

Indian Society – UPSC Mains Previous Year Questions: 2025-2013

2025

1. How does **smart city in India**, address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice? (Answer in 150 words)
2. The **ethos of civil service** in India stands for the combination of professionalism with nationalistic consciousness – Elucidate.
3. Do you think that **globalization** results in only an aggressive consumer culture? Justify your answer. (Answer in 150 words)
4. How do you account for the growing **fast food industries** given that there are increased health concerns in modern society? Illustrate your answer with the Indian experience. (Answer in 250 words)
5. Achieving **sustainable growth** with emphasis on **environmental protection** could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India – Comment. (Answer in 250 words)
6. Does **tribal development** in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion. (Answer in 250 words)

2024

1. 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?
2. **Intercaste marriages** between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss.
3. In dealing with **socio-economic Issues of development**, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?
4. What is regional disparity How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of **regional disparity** in India?
5. 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.
6. **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?
7. Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between **India's cultural diversities** and **socio-economic marginalities**.

2023

1. Explain why **suicide among young women** is increasing in Indian society.
2. **Child cuddling** is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children.
3. What are the main features of **Vedic society and religion**? Do you think some of the features are **still prevailing in Indian society**?
4. Does **urbanization** lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?
5. Why is **caste identity** in India both fluid and static?
6. Discuss the impact of **post-liberal economy** on **ethnic identity and communalism**.

2022

1. Explore and evaluate the **impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships**.
2. 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?
3. Given the diversities among **tribal communities** in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category ?
4. Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an **Indian form of secularism**? Justify your answer.
5. Analyse the salience of **'sect'** in Indian society vis-a-vis **caste, region and religion**.

2021

1. Examine the uniqueness of **tribal knowledge system** when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. (150 words)
2. How does Indian society maintain continuity in **traditional social values**? Enumerate the changes taking place in it. (250 words)

2020

1. Has **caste lost its relevance** in understanding the **multi-cultural Indian Society**? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.
2. **COVID-19** pandemic accelerated class **inequalities and poverty** in India. Comment.
3. Do you agree that **regionalism in India** appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue.
4. Are **diversity and pluralism** in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer.
5. **Customs and traditions** suppress reason leading to **obscurantism**. Do you agree?
6. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the **education system** in the country? Elaborate on your answer.

2019

1. "**Empowering women** is the key to control population growth". Discuss.
2. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of **secularism**?
3. Do we have **cultural pockets of small India** all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.
4. What are the continued **challenges for women** in India against time and space?
5. Are we losing our **local identity for the global identity**? Discuss.

2018

1. "**Caste system** is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, the caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment.
2. 'Despite the implementation of various programmes for **eradication of poverty** by the government in India, **poverty is still existing**'. Explain by giving reasons.
3. How is the **Indian concept of secularism** different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.
4. '**Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata**.' Substantiate your view.
5. '**Globalisation** is generally said to promote **cultural homogenisation** but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.' Elucidate.

6. '**Communalism** arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.' Argue by giving suitable illustrations.

2017

1. In the context of the **diversity of India**, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.
2. What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence addressing **discrimination against Scheduled Tribes(STs)**?
3. 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 in the present. Elaborate.
4. The **women's questions** arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century **social reform movement**. What are the major issues and debates concerning women in that period?
5. Distinguish between **religiousness/religiosity and communalism** giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India.

2016

1. Has the formation of linguistic states strengthened the cause of Indian unity?
2. To what extent has globalisation influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.
3. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.
4. 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.
5. With a brief background of the quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme.'
6. 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.

2015

1. Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.
2. Critically examine whether a growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.
3. 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?
4. Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades.
5. Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India?
6. Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for the assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste.

2014

1. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India?
2. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments.
3. The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss.

4. How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West?

2013

1. Discussion the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India.
2. Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organization free from gender bias. Comment.
3. Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India.
4. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss.