

1. How does the diversity of India's population, with regards to religion, language, ethnicity, and caste, impact the country's social and political landscape? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach-

Candidates can start the answer with giving basic definition of moral attitude and simply write about its different facets and relate it to suitable real time examples.

Introduction-

The term 'diversity' in Indian case means collective differences, that is, differences which mark off one group of people from another. These differences may be of any sort: biological, religious, linguistic etc. Thus, diversity means variety of races, of religions, of languages, of castes and of cultures.

Body-

Diversity impacting social and political landscape:

- Regionalism: Regionalism tends to highlight interests of a particular region/regions over national interests. It can also adversely impact national integration. Law and order situation is hampered due to regional demands and ensuing
- Divisive politics: Sometimes, ascriptive identities such as caste, religion etc. are evoked by politicians in order to garner This type of divisive politics can result in violence, feeling of mistrust and suspicion among minorities.
- Inter-religious conflicts: Inter-religious conflicts not only hamper relations between two communities by spreading fear and mistrust but also hinder the secular fabric of the country.
- Inter-state conflicts: This can lead emergence of feelings related to regionalism. It can also affect trade and communications between conflicting states. For instance, Cauvery River dispute between Karnataka and Tamil
- Geographical isolation: Geographical isolation too can lead to identity issues and separatist The North-East is geographically isolated from the rest of the country as it is connected with the rest of the country by a narrow corridor i.e the Siliguri corridor (Chicken's neck).
- Development imbalance: uneven pattern of socio-economic development, inadequate economic policies and consequent economic disparities can lead to backwardness of a region. For instance, due to economic backwardness of the North East region, several instances of separatist demands and secessionist tendencies have sprung up in the NE India.
- Ethnic differentiation and nativism: Ethnic differentiation has often led to clashes between different ethnic groups especially due to factors such as job

competition, limited resources, threat to identity for example frequent clashes between Bodos and Bengali speaking Muslims in Assam.

Factors Leading to Unity:

- Fairs and festivals: They also act as integrating factors as people from all parts of the country celebrate them as per their own local for example Diwali is celebrated throughout.
- Sports and Cinema: These are followed by millions in the country, thus, acting as a binding force across the length and breadth of country.
- Institution of pilgrimage and religious practices: Closely related to them is the age-old culture of pilgrimage, which has always moved people to various parts of the country and fostered in them a sense of geo-cultural unity.

Conclusion

Eventually, it is the responsibility of the political and religious leadership, civil society, intelligentsia and the media to uphold the values of mutual respect and tolerance to stress societal solidarity and tolerance.

Q -2- How do the various forms of social inequality such as those based on gender , caste and class shape the experiences and opportunities of different individuals and communities within Indian society ? Examine .

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how does social inequalities such as gender, caste, and class shape experiences and opportunities of individuals and communities within Indian society.

Introduction -

Social inequality exists throughout the world, but perhaps nowhere has inequality been so elaborately constructed as in the Indian institution of caste. Caste ,class, and gender, has shaped the experiences for people for many centuries.

Body-

The United Nations describes inequality as “the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities” ,

- It occurs when resources in a given society are distributed unevenly based on norms of a society that creates specific patterns along lines of socially defined categories e.g. religion, kinship, prestige, race, caste, ethnicity, gender etc. have different access to resources of power, prestige and wealth depending on the norms of a society.

Gender inequality -

- Social Inequality due to gender have large impact on income of women. In patriarchal societies large gender wage gap tends to exist.

- Gender wage gap is highest in India according International Labor Organization women are paid 34% less than men.
- Women comprise over 42 per cent of the agricultural labour force in the country, yet they own less than 2 percent of its farm land according to the India Human Development Survey (IHDS).

Caste inequality -

- Caste is significant factor for determining access to resources like education, income, health valued by individuals.
- India's upper caste households earned nearly 47% more than the national average annual household income, the top 10% within these castes owned 60% of the wealth within the group in 2012, as per the World Inequality Database.
- Inequalities tend to produce social conflict among the social groups e.g. caste groups like Jaats, Maratha, Patel's are demanding reservations but this demand is opposed by caste groups already claiming the benefits of reservations, such clash of interest due to perceived inequality tend to produce violent conflicts between opposing caste groups.
- Poor development indicators like IMR, MMR, low per capita income, lower education and learning outcomes at schools, high rate of population growth can be traced to existing socio-economic inequalities.
- Inequality causes a wide range of health and social problems, from reduced life expectancy and higher infant mortality to poor educational attainment, lower social mobility and increased levels of violence and mental illness.

Class inequality-

- In rural areas, many low-caste people still suffer from landlessness, Hence create class distinction with people with land and landless people and gave rise to unemployment, and discriminatory practices
- Inequality has been rising sharply for the last three decades. The richest have cornered a huge part of the wealth created through crony capitalism and inheritance.
- They are getting richer at a much faster pace while the poor are still struggling to earn a minimum wage and access quality education and healthcare services, which continue to suffer from chronic under-investment.
- The ownership of SCs/STs and OBCs in non-agricultural establishments is lower than overall figures, suggesting that India's socially deprived groups typically face greater barriers in the non-farm sector of the economy. The scale of deprivation is however far higher for SCs and STs than for OBCs.

Caste class shaping the personal and community experiences -

- SC/STs continue to be subjected to identity-based violence by upper castes . Additionally, a consequence of reservations is that individuals belonging to the lower castes are not viewed based on their own merits, but rather through the lens of their collective stigmatised caste identity.
- Therefore, it is plausible that social exclusion and repeated exposure to such discrimination may affect one's beliefs, perceptions, and aspirations even when there have been marginal economic benefits at the aggregate.
- Caste not only dictates one's occupation, but dietary habits and interaction with members of other castes as well. Members of a high caste enjoy more wealth and

opportunities while members of a low caste perform menial jobs. Outside of the caste system are the Untouchables.

Measures to Deal with Inequalities-

- Enforcement of Constitutional Guarantee of equality as enshrined in fundamental rights. Articles 14, 15 and 16 form part of a scheme of the Constitutional Right to Equality. Article 15 and 16 are incidents of guarantees of Equality, and gives effect to Article 14.
- Promoting Civil Society-Provide a greater voice to traditionally oppressed and suppressed groups, including by enabling civil society groups like unions and association within these groups.
- Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes should be motivated to become entrepreneurs, schemes like Stand up India need to be expanded to widen its reach by increasing funding.
- Women Empowerment-For gender equality policies like affirmative action by reserving seats in legislatures, increasing reservation at Local self government both at Urban and village level to 50% in all states, strict implementation of The Equal Remuneration act, 1976 to remove wage gap, making education curriculum gender sensitive, raising awareness about women rights, changing social norms through schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao etc.
- By ensuring universal access to public funded high quality services like Public health and education, social security benefits, employment guarantee schemes; inequality can be reduced to great extent.
- As underlying drivers of gender inequalities, discriminatory social institutions perpetuate gender gaps in development areas, such as education, employment and health, and hinder progress towards rights-based social transformation that benefits both women and men.
- In some urban circles, inter caste marriages linking mates of similar class status have become acceptable. Correlations between caste and occupations are declining rapidly.

Way forward-

- In recent years, key changes have occurred in caste observances. It is now legally and socially unacceptable to openly advocate any caste's superiority or inferiority, and lower caste groups are flexing their political muscle.
- Even as traditional hierarchies weaken, caste identities are being reinforced, especially among disadvantaged groups with rights to special educational benefits and substantial quotas reserved for them of electoral offices and government jobs.

Conclusion-

In order to reduce inequality in India, Govt needs to take various measures. Government has to utilize the time to prioritize skill development. A skilled economy is the need of the hour to completely utilize India's demographic dividend towards equality.

Q-3-How have the processes of modernization and globalization impacted traditional social structures and practices in India and what has been the role of government and civil society in addressing these changes ? Analyse.

Approach -

In this question candidates need to write about how the process of ,modernization and globalization impacted traditional social structures and practices in India,In second part write the role of government in addressing these changes .

Introduction -

The process of modernization and Globalization is used to describe how trade and technology have made the world a more connected and interdependent place. Globalization also captures in its scope the economic and social changes that have come about as a result.

Body -

Effect of modernization and globalization on Indian society-

- Transformation of a society from a rural and agrarian condition to a secular, urban, and industrial one.
- It is closely linked with industrialization. As societies modernize, the individual becomes increasingly important, gradually replacing the family, community, or occupational group as the basic unit of society.
- Division of labour, characteristic of industrialization, is also applied to institutions, which become more highly specialized. Instead of being governed by tradition or custom, society comes to be governed according to abstract principles formulated for that purpose.
- Traditional religious beliefs often decline in importance, and distinctive cultural traits are often lost.
- Western institutions like banking system, public administration, military organization, modern medicine, law, etc., were introduced in our country.
- Western education broadened the outlook of the people who started talking of their rights and freedom. The introduction of the new values, the rational and secular spirit, and the ideologies of individualism, equality and justice assumed great importance.
- Acceptance of scientific innovations heightened the aspirations for raising the standard of living and providing material welfare for the people.
- Many reform movements came into being. Several traditional beliefs and practices dysfunctional to society were discarded and many new customs, institutions and social practices were adopted.
- Our technology, agriculture, entrepreneurship and industry were modernized leading to the economic well-being of our country.
- The hierarchy of political values has been restructured. Accepting the democratic form of government, all native states, which had been under a monarchic form of

government, have been merged into the Indian State and the authority and domination of feudal and zamindars has been demolished.

- There have been structural changes in social institutions like marriage, family and caste, creating new forms of relations in social life, religion, etc.
- The introduction of the modern means of communication, such as railway and bus travel, postal service, air and sea travel, press, and radio and television have affected man's life in varied respects.
- Growth of cities: It has been estimated that by 2050 more than 50% of India's population will live in cities. The boom of services sector and city centric job creation has led to increasing rural to urban migration.
- Indian cuisine: is one of the most popular cuisines across the globe. Historically, Indian spices and herbs were one of the most sought after trade commodities. Pizzas, burgers, Chinese foods and other Western foods have become quite popular.
- Old Age Vulnerability: The rise of nuclear families has reduced the social security that the joint family provided. This has led to greater economic, health and emotional vulnerability of old age individual
- Globalization also means growing interdependence in other nations- this can issues like misdistribution of resources. The parity between underdeveloped, developing, and developed remains status quo in many cases.
- Globalization does have a great effect on the ecologies and environments of nations that need safeguards that lessen the negative effects rather than exploiting them without regard to such concerns.
- The negative effects of globalization on the Indian Industry are that with the coming of technology the number of labor required is decreased and this resulted in increasing unemployment, especially in the arena of the pharmaceutical, chemical, manufacturing, and cement industries.
- There are a few challenges for companies due to globalization such as Migration, relocation, labor shortages, competition, and changes in skills and technology.

Role of government to addressing and mitigating these changes-

- Civil society plays a vital role in the formation of public policies to meet the common goals and aspirations of a global citizenry.
- With the advent of Globalisation, civil societies got more organized, formal and structured. Moreover, it also started receiving funds from international organization for specific cause. For example, Oxfam trust, American india foundation etc.
- Reservation in the educational institutions and financial assistance in the form of scholarships provides them greater access to quality education. NGOs has given them voice against the oppression.
- The first important legislation was the abolition of the zamindari system, which removed the layer of intermediaries who stood between the cultivators and the state.
- Among the other major land reform laws that were introduced were the tenancy abolition and regulation acts. They attempted either to outlaw tenancy altogether or to regulate rents to give some security to the tenants.
- Globalisation has provided farmers with better quality seeds that have helped them to increase their product yield. With advanced technologies, farmers have

better access to weather forecasting system which reduces chances of crop failure.

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize equality of opportunity and reducing inequality of outcomes, the elimination of discrimination in law, policy and social practice, and socio-economic inclusion of all under the banner goal 'to leave nobody behind'.
- The acceleration of urbanization is profoundly affecting the transformation of Indian society. India's largest cities have grown at twice the rate of its small towns and villages, with many of the increases due to rural-urban migration. Hence government creating employment opportunities in to tackle migration issues .
- Globalization has led to loss of livelihood. Because of it, there are differing views on the impact of Globalisation. With greater awareness among the masses about their rights, the government is making a conscious effort to fulfill their demands by moving towards a right based approach by enacting laws like RTI, MNREGA and others
- Inter caste marriages promoted by government-The rigid caste system is gradually giving way to relaxed norms. Inter-caste marriages, intermingling and socializing with other castes is no longer regarded as a taboo .
- Globalization has forced vulnerable castes towards informal sector doing menial jobs due to lack of requisite skills. For example, erstwhile untouchables have become manual scavengers.
- Globalization has created more space for women in the economic workspace. This has led to a significant improvement of women in India's socio-economic landscape. It has thus, helped in giving flexibility and opportunities to women.

Conclusion-

The process of globalization has changed the industrial pattern and social life of people. This has had an immense impact on Indian trade, finance, and cultural system but it is useful only when it will preserve the environments, life forms and civilizations of this planet.