

Q 1. What is 'Sanskritisation'? Explain. What are its effects on the society?**Introduction:**

Sanskritization is a process by which scheduled castes, tribes and other low Hindu castes change their way of life, customs and rituals in the direction of upper castes. It is followed by a claim to a higher position in the caste hierarchy than traditionally conceded to the claimant caste by the local community. Such claims are made over a period of time, sometimes a generation or two before they are conceded.

Body:

Effects of Sanskritization on society: Sanskritization has an influential effect on society in many ways.

- **More Equality and Liberty:** Some scheduled castes adopted upper-caste names, discovered myths about their origin and changed their traditional occupations. Now they sit along with the higher caste on the cots without any fear or hesitation.
- **Behavioural change:** Lower caste adopted other castes living patterns which gave them the liberty to sit and stand before other castes. For example, lower caste people were not keen to keep a clean atmosphere but due to Sanskritization, they started maintaining hygiene. They have left prohibited food. They also keep their houses clean and put on dresses like higher castes.
- **Value Transmission:** It helped in socio-economic and cultural value transmission in several groups of society.
- **Exposure to New ideas:** Sanskritisation is not just the adoption of new customs and habits, but also includes exposure to new ideas and values appearing in Sanskrit literature. Some of the most common Sanskritic theological ideas like Karma, dharma, Paap, Maya, Samsara and Moksha, which become common in the talk of people who are Sanskritised.
- **Redefined Caste System:** Sanskritisation challenged the then prevalent idea that caste was a rigid and unchanging institution. The concept of Sanskritisation addressed the actual complexity and fluidity of caste relations. It brought into academic focus the dynamics of the renegotiation of status by various castes and communities in India.
- **Societal Up-gradation of lower caste:** The low caste individuals are inclined towards Sanskritization because in that way they can elevate their social status and get higher status in the caste hierarchy.
- **Reduced Untouchability:** Now the situation is that the untouchable practice is almost abolished from society.
- **Professional Changes:** The lower caste people have given up un-cleaned occupation to raise their economic status because clean trades are a symbol of social light.

Many scheduled castes and tribes changed their dressing style and eating habits in a similar way of upper castes. But they had to face a lot of violence by upper castes for

following their way of life. Though the process is followed by many, only those that are politically or economically powerful succeeded in the process.

Conclusion:

After the independence of the country, the issue of social mobility became more complex and cases of Sanskritization, de-Sanskritization as well as re-Sanskritization were observed. Due to the policy of positive discrimination adopted by the Indian government now an increasing number of groups laid claim to backward status rather than high status. Some of them claim a backward status in state matters and a forward status in society.

2. India's tribal diversity is a capital. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Introduction:

Home to the largest tribal population in the world, India has the privilege of hosting a variety of truly colourful, indigenous, equally vibrant and culturally rich tribal people whose lifestyles, culture, religious beliefs, traditions, rituals, dressing, food, language are so diverse that they represent an anthropological wealth of heritage.

Body:

India's tribal diversity is definitely a capital. Fighting the lack of accessibility and neglect, various tribal hamlets in India have turned problems into opportunities:

Art and Culture:

- **Centuries-old music and dance:** Dance and music are a way of expression, and for India's tribal communities, it has become an aspect which defines their culture. Tribal India has also stepped out of its indigenous tradition to make waves in other folk forms as well, as in the case of **Padma-winner Teejan Bai**. A member of the Pardhi tribe, in Chhattisgarh, Teejan is a world-renowned Pandavani exponent. This art form involves singing, playing various traditional instruments, and enacting scenes from the Mahabharata, and Teejan has been invited to other countries to perform, which has put her tribe on the global map! Whether it is to express joy, entertain, or celebrate, the hundreds of folk dances that India's tribes have given to the country have definitely added to India's cultural repertoire.
- **The coveted handicrafts:** Tribal handicrafts are coveted around the world, for the precision, and effort with which each piece is created. Their age-old traditions have cultivated a generation of artisans who have honed their craft to contribute not only to the domestic market but India's exports as well. The tribes of the Kalahandi district in Orissa craft good quality products out of wood, which have been exported to other countries, while the Dhokra Damar

tribes of West Bengal and Odisha are the creators of Dhokra technique, which has been used to create metal artefacts. Each year, handicrafts are exported to at least 100 countries around the world.

Economy and Entrepreneurships:

- Their knowledge of ancient herbs, plants and other natural products is tantamount to that of an expert. These skills that were once a part of their tradition have now become a means for not only their livelihood but an active contribution to furthering India's economic growth. Members of Kattunayakan, an ancient tribe in Kerala, have been collecting and selling wild honey for years. According to a report by Agriculture Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) 38, 177.08 metric tonnes of honey, worth 705.87 crores was exported in 2015-2016.
- Mendha Lekha, a tribal village situated in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra, has a successful bamboo economy. The entire village, comprising 450 people belonging mainly to the Gond tribe, works together in cultivating bamboo as raw material for the paper industry. The villagers make profits in crores, and are using the money for several development and social welfare activities in the area.
- A group of over 3,500 women from 127 tribal hamlets in Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Angul and Deogarh entered into a formal agreement with Leaf Democracy, a German company, to supply one lakh siali leaf plates every month. The plates, commonly known as pattals, are in high demand in European countries, and act as a biodegradable alternate to plastic and Styrofoam. These women, who earlier sold minor forest products such as siali leaves, Sal seed, mohua flowers and tamarind locally, are today working as a women's self-help group and inspiring many other women to follow suit.

Sports in Domestic and International levels:

- The tribes of India are known for their natural stamina and strength, which is a product of their lifestyle. As a result, many prominent sports figures hail from tribes across India. Mary Kom, a five-time world amateur boxing champion, and Olympic Medal winner hails from the Kom tribe in Manipur, and Baichung Bhutia, the first Indian to play professional football in England, comes from a tribe from Tinkitam in Sikkim.

Knowledge of medicinal plants:

- Many of us living in the modern world have begun to admire traditional remedies, and it is a known fact that tribal people have been practising these remedies since the time of their ancestors.
- Tender bamboo shoots have been known to cure muscle pain. A plant known as "narinaranga" is used by the Kurichiar in a paste made to provide relief for sprains; and for the Sugali tribe of Andhra Pradesh, the garlic bulb is a remedy for fever. There are thousands of such natural remedies within.

Conclusion:

The diverse tribal strength of India has lived off the land, and has given back just as much as they have taken. Whether it is their ability to innovate, adapt, and create, they continue to use their skills to thrive in an ever-evolving world, staying true to themselves, while also reaching new heights in novel fields.

3. Who are called the 'millennials'? What are the typical attributes of their lifestyle?**Introduction**

Millennials, also known as Generation Y (or Gen Y), are the demographic cohort (group of subjects who share a defining characteristic) following Generation X and preceding Generation Z. Researchers and popular media typically use the early 1980s as starting birth years and the mid-1990s to early 2000s as ending birth years.

Body**Attributes of their lifestyle are as following:**

- **Tech savvy:** Armed with smart phones, laptops, and other gadgets, this generation is plugged in 24/7. They like to communicate through social media.
- **Achievement-Oriented:** Nurtured and pampered by parents who didn't want to make the mistakes of the previous generation, millennials are confident, ambitious, and achievement-oriented. They also have high expectations of their employers, tend to seek new challenges at work, and aren't afraid to question authority.
- **Team oriented:** They value teamwork and seek the input and affirmation of others. Millennials are the true no-person-left-behind generation, loyal and committed. They want to be included and involved.
- **Prone to Job-Hopping:** A potential downside of Generation Y workers is that they're always looking for something new and better.
- **Multitaskers:** Millennials are multitasking pros and can juggle many responsibilities at once. This also means that we are easily distracted and find social media and texting hard to resist.
- **More curious:** Millennials are proven to be the most curious generation in the workforce today. And since research shows this soft skill plays a vital role in a company's success — leading to fewer bad decisions, more innovation, and stronger team performance — it's worth paying attention to during the hiring process.
- **Instant Gratification & Recognition:** Millennials need to feel like what they are doing is important and that they are on the right track.
- **Work-Life Balance & Flexibility:** Millennials aren't as willing as former generations to sacrifice their personal life in order to advance their careers.

They like to “work hard, play hard” and want to be at a company that appreciates this desire for balance

- **Family centric:** Millennials usually prioritize family over work, and even those who aren't married with children feel the need to be a part of a family and spend time with nieces, nephews, and siblings
- **Idealistic:** No matter what state the world is in, they strive to help make the world a better place.
- **Passionate:** Pursuing hobbies that they care about is an important part of their personal growth and development.

Conclusion

The millennial generation is probably one of the most misunderstood generations usually labelled as lazy, self-indulgent, self-obsessed, and dependent, among other unflattering descriptions. But the Millennial generation makes up the fastest growing segment of the workforce. As companies compete for available talent, employers simply cannot ignore the needs, desires, and attitudes of this vast generation.

4. How is social media influencing societal discourse in India? Examine.

Introduction

Social media platforms are transforming public discourse in ways we do not understand. Billions of people around the world and 460 million in India use Social media to get their news, debate policy, join political movements and connect with friends and family. The platform has become the substrate of our social interactions, how human relationships are formed and maintained.

Body

Social media influencing societal discourse:

On communication:

- It has Created a Sense of Urgency and a Need to Share any Information. For example – Making of Social media stars like Priya Warrier overnight or Spread of fake news.
- It has made the language lazy and thus resulting in people uninterested in meeting others in person, which eliminates any chance of deep and meaningful conversation. People have started losing their ability to communicate efficiently, which is a testament, to what kind of total control social media has over their lives.

On Politics

- Facebook's algorithms have deepened political divisions and facilitated the spread of misinformation and propaganda. Facebook's algorithms show

Different ads to people and there is a chance of a conspiracy theory about a political candidate.

- Social media isn't just used for entertainment. Both mainstream politicians and extremist groups use Facebook and Twitter to spread information.

On debate:

- Social media gives the right to free speech. But, recently there is reduced scope of constructive criticism and free expression because of never-ending online trolls and hate speeches.

On Privacy:

- The traditional social norm of Privacy is completely changed, people aren't worrying to post confidential information because of the LIKE-Hunger or Peer pressure or both.

Instant communication:

- There's a new change in communication patterns like Preference of texting over face to face communication among the youth.

Conclusion

Social media is influencing Public discourse like never before, It is an enabler to share information but should be used with caution. It is time that the pitfalls of social media and ways to protect oneself are taught in schools.

5. Differentiate between the terms 'modernisation' and 'westernisation' with the help of suitable examples.

Introduction

Modernization involves changes not only at the institutional level but also a fundamental change at the personal level whereas westernization is a process of imitation of western countries by non-western countries.

Body

Modernization:

- **Basis-** It is related to forfeiting dogma and adopting practices that are consistent with conventional wisdom. For example, abolishment of untouchability, empowering women.
- **Cause-** Educational reform is often a prerequisite for modernization. For example, Sati system which was widely prevalent till 18th century, got abolished only due to efforts of educated Indians.
- **Impact-** It involves a change in modes of thinking, beliefs, opinions, attitudes, actions and also a change in the social structure from a closed conservative society to a classless, casteless society. For example, the way position of

women is changing in society, from just remaining inside house to visiting even space.

- **International examples-** Modernisation process involves the application of the new knowledge to the ways of living. Japan and China have been modernized in terms of industrialization, social relations but still have their culture intact.

Westernization:

- **Basis-** Westernization involves the behavioural aspects like eating, drinking, dressing, dancing, etc.
- **Causes-** Colonialism, mature and powerful market forces of the west that present western culture as the epitome of a good lifestyle. For example, Suit as formal dressing, Pizza, burger as fast food, etc.
- **Impact-** Subjugation of the local culture, loss of world diversity, conflict between core and peripheral values etc. For example, harassment against women is blamed on westernization, diseases due to adoption of lifestyles or eating habits that are not supported by the local climatic conditions.
- **International examples-** Contemporary Indian society where westernization is on rise due to factors like globalization, impact of colonialism etc.

Conclusion

Westernization and modernization though have fundamental differences, but are still associated as in modern times, rationalism and scientific education, that fuel modernization, have their origin in western societies and westernization is often perceived as a sub-process of modernization.