic products.

The challenge is not globalisation per se, but ensuring that economic integration is accompanied by ethical consumption, environmental sustainability, and preservation of cultural diversity.

**As Mahatma Gandhi observed, "The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not for everyone's greed."** This principle remains relevant in balancing globalisation with responsible consumption.

#### Globalisation impact on Tribals

- Tribal communities, constituting about **8.6%** of India's population (**Census 2011**), have traditionally maintained distinct socio-cultural identities and close dependence on natural resources.
- Globalisation has brought both opportunities and challenges for these communities.

#### Positive Impacts

- 1) **Improved Access to Education and Healthcare:** Expansion of communication and infrastructure has improved access to schools, hospitals, and welfare services.
  - a) Ex: **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Medical Mobile Units(MMU), Anaemia Mukh Bharat** etc.
- 2) **Economic Opportunities:** Integration with national and global markets has created employment opportunities in mining, tourism, handicrafts, and services.
  - a) Ex: Tribal products such as bamboo crafts, lac products, and handlooms have gained wider market access via TRIFED.
  - b) Ex: Diversification of opportunities as Tourist guides(Ex: Chenchus).

- 3) **Technological Inclusion:** Digital connectivity has improved access to banking, government schemes, and information.
  - a) Ex: Digital payments and DBT have reduced dependence on intermediaries.
  - b) Ex: **Going Online as Leaders (GOAL)**, TribeX and the Aadirang digital repository.
- 4) **Political Awareness and Empowerment:** Exposure to media and civil society movements has increased awareness of constitutional rights and welfare entitlements.
  - a) Ex: Resistance against Vedanta Mining Project.
- 5) **Global support against tribal exploitation:** Social media campaigns against tribal exploitation, forceful eviction etc.
  - a) Ex: Campaigns against Bonded Labour among Santhals, Bhils etc.
- 6) **From Forest to Fashion**
  - a) The TRIFED-led Tribes India network directly connects tribal producers to urban consumers, eliminating intermediary chains.
  - b) **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)** are community-owned centers to promote sustainable livelihoods for tribal gatherers

### Negative Impacts

1. **Displacement and Loss of Livelihood:** Large-scale mining, industrial projects, dams, and infrastructure development have led to displacement from ancestral lands.
  - a. Ex: **Koyas and Konda Reddis**(Polavaram dam), Baiga(Singrauli Coal Fields).
  - b. Ex: Juruna, Arara, and Xikrin affected by Belo Monte Dam, Brazil.
2. **Erosion of Cultural Identity:** Exposure to dominant global and mainstream cultures can weaken indigenous languages, traditions, and customs.
  - a. Ex: Indigenous tribal languages like Koro, Andamanese, Toda etc. are endangered.
3. **Environmental Degradation:** Commercial exploitation of forests and natural resources affects tribal habitats and traditional occupations.
  - a. Ex: Tribal groups like Santhals, Bhils, Koyas etc. working as agricultural laborers due to habitat loss.
  - b. Ex: Yanomamis(Amazon) facing habitat destruction due to mining.
4. **Economic Marginalisation:** Benefits of globalisation are often unevenly distributed.
  - a. Ex: Isolated tribes like Sentinelese, Andamanese etc. face more negative impacts than positives.
5. **Social Exploitation:** Increased interaction with markets can expose tribals to land alienation, indebtedness, and exploitation by private actors.
  - a. Ex: **Goti Bonded Labor System (Odisha), Hali system(Rajasthan).**

Globalisation has connected the world like never before, driving growth, innovation, and cultural exchange. Yet, its challenges-inequality, environmental stress, and geopolitical tensions-remind us that global integration must be balanced with inclusivity, resilience, and ethical practices. The future lies not in rejecting globalisation, but in reshaping it for shared and sustainable progress.

### OR

The global trade order is shifting from hyper-globalisation toward “**re-shoring**” and “**friend-shoring**” amid supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions. While institutions like the World Trade Organization advocate “**reglobalisation**,” the emphasis is increasingly on trusted, resilient, and values-based supply chains rather than purely cost-efficient networks.

## Secularism, Communalism & Religious Fundamentalism

### PYQ

How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? (2014;10)

Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has transformed into the latter in independent India.(2017;15)

Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation. Argue by giving suitable illustrations (2018;15)

How is the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism ? Discuss (2018;10)

What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism. (2109;10)

Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion. (2022;15)

Are tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer (2022;15)

Discuss the impact of the post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism. (2023, 15)

| Concept                         | Basic Idea                                  | Definition                                                                         | Example                                                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Secularism</b>               | Equal respect for all religions             | Principle where the state maintains neutrality towards all religions.              | India's Constitution grants religious freedom to all citizens (Article 25-28) |
| <b>Communalism</b>              | Prioritizing one's own religion over others | Loyalty to one's religious group over society at large, often leading to tensions. | Partition-era riots, Nuh Violence recently                                    |
| <b>Religious Fundamentalism</b> | Strict adherence to religious doctrines     | A rigid, literal interpretation of religious texts, often rejecting modern values. | Rise of Taliban in Afghanistan, ISIS.                                         |

### India as a secular state

- Secularism ensures that the state remains neutral toward all religions, protecting individual rights and promoting social harmony.
- In India, it is a constitutional value, reinforced by the **42nd Amendment (1976)**, which formally introduced the word 'secular' into the Preamble.
- The Supreme Court of India interprets secularism as a philosophy of equal respect and protection for all religions rather than a complete separation of church and state.
- Secularism and Harmony" is not "**political fashion**" but it is "**perfect passion**" for India and Indians



## Secularism In Indian Social Political System

- Constitutional Foundation:** Secularism is deeply embedded in the Indian Constitution, ensuring religious freedom, equality, and state neutrality. Secularism institutionalizes **civic nationalism over sectarian identity**.
  - Ex: Articles 25–28 guarantee the right to freely practice and manage religious affairs.
- Equal respect and disrespect:** Indian state gives equal respect to all religions. But equally does away with the discriminatory practices. (“**Principled Distance**”)
  - Ex: **Ban on Triple Talaq, Ban on Sati etc.**
- Judicial Role in Safeguarding Secularism:** Courts actively balance religious practices with constitutional rights, protecting secular values.
  - Ex: **Shah Bano case (1985)** highlighted women’s rights over religious personal laws;
- Promotion of Pluralism:** India’s secularism celebrates religious diversity, encouraging mutual respect and unity among different faiths. (“**Sarva Dharma Sambhava**”)
  - Ex - **Onam** (Kerala), Celebrated by Hindus, Christians, and Muslims alike as a cultural harvest festival.
- Respect for Religious Personal Laws (Legal Pluralism):** India accommodates religious diversity by allowing personal laws for communities in matters like marriage and inheritance. (“**Positive Secularism**”)
  - Ex: Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 govern civil issues based on faith traditions.
- Equal Access Through Welfare Schemes:** Government policies aim for inclusive development, providing services without religious bias.
  - Ex: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (2001) and Midday Meal Scheme (1995) benefit children across all communities equalizing **life chances**.

### INDIAN MODEL OF SECULARISM vs WESTERN MODEL OF SECULARISM

| BASIS                  | INDIAN MODEL OF SECULARISM                                                                                                                                                                 | WESTERN MODEL OF SECULARISM                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Meaning             | Equal treatment of all religions.<br>Examples: State organises Kumbh Mela, Haj subsidy (earlier), financial support to religious institutions of all communities.                          | Complete separation of state and religion.<br>Examples: No state funding for religious activities, religion kept completely in private sphere.         |
| 2. Display of Religion | Freely practice and display of any religion.<br>Examples: Wearing religious symbols (sindoor, turban, kara, hijab, cross etc.) allowed in public spaces.                                   | Open display of religion not supported in public institutions.<br>Examples: Hijab ban in schools/colleges<br>France ban on convent symbols in schools. |
| 3. Relation with Law   | Relation law seeks to adjust multiple laws with religious principles.<br>Examples: Personal laws based on religion (Hindu, Muslim, Christian personal laws).                               | Laws are made in isolation from religious principles.<br>Examples: Uniform Civil Code in countries like France, USA (no religious personal laws).      |
| 4. Aid to Minorities   | State may provide minorities with financial support to protect their culture and institutions.<br>Examples: Grants to minority educational institutions, Maulana Azad National Fellowship. | State can't provide any financial support based on religion.<br>Examples: No financial aid to religious institutions, all treated as private bodies.   |
| 5. State Interference  | State shall intervene in religious matters to promote equality and social reform.<br>Examples: Temple entry laws, Abolition of Sati, Triple Talaq Act, 2019.                               | State doesn't intervene in religious matters.<br>Examples: No state role in religious institutions or their internal practices.                        |
| 6. Code of Law         | Unequal – personal laws vary with an individual's religion.<br>Examples: Different marriage, divorce, adoption laws for different religions.                                               | Single, uniform code for all citizens.<br>Examples: Uniform laws on marriage, divorce, adoption etc. in France, USA.                                   |
| 7. Concept             | Positive secularism – State takes active steps to ensure religious harmony and equality.                                                                                                   | Negative secularism – State stays away from religion, ensures non-involvement.                                                                         |
| 8. Basis               | Neutrality + Harmony + Empathy                                                                                                                                                             | Neutrality + Impartiality + Apathy                                                                                                                     |

Note: Indian secularism is not “anti-religion” but “sarva dharma sambhava” – equal respect for all religions.



### Issues With Western Model of Secularism

- **Strict Separation:** Western secularism often enforces a rigid separation of religion and state, which may ignore the social and cultural role of religion in people's lives. (Ex: Removal of crosses/prayer spaces from public schools and offices in France.)
- **Exclusion of Religion in Public Sphere:** It tends to exclude religious expressions from public institutions, which can **alienate religious communities**, limit their participation and potentially public exclusion of minority identities. (Ex: Hijab ban in French public schools (2004) and face veil ban (2010))
- **Religious Privatization:** Religion is confined to private life, sometimes marginalizing religious identities and reducing the space for public religious discourse. (Ex: In many European countries, public officials are expected to avoid visible religious symbols)
- **Lack of Accommodation for Diversity:** Western secularism may struggle to accommodate diverse religious practices, leading to conflicts over religious freedoms and minority rights. (Ex: Restrictions on wearing kirpans by Sikhs in schools/security zones in some countries.)
- **Potential for Cultural Insensitivity:** Its universalist approach can overlook the specific historical and cultural contexts of religion, causing tensions in multicultural societies. (Ex: Native American religious symbols/practices often excluded from mainstream public institutions historically.)

### Learning for west from Indian Secularism

- **Respect for Religious Diversity:** It acknowledges and celebrates **religious pluralism** as a social reality, encouraging mutual respect among communities **and reduces identity alienation**.
- **Equal Treatment, Not Uniformity (Equality over Neutrality) :** Indian secularism **treats all religions impartially** without demanding uniformity or restricting religious expression.
- **Inclusive Citizenship and Public Sphere:** Religion is allowed space in public life, enabling communities to freely express their faith alongside civic identity.
- **Balancing Unity and Diversity:** The Indian model fosters **national integration while respecting cultural and religious differences** within society.

### Indian Secularism: A Trinity of Coexistence – Tolerance, Assimilation, Pluralism

#### **Tolerance – Respecting Differences**

- Peaceful acceptance and respect for diverse beliefs, practices, and identities.
- **Sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramayah** ("May all be happy, may all be free from illness.")

(Expresses the inclusive spirit of tolerance.)

1. **Religious Festivals Celebrated Nationwide.** Ex: Eid, Diwali, Christmas as holidays
2. **Legal Protection of Religious Freedom.** Ex: Articles 25–28 of Constitution
3. **Interfaith Harmony in Daily Life.** Ex: Mixed-faith neighborhoods, shared celebrations
4. **No Official State Religion.** Ex: India remains constitutionally secular

#### **Assimilation – Integration without Erasure**

- Incorporating diverse cultural groups into the mainstream while preserving their identities.
- "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible." – **Mahatma Gandhi**

(Reflects openness to learning and sharing across cultures.)

1. **Minorities in Public Life** Ex: Parsis in business – Tata Group
2. **Coexistence of Customary Laws** Ex: Anand Marriage Act for Sikhs
3. **Traditional Dress in Modern Spaces** Ex: Hijab, turban in public institutions
4. **Cultural Retention in Urban Areas** Ex: Temples in metropolitan cities

5. **Adaptive cultural integration** - syncretism and cultural hybridity. Ex: Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb
6. **Assimilation of Tribal groups**: Forest Rights Act, 5th and 6th schedule etc.

### Pluralism – Equal Recognition of Multiple Beliefs

- Acceptance and support for multiple religious and cultural identities in public life.
- "India has known religious freedom and tolerance for centuries. It is her inherent tradition." – Dr. **S. Radhakrishnan** (Highlights that Indian pluralism is deeply civilizational.)
  1. **State Support for All Pilgrimages** Ex: Kumbh Mela, Amarnath, Haj facilities
  2. **Faith-based Educational Rights** Ex: Christian, Muslim colleges under Article 30
  3. **Media Representation of Religions** Ex: Multi-faith content on TV, cinema
  4. **Multi-religious Public Institutions** Ex: Government offices celebrate all festivals

India's secularism, **rooted in tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism**, weaves diverse communities into a unified nation. The Constitution acts as the binding fabric, ensuring equal respect and freedom for all faiths. This unique framework upholds India's strength as a vibrant, inclusive democracy.

### Uniform civil code

- The UCC aims to establish one law for all citizens, replacing personal laws based on religion with a common civil law.
- A UCC primarily aims to **promote social harmony, gender equality, and secularism** by eliminating **disparate legal systems based on different religions and communities**. Such a code seeks to ensure **uniformity of laws** not only between the communities but also within a community.
- Recently in may 2026 **Assam** became the third state in India to pass a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, following Uttarakhand and Gujarat

### Background and History

- During the drafting of the Constitution, leaders like B.R. Ambedkar supported the UCC, but it was included as a non-enforceable directive under **Article 44**.
- After independence, Hindu personal laws were codified, but the UCC debate resurfaced in the **Shah Bano case (1985)** and later cases like **Sarla Mudgal (1995)** and **Shayara Bano (2017)**.

### Current Civil Laws in India

- India's civil laws are a mix of personal laws based on religion (Hindu, Muslim, Christian) and secular laws like the **Special Marriage Act**, which allows inter-religion marriages.

### Arguments in Favor of UCC

- **Constitutional Mandate**: The Constitution urges a UCC in **Article 44** to ensure equality before the law.
- **Equality and Justice**: It promotes equal rights, **especially for women** in areas like divorce and inheritance dismantling the institutional patriarchy including law.
- **National Unity**: It fosters a sense of unity, removing religious divides.
- **Secularism**: A UCC aligns with India's secular ideals by separating religion from state law.
- **Legal Simplicity**: It can streamline legal procedures by unifying diverse personal laws
- **Tackle religious extremism**: Prevents misuse of religion to justify discriminatory or regressive practices.
  - Ex: Ban on instant triple talaq viewed as curbing patriarchal religious practices.

## Arguments Against UCC

- **Religious Freedom:** Opponents argue it may violate the right of communities to follow their own religious practices.
- **Cultural Diversity:** India's cultural variety may be overshadowed by a single code.
  - Ex: **Matrilineal traditions** in parts of Kerala and Meghalaya differ from mainstream systems.
- **Political Misuse:** The push for UCC may marginalize minority groups, especially during elections.
- **Legal Challenges:** Different states may resist implementing the UCC due to regional differences.
- **Violation of Tribal Autonomy:** Many tribal communities have their own customary laws protected under **Fifth and Sixth Schedules** of the Constitution (**Tribal Cultural Autonomy**).

## Important Supreme Court Judgments

- **Shah Bano Case (1985):** The Court emphasized the need for a UCC to ensure gender equality in personal laws.
- **Sarla Mudgal Case (1995):** The Court called for a UCC to prevent misuse of personal laws.
- **John Vallamattom Case (2003):** The Court struck down discriminatory provisions, advocating for a UCC.
- **Shayara Bano Case (2017):** The Court declared instant triple talaq unconstitutional, highlighting the importance of gender equality.

## Issues in implementing UCC in India

- **Diverse religious customs** and personal laws make uniform implementation challenging.
- **Opposition from religious groups** fearing loss of cultural identity and autonomy.
- **Political resistance** due to vote-bank politics and fear of alienating communities.
- **Difficulty balancing** secular principles with religious freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. **Difficulty in reconciling Article 44 with Article 25-28.**
- **Lack of widespread awareness and public consensus** on the benefits of a Uniform Civil Code. **Legal reform without social legitimacy creates resistance.**

## Way Forward

- **Dialogue & Consultation:** Engage religious communities, legal experts, policymakers, and civil society to understand diverse perspectives and address concerns related to the UCC.
- **Public Awareness & Education:** Conduct awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform citizens about the importance, benefits, and implications of a Uniform Civil Code.
- **Gradual Social Change & Piecemeal Reform:** Adopt a step-by-step approach by amending discriminatory provisions within existing personal laws first, allowing society to adjust gradually and easing opposition to a complete UCC.
- **Inclusivity & Respect for Diversity:** Draft the UCC to uphold religious and cultural diversity while ensuring gender equality and justice. (**Equality without Homogenization**)
- **Phased Implementation:** Begin implementing the UCC in regions or areas with least resistance, such as states like Goa and Uttarakhand, and then gradually expand nationwide to manage transition smoothly.
- **Political Will & Effective Monitoring:** Strong leadership and political commitment are essential to drive reforms.

## Communalism

- **Communalism** in India refers to prioritizing religious community over national interests, where religion serves as the primary basis for political identity and mobilization, often causing tensions and conflicts between communities.

- **Ex:** The **partition of India in 1947** was the outcome of extreme communalism where religious identities were politicized to the point of national division.

| Feature         | Religious Fundamentalism                                                  | Communalism                                                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Focus</b>    | Preservation of religious beliefs and practices.                          | Advancing political/economic interests of a religious group.          |
| <b>Cause</b>    | Fear of modernization, secularization, and erosion of religious identity. | Exploitation of religious differences for political or economic gain. |
| <b>Violence</b> | Often linked with violence against perceived threats to religion.         | May involve violence, but creates a climate of hostility.             |
| <b>Targets</b>  | Secular institutions, those seen as undermining religion.                 | Other religious groups or the state.                                  |

### Religious intolerance

- **Bipan Chandra** defines it as a phenomenon where religious ideologies, whether of the majority or minority, assert that **"only our belief is true" while considering others as "false or incomplete."**
- Religious intolerance is the unwillingness to accept and respect different religious beliefs, often leading to discrimination, marginalization, or attacks against individuals or groups based on their faith.
- Ex: Attacks on places of worship, religiously motivated hate crimes, and forced conversions are expressions of religious intolerance.

## Major Causes of Religious Intolerance / Communalism in India

### Colonial Legacy

- British policies institutionalised religious identities through separate electorates and census classifications.
- Ex: Communal Award and the "Divide and Rule" strategy.

### 2. Identity Politics & Vote-Bank Mobilisation

- Religion is often used for **electoral consolidation** rather than developmental discourse.
- Ex: Debates surrounding Citizenship Amendment Act protests and Uniform Civil Code.

### 3. Relative Deprivation & Economic Competition

- Scarcity of jobs, resources, and opportunities creates perceptions of unfair advantage among communities.
- Ex: Narratives around **minority appeasement** and reservation-related tensions.

### 4. Religious Fundamentalism

- Fundamentalist ideologies promote an exclusive worldview as **Religious absolutism** often leads to social exclusion.
- Ex: Radical organisations such as Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Babbar Khalsa.

### 5. Social Stereotyping & Prejudice

- Historical biases and misinformation perpetuate mistrust between communities.
- Ex: **Stereotyping** of particular communities as violent, anti-national, or regressive.

### 6. Media Misuse & Networked Communalism

- Social media amplifies fake news, **hate speech**, and **communal narratives** at unprecedented speed.
- Ex: Misinformation-driven tensions **during festivals and local disputes**.

## 7. Globalisation & External Influences

- International conflicts and transnational extremist networks influence local communal sentiments.
- Ex: Reactions to Middle East conflicts reflected in local protests and online radicalisation.

## 8. Weak Value Education

- Inadequate emphasis on constitutional values, secularism, and India's syncretic traditions.
- Ex: Declining awareness of composite traditions such as **Ganga-Jamuni culture**.

## 9. Ghettoisation & Spatial Segregation

- Limited interaction among communities reinforces prejudice and mistrust (**Contact Hypothesis**).
- Ex: Segregated housing patterns in Ahmedabad, Delhi, and Mumbai.

## Impact of Religious Intolerance / Communalism in India

- **Social Division:** Communalism creates deep divisions between religious communities, leading to mistrust and weakening social cohesion.
- **Violence and Riots:** It often triggers communal riots, causing loss of lives, property, and displacement of people. Ex: Targeted violence led to the mass displacement of Kashmiri Pandits (1990s), Muzaffarnagar Riots (2013) displaced thousands in Uttar Pradesh etc.
- **Political Exploitation:** Communalism is used by political parties to polarize voters, hampering national unity and democratic processes. (Ex: Vote-bank politics based on religious identities weakens issue-based democracy)
- **Economic Disruption:** Riots and communal tensions disrupt economic activities and deter investment in affected regions. (Ex: 2020 Delhi Riots: Shops, markets, and small businesses suffered extensive damage)
- **Hindrance to Development:** Continuous communal strife diverts resources from development to maintaining law and order.

## Challenges Arising Due to Communalism in India

### 1. Erosion of Social Cohesion and Fraternity

- Communalism weakens **social capital** and creates enduring mistrust between communities, leading to intergenerational transmission of prejudice.
- Ex: Communal tensions during the **Sambhal violence (2024)** continue to affect community relations.

### 2. Threat to Secularism and Constitutional Morality

- **Religious polarization** challenges India's model of positive secularism and places constitutional morality under stress.
- Ex: Ongoing disputes over the Gyanvapi Mosque, Sambhal Shahi Jama Masjid surveys, and litigation around the Places of Worship Act.

### 3. Rise of Identity Politics

- Excessive reliance on religious identities encourages **vote-bank politics**, shifting focus away from governance and development.
- Ex: Political polarization surrounding debates on UCC, CAA, and minority rights continues to dominate public discourse.

### 4. Economic Losses and Developmental Impediments

- Communal violence acts as a **developmental impediment** by disrupting markets, tourism, investment, and local livelihoods.



- Ex: Business losses and destruction of commercial establishments during communal disturbances in several cities, including Delhi (2020).

## 5. Ghettoisation and Social Exclusion

- Fear and insecurity promote spatial **segregation (ghettoisation)**, reducing inter-community interaction and reinforcing stereotypes.
- Ex: Continuing housing discrimination and segregated settlements in Ahmedabad, Delhi, and Mumbai.

## 6. Radicalisation and Internal Security Risks

- Communal tensions create a **radicalisation spiral**, which can be exploited by extremist groups and hostile external actors.
- Ex: Security agencies have repeatedly flagged **online radicalisation** linked to global conflicts such as the Israel-Gaza war.

## 7. Educational and Human Capital Deficit

- Communal conflicts disrupt schooling and hinder **human capital formation**, especially among vulnerable groups.
- Ex: Educational disruptions faced by displaced families after communal violence in Muzaffarnagar and other conflict-prone regions.

## 8. Weakening of National Integration

- Communalism prioritizes sectarian loyalties over citizenship, creating a crisis of national integration and undermining the idea of "Unity in Diversity."
- Ex: Recurring religious tensions during festivals, processions, and local disputes across states.

## 9. Human Rights Violations and Structural Marginalisation

- Communalism often results in structural marginalisation, discrimination, and unequal access to justice for vulnerable communities.
- Ex: The Delhi riots exposed concerns regarding displacement, rehabilitation, and protection of minority rights.

## 10. Damage to International Image and Soft Power

- Frequent communal incidents affect India's image as a pluralistic democracy and may attract international scrutiny.
- Ex: Debates surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act protests and NRC received attention from global human rights organizations and foreign legislatures.

## Value Addition (Can be inserted anywhere)

1. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud (AMU Judgment, 2024): Articles 29 and 30 protect the "cultural fabric of religious and linguistic minorities."
2. Supreme Court (Madarsa Case, 2024): Indian secularism is based on "live and let live" and positive secularism.
3. Ashis Nandy: "**Communalism is a modern political pathology.**"

## Steps to Address Communalism

### 1. Constitutional Safeguards

- Articles 14, 15, 25-30, and 51A(e) promote equality, religious freedom, minority rights, and fraternity.
- Ex: Protection of minority educational institutions under Articles 29 and 30.

### 2. National Integration Council (NIC)

- Established to promote national integration, communal harmony, and social cohesion.
- Ex: Discussions on communal violence, extremism, and regional tensions.

### 3. Ministry of Minority Affairs

- Works towards inclusive development and reducing socio-economic disparities among minorities.
- Ex: Scholarship schemes and the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram**.

#### 4. Communal Harmony Campaigns

- The government supports programmes fostering interfaith dialogue and communal harmony.
- Ex: National Foundation for Communal Harmony provides assistance to children affected by communal violence.

#### 5. Legal and Administrative Measures

- Strict action against hate speech, inflammatory content, and communal violence under criminal laws.
- Ex: Enhanced monitoring of social media during festivals, elections, and sensitive events.

#### 6. Modernisation of Police and Intelligence

- Strengthening law enforcement to prevent communal flare-ups and improve early warning systems.
- Ex: Use of cyber-monitoring cells to track online hate campaigns and misinformation.

#### 7. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- Promotes cultural exchange and national integration among states and communities.
- Ex: Student exchanges and cultural immersion programmes.

#### 8. Education and Value-Based Learning

- Encourages constitutional values, secularism, fraternity, and tolerance through education.
- Ex: NEP 2020's focus on constitutional duties, ethics, and India's pluralistic heritage.

#### 9. Digital Governance Against Misinformation

- Tackles networked communalism by countering fake news and hate speech.
- Ex: Fact-checking initiatives and rapid response mechanisms during communal tensions.

#### 10. Judicial Interventions Supporting Secularism

- Courts reinforce constitutional morality and positive secularism.
- Ex (2024): Stay on fresh disputes under the Places of Worship Act to preserve communal harmony.



### Impact of Post-Liberal Economy on Ethnic Identity & Communalism

1. **Economic Disparities:** Uneven growth sharpened community divides. Ex: **Tribal vs. non-tribal conflict** in Jharkhand over resource access.
2. **Urban Migration & Competition :** Migrants face ethnic backlash in cities. Ex: North Indian workers attacked in Mumbai (2008) by certain regional parties.
3. **Political Mobilization:** Parties exploit identity to gain votes, Communalisation of Politics. Ex: Use of **hijab and halal issues** during state elections to polarize voters along religious lines.
4. **Rise of Regional Identities:** Regional parties gained power by appealing to caste/ethnicity. Ex: Adivasi identity mobilized for separate statehood (now Jharkhand), Rise of **regional parties** after the economic reforms.
5. **Informal Sector Tensions:** Job insecurity fuels mistrust among groups. Ex: **Hindu-Muslim tensions** among daily wage laborers post-Delhi riots (2020).
6. **Cultural Assertion:** Communities emphasize traditions as a form of resistance. Ex: Demand for **Scheduled Tribe status** by Gujjars in Rajasthan, demand of reservation by Marathis in Maharashtra, Jats in Haryana.
7. **Consumerism & Identity Branding:** Markets promote ethnic symbols for profit. Ex: Rise of saffron goods, ethnic clothing, faith-based tourism.
8. **Cosmopolitan Integration:** IT/metro cities foster inclusive workspaces. Ex: **Bengaluru's tech sector** employs people across caste and religion.

9. **Global Diaspora Influence:** Overseas funding and identity pride impact local politics. Ex: Diaspora backing temple projects in India.
10. **Risk of Communal Fragmentation:** Without inclusive policy, identity-based polarisation grows. Ex: Increased religious lynchings tied to economic precarity.

## Way Forward

Addressing communalism in India requires a multifaceted approach that includes legal reforms, social empowerment, and the promotion of tolerance.

1. **Promoting Secular, Value-Based Education:** Introduce values of peace, non-violence, secularism, and respect for diversity in national curricula to shape tolerant, inclusive future generations. **(Education as moral socialisation)**
2. **Empowering Civil Society:** Support NGOs and civil society initiatives that run interfaith dialogues, communal harmony projects, and strengthen community relations, reducing stereotypes and promoting understanding.
3. **Addressing Socio-Economic Inequality:** Implement educational and economic initiatives (Ex: scholarships, skill development) for minorities to reduce disparities, curb the feeling of relative deprivation and promote social inclusion.
4. **Reforming the Criminal Justice System:**
  - **Speedy Trials & Victim Compensation:** Implement fast-track courts for communal violence cases and provide timely compensation to victims (Ex: ₹10 lakh for families of riot victims). This ensures quicker justice and aids in rebuilding lives.
  - **Legislative Action:** Enact a **Communal Violence Prevention Bill** to define punishments and establish victim rehabilitation protocols.
5. **Strengthening Law Enforcement:**
  - **Diverse Representation:** Increase representation of minorities in police forces to enhance cultural sensitivity and trust. Kerala's model of minority integration into law enforcement is a successful example.
  - **Specialized Training:** Provide police with human rights education and riot control training using non-lethal methods to prevent escalation and ensure fair treatment.
6. **Media Accountability and Public Awareness:**
  - **Regulating Media:** Ensure media platforms foster communal harmony and do not incite violence or discrimination. Promote ethical journalism to combat divisive narratives.
  - **Combating Hate Speech:** Launch public campaigns to raise awareness about the difference between free speech and hate speech, alongside stricter monitoring of social media platforms.
7. **Adapt International Models:** Learn from Malaysia's **Ethnic Relations Monitoring System (Mesra)** and Hong Kong's **Race Relation Unit (RRU)**, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Model, Singapore's CMIO model which track racial sentiments and prevent conflicts through early warning indicators and community engagement.

### International Models that can benefit India

- **Malaysia's Early Warning System:** The Malaysian Ethnic Relations Monitoring System utilizes quality-of-life and perception indices to identify areas with potential for ethnic conflict.
- **Hong Kong's Race Relations Unit:** This government body promotes racial harmony and facilitates integration of minorities.

While secularism promotes unity and harmony in India, the rise of communalism and religious fundamentalism poses a **threat to national integration**. Strengthening secular values, fostering interfaith dialogue, and addressing socio-economic disparities are essential to maintaining peace and inclusivity.

UnderStand UPSC

## Regionalism and son of the soil policy

### PYQ

The growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss.(2013:10)

What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on a regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer.(2016:12.5)

In the context of diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint (2017;10)

Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples (2019;15)

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

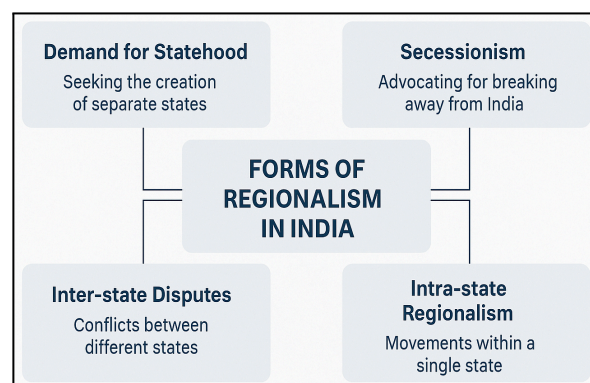
What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India? (2024;15)

### Regionalism

- Regionalism is a **strong feeling of identity and loyalty that people have towards their region**, based on shared language, culture, history, or traditions.
- It often emerges when people feel that their region's needs are being neglected, leading to demands for more recognition, autonomy, or development.
- "India is not a mere political union but an emotional unity" - Sardar Patel.

### Factors Leading to Regionalism in India

- Economic Disparities:** Uneven development creates feelings of neglect and fuels demands for separate statehood.
  - Ex:** Backwardness in Bundelkhand vs development in NCR.
- Historical and Cultural Identity:** Rich local traditions, folklore, history create a strong emotional identity and pride.
  - Ex:** Dravidian movement rooted in Tamil heritage.
- Geographical Distinctions/Ecological shaping of identity :** Topography and climate shape unique lifestyles and language patterns.
  - Ex:** Northeast's terrain reinforces distinct regional consciousness.
- Politico-Administrative Factors:** Parties and leaders often exploit regional issues to build vote banks and push for autonomy.
  - Ex:** Regional parties in Telangana or Gorkhaland movements.
- Caste, Religion and Language Intersection:** When caste and religion mix with regional or linguistic divides, it intensifies identity politics.
  - Ex:** Khalistan movement mixing religion with regional demand.





- **Demand for political autonomy:** Regions seek more control over administration, resources, and governance.
  - **Ex:** Bodoland, Gorkhaland movements.
- **Migration and sons of soil sentiments:** Influx of migrants may create fears over jobs, culture, and demographics.
  - **Ex:** campaigns against North Indian migrants in Mumbai.
- **Security concerns and insurgency:** Ethnic organizations, militant groups, student unions, and civil society groups often mobilize people around regional identity.
  - **Ex:** Militant groups like **ULFA** and **NSCN** used armed struggle for regional autonomy/separatism.

### Positives of regionalism

- **Cultural Preservation:** Regionalism helps protect unique cultures and traditions
  - **Ex:**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) regional centre in Jammu to promote and preserve Jammu's rich art and cultural heritage.
- **Economic Growth:** It drives local economies by promoting investment in regional industries helping in decentralisation of development.
  - **Ex:** 'Purvodaya' plan- all-round development of eastern states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Political Empowerment: Democratization of sub-national voices.**
  - **Ex:** Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal focused on regional issues like unemployment and governance, leading to significant electoral gains
- **Promotes diversity:**
  - **Ex:** The Madiga community's long-standing struggle for social justice gained national attention in 2023, leading to the establishment of a committee by the Union government to address their demands.
- **Encourages Regional Identity and Pride:**
  - **Ex:**The rise of "Sonali Vastu" architecture in Assam highlights regional pride.
- **Promotes Better Resource Allocation:**
  - **Ex:** The "Jal Jeevan Mission" focuses on enhancing rural water supply in specific states, such as Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- **Strengthens Local Governance:**
  - **Ex:** The creation of the Telangana state in 2014 allowed more targeted governance
- **Boosts Tourism and Regional Industries:**
  - **Ex:** The promotion of "The Great Indian Bustard" in Rajasthan as a tourism and conservation initiative

### Negatives of regionalism:

- **Tensions and Conflicts over scarce resources**
  - **Ex:** Tensions between Maharashtra and Gujarat over the sharing of the Narmada River water
- **Inter-state boundary disputes**
  - **Ex:** Belagavi/Belgaum dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- **Marginalization of Minority Groups (Majoritarian regionalism)**
  - **Ex:** In Assam, the demand for Assamese to be the only official language marginalized non-Assamese speakers
- **Divisive politics and fragmented political mobilisation**

- **Ex:** The rise of "identity politics" in the Southern part of India, where language and cultural identity were used to rally support for regional parties, has sometimes prevented national unity on key issues.
- **Impact on international relations**
  - **Ex:** The dispute over the Teesta River water sharing between West Bengal and Bangladesh has caused strain between India and its neighboring country.
- **Economic disparity**
  - **Ex:** States like Maharashtra and Delhi- developed, but states like Bihar and Jharkhand remain underdeveloped.
- **Fragmentation of National Unity**
  - **Ex:** The formation of states like Telangana has led to demands for more regional autonomy
  - **Ex:** Demands for Vidarbha, Bundelkhand, Harit Pradesh, Bodoland.
- **Social division**
  - **Ex:** In Karnataka, the demand for Kannada language supremacy has led to friction with non-Kannadiga communities.
- **Security concerns.**
  - **Ex:** **Khalistan** movement in Punjab, Earlier demand for independent **Nagalim** by Naga groups.

### Nationalism Vs Regionalism

| Dimensions        | Nationalism                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Regionalism                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Definition</b> | <b>Nationalism</b> emphasizes loyalty and unity towards the entire nation.                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Regionalism</b> focuses on the interests and identity of a specific region or state.                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Scope</b>      | Nationalism promotes a collective identity across diverse regions and communities of India.                                                                                                                                                                                        | Localized, concerned with cultural, linguistic, or economic issues of a region.                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Impact</b>     | Nationalism fosters unity, nation-building, and a common purpose.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Regionalism can lead to demands for greater autonomy or even separatism if unchecked.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Examples</b>   | <p>The Indian independence movement led by the <b>Indian National Congress</b>, uniting diverse groups for a common cause.</p> <p><b>Integration efforts post-independence</b>, such as linguistic reorganization of states balancing regional identities with national unity.</p> | <p><b>The Dravidian movement</b> in Tamil Nadu, which emphasized Tamil identity and state autonomy.</p> <p>The demand for <b>Gorkhaland</b> in West Bengal advocating for a separate state based on ethnic identity.</p> |
| <b>Challenges</b> | Nationalism may sometimes suppress regional identities or cultural diversity.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Regionalism may cause fragmentation or conflict with national interests.                                                                                                                                                 |

### Types of Regionalism in India

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Supra-State Regionalism</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goes <b>beyond the boundaries</b> of a single state and involves people from multiple states who share a common linguistic, ethnic, or cultural identity.</li> <li>Aimed at asserting collective identity and seeking greater autonomy or political recognition. (<b>Sub-national Nationalism</b>).</li> </ul> | <b>Dravidian Movement (South India)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerged in response to Hindi imposition, Tamil identity assertion, and perceived cultural dominance of North India.</li> <li>Initially demanded Dravida Nadu, but later shifted towards state autonomy and regional empowerment through parties like DMK and AIADMK.</li> </ul> <b>North-East India</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driven by ethnic distinctiveness, historical grievances, underdevelopment, and centre-periphery tensions.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Inter-State Regionalism</b> | <p>This form of regionalism arises from conflicts between two or more states in India. These disputes may be over the sharing of natural resources, boundaries, or financial allocations.</p>                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Cauvery River Water Dispute</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over sharing Cauvery waters for irrigation and drinking needs.</li> </ul> <b>Belagavi (Belgaum) Dispute</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka over Marathi-speaking areas in Belagavi.</li> </ul> <b>North-South Divide</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arises from concerns that southern states, despite successful population control and better human development outcomes, may lose fiscal and political advantages.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Intra-State Regionalism</b> | <p>This arises within a single state, where one region feels politically, economically, or culturally neglected by the rest of the state.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Telangana Movement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driven by regional disparities, uneven development, and political underrepresentation within undivided Andhra Pradesh.</li> <li>Perceived domination by Coastal Andhra in jobs, education, and administration led to the creation of Telangana in 2014.</li> </ul> <b>Gorkhaland Movement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand for a separate state in Darjeeling based on ethnic identity, cultural distinctiveness, and political marginalisation of Nepali-speaking Gorkhas.</li> </ul> <b>Vidarbha and Saurashtra Movements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rooted in regional imbalances, perceived neglect, and demands for equitable resource distribution.</li> <li>Advocates argue that separate statehood would improve governance and development outcomes.</li> </ul> |

### Extreme Forms of Regionalism

## 1. Secessionism

- **Secessionism** is the advocacy or movement for a region or group to **withdraw from a larger political entity** (such as a country) and form its own independent state.
- It is typically driven by ethnic, cultural, political, or economic differences and seeks full **separation** from the parent nation.

Ex: **Khalistan Movement**

- The **Khalistan Movement** in Punjab sought a separate Sikh nation, fueled by religious identity and political unrest.
- The movement weakened after state action following Operation Blue Star (1984) and anti-Sikh riots, but remnants persist, particularly among diaspora communities abroad.

## 2. Separatism

- **Separatism** is the advocacy or movement for a region or group to seek **independence or autonomy** within the existing political framework, but not necessarily full secession from the country.
- It typically aims for the creation of a new state or political entity while remaining part of the larger nation.
- Ex: **Bodoland Movement**
  - The Bodoland Movement in Assam, led by the Bodo tribe, demanded a separate state for ethnic identity and development.
  - It culminated in the formation of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), granting partial autonomy to the Bodos.

## Sons of the Soil Policy

- The **Sons of the Soil Policy** refers to the **preferential treatment** of local populations over migrants in matters of **employment, education, and resources** within a particular region. This policy often aims to protect **local culture** and **economic interests**.
- A nation's strength lies in the unity of its people, not in dividing them based on their birthplace."

### Key Features:

- **Preference for Locals (Locals First):** Local residents are given priority in jobs, business opportunities, and housing.
- **Cultural and Economic Protection:** Protecting local culture, language, and economic interests from being overrun by migrants.
- **Political Mobilization:** The policy is often used to assert the rights of **natives** over outsiders.
- Sons of the soil movements emerge when local populations perceive migrants as economic competitors and cultural threats.

### Examples of Sons of the Soil Policy:

#### Maharashtra

- **Issue:** Migration from states like **Uttar Pradesh** and **Bihar** has led to competition for jobs and resources, with local populations advocating for preferential treatment.
- **Actions Taken:** Some regions have implemented policies to reserve jobs and housing for locals, prioritizing **Marathi-speaking people (Marathi Manos)** over migrants.

#### Assam and the Bodo Issue

- **Issue:** The influx of **migrants from Bangladesh** has created competition for resources, especially in land rights and employment, with **Bodo** communities feeling marginalized.
- **Demand:** **Bodo people** have sought more autonomy or a separate state to protect their economic and cultural interests.

- **Outcome:** The **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)** was formed to grant partial autonomy to the Bodo people.

#### Local Job Reservation Debates

- Haryana domicile-linked employment debates - The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 mandating 75% reservation in private jobs for local residents. (Later quashed by Punjab and Haryana HC in 2024)
- Andhra Pradesh local quota debates - reserving 75% private-sector jobs for locals.

#### Impact of the policy:

- **Violation of Fundamental Rights:** It violates article 14, 16, 19 etc.
- **Social Division:** This policy can lead to regional (insider vs outsider) and ethnic tensions, where locals perceive migrants as threats to their culture and economy.
- **Economic Inequality:** While offering protection for locals, it may hinder economic growth by excluding outsiders who bring skills, investments, and a diverse workforce.
- **Political Tool:** Regional parties often use this policy to rally local support, particularly in areas with significant migration.
- **Threat to Unity and Integrity of India:** **Pradeep Jain vs Union of India case**, the Court discouraged Son of the Soil demands, warning that they threaten the unity and integrity of India.
- **Discourage Business growth:** Private companies oppose forced hiring mandates based on domicile.
- **Rise of Regionalism:** Such movements lead to rise of regionalism leading to security concerns for the state.

The **Sons of the Soil Policy** reflects the dynamics that arise when migrants compete with locals for resources and opportunities. While it can protect local identities, it also risks social unrest, economic exclusion, and political polarization.

#### Cultural pockets

- Cultural pockets are geographically or socially distinct regions within India where unique traditions, languages, customs, art forms, and lifestyles have developed and are preserved over time.
- These pockets reflect the localized identity of communities shaped by historical, ecological, and socio-religious factors.

#### From States to Soul: Culture Knows No Boundaries

##### 1. Linguistic Continuity Across States

- Languages often transcend political borders.
- Ex: Bhojpuri is spoken across eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and parts of Jharkhand and Nepal.

##### 2. Tribal Cultural Zones

- Indigenous traditions cross multiple states regardless of borders.
- Ex: Gond tribe culture is shared across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Telangana.

##### 3. Religious and Pilgrimage Networks

- Sacred geography links communities beyond states.
- Ex: Vaishnavism spans Gujarat (Dwarka), Uttar Pradesh (Vrindavan), Odisha (Puri), and Manipur.

##### 4. Popular Culture and Events

- Music, cinema, and global events create new shared spaces and an imagined community.



- Ex: Coldplay concert (Mumbai 2025) drew fans from across India, creating a modern, youth-driven cultural zone.

#### 5. Cricket as a Pan-Indian Cultural Space

- Cricket unites fans beyond regions, language, or caste.
- Ex: IPL franchises (like Chennai Super Kings or Mumbai Indians) enjoy national fan bases, transcending city limits.

#### 6. Digital Communities & Diaspora Culture (Network society)

- Online platforms create cultural zones beyond geography.
- Ex: South Indian film fandom (Rajinikanth, Allu Arjun) has grown across North India and overseas due to social media and OTT.

India's cultural fabric is stitched with shared **parampara (traditions), saanjhi virasat (common heritage), and lok sanskriti (folk culture)** that transcend state borders. From Bhojpuri geet in Bihar and UP to Garba beats echoing beyond Gujarat, such cultural pockets reinforce *rashtra ekta* (national unity) through emotional and artistic ties.

OR

In today's era, this *sanskritik sangam* (cultural confluence) continues through cricket, concerts, and digital platforms, proving that **"Bhaugolik seemaayein ho sakti hain, sanskritik nahi"** (Boundaries may exist on maps, not in culture).

### Strategies to Prevent Regionalism

#### 1. Promote National Identity with Regional Pride

- Strengthen Unity in Diversity through **cultural exchanges, common national symbols**, and constitutional values.
- Ex: Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, National Youth Festival.

#### 2. Balanced and Inclusive Development

- Reduce regional disparities through targeted investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and employment.
- Ex: Aspirational Districts Programme, PM Gati Shakti, North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme.

#### 3. Deepen Cooperative Federalism

- Foster competitive and **cooperative federalism** through continuous Centre-State consultation.
- Ex: GST Council, NITI Aayog, Inter-State Council.

#### 4. Decentralisation and Local Empowerment

- Strengthen local governance to address regional aspirations at the **grassroots level**.
- Ex: Sixth Schedule Autonomous Councils, Panchayati Raj Institutions.

#### 5. Respect Linguistic and Cultural Diversity

- Protect regional languages and cultures while promoting national integration.
- Ex: Constitutional recognition of **22 Scheduled Languages** and three-language formula.

#### 6. Effective Grievance Redressal

- Resolve inter-state disputes through **institutional mechanisms** before they escalate into regional movements.
- Ex: River Water Tribunals, Zonal Councils.

#### 7. Social Integration and People-to-People Contact

- Increase inter-regional interaction to reduce stereotypes and strengthen emotional integration.
- Ex: Student exchange programmes, **Bharat Darshan initiatives**.

#### 8. Technology-Driven National Integration

- Use digital platforms to bridge geographical and informational divides.
- Ex: Digital India, BharatNet connecting remote regions.

#### 9. Counter Regional Alienation

- Address perceptions of neglect through responsive governance and participatory policymaking.
- Ex: Peace accords in the North-East and targeted tribal development programmes.

#### 10. Innovative Measures (Template- Index, Fund & AI)

- **National Integration Index** to monitor regional disparities.
- **Inter-State Youth Service Corps** for students to work in other states.
- **Regional Equity Fund** for lagging regions.
- **One India Fellowship Programme** promoting inter-state cultural immersion.
- **AI-based Early Warning System** to detect regional grievances and social tensions.

Regional aspirations are natural in a diverse democracy, but they must be harmonised with national interests through cooperative federalism and inclusive development. A strong India emerges not from uniformity, but from unity amidst regional diversity.

### Regional Disparity

Unequal levels of development, income, infrastructure, and access to services across different regions of a country.

#### Dimensions:

- Economic: Variations in per capita income, industrialization, employment.
- Social: Differences in literacy rates, healthcare access, education.
- Geographical: Inaccessibility due to terrain (Ex: North-East, Himalayan regions).
- Administrative: Unequal policy attention or inefficient governance.

#### Key Causes:

- Colonial legacy of uneven development (Ex: port cities like Mumbai, Kolkata).
- Skewed public investment favoring already-developed regions.(Ex: Cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi etc. accounting for majority of investment)
- Centralized planning and poor coordination with local needs.(Ex: Top-Down approach in policymaking)
- Geographical and environmental constraints in tribal, hilly, or arid regions.
- Lack of political voice and representation.

### How Regional Disparity Fuels Regionalism

#### Sense of Marginalization:

- Perception of neglect by central or state governments.
- Creates identity-based or grievance-based movements.

#### Cultural and Linguistic Assertion:

- Assertion of local identity when mainstream culture is perceived as imposed.
- Ex: Anti-Hindi movements in South India; Dravidian politics in Tamil Nadu.

#### Demand for Autonomy or Statehood:

- Sub-regions seeking administrative independence due to unequal treatment.
- Examples: Gorkhaland (West Bengal), Vidarbha (Maharashtra), Bundelkhand (U.P./M.P.).

#### Political Movements and Separatism:

- Regional parties capitalize on disparities.
- In extreme cases, it leads to secessionist tendencies (Ex: in Kashmir or North-East).

## How Regional Disparities Can Be Overcome

### 1. Policy and Planning Reforms

- Promote bottom-up planning through empowered Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Implement region-specific development plans.
- Strengthen cooperative federalism between Centre and States.
- **Punchhi Commission (2007)**: Recommended strengthening the Inter-State Council and addressing regional grievances proactively.

### 2. Targeted Development Initiatives

- Aspirational Districts Programme: Targets 112 backward districts using composite indicators in health, education, agriculture, and infrastructure.
- Special Category Status for geographically disadvantaged states (Ex: North-Eastern states).
- Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF): Funding for infrastructure and capacity building in lagging regions.
- Raghuram Rajan Committee (2013): Created a Multi-Dimensional Index for assessing backwardness (not just per capita income).

### 3. Infrastructure and Connectivity Boost

- UDAN scheme: Enhances air connectivity in under-served regions.
- PM Gati Shakti: Infrastructure push through integrated multimodal connectivity.
- Digital India & BharatNet: Bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas.

### 4. Human Development Focus

- Improve access to quality education and healthcare in lagging regions.
- Skilling and employment generation programs tailored to local needs.

## How Regional Disparity Can Be Used to Promote National Integration

### 1. Inclusive Development as a Unifying Force

- Bridging regional gaps through balanced development strengthens national cohesion.
- A sense of shared prosperity fosters belonging and reduces alienation.

### 2. Cultural Exchange and National Identity Building

- Initiatives like Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat promote inter-state cultural understanding and reduce prejudices.

### 3. Interdependence of Regions

- Resource-rich but infrastructure-poor states (Ex: Odisha, Jharkhand) supply raw materials to industrial states (Ex: Maharashtra, Gujarat).
- Coordinated economic planning can turn disparity into complementary strength.

### 4. Migration and Social Integration

- People from underdeveloped regions often migrate to prosperous areas for work.
- With proper support, this movement creates economic linkages and cross-cultural exchanges.

### 5. Empowered Local Governance within a National Framework

- Providing regional autonomy (Ex: Sixth Schedule areas in North-East) within the national constitutional framework builds trust and loyalty.

Regional disparities can fuel regionalism if left unaddressed. However, balanced and inclusive development can transform them into pillars of cooperative federalism, shared prosperity, and national integration.

**Universal Technology Application Template (AI, IoT, Big data etc- Can be used according to**

| <b>context)</b>                              |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Data-Driven Decision Making</b>           | Enables evidence-based policy formulation and planning.<br>Ex: GIS mapping used for identifying Aspirational Districts and infrastructure gaps.                                |
| <b>Predictive Analytics and Forecasting</b>  | Anticipates future trends, risks, and resource requirements.<br>Ex: AI-based weather forecasting by India Meteorological Department for agriculture and disaster preparedness. |
| <b>Real-Time Monitoring</b>                  | Enables continuous tracking of assets, services, and activities.<br>Ex: Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) under Smart Cities Mission.                             |
| <b>Resource Optimisation</b>                 | Improves allocation of manpower, funds, and infrastructure.<br>Ex: AI-based traffic signal management in Bengaluru to reduce congestion.                                       |
| <b>Early Warning and Risk Assessment</b>     | Helps identify vulnerabilities and enables proactive intervention.<br>Ex: Tsunami Early Warning System of Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services.               |
| <b>Improved Service Delivery</b>             | Enhances accessibility, speed, and quality of services.<br>Ex: Telemedicine through eSanjeevani.                                                                               |
| <b>Better Targeting of Beneficiaries</b>     | Reduces leakages and improves inclusion.<br>Ex: Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).                                                                                 |
| <b>Transparency and Accountability</b>       | Minimizes corruption and improves governance.<br>Ex: Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for transparent procurement.                                                               |
| <b>Automation and Efficiency</b>             | Reduces human errors and operational costs.<br>Ex: FASTag-based automated toll collection.                                                                                     |
| <b>Spatial Mapping and Visualization</b>     | Identifies geographic patterns and priority areas.<br>Ex: GIS mapping of flood-prone areas in Assam and Bihar.                                                                 |
| <b>Integrated Planning and Coordination</b>  | Facilitates convergence among multiple agencies.<br>Ex: PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan integrating infrastructure ministries.                                             |
| <b>Citizen-Centric Governance</b>            | Improves responsiveness and grievance redressal.<br>Ex: CPGRAMS online grievance portal.                                                                                       |
| <b>Climate Resilience and Sustainability</b> | Supports environmental monitoring and sustainable resource use.<br>Ex: Forest monitoring using satellite imagery by Indian Space Research Organisation.                        |
| <b>Enhanced Security and Surveillance</b>    | Strengthens monitoring and threat detection.<br>Ex: CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems).                                                                     |
| <b>Scenario Simulation and Digital Twins</b> | Tests policies and projects before implementation.<br>Ex: Digital Twin initiatives in smart city planning and infrastructure management.                                       |

## India - Key Indicators

| Indicators                                                                                                 | NFHS-6<br>(2023-24) |       | NFHS-5<br>(2019-21) |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
|                                                                                                            | Urban               | Rural | Total               | Total |
| <b>Population and Household Profile</b>                                                                    |                     |       |                     |       |
| 1. Population below age 5 years (%)                                                                        | 6.6                 | 8.6   | 8.0                 | 8.2   |
| 2. Population below age 15 years (%)                                                                       | 22.0                | 27.0  | 25.5                | 26.5  |
| 3. Population age 60 years and above (%)                                                                   | 12.7                | 13.0  | 12.9                | 11.8  |
| 4. Population living in households with electricity (%)                                                    | 99.5                | 97.8  | 98.3                | 96.8  |
| 5. Population living in households with an improved drinking-water source <sup>1</sup> (%)                 | 99.1                | 95.4  | 96.5                | 95.9  |
| 6. Households using iodized salt (%)                                                                       | 96.2                | 93.3  | 94.2                | 94.3  |
| 7. Households with any usual member covered under a health insurance/financing scheme (%)                  | 56.4                | 62.0  | 60.2                | 41.0  |
| 8. Households with any usual member having a bank account/post office account (%)                          | 97.3                | 98.6  | 98.2                | 95.7  |
| 9. Female population age 6 years and above who ever attended school (%)                                    | 84.3                | 69.2  | 73.7                | 71.8  |
| 10. Households with any usual female members owning a house and/or land (alone or jointly with others) (%) | 18.2                | 19.1  | 18.8                | 14.0  |
| 11. Children age 2-4 years who attended pre-school (%)                                                     | 50.0                | 46.0  | 47.0                | 40.1  |
| <b>Characteristics of Adults (age 15-49 years)</b>                                                         |                     |       |                     |       |
| 12. Women with 10 or more years of schooling (%)                                                           | 61.5                | 39.7  | 46.4                | 41.0  |
| 13. Men with 10 or more years of schooling (%)                                                             | 64.0                | 49.9  | 54.6                | 50.2  |
| 14. Women who have ever used the internet (%)                                                              | 77.3                | 58.6  | 64.3                | 33.3  |
| 15. Men who have ever used the internet (%)                                                                | 87.1                | 77.1  | 80.5                | 51.2  |
| <b>Marriage and Fertility</b>                                                                              |                     |       |                     |       |
| 16. Women age 20-24 years married before age 18 years (%)                                                  | 11.4                | 23.3  | 20.1                | 23.3  |
| 17. Men age 25-29 years married before age 21 years (%)                                                    | 9.7                 | 19.0  | 15.9                | 17.7  |
| 18. Total fertility rate (children per woman)                                                              | 1.6                 | 2.1   | 2.0                 | 2.0   |
| 19. Women age 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey (%)               | 3.4                 | 7.9   | 6.7                 | 6.8   |
| <b>Current Use of Family Planning Methods (currently married women age 15-49 years)</b>                    |                     |       |                     |       |
| 20. Any method <sup>2</sup> (%)                                                                            | 69.6                | 68.9  | 69.1                | 66.7  |
| 21. Any modern method <sup>2</sup> (%)                                                                     | 52.9                | 52.7  | 52.7                | 56.4  |
| 22. Any traditional method (%)                                                                             | 16.7                | 16.2  | 16.4                | 10.3  |
| 23. Female sterilization (%)                                                                               | 32.6                | 38.1  | 36.5                | 37.9  |
| 24. Male sterilization (%)                                                                                 | 0.4                 | 0.5   | 0.5                 | 0.3   |
| <b>Unmet Need for Family Planning (currently married women age 15-49 years)</b>                            |                     |       |                     |       |
| 25. Total unmet need <sup>3</sup> (%)                                                                      | 7.0                 | 9.1   | 8.5                 | 9.4   |
| 26. Unmet need for spacing <sup>3</sup> (%)                                                                | 3.5                 | 4.9   | 4.5                 | 4.0   |
| 27. Unmet need for limiting <sup>3</sup> (%)                                                               | 3.5                 | 4.2   | 4.0                 | 5.4   |
| <b>Maternal and Child Health</b>                                                                           |                     |       |                     |       |
| <b>Antenatal Care (for last birth in the 5 years before the survey)</b>                                    |                     |       |                     |       |
| 28. Mothers who had an antenatal check-up in the first trimester (%)                                       | 81.4                | 74.4  | 76.2                | 70.0  |
| 29. Mothers who had any antenatal care visits (%)                                                          | 96.2                | 95.8  | 95.9                | 92.6  |
| 30. Mothers who had at least 4 antenatal care visits (%)                                                   | 75.8                | 61.4  | 65.2                | 58.5  |
| 31. Mothers whose last birth was protected against neonatal tetanus <sup>4</sup> (%)                       | 94.4                | 93.6  | 93.8                | 92.0  |
| 32. Mothers who consumed iron folic acid for 100 days or more when they were pregnant (%)                  | 67.4                | 50.3  | 54.9                | 44.1  |
| 33. Mothers who consumed iron folic acid for 180 days or more when they were pregnant (%)                  | 49.2                | 33.7  | 37.8                | 26.0  |
| 34. Registered pregnancies for which the mother received a Mother and Child Protection (MCP) card (%)      | 94.9                | 95.9  | 95.6                | 95.9  |
| <b>Delivery Care (for births in the 5 years before the survey)</b>                                         |                     |       |                     |       |
| 35. Institutional births (%)                                                                               | 95.2                | 89.0  | 90.6                | 88.6  |
| 36. Institutional births in public facility (%)                                                            | 48.2                | 62.1  | 58.6                | 61.9  |
| 37. Births attended by skilled health personnel <sup>5</sup> (%)                                           | 95.3                | 90.0  | 91.3                | 89.4  |
| 38. Births delivered by caesarean section (%)                                                              | 40.5                | 22.8  | 27.2                | 21.5  |
| 39. Births in a private health facility that were delivered by caesarean section (%)                       | 57.4                | 52.2  | 54.1                | 47.4  |
| 40. Births in a public health facility that were delivered by caesarean section (%)                        | 28.0                | 14.0  | 16.9                | 14.3  |

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