

# VISION IAS

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## SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 2298)

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Medium Eng/Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1227181
Center	ONLINE	Date	31-08-23

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS	
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained		
1 (a)	10		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).</li><li>There are <b>EIGHT</b> questions divided in <b>TWO SECTIONS</b>. Candidate has to attempt <b>FIVE</b> questions in all. Questions Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any <b>THREE</b> are to be attempted choosing at least <b>ONE</b> from each Section.</li><li>The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</li><li>Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.</li><li>Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</li><li>Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</li></ol>	
(b)	10			
(c)	10			
(d)	10			
(e)	10			
2 (a)	20			
(b)	20			
(c)	10			
3 (a)	20			
(b)	20			
(c)	10			
4 (a)	20			
(b)	20			
(c)	10			
5 (a)	10			
(b)	10			
(c)	10			
(d)	10			
(e)	10			
6 (a)	20			
(b)	20			
(c)	10			
7 (a)	20			
(b)	20			
(c)	10			
8 (a)	20			
(b)	20			
(c)	10			
Total Marks Obtained:			Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?	
Remarks:			Recommended	
			Strongly Recommended	

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## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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**All the Best**

1. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.  
10 x 5 = 50

(a) In a village, the cooperative society enjoys a focal position as an important socio-economic institution. Critically discuss.

(CS)  
Cooperative society as defined by Dr Gadgil is a self-governing voluntary association of people formed to meet common needs & aspirations.

focal position in village :-

- Cooperative in functioning, hence fosters solidarity. Thus, forms a suitable avenue for -
    - conflict resolution
    - mutual aid & support  
eg during emergency times
  - Based on equality principle, hence, inclusive & democratic
- Thus, socially - an important institution.

→ Economically, it helps in rural development (RD) :-



⇒ However, CS have limitations also that limit their emergence as focal institution

- eg ~~Joshi~~ Daniel Thorner's study → clite capture
- eg Bureaucratization
- eg "cooperative politics" [Bariskar]

Recent steps of making formation of CS as fundamental right etc. mark the significance of CS.

1. (b) Indian state shifted has from socialist state to liberal state post 1991. Analyse the Impact of market led approach to development in the last three decades.

Dubashi contended that India followed a mixed socialist path till the 1990s. After it, New Economic Policy marked shift to neo-liberalism in India.

Impact of market - led approach :-

Ⓐ functional :-

- Has spurred growth eg India was the fastest growing economy in 2000s
- Has led to decrease in poverty rapidly. [Multidimensional poverty Report → 415 Mn lifted out of poverty in last 30 years]
- Has led to improved & efficient economy
  - ↳ Avenues for the companies
  - ↳ choices for the consumers

→ Increase in living standards & income  
evident in rise of <sup>new</sup> middle class [Fernandes]

### ③ Dysfunctional :-

→ Jobs didn't grow proportionately  
↳ youth unemployment

→ sharp rise in inequality [Top 10% of wealth] [Oxfam Report]

→ disproportionate benefits  
to MNCs that rule the  
market (Siddhaathan)

→ Ecological harm [ Mira Ben ]

→ "Race to bottom" for attracting  
FDI → liberalization of labor  
laws [ Marxists ]

→ Informalization of economy  
↳ inefficiency & loss of tax revenue  
[ Women in Informal Employment  
Report ]

Therefore, the need of the hour  
is to focus on inclusive develop-  
-ment to make growth sustainable.

1. (c) The Constitution of India was adopted to force the pace of social and material renaissance in India as a step towards social change and nation building. Explain.

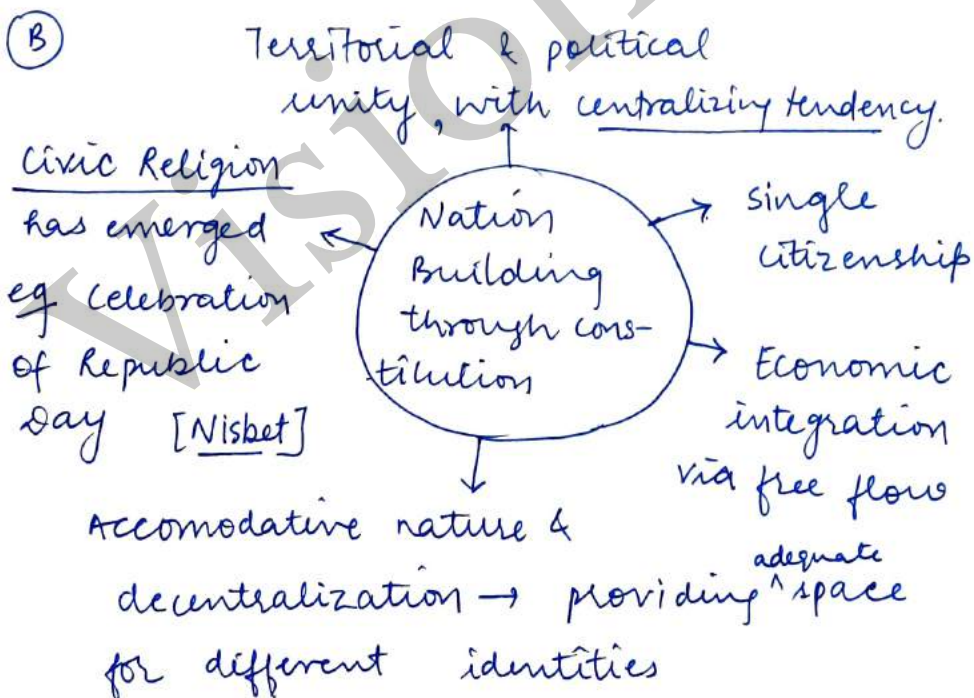
Scholars & nationalists like Ambedkar saw constitution as a revolutionary tool to bring about social change.

Constitution as force towards social change :-

- Tools of constitution for this —  
Fundamental rights, Directive principles of state policy, etc.
- social change in different verticles
- ) Caste — undoing historical injustice by reservation  
Abolition of untouchability  
opening up of temples for all
  - ) Women — equal rights — voting, wage ; reservation in elections

TK Oommen : constitution has brought women empowerment

- ) marginalized (subaltern)
    - V & VI schedule for tribals, reservation, special provisions etc.
  - ) providing for secular state, thus change in value system [Common]
  - ) No discrimination by state based on class, place of birth etc.
- Thus, has insured modern values in society → social change.



As Rajeev Bhargava says, constitution has insured there is no tyranny of majority & protection of vulnerable; ensuring

1. (d) Though slums vary from one type to another, but certain general patterns of slums are universal. Discuss.

As per govt's definition slums are those dwelling units which are unfit for habitation. As per census 2011, 17% of urban population is living in slums.

Variation of slums :-

→ Location :-

eg Dharawi in the heart of Mumbai city (vs) Chandigarh's slums on the outskirts [D'Souza]

→ Dwelling units nature :-

eg Jhuggi Jhopdi colony of DL (vs) chawl type of Mumbai

→ Some have very high population density eg Dharawi (73.5 lac/Km<sup>2</sup>)

→ Different types of services deprivation eg drinking water, sanitation, sewage, health, street, electricity etc.

However, general pattern is the same :-

- ① unfit for habitation ; reasons may vary eg dilapidation, narrowness of streets, highly dense area etc.
- ② overcrowding [William Whyte]
- ③ Presence of sub-culture [Marshall Clinard] - specific way of life
- ④ conducive for deviant behavior [Michael Harington] eg drug abuse, juvenile delinquency etc.
- ⑤ Lack of basic services as seen in study of Kolkata slum by SN Sen
- ⑥ often on unauthorized land

Over the time, as observed by David Hunter, slums have become inevitable part of urban scene.

1. (e) Women's movements in India are often accused of having a narrow middle-class base. Evaluate the statement in terms of leadership & issues of these movements.

(WM)

Women Movement in India as mentioned by Radha Kumar in her "History of Doing", rose during colonial period & caught pace in real sense during <sup>& post</sup> 1970s.

Leadership of WM :-

- During 1st phase (19thc to 1919) came from middle class urban intelligentsia - primarily male [Maitraye Chaudri]
- During 2nd phase (1919 till 1947) provided by educated & politically aware women leaders eg Margaret Cousins, Sarojini Naidu
- During 3rd phase, (1970s onwards) varying backgrounds of women

leaders, but primarily urban middle class eg Madhu Kishwar

↳ Thus, WM → hijacked by middle class women. [Sharmila Rege]

Issues taken up by WM :-

- often inspired from western WM eg legislative changes
- Have ignored the caste + gender intersection [Uma Chakravorty]
- Have failed to take up poor rural women's cause [N. Menon]
- No regard to linkage with environmental crisis [Vandana Shiva]
- As contended by Gayatri Spivak; elite leadership of WM shouldn't just speak on behalf of rural women but should also provide real voice to them.

Though WM has been successful in getting many legislations enacted, further support needed to check violence against women.

I have attempted this in extra time; this is not my attempted answer to be counted though.

2298

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Kindly evaluate it if possible.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- 2 (a) "India lives in villages and the development of the nation cannot be achieved without the development of the villages". In light of this, discuss the scope of programmes of rural development. 20

Gandhiji had famously commented that India lives in its villages.

It is still true → 2011 census data shows that 69% of Indian population resides in villages.

Along with this, agriculture in rural areas provide employment to half of the population.

Hence, development of rural area becomes highly important for the development of nation.

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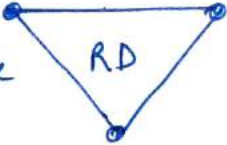
Scope of programs of rural development :-

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→ Rural Development (RD) entails

development of rural area & the people through optimum resource utilization, delivering services & bringing attitudinal change. [National Commission on Agriculture]

→ As per Kastur Singh, RD involves

life sustenance  freedom  
self respect

Programms of RD have thus focused on above 3 :-

(A) Life sustenance

(1) Eco Aspect :-

→ Improving agri-productivity

eg Land Reforms & Green Revolution

→ Improving allied sectors

eg Fisheries (Blue Revolution),

Horticulture, Animal husbandry  
development etc.

→ Improving efficiency & providing  
employment

eg focus on cooperativization, cottage  
industries

② Social Aspect :-

→ social security eg MGNREGA

→ Inclusion, equity, distributive  
justice eg Land Reforms

→ Basic services —

Road (PM Gram Sadak Yojana),

Electricity (Saubhagya Yojana),

Health (PM-JAY), Education,

WASH (Jal Jeevan Mission)

③ Technical Aspect :-

→ communication (BhartNet)

→ Agri Extension Services

(B) Self-Respect - ensuring dignity  
& honor

eg PM Awas Yojana (Rural), Panchayati  
Raj → reservation for women, SCs & STs

(C) Freedom

eg Abolition of bondage system,  
forced labor (begar),

eg Abolition of untouchability etc.

The trajectory of RD programmes  
from Community Development  
programme, Area-based, Targeted  
& other approaches - has thus  
ensured to make effort for  
all round RD.

These should be further  
enhanced to tailor-based  
approach by greater decentralization  
to Panchayats.

- 4 (a) Regionalism is often seen as a serious threat to the development, progress and unity of the nation but it does make a contribution to the nation. Discuss. 20

Regionalism refers to the excessive attachment to the regional identity vis-a-vis national.

It includes - consciousness among people about their distinctiveness, shared regional identity & interests of region seen as anti-thetical to "others."

Regionalism as threat to development, progress & unity :-

(A) Hinderance to development & progress :-

1. Regional movements involving

Violent means → disincentivize  
development  
efforts  
eg Greater Nagalim

2. Collateral damage due to conflicts  
leads to pauperization eg In North  
East
3. Politically → regional identity  
politics diverting attention  
from developmental issues  
eg Assam Movement
4. Hampers urbanization via  
"son of the soil" theory  
eg #MumbaiForMumbaikars
5. Lowers competitiveness of local  
industries  
eg Local reservation<sup>law</sup> in Haryana  
in private industries

## (B) Threat to national unity :-

1. Ghurye saw these sub-regional identities as potential threat to national integration.
2. Supra-state & inter-state regionalism lowers cohesiveness between people of different states.  
eg North vs South, inter-state water disputes
3. Directly hampers cultural integration eg in North East
4. Regional movements based on primordial identities eg caste (Oravidnadu), religion (Khalistan) violate national principles & "Indic" identity.

However, regionalism also contributes to nation, when there is no excessive focus on exclusivity

(Dipankar Gupta) :-

- Increasing social solidarity at local (regional level)
- Improving economic prospects  
eg Jharkhand & Telengana movements
- Helps in decentralization of power eg V & VI schedule
- Regional political parties increase vibrancy of democracy

Regionalism has thus, helped in providing space for pluralities in India.

4. (b) Although participation of the private sector in education is today the need of the hour, nevertheless certain concerns are expressed regarding the rapid growth of educational institutions under private management. Discuss. 20

Education system provides the avenue for secondary socialization of the children & serves functional pre-requisite of training workforce for the society.

It is thus important to ensure affordable & quality education system, <sup>in which</sup> private sector can help.

Need for private sector participation

- 1) Neoliberalism → rollback of the state  
↓  
Thus, private sector can provide the necessary functions of education

2) Globalization → Late capitalism  
& dominance of  
MNCs ↓

These can bring international stand-  
ards in education system

3) Various lacunae of Indian  
education system can be corrected;

~~eg~~ → Disconnect with the industry  
by infantilizing the college  
students (evident in low  
employability)

→ • Devaluation of degrees with  
focus on only collecting  
diplomas etc - & not earning  
skill [Dev Lahiri in his

"The Great Indian School Bazaar"]

→ Meagre investment in  
research & development  
(This can be bridged by private  
investment)

- 4) Private sector would also help bring innovation, in accordance with New Education Policy.

However, concerns remains over rapid growth of privately managed institutions :-

- As per NITI Aayog, 77.5% of Higher Education institutions in India are privately managed.
- ASER Report, 2022 also points towards increasing trends of private tuitions.
- These have various dysfunctions:-
  - ① As per Marxian perspective, ~~the~~ increasing commercialization would lead to legitimization

of class inequalities, [Paul & Gintis]  
reproduction of class hierarchies  
in access to jobs

② subaltern perspective -

Private sector reluctant in  
providing affirmative action, thus  
hampering equitable participation

③ Feminist perspective -

Higher fee in private institutions  
would disincentivize female  
education further as she is  
"economic liability"

④ Profit motive of private sector  
can be an impediment in  
ensuring egalitarian education  
system.

Thus, the right way should be  
the mixed model - availability of  
public education for the disprivileged  
& the needy

4. (c) The entire family system will be under great stress if marital rape is brought under law. In the light of this statement, critically discuss the necessity of criminalising marital rape in India. 10

Recently Supreme Court is hearing petitions challenging exception of marital rape in entant rape provision of IPC section 375.

(MR)

Criminalization of marital rape may put entire family system under stress:-

- Traditionalists argue <sup>for</sup> the inherent ~~consent~~ conjugal rights provided by the marriage
- They also argue for the absolute position of the male - which may get undermined
- Liberals argue that the marriage related provisions come under "private affairs", best left to people

→ Latent dysfunction of it being misused ~~to~~ by women in ~~the~~ absence of gender neutral rape laws.

However, views around criminalizing MR:

- Feminists like Tulsi Patel - MR reinforces patriarchal bias
- Violates principle of equality by differentiating based on marital status [Recent SC judgement]
- UNCEDAW terms it one of the violence against women - that needs to be upheld legally
- Latent dysfunctions of MR [Tulsi Patel]
  - ↳ unwanted pregnancies
  - ↳ Maternal depletion & even mortality because of them.

The views of above parties hence need to be heard fairly ~~too~~ before finalizing the stance.

5. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

10 x 5 = 50

(a) Discuss the significance of Backward Class movements for the Politico-Economic dominance of non-Brahmin intermediate castes in India.

(BC)  
Backward class movements emerged during colonial rule & <sup>got</sup> changed in their nature & agenda post-independence.

significance for political dominance of non-Brahmin intermediate castes

→ led to change in power hierarchy

eg Anti-Brahmin movement in south → institutionalization of DMK & AIADMK ensuring political representation thus eroded brahminical supremacy

→ intermediate castes also captured state power at regional & national level

eg First non-Congress govt. : Janta Dal

Economic significance:-

→ Main beneficiaries of Land Reforms, combined with their numerical majority emerged as "dominant castes"  
eg Rudolph & Rudolph - intermediate castes emerged as "bullock capitalists"

→ Mandal Movement → reservation in jobs → provided administrative power as well [silent OBC Revolution]  
↳ Jaffrelot

→ BC Movement - especially in north combined peasant's cause

eg New Farm Movement led by Tikait ⇒ secured concessions  
eg free electricity, cheap inputs etc.

BC Mvmt has, thus, ensured political + economic + administrative power to the hitherto deprived BCs.

The challenge today is to ensure its benefits

5. (b) Planning is commitment to concentrated actions. It is adjustment of social institutions to new social, economic and political conditions. In this context discuss planning as an agent of social change.

Planning is one of the pathened  
endogenous agents of social change  
as per Spratt.

It refers to organization of programs  
in a formulated scheme to achieve  
desired goals.

(SC)

Planning as agent of social change:-

① social change

→ Planned educational intervention  
↳ cultural factor of SC [spratt]

→ Intervention to make traditional  
institutions more egalitarian  
eg Reservation, laws for justice  
for women etc.

→ To ensure minimal "cultural lag"

eg Early efforts by India to mainstream digital revolution

### (B) Economic change

- Post-independence planned economy of India - heavy industries development ⇒ change from agri based economy
- New Economic Policy → changed landscape of business in India  
eg BPO industry, FDI, delicensing etc.

### (C) Political change

- 73rd & 74th amendments of constitution brought villages & municipalities under "direct democracy"
- Indian polity itself as planned effort by the constituent Assembly.  
NOT just new SC but planning also helps adjusting to new conditions therefore.

5. (c) Rapid urbanization is antithetical to sustainable development.  
Comment.

Urbanization as defined by Thompson  
Warren is the shift from community  
primarily engaged in agriculture to  
that in other sectors → manufacturing  
→ trade etc.

As antithetical to sustainable develop-  
ment (SD)

:-

- Rapid urbanization → requires  
large tracts of land → deforestation  
↳ against SD [Ghurye]
- Rapid urbanization often happens  
without proper planning, hence  
unfettered exploitation of resources  
without adequate recharge  
eg water resources eg Bangalore  
from 1000 lakes → <80 today

- Interests of the capitalists, middle class (dominant "classes") are upheld, thus, encroachments on natural wetlands etc. → Real estate
- Urbanism → consumerist culture [Theodor -son]  
↓  
greater waste, cost saving by not treating sewage etc.

Urbanization can also be made compatible to sustainable development

- Blue-green infra to accommodate natural connect
- Ensuring proper model of urbanization suitable for sustainable growth in long run eg concentric ring of Burgers, Sector Model of Hoytt etc.
- Ensuring inclusivity - affordable housing, age-friendly & gender friendly infra

Both are hence not necessarily incompatible.

5. (d) Politicisation of religion is threat to Indian democracy. Comment.

Indian democracy has secularism as its ideal with "saeva dharmā Sambhava" spirit. [Thomas Pantham]

Politicization of religion manifestations:-

→ Communalism types [Comment]

↓  
Retaliatory, seperatist, secessionist  
 eg Recent Nuh riots      eg Punjab suba demand      eg Khalistan, Azad Kashmir

→ Religion based politics

eg Majoritarianism - eg Hindutva  
 as mentioned by Romila Thapar  
 eg minority Appeasement

Threat to Indian democracy :-

- ① Against the secular ethos
- ② Indian democracy is rooted in

pluralism [common], hence focus on any one religion destabilizes the unity in ~~integrity~~<sup>diversity</sup> model.

- ③ secessionist movements fueled by regional elites (eg Azad Kashmir) as threat to territorial integrity.
- ④ vitiates the politics & pits sections of society against each other → against democratic principles of inclusion, harmony
- ⑤ Religion based identity politics distracts masses from developmental issues.
- ⑥ ~~leads~~ communalism leads to loss of lives, social capital & may destabilize democratic polity. (Evident from partition).

Thus, Nehruvian secularism envisaged Indian democracy on secular lines.

5. (e) Child labour is a crime committed by few, but the whole society is responsible. Comment.

As per Census 2011, >10Mn child labourers are there in India. This shows that despite legislation for banning child labor (CL) it continues to prevail.

CL : whole society is responsible :-

→ As Beteille contends, law has two dimensions - institutionalization & internalization; without the latter, former is meaningless.

Hence, social values are also playing a part in keeping CL alive

→ CL serves functional purpose for the society :-

1) <sup>As</sup> Gurcharan Sangeha contends - it reduces cost for capitalists especially in globalization context

- 2) Utsa Patnaik also mentions economics of CL as its biggest cause.
- 3) various industries benefit from specific labor of child eg carpet, wool, beedi rolling etc.
- child labor of girl child helps large & poor families in → care work & as extension of mother's hand.
- As Neera Burra mentions — there are vested interests in the society that keep child labor "invisible".

To break down this social attitude, need hard stance — outright ban on factory work along with universal compulsory education as suggested by Burra.

6. (a) "Manual scavenging is a stink that never washes off". In the light of this statement, provide the reasons for the unabated existence of manual scavenging in Indian society and suggest possible solutions. 20

Reports by Safaikaramchari Andolan provide that manual <sup>(MSRs)</sup> scavengers don't get accepted in any other roles by the society if they choose to leave this profession.

Manual <sup>(MS)</sup> scavenging is thus a stink that never washes off.

### Existence of MS in Indian society

- As per govt. data, more than 50,000 MSRs in the country.
- This is despite MS Act banning MS since 2018.
- Railway is the biggest employer of MSRs.

## Reasons behind unabated existence-

① Economically → it keeps the cost of services low.

eg pour - flush toilets are much costly & require 24x7 water supply.

② socio-cultural causes (primary)

→ As a tool by the dominant to oppress marginalized by showing their place.

↳ 98% of MSRs are SCs & STs

→ As a form of patriarchal violence.

↳ >75% of MSRs are women

→ Apathy of society by seeing MSRs as "fit for the job" due to no other skillset. →

This serves the "knowledge" function for the society by generalizing & stereotyping.

→ Associated with "purity & pollution" principle, hence, they are seen as permanently polluted.

↳ Thus, hard to rehabilitate.

→ Such professions are still seen as caste based, hence untouchables are forced into these.

[Yogendra Singh]

### ③ Politics - administrative

→ Due to untouchable not ~~being~~ <sup>'having</sup> "active voice" in the politics as per the subaltern view.

→ Bureaucratic apathy to their issues due to impersonality [Merton]

### Possible solutions :-

- Induction of technology  
eg Bandicoot robo of Kerala  
to clean the sewage
- Institutionalization of law is  
not sufficient in ensuring outcomes  
, it also requires internalization  
as per Beteille.
  - ↳ It can be ensured for MSA Act, 2013  
by vicarious re-enforcement  
via strict penalties & punishments
  - ↳ starting with govt. enterprises  
first
- Providing economic support to  
MSRs eg credit etc - for re-  
habilitation.

The societal apathy can be challenged  
by providing alternative view - eg of achievers  
from untouchable castes

6. (b) Government accountability for the consequences of state-imposed displacement has been virtually absent. Discuss social and cultural implications of displacement for the displaced communities in India? 20

For long economic development was seen without its human, ecological & cultural cost. Thus, state led massive development wasn't questioned.

However, it led to displacement & woes for the common citizen.

Absence of govt. accountability :-

Before Land Acquisition Act, govt. was not even liable for appropriate compensation & rehabilitation.

Supreme Court also took hardline during 1990s on the issue of eviction of shanty dwellers — supporting no compensation for eviction from public land.  
[Shaw & Saharan]

These, along with other factors have resulted in grave implications!

### Ⓐ Social implications of displacement

- Disproportionate impact on the marginalized eg Walter Fernandes  
> 40% of displaced are tribals
- Loss of livelihood, land, community resources  
[Report by Dr. Johani Xaxa]
- Reflects the social hierarchy  
eg D'Souza's study in Chandigarh  
↓  
Eviction of Mum dwellers to preserve beauty of city
- Leads to discontent among the disprivileged → may turn violent eg Naxalism

- Feminists show the greater impact on women eg unmarried / abandoned women are provided no separate rehabilitation
- Also fuels regionalism & tribalism eg displacement for projects from which no benefits to locals eg Oppositions to industries in central india
- Leads to disruption of social solidarity & increased conflicts eg Kalinganagar incident in Odisha, tribal movements

### ③ Cultural implications

- As per the report of Dr Johani Xaxa, displacement also leads to loss of :-

- ) traditional knowledge systems
- ) cultural rights eg - of education of tribal children
- ) community rights eg marriage among the community gets disrupted

→ Leads to migration → acculturation  
in the new area  
↓  
Assimilation may wipe out the  
minority culture

Development - induced displacement  
due to above implications needs  
a humanist approach to

tackle dysfunctions → appropriate  
compensation  
following ✓ ↓  
"difference principle" timely rehabilitation  
of John Rawls  
to give consideration to the marginalized.

6. (c) Of all the developmental programmes introduced during post-independence period, the Green Revolution is considered to have been the most successful. Critically analyse this statement. 10

Indian state adopted the welfarist model post-independence & launched various developmental programmes to fulfill it → Green Revolution (GR) one such.

Success of GR :-

[Dandekar & Rath]

→ Largely successful in its economic aims → India became self sufficient in food grain production

Modernization of Indian agriculture

↓

- ) Introduction of machines
- ) Integration with markets
- ) Scientific intervention  
eg high yield variety seeds

Improved income, returns for the farmers

However, it can't be termed as most  
successful program uncritically :-

Lead to many latent dysfunctions

- 1) Rise of intermediate dominant caste group as beneficiary that developed vested interests [Togendra Singh]
- 2) Regional disparities leading to circulation of footloose labor that remains exploited [Brenan]
- 3) Vandana Shiva in her "Violence of GR"
  - ↳ led to deterioration of soil health
  - ↳ ignorance of traditional seed variety
  - ↳ loss of traditional knowledge of farmers
  - ↳ Environmental impact
    - ↳ Ground water depletion
    - ↳ Increased chemical contamination

GR, hence, needs another phase to  
course correct the above to be the most

8. (a) As per the UN report, India will become the most populous country in 2023. Analyse the impact of population dynamics on Indian society. 20

As per UNFPA's "State of the World Population" Report, 2023, India has become the most populous country with population around 1.4 Billion.

This large population & its dynamics will have various social impacts.

Impact on Indian Society :-

① Challenges of large population

- Coupled with scarce resources, may fuel social conflicts, decrease in solidarity
- Increase in demand for employment & aspirations  
↳ Over-urbanization,

urban sprawl etc. & their  
challenges

- Increased complexity to provide for social services - health & education to all
- Rising inequalities <sup>if</sup> overlapped with it → pauperization of the lower strata [Oxfam Report]
- social challenge of maintaining consensus among societal members.

## ② Opportunities of population dynamics

- window of demographic dividend between 2018 - 2055 (UNFPA)
- with decreasing TFR, (NFHS-2.0) potential for women to join labor market with reduced child care years [sonalde Desai]
- social situation - standard of living may improve with

ascent of middle class if human development can be ensured.

→ Increased workforce may help increase savings, consumption, economic attractiveness ⇒ increased life chances

### ③ challenges of the old age

→ With rising population, India's 60+ population is also expected to increase to 20% of total by 2050.

→ challenges → Health issues demanding improved healthcare system

ensuring healthy & active ageing → increased need of universal social security systems

→ Elderly women need special attention due to [Zakir Hussain]

widowhood stigma → too much dependence on the son → vulnerable to abuse

#### ④ Other impacts on Indian society:-

- With decrease in TFR → decrease in family size → further nuclearization
- It may also further deteriorate the sex ratio at birth due to difficulty in insuring at least one male child [Sonalde Desai]
- Regional variations eg Empowerment Action Group states (vs) southern states — Kerala, Tamil Nadu etc.
  - ↳ Increase North vs south rift & regionalism
  - ↳ Discontent due to political conflicts

Large population hence is both asset & liability - depending upon the avenues provided for development & proper socialization

8. (b) Though India glorifies secularism, importance of religion has increased manifold in personal life of people. Discuss religious revivalism in contemporary Indian society in this context. 20

Secularism is a doctrine that aims to realize a secular society. Bryan Wilson defines a secular society as one in which religious - beliefs & doctrines, practices & institutions lose their social significance.

Glorification of secularism in India :-

Growing secularization of India society & its successful model of secularism have time & again been highlighted :-

- ① Seinivas mentions that there there is little religion in

the life of everyday Indian today.

- ① eg occupation no longer caste based, less elaborate marriage ceremony etc.
- ② changing religious rituals, practices etc. eg Parties during Diwali, Holi; Namkaran Sanskaar → Aadhaar registration in hospital
- ③ "civic religion" emergence [Nisbet]  
eg celebration of national festivals; leaders like Gandhiji; symbols like Tricolor ⇒ New common unifying thread
- ④ Decreased functions performed by religion [Steve Bruce]  
eg education, socialization functions
- ⑤ secularization of religion itself [Will Herberg]  
eg focus on Ayurvedic products, motivation

However, increasing trends of religious revivalism are also present :-

- ① Increased religiosity during COVID
- ② Evidences in form of communal riots eg recent Nuh violence
- ③ "Re-sacrilization" happening  
eg use of tech & media by new Godheads to gain popularity, newer cults like ISKCON
- ④ Religion has merely shifted to the sphere of consumption & increased de-differentiation [David Lyon] (blurring of boundaries)  
eg Religion + pop culture evident in cult of shiva among youth → raps, t-shirts etc.  
eg Diwali, Christmas, Holi capitalized by bumper sales by MNCs.

- ⑤ Beliefs in religious practices & principles is intact
- eg Massive appeal of Ram Mandir, Ayodhya ;
- eg Temple visit by ISRO officials before rocket launch

- ⑥ Adaptation of religion to suit modern needs
- eg Philanthropic works ; #SaveSoil Movement by Sadhguru etc.

Norman Palmer had famously commented that India is a religiously impregnated society & most unsuitable a place for secular state. Though the latter has been defied with Indian model of secularism, the former stands true even today.

8. (c) In the recent times, the idea of nation in India is transitioning from peaceful, inclusive & tolerant to violent, aggressive & exclusionary. Critically examine. 10

Nation as defined by Weker is a community of sentiments. It can be based upon any unifying identity eg language, ethnicity, history etc.

Transitioning of idea of nation in India

- Romila Thapar & Ashutosh Varshney comment that with rise of hindutva, "nation"'s membership is becoming inclusionary - ~~for~~ <sup>especially</sup> ~~those~~ for Abrahamic faiths.
- Aggressive traits are highlighted by Jaffrelot due to increasing centralizing tendencies. eg GST
- Incidences of hate speech, communal riots, atrocities against Dalits, violence against Women highlight rising violence.

However, the core idea of nation is still intact as follows :-

- People lay immense faith in democratic institutions — seen in highest voter turnout during 2019 election
- With 73rd & 74th amendment, greater inclusion of SCs, STs, women in power
- Accomodative steps eg NITI Ayog, increasing state's share in net tax proceed.
- Tolerance, mutual respect prevalent eg Pew Research survey 2020 -  
~85% of Indians believe that to be truly Indian - important to respect all religions
- Feeling of oneness manifestations post Chandrayaan-3.

Thus, though there may be challenges in contemporary times, the basic idea of India (salad bowl) remains intact.