

# IAS BABA



## Aiming to **Score 300+** in Optionals?

### **SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL**

### **FOUNDATION COURSE 2026**



**SANJEEV ROY**

- **B.tech (CSE), MA(Economics), LLB (Delhi University)**
- **5 Mains + 2 Interviews**
- **9+ Year of Teaching Experience**
- **Top Scorer in UPSC Sociology**

#### **FEATURES**

- **250+ Hours** of Classes
- Paper 1 + Paper 2 **Integrated Coverage**
- **Static + Dynamic** Prep Strategy
- **6** Sectional Tests + **2 FLMs**
- **Classnotes** + Handouts
- 1:1 Personalised **Mentorship**
- Dedicated **Student Portal**



**Batch Starts from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

## Paper I

### 1. Sociology - The Discipline

- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology.
- (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- (c) Sociology and common sense.

### 2. Sociology as Science

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
- (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
- (c) Positivism and its critique.
- (d) Fact value and objectivity.
- (e) Non- positivist methodologies.

### 3. Research Methods and Analysis

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

### 4. Sociological Thinkers

- **(a) Karl Marx:** Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- **(b) Emile Durkheim:** Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
- **(c) Max Weber:** Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
- **(d) Talcott Parsons:** Social system, pattern variables.
- (e) Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups
- (f) Mead - Self and identity.

### 5. Stratification and Mobility

deprivation

- **Theories of social stratification:** Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.
- **Dimensions:** Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.
- **Social mobility:** open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

## 6. Works and Economic Life

- **Social organization of work in different types of society:** slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society.
- Formal and informal organization of work
- Labour and society.

## 7. Politics and Society

- Sociological theories of power
- Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties.
- Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
- Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

## 8. Religion and Society

- Sociological theories of religion.
- Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
- Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

## 9. Systems of Kinship

- Family, household, marriage.
- Types and forms of family.
- Lineage and descent
- Patriarchy and sexual division of labour
- Contemporary trends.

## 10. Social Change in Modern Society

- Sociological theories of social change.
- Development and dependency.
- Agents of social change.
- Education and social change.
- Science, technology and social change.

## **PAPER - II ( INDIAN SOCIETY : STRUCTURE AND CHANGE )**

### **A. Introducing Indian Society**

#### **(i) Perspectives on the study of Indian society**

- Indology (GS. Ghurye).
- Structural functionalism (M N Srinivas).
- Marxist sociology ( A R Desai).

#### **(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society**

- Social background of Indian nationalism.
- Modernization of Indian tradition.
- Protests and movements during the colonial period.
- Social reforms

### **B. Social Structure**

#### **(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure**

- The idea of Indian village and village studies-
- Agrarian social structure -
  - -evolution of land tenure system,
  - -land reforms.

#### **(ii) Caste System**

- (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems:
  - GS Ghurye, M N Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
- (b) Features of caste system.
- (c) Untouchability - forms and perspectives

#### **(iii) Tribal communities in India**

- (a) Definitional problems.
- (b) Geographical spread.
- (c) Colonial policies and tribes.
- (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.

#### **(iv) Social Classes in India**

- (a) Agrarian class structure.
- (b) Industrial class structure.
- (c) Middle classes in India.

#### **(v) Systems of Kinship in India**

- (a) Lineage and descent in India.
- (b) Types of kinship systems.
- (c) Family and marriage in India.
- (d) Household dimensions of the family.
- (e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.

#### **(vi) Religion and Society**

- (a) Religious communities in India.
- (b) Problems of religious minorities.

### **C. Social Changes in India**

#### **(i) Visions of Social Change in India**

- (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
- (b) Constitution, law and social change.
- (c) Education and social change.

#### **(ii) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India**

- (a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
- (b) Green revolution and social change.
- (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture .
- (d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

### **(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India**

- (a) Evolution of modern industry in India.
- (b) Growth of urban settlements in India.
- (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
- (d) Informal sector, child labour
- (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

### **(iv) Politics and Society**

- (a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.
- (b) Political parties, pressure groups , social and political elite.
- (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.
- (d) Secularization

### **(v) Social Movements in Modern India**

- (a) Peasants and farmers movements.
- (b) Women's movement.
- (c) Backward classes & Dalit movement.
- (d) Environmental movements.
- (e) Ethnicity and Identity movements.

### **(vi) Population Dynamics**

- (a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.
- (b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.
- (c) Population policy and family planning.
- **(d) Emerging issues:** ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.

### **(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation**

- **(a) Crisis of development:** displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.
- (b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.
- (c) Violence against women.
- (d) Caste conflicts.
- (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
- (f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.

## Theme 1: Basics of Sociology

### Paper I

#### Unit 1: Sociology - The Discipline

#### Unit 2: Sociology as Science

#### Unit 3: Research Methods and Analysis

To be Covered in 15 - 20 Lectures

### 1. Sociology - The Discipline

- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology.
- (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- (c) Sociology and common sense.

### Sociology as Science

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
- (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
- (c) Positivism and its critique.
- (d) Fact value and objectivity.
- (e) Non- positivist methodologies.

### Research Methods and Analysis

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

## Theme 2: Thinkers

### Paper I

#### Unit 4: Sociological Thinkers

### Paper II

#### Unit A(i): Perspectives on the study of Indian society

To be Covered in 15 - 20 Lectures

### Paper I

### Paper II



4. Sociological Thinkers	A. Introducing Indian Society (i) Perspectives on the study of Indian society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>(a) Karl Marx:</b> Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.</li> <li>• <b>(b) Emile Durkheim:</b> Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.</li> <li>• <b>(c) Max Weber:</b> Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.</li> <li>• <b>(d) Talcott Parsons:</b> Social system, pattern variables.</li> <li>• <b>(e) Robert K. Merton:</b> Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups</li> <li>• <b>(f) Mead:</b> Self and identity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indology (GS. Ghurye).</li> <li>• Structural functionalism (M N Srinivas).</li> <li>• Marxist sociology (A R Desai).</li> </ul>

### Theme 3: Stratification

#### Paper I

#### Unit 5: Stratification & Mobility

#### Paper II

#### Unit B (ii): Caste System

#### Unit B (iii): Tribal Communities in India

#### Unit B (iv): Social Classes in India

To be Covered in 12 - 15 Lectures

#### Paper I

#### Paper II

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Concepts:</b> equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation</li> <li>• <b>Theories of social stratification:</b> Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.</li> <li>• <b>Dimensions:</b> Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.</li> <li>• <b>Social mobility:</b> open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GS Ghurye, M N Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• (b) Features of caste system.</li> <li>• (c) Untouchability - forms and perspectives</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="751 602 1487 689" style="background-color: #f8d7da; padding: 5px;"><b>(iii) Tribal communities in India</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (a) Definitional problems.</li> <li>• (b) Geographical spread.</li> <li>• (c) Colonial policies and tribes.</li> <li>• (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="751 1016 1487 1104" style="background-color: #f8d7da; padding: 5px;"><b>(iv) Social Classes in India</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (a) Agrarian class structure.</li> <li>• (b) Industrial class structure.</li> <li>• (c) Middle classes in India.</li> </ul>
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### Theme 4: Economy

#### Paper I

#### Unit 6: Work and Economic Life

#### Paper II

#### Unit B (i): Rural & Agrarian Social Structure

#### Unit C (ii): Rural & Agrarian Transformation in India

#### Unit C (iii): Industrialisation & Urbanisation in India

To be Covered in 15 - 20 Lectures

Paper I	Paper II
<b>6. Works and Economic Life</b>	<b>B. Social Structure (i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure</b>

- **Social organization of work in different types of society:**  
slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society.
- Formal and informal organization of work
- Labour and society.

- The idea of Indian village and village studies-
- Agrarian social structure -
  - evolution of land tenure system,
  - land reforms.

### **C. Social Changes in India (ii) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India**

- (a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
- (b) Green revolution and social change.
- (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture .
- (d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

### **(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India**

- (a) Evolution of modern industry in India.
- (b) Growth of urban settlements in India.
- (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
- (d) Informal sector, child labour
- (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

## Theme 5: Politics

### Paper I

#### Unit 7: Politics & Society

### Paper II

#### Unit C (iv): Politics & Society

#### Unit A (ii): Impact of Colonial Rule in India

To be Covered in 15 - 20 Lectures

Paper I	Paper II
7. Politics and Society	C. Social Changes in India (iv) Politics and Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sociological theories of power</li><li>• Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties.</li><li>• Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.</li><li>• Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.</li><li>• (b) Political parties, pressure groups , social and political elite.</li><li>• (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.</li><li>• (d) Secularization</li></ul>
	A. Introducing Indian Society (ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social background of Indian nationalism.</li><li>• Modernization of Indian tradition.</li><li>• Protests and movements during the colonial period.</li><li>• Social reforms</li></ul>

## Theme 6: Religion

### Paper I

#### Unit 8: Religion & Society

### Paper II

#### Unit B (vi): Religion and Society

To be Covered in 10 - 12 Lectures

Paper I	Paper II
<b>8. Religion and Society</b>	<b>B. Social Structure (vi) Religion and Society</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sociological theories of religion.</li><li>• Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.</li><li>• Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (a) Religious communities in India.</li><li>• (b) Problems of religious minorities.</li></ul>

## Theme 7: Kinship

### Paper I

#### Unit 9: System of Kinship

### Paper II

#### Unit B (v): System of Kinship

To be Covered in 10 - 12 Lectures

Paper I	Paper II
<b>9. Systems of Kinship</b>	<b>B. Social Structure (v) Systems of Kinship in India</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family, household, marriage.</li><li>• Types and forms of family.</li><li>• Lineage and descent</li><li>• Patriarchy and sexual division</li></ul>	

of labour • Contemporary trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (a) Lineage and descent in India.</li> <li>• (b) Types of kinship systems.</li> <li>• (c) Family and marriage in India.</li> <li>• (d) Household dimensions of the family.</li> <li>• (e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.</li> </ul>
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## Theme 8: Social Change

### Paper I

### Unit 10: Social Change in Modern Society

### Paper II

### Unit C (i): Visions of Social Change in India

### Unit C (v): Social Movements in Modern India

### Unit C (vi): Population Dynamics

### Unit C(vi): Challenges of Social Transformation in India

To be Covered in 20 - 25 Lectures

Paper I	Paper II
10. Social Change in Modern Society	C. Social Changes in India (i) Visions of Social Change in India

- Sociological theories of social change.
- Development and dependency.
- Agents of social change.
- Education and social change.
- Science, technology and social change.

- (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
- (b) Constitution, law and social change.
- (c) Education and social change.

#### **(v) Social Movements in Modern India**

- (a) Peasants and farmers movements.
- (b) Women's movement.
- (c) Backward classes & Dalit movement.
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#### **(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation**

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- (b) Poverty, deprivation and

inequalities.

- (c) Violence against women.
- (d) Caste conflicts.
- (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
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