

INSTA Revision Plan 2.0

Framework for Answers of Static MAINS Questions given from Day 8 to 15

DAY-8

The encounter of tradition with modernization created certain cultural contradictions, adaptations and in some cases situations of conflict also. In the light of this statement, critically analyse the merging of tradition with modernism in India. (250 words)

Why this question:

As seen in past three years of CSE mains examinations, there is greater focus on the topic of 'Indian Society'. There are at least 3-4 questions asked from this section, which is wide and all encompassing. It is imperative to assimilate many dimensions around this topic.

Key demand of the question:

Bring out examples that highlight the encounter of tradition with modernity and categorise them into contradictions, adaptations and conflicts. Give suitable examples. One must explore multiple dimensions here (social, economic, political).

Directive word:

When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer

Introduction:

Set the context of the answer

Every society is bound by certain customs, followed blindly by everyone. Indian society is no exception to it. It has been the cradle of traditional beliefs and practices. Social structure and

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tradition in India remained impervious to major elements of modernity until the contact with the west began through the colonial regimes, which dominated India for about two centuries.

Body

- **Cultural contradictions due to intermingling of tradition and modernity**
 - **Feminism vs Patriarchy:** Great strides have been achieved with respect to liberty of women wrt education, employment and choice in marriage, reproductive choices and other decision making.
 - Yet more women are burdened with unpaid domestic work when compared to men.
 - There have been vocal support for feminist policies such as wage equality, lead role for women in Indian cinema among others. Yet India stands **108th out of 149 nations in the Gender Gap Index**
 - Crimes against women have increased by 2.9% in 2016 compared to the previous report.
 - **Secular Ethos vs Communal Vote Banks:** Secularism is ingrained in the Preamble of India and State does not favour any religion.
 - But still, election calculations are based on vote bank based on religion. There is appeasement politics by candidates, appealing to the religious sentiments of the people.
 - This shows that even though, India is a democracy, voter mobilisation has remained based on traditional lines.
 - **Science vs Orthodoxy:** India has achieved accolades in science and technology.
 - India is today the worlds IT hub and also an attractive destination for medical tourism. Besides, India is the largest manufacturer of generic medicines in the world.
 - ISRO successes have exponentially increased with India getting closer to launching man in space.
 - Yet blind superstitions like **animal sacrifices, child sacrifices** continue.
 - Most people resort to self-medication or are at the mercy of quacks.
 - **Human values of Equality vs Caste Hierarchy:** Indian Constitution abolished untouchability and espoused valued of equality under Article 14. Yet atrocities against Dalits have been continuing even today.
 - Eg: Honour Killing of a Dalit man in Pune for being acquainted to an upper caste woman as recently as in June 2020.
 - Over the decade to 2016, crime rate against dalits rose by 25%; from 16.3 crimes per 100,000 dalits reported in 2006, to 20.3 crimes in 2016, according to 2016 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data
- **Cultural adaptations due to modernism:**
 - This ancient culture today is being influenced by globalization and the new generation of **India** is slowly leaning towards the dominant western culture.

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- The youth, which is under the constant influence of western media, culture, cinema, music is slowly inclining itself to the global culture
- **Family structure:** Increasing urbanization as a consequence of globalization has resulted in migration of people from rural areas, resulting in the disintegration of the joint family system.
 - A new trend of nuclear families with one or maximum two children has emerged in India.
- **Role of Women:** As a result of globalization, women in India have become more aware of their rights and are now stepping out of homes to pursue not only schooling but higher education and jobs.
 - With patriarchy's influence decreasing, women are taking leading roles in various walks of life.
- **Role of caste is decreasing:** with increasing urbanization as a result of globalisation, not only are caste barriers breaking at workplace but also at areas of living-people belonging to all caste work and live together. On the other hand, class discrimination is increasing.
- **Lifestyle:** Whether it be in attire, food habits or taste in music, there has been an attempt to imitate the West.
 - **Eg:** Sarees, Salwar-Kameez for women has given way to skirts and pant, jeans and shirts.
 - Similarly for men, traditional dhoti-kurta has been replaced by shirts and trousers.
 - Even in food habits, junk food like pizzas, burgers, pasta are the preferred choices of the youth today in India.
- **Language:** English today is becoming the favoured mode of communication among the people of India over their mother tongues.
- **Modernization of our agriculture:** Mechanization of agriculture and move towards precision agriculture is the norm of the day.
 - Earlier practices of primitive style of farming that involves the intensive use of indigenous knowledge, traditional tools, natural resources, organic fertilizer and cultural beliefs of the farmers have largely shed.
 - Today modern fertilizers, pesticides, hybrid seeds tractors are much in vogue.
 - At the same time **Zero Budget Natural Farming** encourages going back to the organic way. This is a good example of adaptation of tradition and modernity.
- **Tribes selling their goods on online** marketplace (like **TRIFED's tribes India store**) is a classic example of disseminating our culture through modern means of communication and trade.

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- Education through institutions for children **instead of the earlier Gurukul system** is a western adaptation of education system in India.
- **Cultural conflicts due to modernism vs traditionality:**
 - **Native sciences vs English medicine:** Even today as many as 70% Indians as per Ministry of Ayush, resort to native medicines for primary health care rather than consult a physician or take allopathic medicines.
 - Even between practioners of Ayurveda and Allopathy, there is a conflict between the efficacy of treatment under them.
 - **Secessionist movements in the north-east** were result of imposition dominant culture such as language and administration amongst the indigenous tribes who had their own customs and rituals.
 - It was seen as usurpation of their rights and land. This led to secessionist tendencies in the north-east such as the **Naga movement, Bodoland movement** among others.
 - The tribal people demanded non-interference in their practices.
 - **Perils of homogenisation:** India is engaged in a process of development that, far from enriching the lives of its myriad indigenous cultures, threatens them with disruption, domination and destruction.
 - Majoritarianism has proved to be a major driving factor of this conflict.
 - Modernity is also seen as an invasion, a principle of domination, often a relationship is established between modernity and colonialism.
 - Modernity with its materialistic outlook, controlling and dominating mentality, (controlling anything that seen silent, weak, and mute, be it the people of colonists or nature herself) is accused of leading to a spiritual crisis.
 - **Sub-altern perspective:** Idea of nation building is suspected because subaltern people - peasants, tribals, oppressed castes - are not the authors of this project.
 - Instead, it is expected to be performed by the professional elites, scientists, technologists, experts and English-educated intellectuals.
 - This subaltern awakening can be seen in the assertion of the Dalits and the marginalized castes in India.
 - These contradictions have led to elimination of tribal population and languages. **Eg: Andaman Grand Trunk Road that cut through Jarawa Reserve forest led to severe decline in Jarawa population.**

Write few lines about how modernism has both advantages and its own shortcomings as illustrated above.

Conclusion

Talk about how India needs harmony of both.

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Broadly speaking, modernity was questioned because of its elitist bias. Gandhi wanted: India not corrupted by an aggressive technology, not colonized by western ideas, but India prospering by decentring herself, India with 'soul -force'; ecologically sensitive and spiritually cultivated. Yet it is inevitable, as the world is progressing, that we adopt modernism but it must in harmony with the culture and traditions being followed.

DAY-9

Discuss the factors behind the changing status of women in Urban India. (250 words)

Why this question:

In the recent CSE Mains examinations, 'Role of Women and women's organization, population and associated issues' is a major topic. At least two questions can be expected from this topic. It is thus important to build content, on social, economic and cultural aspects regarding women and their status along with relevant data.

Key demand of the question:

The focus of the answer must be to list down how the status of women is changing in urban India in comparison to earlier times and rural India. What led to these changes (income, education, no Patriarchal mindset, financial independence, nuclear families) and how it has transformed their life and socio-economic status. Here the answer must bring out statistics on employment, crimes against women, education among others. Also state how certain things have remained the same w.r.t life of women.

Directive word:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned, examining the factors one by one. You have to give reasons for both sides of the question.

Structure of the answer

Introduction:

A five-city survey by the UN Habitat noted that 69% respondents were of the view that urbanisation and prosperity of women were related across many dimensions such as quality of life, productivity, infrastructure and equality

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Over the past few decades and more so in the last few years, Indian women have taken a great stride in all fields of activity. This is attributed to increased access to education and equal opportunities as a result of behavioural mindset in Indian society

Body

Factors behind the changing status of women in Urban India

- **Decline of Extended Family System:**
 - There is a worldwide movement towards small, nuclear family maintaining a separate and independent household especially in urban areas.
 - This has reduced exploitation of women, especially in unpaid domestic chores and care work.
- **Behavioural Change:** There is a move from patriarchal mindset that restrained women from making life choices or decision about their careers. This is attributed to globalization and western culture seeping in the urban domain.
 - The rights of women are becoming more recognized in respect to both initiation of marriage and decision-making in the family.
- **Freedom to take up employment:** There is more liberty with respect to the kind of employment chosen by women. For instance, Acting, Radio Jockeying, DJing which were considered as male bastions are now open to women.
 - With public transport and better safety, women can work till late hours just like their male counterparts.
- **Changing Authority Pattern:** There is a change in the division of labour and authority in the family. Male authority is declining in the modern family. The authority is slipping from the hands of family elders because of new economic and political opportunities.
- **Empowerment of women through education:** As per NSS 71st round report, urban female literacy rate is 75.4% compared to rural female literacy rate of 56%.
 - This shows that there is wider awareness of women's rights and enabled them to lead increased quality of life.

Difficulties faced by urban women

Here bring out the following points

- **Gender Wage Gap:** India ranked 108th out of 149 countries on the gender wage gap. Even in Skilled sectors women are underpaid for the same work. **Eg:** Women in AI are paid 22% lesser than men.
- **Education and employment inverse relation:** At 13.9%, the unemployment rate is highest for urban women with graduate degrees and above.

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- More educated women prefer to stay at home rather than taking up low paying jobs.
 - This shows that the rate of hiring of women vis-a-vis men is skewed in favour of the latter.
- Studies have showed a preference among women for salaried jobs as their educational attainment increases; but such jobs remain extremely limited for women.
- **Burden of Unpaid work:** It is found that women devote a substantial amount of their time to work which is not considered as work, but an extension of their duties, and is largely unpaid (viz. the care sector).
 - This includes unpaid care work such as childcare, elderly care, and household work
- Women have also expressed the need for policies which ensure safe and dignified working and living conditions for migrant workers.
 - For example, in cities, governments must set up migration facilitation and crisis centres (temporary shelter facility, helpline, legal aid, and medical and counselling facilities).
 - They must also allocate social **housing spaces for women workers**, which include rental housing and hostels.
- **Crimes against women:** The crimes rose from 3,793 per million in 2016 to 3,886 per million in 2017, as per NCRB Report. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases followed by Maharashtra. This also restricts their movement for employment and preventing them in participating in the economy.

Likewise write about reproductive choices, domestic violence, problem of migrant women and women in informal sector.

Conclusion

Write a way forward listing out major schemes for increasing women participation.

Also mention about maternity benefits and safety clauses in Workplace being implemented.

Inclusive growth involves women empowerment and bringing gender parity. Jawaharlal Nehru proclaimed that “You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women” - and India has miles to go in this regard.

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DAY-10

COVID-19 could cost 135 million jobs, push 120 million people into poverty in India. In the light of this statement analyse how the great strides made by the developing countries in reducing poverty in the last two decades will be affected. (250 words)

Why this question:

The current pandemic is unprecedented and its effects have been devastating. It has impacted most nations, disrupting the way of life for billions. There will be huge impact on economy pushing more people into poverty. All dimensions of the pandemic must be covered, as one can expect questions in the upcoming CSE Mains examination.

Key demand of the question:

Talk about the pandemic and its impact on jobs and economy. One must bring out the poverty dimension and covid-19 relation. Talk about how achievements in reducing poverty can be affected in the current scenario with focus on India and other developing nations.

Directive word: The keyword is 'analyse'; When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary.

Structure of the answer

Introduction:

The World Bank estimates that the pandemic could push about **49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020**. It also reports that for the first time since 1998, global poverty rates are forecast to rise. According to the United Nations estimates, by the end of the year, 8% of the world's population, a half-billion people, may be pushed into destitution largely because of the pandemic.

Body

Covid-19 pandemic: Employment and Poverty

- According to the UN International Labour Organization (ILO), five to 25 million jobs will be eradicated, and the world will lose \$860 billion to \$3.4 trillion in labor income.
- India has an estimated 812 million poor people, which could increase to 915 million, due to the impact of COVID pandemic, as per the UN report titled, 'Estimates of the impact of COVID-19 on global poverty'.

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- **Largescale informal sector-** As per the International Labour Organization (ILO), around 400 million workers from India's informal sector are likely to be pushed deeper into poverty, due to following reasons:-
 - Due to strict lockdown measures of the government, large number of such workers have been forced to return to rural areas.
 - Decline in quantity of work, in terms of employment or number of hours.
 - Decline in wages by some employers to avoid layoffs.
- **Reduced sources of income-** due to following reasons-
 - Decline in income of self-employed, due to reduction of economic activity (sales, production) in micro and small enterprises due to fall in demand and disruptions in supply of inputs.
- **Increase in out of pocket expenditure:** The poor living in urban areas, especially in congested and unhygienic places are susceptible to disease.
 - This impacts their ability to work and also increases burden of health expenditure.

Previous efforts across to globe to fight poverty:

- In 1990, 36% of the world's population, or 1.9 billion people, lived on less than \$1.90 a day. By 2016, that number had dropped to 734 million people, or 10% of the world's population, largely because of progress in South Asia and China.
- Some of the biggest gains were made in India, where 210 million people were lifted out of poverty from 2006 to 2016, according to the U.N.
- Since 2000, Bangladesh brought 33 million people — 20% of its population — out of poverty while funding programs that provided education to girls, increased life expectancy and improved literacy.
- Famines that once plagued South Asia are now vanishingly rare, and the population is less susceptible to disease and starvation.
- In light of these concerns, the General Assembly, at its seventy-second session, decided to proclaim the "Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027).

One can mention specific schemes and social programmes. **Next part is the key focus of the question, how this progress will be affected**

Impacts across globe:

- It is feared that this progress may be reversed, experts worry, and funding for anti-poverty programs may be cut as governments struggle with stagnant growth rates or economic contractions as the world heads for a recession.
- While everyone will suffer, the developing world will be hardest hit.

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- The World Bank estimates that sub-Saharan Africa will see its first recession in 25 years, with nearly half of all jobs lost across the continent. South Asia will most likely experience its worst economic performance in 40 years.
- Most at risk are people working in the informal sector, which employs 2 billion people who have no access to benefits like unemployment assistance or health care.
- In Bangladesh, 1 million garment workers — 7% of the country's workforce, many of them informally employed — lost their jobs because of the lockdown.
- Countries like India, Bangladesh, which spent heavily on programs to improve education and provide health care, may no longer be able to fund them.
- There will be groups of people who climbed up the ladder and will now fall back into vicious cycle of poverty.
- In India, millions of migrant laborers were left unemployed and homeless overnight after the government there announced a lockdown. In parts of Africa, millions may go hungry after losing their jobs and as lockdowns snarl food aid distribution networks.
- In Mexico and the Philippines, remittances that families relied on have dried up as primary breadwinners lose their jobs and can no longer send money home.
- A resolution that committed the U.N. to eliminating poverty and hunger and providing access to education for all by 2030 may now be a pipe dream.

Measures needed to overcome this drudgery needs to be listed.

- **Increase in coverage of existing safety net programs** to new beneficiaries based on geography (e.g. the areas with the highest levels of community transmission and/or economic disruptions), or sector of employment, or focusing on at-risk categories (e.g. families with young children, pre-existing health conditions, and elderly family members).
- **Portability of safety net** program benefits to ensure predictability of coverage as urban migrants will be likely to return to rural areas.
- **Active labor market programs** to facilitate the transition of workers who have lost jobs that are not coming back into training or new jobs.
- **Multilateral global institutions must support the developing nations:**
 - Oxfam is calling on world leaders to agree on an **Emergency Rescue Package** of 2.5 trillion USD paid for through the immediate cancellation or postponement of 1 trillion in debt repayments, a 1 trillion increase in IMF Special Drawing Rights (international financial reserves), and an additional 500 billion in aid.
- **Decision-makers need timely and policy-relevant information on impacts and the effectiveness of policy responses.**

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- This can be done using existing, publicly available data to monitor the unfolding economic and social impacts of the crisis, including prices, service delivery, and economic activity, as well as social sentiment and behaviors.
- In addition, governments can use mobile technology to safely gather information from a representative sample of households or individuals.

Conclusion

Conclude along following lines

This pandemic is as much a social and economic crisis as it is a humanitarian one. Considering the uncertain path that lies ahead, helping the country's poor become self-sufficient and better prepared can prove to be the best weapon against the deadly virus, and such a direct benefit transfer can go a long way in that.

DAY-11

Globalization has strengthened the Indian diaspora. In this context, analyse the benefits and disadvantages of the same on the Indian society. (250 words)

Why this question:

An important topic of GS1 is 'Effects of Globalisation on Indian Society' and Diaspora is a major component of the same. In the past six years, there has been increased focus on diaspora diplomacy in India. Hence this question becomes even more important from exam perspective.

Key demand of the question:

Define globalization and talk about role of Indian diaspora. Also list out the advantages/benefits and disadvantages of globalization on India Society with suitable examples.

Directive word:

When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary.

Structure of the answer

Introduction:

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In brief define what globalisation is – Globalization is the free movement of people, goods, and services across boundaries.

Body

Globalization strengthened Indian Diaspora

- The Indian Diaspora has not only become strong but it triggered a flow of funds back home in various capacities such as angel investors for business sector or in the real estate or for that matter as philanthropists.
- Migration of labour, considering both highly skilled and lesser-skilled labour force, made a huge positive impact on the economy of India.
- The IT/ITES boom in India was mainly due to globalisation.
- The total remittance transfer from developed to developing nations in 2010 has been 300 billion USD and India accounts for Rs. 55 billion alone. More recently it is nearly 74 billion USD.

Positive Impact of globalization on Indian society

- **Commercialization of agriculture:** There is an increased trend of commercialization from sustenance farming.
- **Wider use of information, communication and technologies:** Agricultural extension techniques like Kisan TV, sms about weather conditions has helped farmers plan better. Initiatives like e-Nam have helped farmers get better prices in certain areas.
- **Increased Mechanization, better inputs:** Mechanization like use of tractors, harvesters, tillers has eased the job.
- **Socio-economic development:** With telemedicine and teleeducation, people are able to access the health and education facilities at the remotest areas.
- **MSMEs:** There has been a rise of MSMEs with women entrepreneurs heading it.
- The boom of services sector and city centric job creation has led to increasing rural to urban migration.
- **Increased job opportunities:** due to inflow of MNCs, FDIs, people have a wide choice of job opportunities provided they have the requisite skills.
- **Better infrastructure:** In terms of education, health, transport available to people. This has in turn enhanced the agglomeration of economies leading to industrial belts, IT parks, SEZ, CEZ etc.
- **Rapid Digitization:** for faster and ease of connectivity, most of the services are digitized.

Disadvantages of globalization on Indian society

- **Commercialization:** Changes in Land-Use patterns, loss of forests and natural resources.

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- Internal labour migration leading to increased elderly in rural areas.
- **Increasing privatization of resources:** Rural population is still suffering from unemployment as rural labour is mostly uneducated and unskilled. Machines and latest technologies have reduced the number of manpower a lot
- **Loss of jobs and Displacement:** due to mechanization, women are the worst sufferers. When big-ticket projects like Dams, Roads, and Mining come up, people are displaced making them internal refugees.
- **Increased inequality:** Regional and sectional disparity due to only a few reaping the benefits.
- **No Behavioural changes:** Open defecation still present, caste discriminations are still prevalent.
- **Family Structure:** The western influence of individualism has led to an aspirational generation of youth. Talk about decreasing kinship here.
- **Marriage Values on decline:** It is very much evident from the increasing number of divorce cases.
- **McDonaldization:** It becomes manifested when a culture adopts the characteristics of a fast-food restaurant.
- **Walmartization:** It can be seen with the rise of big businesses which have nearly killed the small traditional businesses in our society.
- **Urban Sprawl:** Increasing slums, unplanned urbanizations are on the rise which is a ticking time-bomb.
- And so on.

Conclusion

Conclude with a few lines in protectionism and anti-immigration policies on rise and how it can hinder diaspora strength.

It is difficult to say that the impact of globalization has been totally positive or totally negative. It has been both. Each impact mentioned above can be seen as both positive as well as negative. However, it becomes a point of concern when, an overwhelming impact of globalization can be observed on the Indian rural and urban society.

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DAY-12

Social empowerment is understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions. In the light of this statement Analyse how far India has progressed regarding social empowerment post-independence. (250 words)

Why this question:

‘Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism’ is a standalone topic in GS-1 and one must thoroughly prepare on this from mains perspective. This topic also helps in writing GS-2 answers and thus makes it significant for preparation.

Key demand of the question:

Demand of the question is social-empowerment. Firstly, define the term and list out aspects of the same. One can use comparative statistics to do this before and after Independence wherever available, to analyse the progress. Write a way forward to achieve more and end with futuristic conclusion.

Directive word:

The question asks one to analyse. This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them methodically.

Structure of the answer

Introduction:

Define Social Empowerment

Social empowerment refers to enhanced status in the family and community, participation in decision making, access to literacy skills and access to government offices, freedom to travel, group identity and increased awareness.

Body

Explain what Social-empowerment entails

People’s empowerment especially the vulnerable, and their ability to hold others to account, is strongly influenced by their individual assets (such as land, housing, livestock, savings) and capabilities of all types: human (such as good health and education), social (such as social belonging, a sense of identity, leadership relations) and psychological (self-esteem, self-confidence, the ability to imagine and aspire to a better future).

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Also important are people's collective assets and capabilities, such as voice, organisation, representation and identity.

Next explain the progress in India on Social empowerment along these lines.

Social Empowerment Post-Independence

- **Poverty Alleviation:** Removal of poverty has been a prime focus of Indian policy makers. Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) initiated in early 1980s was one of the early poverty alleviation programmes.
 - India lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016
- **Abolition of untouchability: Article 17** abolished untouchability immediately post-Independence and laws were enacted making it a criminal offence.
 - **Manual Scavenging was outlawed**, which was a landmark legislation in preventing perpetuation of untouchability.
- **Affirmative action:** Socio-Economically weaker sections such as SC/ST communities were provided reservation in Lok Sabha, education and public employment.
 - Today 84 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 47 seats for the Scheduled Tribes.
- **Women empowerment:** Women-centric schemes had increased focus to alleviate them from position of subordination.
 - The path was laid through, women having equal inheritance rights.
 - Domestic violence, Dowry Act proved significant in this regard. As recently as 2017, Triple Talaq was declared unconstitutional.
 - Reservation for women in local bodies was another important measure for their social-empowerment.
 - Quote reduction in MMR, female infanticide.
- **Local governance and decentralization:** People became entitled to taking up responsibility of governance at grassroots level through 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.
- **Increasing literacy:** Education was taking up as a major force for social-empowerment. India's literacy rate improved from 12% in 1947 during end of British rule to 74 % in 2011.
- **Social security for the lower strata:** Various welfare schemes helps the poor invest their income into productive and livelihood enhancing activities, as food and shelter is taken care by the government. **Eg: PDS system, Awas Yojana**
- **Access to Healthcare:** India is slowly moving towards universal healthcare with newly unveiled **Ayushman Bharat**. More people can now afford medicines due to low cost generic medicines from **Jan Aushadi Kendras**.

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- **Skill Development:** Youth are being skilled us PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana to enable them to take better jobs and employment.

Write a way-forward listing measures such as achieving inclusive growth, better wages, focussing on tribal population and so on.

Conclusion

Conclude with a futuristic view.

Social-empowerment must shift from the paradigm of outlays to outcomes. This equips the weaker sections of the society with the tools of empowerment that allow them to break away from the cycle of poverty and exclusion.

DAY-13

Discuss the importance of affordable, quality health care for vulnerable sections in India. Critically evaluate the significance of National health policy, 2017. (250 words)

Why this question:

From GS-2 topics, health and education are two important topics. One must prepare holistically all components of the same. At least two questions can be expected in the mains examination.

Key demand of the question:

The question is straightforward. Discuss the importance of healthcare especially the vulnerable (elderly, poor and marginalized women, Divyangjans etc). Briefly outline details NHP, 2017 and gaps in achieving it. Give a proper conclusion

Directive word:

This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer

Introduction:

Start with importance of healthcare

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Health is not the mere absence of disease. Good health confers on personal freedom from illness - and the ability to realize one's potential. Health is, therefore, best understood as the indispensable basis for defining a person's sense of well-being.

Next, answer each part one after the other, with proper sub-headings.

Body

Importance of affordable healthcare for vulnerable section

- **Prevent acute poverty:** Rising out-of-pocket expenditures on healthcare is pushing around 60 million Indians below the poverty line annually.
- Around 60% Indians use private facilities for inpatient care. This can be taxing on the poor who live 'hand-to-mouth'.
- **Access to medicines:** Around 470 million people in India do not have regular access to essential medicines. Most often they have to approach quacks due to lack of awareness.
- **Morbidity:** Even with healthcare advancements and government programs, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) at 33 is still among the highest in India when compared to other emerging economies.
 - It is more often the poor and marginalized that become victim to lack of timely access to healthcare.
 - India still accounts for 20 per cent of maternal mortality deaths in the world with 122 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- Improved Human capital leads to growth of economy and would result in inclusive growth. Health, therefore stands at the centre of raising better human capital.
- **Divyangjans**, especially from poor backgrounds have it very difficult to carry on normal lives without the help of constant care taker. However, with advancement in medicines and technology, some of these disabilities can be rectified.

Significance of National Health Policy, 2017

Objectives

- It aims to achieve universal access to good quality health care services **without anyone having to face financial hardship** as a consequence.
- It intends on gradually increasing public health expenditure to **2.5% of the GDP**.
- It proposes free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency and essential healthcare services in public hospitals.
- The policy advocates allocating **two-thirds (of resources to primary care)**.
- It proposes two beds per 1,000 of the population to enable access within the first 60 minutes after a traumatic injury.

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- To reduce morbidity and preventable mortality of **non-communicable diseases** (NCDs) by advocating pre-screening.

Targets

- Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
- Reduce Fertility Rate to 2.1 by 2025 and to reduce Infant Mortality Rate to 28 by 2019.
- Achieve the global 2020 HIV target (also termed 90:90:90 global target).
- To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25 per cent by 2025.
- Reducing the prevalence of blindness to 0.25 per 1000 persons by 2025.
- The disease burden to be reduced by one third from the current levels.
- Elimination of leprosy by 2018, kala-azar by 2017 and lymphatic filariasis in endemic pockets by 2017.

Shortcomings of the National Health Policy

- The policy reiterates health spend targets set by the erstwhile Planning Commission for the 12th Five Year Plan.
- It **fails to make health a justiciable right**. Like Education, health must also become a fundamental right.
- A **health cess** was a pathbreaking idea that was proposed in the draft policy but it was dropped.
- Whether Health should continue to be in the State List, or in the Concurrent List is not answered in the policy.
- Among the most glaring lacunae in the present context is the lack of capacity to use higher levels of public funding for health.
- Although a major capacity expansion to produce MBBS graduates took place between 2009 and 2015, this is unlikely to meet policy goals since only 11.3% of registered allopathic doctors were working in the public sector as of 2014.
- Like recently seen, there is no broad guidelines in handling epidemics and pandemics.

Write few points on measures to be taken such as preventive care, increasing resources, public-private partnership and moving towards universal health care. Give examples of government schemes pertaining to health (ICDS, PMJAY, LaQshya, POSHAN, UIP etc).

Conclusion

Write significance of healthcare for human development and all-round progress of citizens of India.

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To achieve the desirable outcome of “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas” will require a holistic policy planning and implementation targeting human development indicators of which Health is of great significance. It ensures that people have better access to healthcare and lead productive lives.

DAY-14

Analyse the problems faced by women SHGs in India. Discuss the role of Self-help groups as a necessity in rural development of the country. (250 words)

Why this question:

‘Role of SHG in the development process of the country’ is an important topic for GS-2 CSE Mains examination. Even in the Budget 2020-21 focus has been laid on SHG empowerment. Considering these developments, SHG’s are an important topic that must be prepared.

Key demand of the question:

Firstly, start with definition of SHG’s, their role in rural development. Analyse the problems faced by them and list measures to overcome these challenges.

Directive word:

When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary.

Structure of the answer

Introduction:

Bring a linkage between SHG’s and rural development and define the term.

Rural Development can be sustainable if it has the participation of people for whom it is aimed at. SHGs bring in the much-desired peoples' participation in rural development that has inherent advantages

Body

Self-Help Group: A self-help group (SHG) is a village-based financial intermediary committee normally consist of 10–20 local women or men. When the formal financial system fails to help the needy, then small groups volunteer to cater to the needs of the financially weak by collecting, saving and lending the money on a micro scale. SHGs have gained wide recognition in most developing countries in Asia where their presence is quite pervasive

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Problems faced by women SHG's in India

- Lack of proper know-how and proper orientation among SHG-members to take up suitable and profitable livelihood options.
- Element of confidence is also lacking, without proper education and backing from their respective families.
- **Patriarchy and women:** There is primitive thinking and social obligations discourages women from participating in SHGs thus limiting their economic avenues.
 - Besides, there are also social customs prevailing in rural areas which keep women in the four walls of the house.
- **Lack of rural banking facilities:** There are about 1.2 lakh bank branches and over 6 lakh villages. Moreover, many public sector banks and micro-finance institutions are unwilling to provide financial services to the poor as the cost of servicing remains high.
- **Sustainability** and the quality of operations of the SHGs have been a matter of considerable debate.
- **Dearth of Skills:** Only a minority of the Self-Help Groups are able to raise themselves from a level of micro-finance to that of micro-entrepreneurship.
- The participation of the SHG members remain limited to being receivers of services; without even understanding why they needed them due to lack of skills in finances or how to increase their quality of life.

Role of SHG's in rural development

- **Capital formation:** Through micro-finance, many SHG's have created valuable assets and capital in the rural areas and are sustaining livelihoods.
- **Access to credit:** SHGs provide better access to credit at acceptable and convenient terms. This has reduced their dependence on local moneylenders to a large extent.
 - Eg: SHG-Bank linkage program (financial inclusion) and access to institutional credit.
- **Poverty Alleviation:** SHGs have given the poor the access to microfinance and consequently led to important changes in their access to productive resources such as land, water, knowledge, technology and credit.
- **Employment generation:** Self-employment activities such as collective farming, bee-keeping, horticulture, sericulture have been taken up by SHG's.
- **Socail welfare:** There are many successful cases where SHG women have come together to close liquor shops in their village.
- **Rural infrastructure:** Schemes such as **Aajeevika express** have helped SHG's in creating transport in rural areas.
- **Women empowerment:** It is estimated that more than 25 million rural women of India have been benefited by the Self Help Groups (SHG).

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- **Eg Kudumbashree in Kerala** has been a huge success. **Kudumbashree café** is an exemplary example of nurturing entrepreneurship through SHG's.
- One can quote Kudumbashree case study in detail.

Write measures to be taken to empower SHG's.

This includes, expansion of financial inclusion, hand-holding and mentoring, monitoring and expanding the SHG movement in India.

Conclusion

Conclude by talking about SHG and women empowerment in rural India.

SHG approach is an enabling, empowering, and bottom-up approach for rural development that has provided considerable economic and non-economic externalities to low-income households in developing countries. SHG approach is being hailed as a sustainable tool to combat poverty, combining a for-profit approach that is self-sustaining, and a poverty alleviation focus that empowers low-income households

DAY-15

Critically analyse the role and challenges for NGOs in empowering the vulnerable sections of the society in Urban India. (250 words)

Why this question: As part of GS-2, the topic 'Role of NGO's and SHG's in the development process' is very important for mains examination. Recent changes in Home ministry guidelines pertaining to NGO's were made and this topic becomes crucial for the exam.

Key demand of the question:

Focus of the question must be on the role played by NGO's in urban India. Answer must have specific points regarding their work in Urban India. One must also list out the problems faced by NGO's and also mis-administration issues in NGO's.

Directive word:

Analyse- When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. Provide both sides of the argument i.e. good and bad.

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Structure of the answer

Introduction:

Start with defining NGO's

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) are legally constituted organizations, operate independently from the government and are generally considered to be "non-state, non-profit oriented groups who pursue purposes of public interest".

One must also state about their objective of providing social justice to vulnerable section

Body

Role of NGO's in empowering Vulnerable section of Urban India

- **Advocacy and Social Safety:** Non-profit organizations play vital role in mobilizing public attention to societal problems and needs.
- **Hunger mitigation: Provide examples such as below.**
 - **Akshaya Patra feeds 326.5 million meals** (FY18) through 37 kitchens and the plan is to raise this threefold by 2025.
- **Social welfare and rehabilitation:** NGOs like Chetna, Save the Children have showed the way in **drug abuse** control. Helped the **youth** in rehabilitation and skill development.
- **Augmenting Government measures:** Example of their role in providing **shelter to migrants, operating kitchens** and disseminating awareness on "social vaccine" can be highlighted.
- **The Service Role:** The non-profit sector acts as a flexible mechanism through which people concerned about a social or economic problem can begin to respond.
 - **Eg: Goonj NGO** works in flood relief, providing essential materials while rebuilding the society through "clothes for work" initiative.
- And so on, with focus on women, children, poor, migrants and elderly. More examples must be quoted.

Challenges faced by NGO's

- **Difficulties to get funds:** The majority of NGOs have experienced difficulties in getting enough, and continuous funding in order to do their work.
- **Absence of Strategic Planning:** Many NGOs suffer from the lack of a cohesive, strategic plan that would facilitate success in their activities and mission.
- **Poor Governance and Networking:** Many have a deficit of understanding as to why they must have a Board and how to set one up.
 - A founder may be too focused on running the NGO for their own purposes; however, governance is foundational to transparency.

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- As a result there is a great deal of suspicion among NGOs, secrecy and lack of transparency.
- Many NGOs, large and small, intervene at community level without any community mapping and implement projects without due regard to ongoing community initiatives.
- **NGO politics:** One fighting another, one with resources but no community presence, another with community presence but no resources.
- **Relationships with INGOs:** INGOs often intervene without any concern for the building of sustainable local CSOs. They pay government and community members to participate in their projects while local NGOs have no facility for doing so.
- **NGOs under Government's Scanner:** With recent Government of India crackdown on Greenpeace and several other NGOs coming under the scanner of Indian government, it is important for NGOs to achieve and maintain a high degree of transparency in not just their work but also their financials.

Write a few lines about lack of proper audit, maladministration in NGO's (in Child Care institutes in Muzaffarpur) and need for regulation.

Finally, write schemes like filing taxes made mandatory for those receiving foreign grants, NGO-Darpan portal and its use can be mentioned.

Conclusion

Talk about the importance of NGO's for a developing nation like India.

NGOs and CSOs form the backbone of democracy. Democracy does not just revolve around what happens once in five years (elections) but how rights of the citizens are protected and are allowed to hold power holders accountable. The promises of democracy can only be realized through collective action in civil society. A democratic state needs a democratic civil society and a democratic civil society also needs a democratic state. They mutually reinforce each other.

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