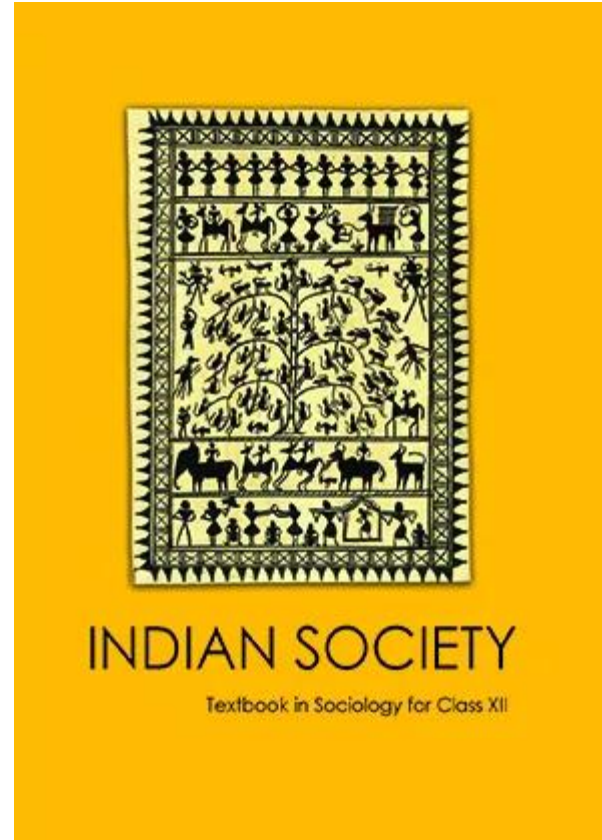


Class 12 Sociology

MOST Important

PYQs (Book 1)





Demographic Structure of Indian Society

4 Markers

1. According to demographers and sociologists, what are the reasons for the decline in child sex ratio in India?. (2013)

Ans- Child sex ratio refers to number of female child (from age 0-6) per 1000 male child in a given area at a specific time period. Child sex ratio has been the part of Indian census since 1961.

❑ Reason behind declining sex ratio

- I. Neglect of girl babies in infancy
- II. The availability of sex specific abortions
- III. Female infanticide – Girl babies are deliberately killed after being born in some regions of India
- IV. Availability of sonogram, which if used with ill intention, causes sex specific abortions
- V. Over attachment to cultural beliefs has also played a major role in parents preferring male child over female ones.

2. Explain the regional variations of low child sex ratio in India.

Ans- Child sex ratio refers to number of female child (from age 0-6) per 1000 male child in a given area at a specific time period. We see regional variations in child sex-ratio across India.

❑ Regional variations in Child sex ratio-

- I. lowest child sex ratios are found in the most prosperous regions of India.
- II. According to the Economic Survey for a recent year, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi are having high per capita income and the child sex ratio of these states is still low.
- III. Haryana has the worst sex ration i.e. 793
- IV. Even Kerala, the state with the better overall sex ratio does not do too well at 964
- V. North Eastern states have better child sex ratio than others.
- VI. As per census of 2011, Arunachal Pradesh has the highest child sex ratio i.e. 971

❑ Use any five points

3. Despite the decline in birth rate, India's population is increasing. Explain the reasons.

Ans- Birth rate refers to the total Number of live births in particular area divided by total population of that area in 1000s (distt., country, state). Despite the significant reduction in birth rate since 1990, India's population is increasing.

❑ Major reasons -

- I. India is facing the situation of Population momentum
- II. Population momentum refers to a situation, where a large cohort of women of reproductive age will fuel population growth over the next generation, even if each woman has fewer children than previous generations did.
- III. Even though the overall growth rate is increasing, but India's population is expected to grow up to 1.6 billion by 2050
- IV. Hence because of this population momentum, India's population is increasing despite of decrease in birth rate.

4. Literacy as a prerequisite to education is an instrument of empowerment.” Discuss.

Ans- Literacy is an important parameter to judge the demography of any country. It accelerates further developments.

❑ Impacts of literacy

- I. Awareness regarding career will grow with literacy
- II. More people will participate in knowledge economy
- III. Further, literacy can lead to health awareness
- IV. It promotes participation in the cultural and economic well being of the community
- V. Awareness about family planning is also followed by the literacy

5. Literacy varies across gender, regions and social groups. Explain.

Ans- Literacy is an important parameter to judge the demography of any country. As per census, we have seen variations in Indian literacy across gender, regions and social groups

❑ Variations across gender

- I. As per census of 2011, literacy rate in female is lower than Men
- II. However, female literacy has been rising faster than male literacy

❑ Variations across social groups

- I. Disadvantaged communities like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have lower rates of literacy
- II. Women of these groups have even lower literacy

❑ Variations across regions

- I. States like Kerala approaching universal literacy
- II. States like Bihar are Orissa are lagging way behind

6. The family planning programme suffered during the period of National Emergency. Give reasons.

Ans- National family welfare programme began in 1952 under the National population policy of India. One of its major objective was to control the population. However, it suffered a lot during emergence.

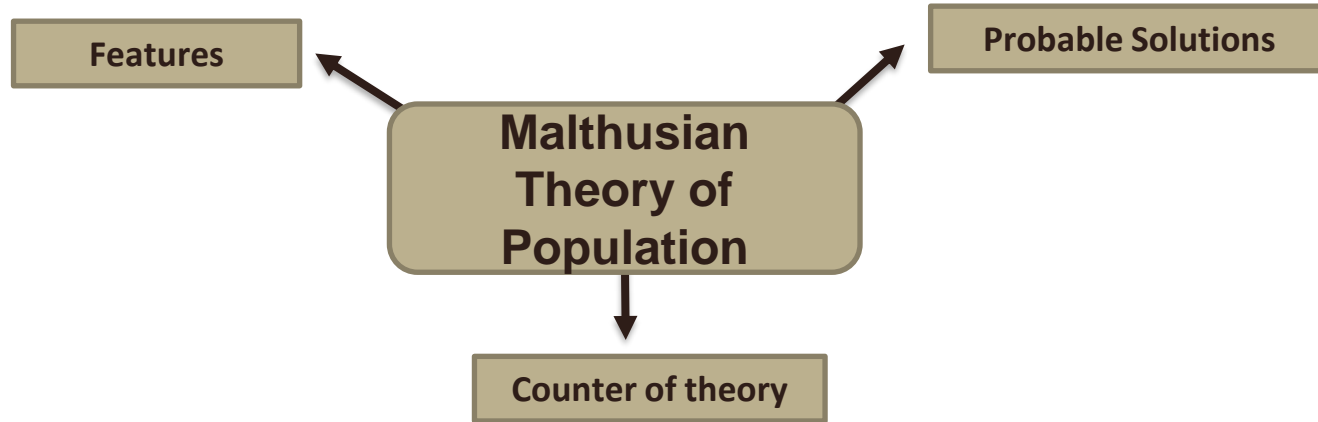
❑ Impact of emergency on the programme

- I. Coercive programmes for mass sterilization were launched
- II. Here sterilisation refers to medical procedures like vasectomy (for men) and tubectomy (for women) which prevent conception and childbirth.
- III. Vast numbers of mostly poor and powerless people were forcibly sterilized
- IV. There was massive pressure on lower-level government officials (school teachers, office workers) to bring people for sterilization
- V. The programme was heavily opposed.

6 Markers

1. State and critically analyze the Malthusian theory of population change.

Ans- Thomas Robert Malthus was an English Political economist. In 1798, he proposed the theory of population growth in his 'Essay of Population'. Malthus's theory was influential for a long time.



❑ Features

- I. He argued that human populations grow at a much faster rate than the rate at which the means of human subsistence
- II. He said that human population rises in geometric progression i.e. 2,4,8,16,32... and means of its survival grows in arithmetic progression i.e. 2,4,6,8,10 ...
- III. He claimed that humanity is condemned to live in poverty

❑ Solutions provided

- I. He said, the only way to increase prosperity is by controlling the growth of population
- II. He provided two ways to do so – Preventive checks, Positive checks
- III. Preventive checks refer to voluntary reduce of population through celibacy, postponing marriages
- IV. Positive checks refer to famines, war, epidemics
- V. He argued that famines, war, epidemics were inevitable as they were nature's way of dealing with the imbalance between food supply and increasing population.

❑ Counter of his theory

I. History of Europe

- In Europe Between 1850-1920s, Birth rate declined, epidemics were controlled
- This proved Malthus Predictions wrong as food production and standard of living was growing along with Population

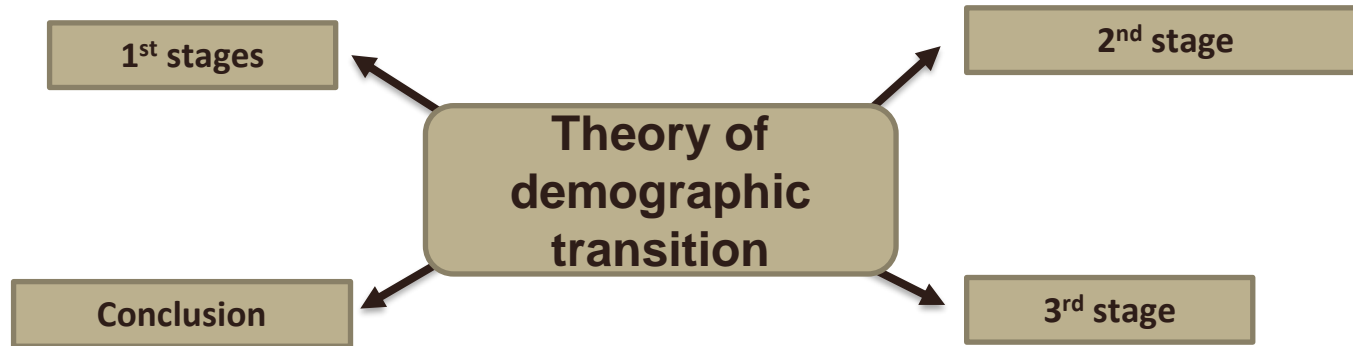
II. The Marxists

- They argued that poverty and starvation are caused by unequal distribution of economic resources
- They claimed that the Malthus theory was influence by his capitalistic mindset.

Despite of its critics, Malthusian theory is one of the most discussed theory of Population

2. Discuss the theory of Demographic Transition.

Ans- Apart from Malthusian theory, theory of demographic transition is most significant demographic theory. This suggests that population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development and that every society follows a typical pattern of development-related population growth. As per this theory, population grows in 3 stages-



❑ First stage

- I. High Death and birth rate
- II. Low Population growth
- III. People live in rural areas
- IV. Poor health and communication facilities
- V. Diseases and epidemics are frequent
- VI. Social beliefs and customs are dominant
- VII. Visible in Underdeveloped countries

❑ Second stage

- I. **High birth rate** and **decreasing death rate**
- II. Stage of **Population explosion** (high population growth)
- III. Mobility of labour from rural to urban area
- IV. Education and good medical facilities
- V. High economic development
- VI. Visible in Developing countries i.e. **India, Brazil**

❑ Third Stage

- I. **Birth rate declines**
- II. Low population growth
- III. Awareness about family planning
- IV. **Change in social attitude**
- V. Visible in **Developed Countries** – USA, UK

❑ Conclusion

- I. All the underdeveloped countries operate in 1st stage.
- II. All the developing countries operate in 2nd stage.
- III. The second stage is also known as stage of population explosion as population tends to grow rapidly there
- IV. Death rates are easier to reduce than birth rates



Social Institutions: Continuity and Changes

4 Markers

1. What is the role of the ideas of separation and hierarchy in the caste system?

Ans- Indian caste system is the system of social stratification. It has its origin in Vedic period from Varna system. It functions under the idea of separation and hierarchy.

❑ Idea of Separation

- I. Each caste is supposed to be different from one another
- II. Scriptural rules are designed to prevent mixing of castes
- III. For example- rules of marriage, occupations etc.

❑ Idea of Hierarchy

- I. These different and separated castes do not have an individual existence
- II. Castes are interdependent/ complementary to one another
- III. A society must have totality of castes
- IV. This whollistic system is hierarchical

2. How is caste different from tribe?

Ans- Caste and tribe both are social institutions which affect and organize the social life.

❑ Difference between tribe and caste

Caste

- It has a hierarchy
- It is guided by scriptural rules
- It is associated with a religion
- Occupations are based on birth
- Based on the idea of stratification

Tribe

- It doesn't have hierarchy
- It's not guided by any scriptural rules
- It is associated with cultures
- Occupations can be chosen
- Based on idea of inequality

3. What are the factors behind the assertion of tribal identities today

Ans- Tribes are the oldest inhabitant of Indian Sub-continent. In contemporary period, we have seen a rise in assertion of tribal identities due to various factors.

❑ Factors behind assertion of tribal identities

- I. Issues relating to control over vital economic resources like land and specially forests.
- II. Emergence of educated Middle-class (especially from north-east)
- III. In-migration of non-tribals in tribal areas.
- IV. Promotion of ethnic-cultural identities
- V. Growth of modern education and modern occupations

4. Do you think tribes are primitive communities living isolated lives untouched by civilization? Discuss.

Ans- The isolation of tribals is a deliberated process which began during colonial rule. We have abundance evidences of tribe being an important component in the pre-colonial society.

❑ Evidence of tribal involvement in pre-colonial society

- I. There were several Gond kingdoms in Central India such as that of Garha Mandla, or Chanda
- II. In Rajasthan, many tribes were part of Rajput Military setup
- III. Adivasis often exercised dominance over the plains people through their capacity to raid them.
- IV. They also occupied a special trade niche, trading forest produce, salt and elephants

5. Tribes in India have generally been defined in terms of what they are not.' Comment, how it is so.

Ans- 'Tribe' is a modern term for communities that are very old, being among the oldest inhabitants of the sub-continent. Tribes in India have generally been defined in terms of what they were not.

❑ Definition of tribe -

- I. Indian tribes don't have a religion with written text
- II. Indian tribes don't have a system of hierarchy
- III. Indian tribes don't have a modern political form
- IV. Indian tribe don't have occupation based on birth

6. In what ways can changes in social structure lead to changes in family structure?

Ans- Family is a group of people who are either related by blood, or adoption or marriage. This internal structure of the family is usually related to other structures of society, namely political, economic, cultural etc

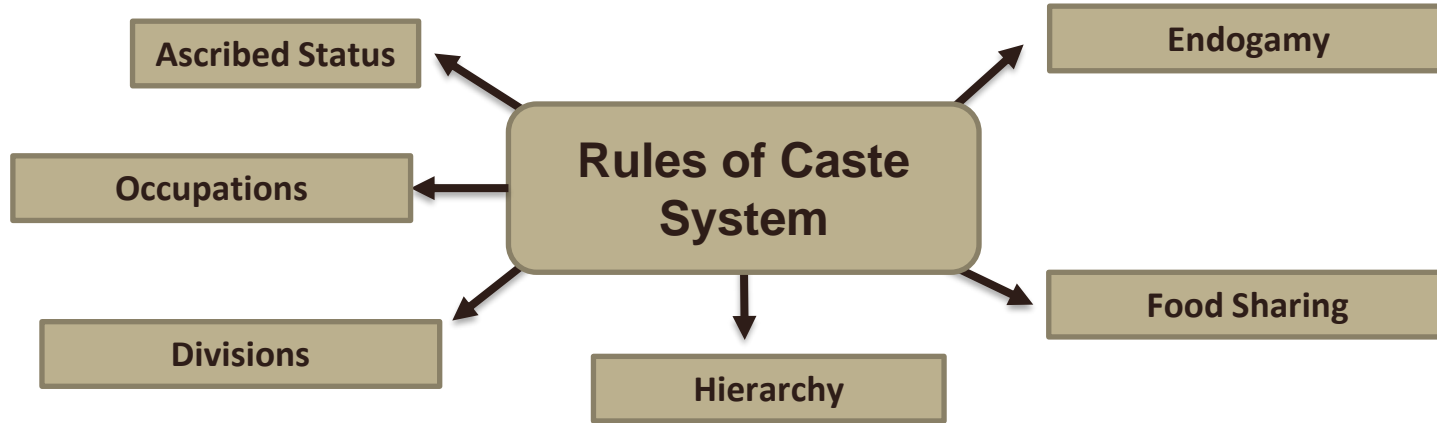
❑ Impact of societal change on family

- I. Modern trends affect the size of family i.e. With industrial growth, nuclear family became trend
- II. Wars, Migration also affects the family on the basis of authority
- III. Migration of men from the villages of the Himalayan region can lead to an unusual proportion of women-headed families in the village
- IV. The growing IT sector and growth of employed parents has also changed the structure of family
- V. As an impact, it will lead to formation of joint family.

6 Markers

1. Explain the common features of the caste system as it existed in the past.

Ans- Indian caste system is the system of social stratification. It has its origin in Vedic period from Varna system. It functions under the idea of separation and hierarchy. As guided by scriptures, It has some rules attached to it.



☐ Ascribed Status

- I. Caste is determined by birth.
- II. Caste is never a matter of choice.
- III. One can never change one's caste, leave it, or choose not to join it.

☐ Endogamy

- I. Caste also contains rules about marriages
- II. Usually, caste groups are endogamous
- III. Marriage is allowed in the same caste

☐ Food Sharing

- I. Caste membership also involves rules about food and food-sharing.
- II. What kinds of food may or may not be eaten is prescribed and who one may share food with is also specified

❑ Hierarchy

- I. Caste involves a system consisting of many castes arranged in a hierarchy of rank and status.
- II. In theory, every person has a caste, and every caste has a specified place in the hierarchy of all castes
- III. While the hierarchical position of many castes, particularly in the middle ranks, may vary from region to region, there is always a hierarchy

❑ Further Divisions

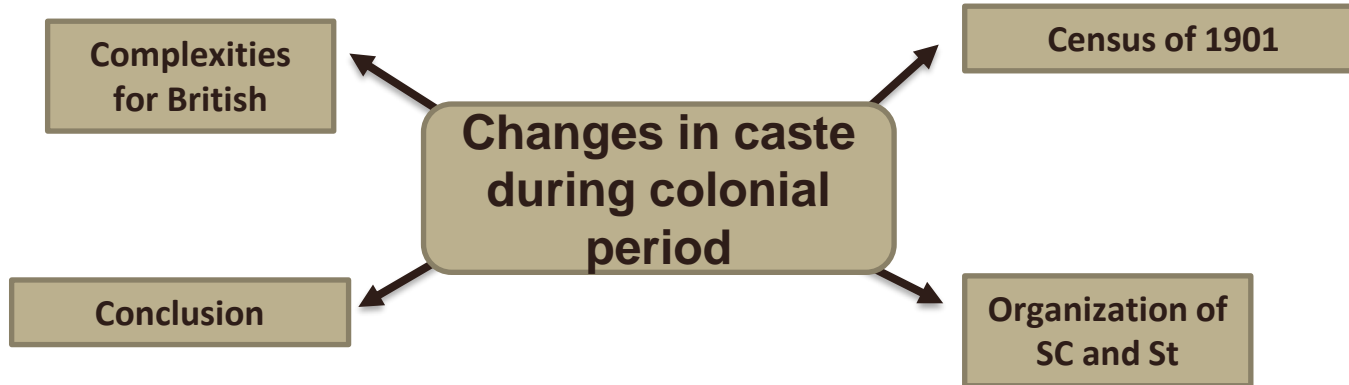
- I. Castes also involve sub-divisions within themselves
- II. Castes almost always have sub-castes and sometimes sub-castes may also have sub-sub-castes
- III. This is called a segmental Organization of caste

❑ Occupations

- I. Castes were traditionally linked to occupations
- II. A person born into a caste could only practice the occupation associated with that caste

2. Summarize the major changes in the institution of caste during the colonial period
Discuss the ways that strengthened the institution of caste in India under colonial rule.
The institution of caste underwent major changes during the colonial period. Explain

Ans- Indian caste system is the system of social stratification. It has its origin in Vedic period from Varna system. Caste system has gone through long lasting changes in colonial period as a result of Initiatives taken by British.



❑ Complexities for British

- I. When British started governing India, they were shocked by two things -
 - Number of Castes and Sub-castes
 - Situation of low castes and Untouchables

❑ Census of 1901

- I. It was conducted under direction of Herbert Risley
- II. It Collected and published information of social order of castes
- III. Impacts
 - Hundreds of petitions were made by representatives of different castes claiming higher order
 - After this official display, caste hierarchy became more rigid

❑ Organization of SC and STs

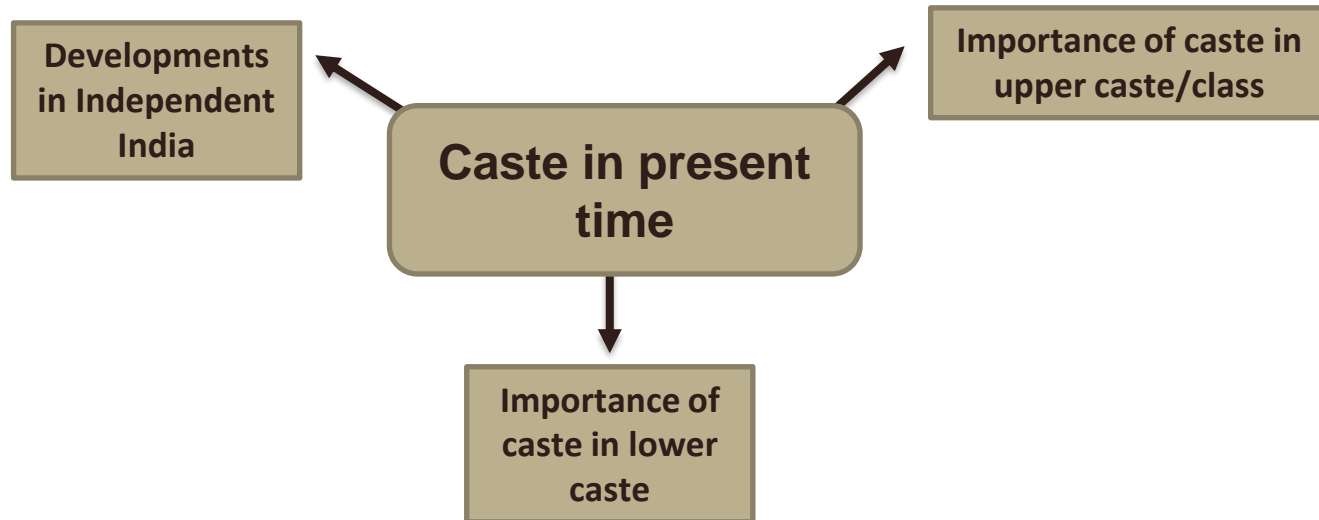
- I. Lower castes or the downtrodden were referred as depressed class in colonial period
- II. GOI Act of 1935, organized the lower castes in group of SCs and STs
- III. This was done to look after and uplift the position of lower caste.

❑ Conclusion

- I. The GOI act of 1935, paved way for policies to uplift the lower caste and tribes i.e. through reservation etc.
- II. In census of 1901, for the first time hierarchy of castes were released officially
- III. This made the caste hierarchy rigid and inflexible
- IV. Ultimately, the institution of caste was strengthened during colonial rule

3. The caste system in the contemporary period has tended to become invisible for the upper and upper middle classes but it is opposite in lower classes. Comment.

Ans- Indian caste system is the system of social stratification. It has its origin in Vedic period from Varna system. In the contemporary India, the attitude towards caste has been changed for upper caste and lower caste. There are valid reasons for the same



❑ Developments after Independence

- I. After independence, State functioned in a caste blind manner
- II. Constitution prescribed equal treatment of all castes by government, no discrimination on the basis of caste and creed
- III. However some exceptions were granted i.e. reservations granted to depressed classes (SCs and STs)
- IV. Development programmes began from urban India, which was majorly occupied by upper castes

❑ Change in attitude for upper caste

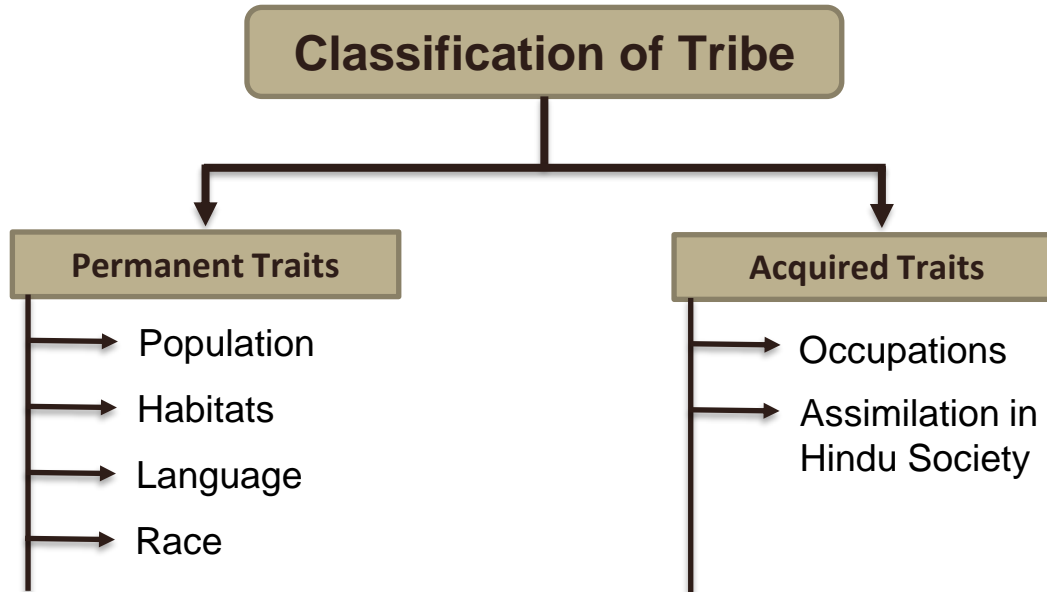
- I. 1st and 2nd generation took full advantage of job opportunities, subsidized education, healthcare etc
- II. In this initial period, their lead over the rest of society (in terms of education) ensured that they did not face any serious competition
- III. Eventually they started believing, caste has very less to do with their advancement
- IV. Ultimately the caste became invisible for upper castes
- V. Hence, for the new generation role of caste is limited to marriages and kinships

❑ Change of attitude in lower caste

- I. They didn't inherit any educational or economic capital
- II. Caste identity is like an asset for them
- III. It is needed to avail the reservation and other state protection policies against discrimination.
- IV. Hence, Caste became all-important for them

4. 'Tribes have been classified according to their "permanent" and "acquired" traits.' Explain

Ans- 'Tribe' is a modern term for communities that are very old, being among the oldest inhabitants of the sub-continent. Indian tribe doesn't have Religion with written text, sharp class division and modern political form. The tribal population can be classified on the basis of permanent and acquired traits



❖ Permanent Traits

❑ Population

- I. 85% of tribal population lives in middle India
- II. 11% tribal population lives in North Eastern States
- III. In most North eastern states except Assam, tribes form more than 30% of the total population
- IV. It ranges from seven million to some hundreds Andamanese Islanders
- V. Biggest tribes are, Gonds, Bhils, Santhals, Oraons, Minas, Bodos and Mundas
- VI. Each of these tribes have over 1 million population
- VII. As per Census of 2011, Tribes are 8.6% of the total population of India
- VIII. In numbers, this is around 10 crores

❑ Ecological Habitats

- I. They can be classified in the terms of region they live
- II. They live in hills, plains, rural plains and urban industrial areas.

❑ Language

- I. Indo-Aryan – 1% of tribes speak this
- II. Dravidian – 3% of tribe speak this
- III. Austric- 100% of this language speakers are tribe
- IV. Tibeto-Burman- 80% of this language speakers are tribe

❑ Race

- I. They can be Classified under Negrito, Australoid, Mongoloid, Dravidian and Aryan categories

❖ Acquired Traits

❑ Occupations

- I. In terms of occupation they can be classified as fishermen, food gatherers and hunters, shifting cultivators, peasants and plantation and industrial workers

❑ Assimilation in Hindu society

- I. Degree of Assimilation can be seen from the POV of tribes and POV of mainstream Hindu Society
 - POV of Tribes - Attitude towards Hindu society is a major classification criteria
 - POV of mainstream hindu society
 - They Can be classified in terms of status accorded to them
 - In reality, most tribe are given lower status



Patterns of Social Inequality and Exclusion

4 Markers

1. Who wrote 'Stree Purush Tulana'? What does it explain?

Ans- 'Stree-Purush tulana' was written by Tarabai Shinde in 1888. She was a Marathi social reformer.

❑ Inside the Stree Purush Tulana

- I. It was written as a protest against the double standards of a male dominated society
- II. The central story is about a Brahman widow who had been sentenced to death by the courts for killing her newborn baby because it was illegitimate, but no effort had been made to identify or punish the man who had fathered the baby
- III. The story reflected the humiliation of women in a male dominated society

6. Describe through the works of two women authors, their contribution to social reform for women's rights

Ans- The literature has played vital role in uplifting the situation of women. Two of the important works are – Stree Purush Tulana by Tarabai Shinde and Sultana's dreams by Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

❑ Stree Purush Tulana

- I. It was written as a protest against the double standards of a male dominated society
- II. The central story is about a Brahman widow who had been sentenced to death by the courts for killing her newborn baby because it was illegitimate, but no effort had been made to identify or punish the man who had fathered the baby
- III. The story reflected the humiliation of women in a male dominated society

❑ Sultana's Dreams

- I. This remarkable short story is probably the earliest example of science fiction writing in India
- II. The fiction is about the reversed role of men and women in society
- III. She provided a new perception to the society towards gender roles.

6 Markers

4. What are some of the features of social stratification? Explain

Social inequality differentiates between individuals. Highlight the principles to explain the concept of social stratification.

Ans- It refers to a system by which categories of people in a society are ranked in a hierarchy. This hierarchy then shapes people's identity and experiences, their relations with others, as well as their access to resources and opportunities



❑ Characteristic of Society

- I. Social Stratification is a characteristic of society, not simply a function of individual differences.
- II. Social stratification is a society-wide system
- III. It unequally distributes social resources among categories of people irrespective of their individual capacity
- IV. As per this principles, social inequality and individual differences are least related

❑ Persists over generation

- I. Social stratification persists over generations
- II. A person's social position is ascribed
- III. Within the caste system, birth dictates occupational opportunities.
- IV. The ascribed aspect of social inequality is reinforced by the practice of endogamy
- V. Hence, social stratification is closely linked to the inheritance of social resources from one generation to other

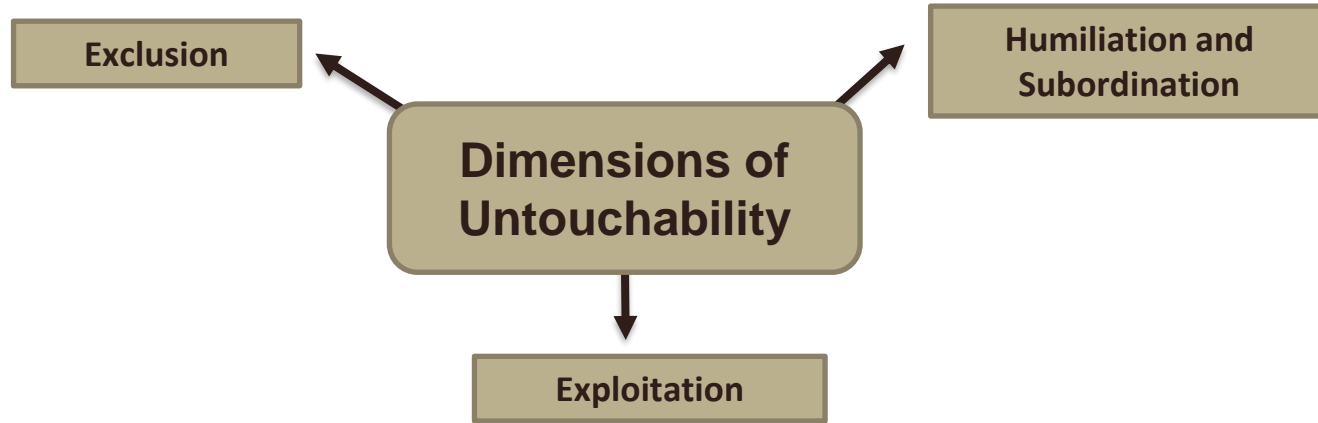
❑ Backed up by beliefs and ideology

- I. Social stratification is supported by patterns of belief, or ideology
- II. Social stratification can exist only if it is perceived as fair or inevitable as per some belief or ideology
- III. The caste system, for example, is justified in terms of the opposition of purity and pollution
- IV. Typically, people with the greatest social privileges express the strongest support for systems of stratification such as caste and race

Hence, because of these principles, social stratification exists and persists over generations.

1. Describe the social phenomenon of untouchability and explain its various dimensions

Ans- 'Untouchability' is an extreme and particularly vicious aspect of the caste system that prescribes stringent social sanctions against members of untouchable castes. Untouchable castes are lowest among Shudras and often considered as outcastes.



❑ Exclusion

- I. Untouchable castes suffer extreme forms of social exclusion
- II. They experience forms of exclusion that are unique and not practised against other groups
- III. E.g. being prohibited from sharing drinking water sources, participating in collective religious worship, social ceremonies and festival

❑ Subordination-Humiliation

- I. Since the ancient times, there have been humiliating norms for untouchable castes
- II. They had to wear iron ornaments
- III. They used clapper while walking
- IV. They had to wear the clothes of dead
- V. They have been called by derogatory terms by other castes

❑ Exploitation

- I. Untouchability is almost always associated with economic exploitation of various kinds
- II. They were exposed to physical harassment
- III. They were forced to do unpaid labour
- IV. They were deprived of land holdings in different part of India

Untouchability is a pan-Indian phenomenon, although its specific forms and intensity vary considerably across regions and socio-historical contexts

2. Describe some of the state initiatives addressing caste and tribe discrimination

Ans- The lower castes and tribes have faced a severe discrimination during British rule. Therefore, after Independence some measures were initiated by government to remove this system of discrimination.



❑ Background

- I. The efforts to uplift the situation of lower caste have its roots in colonial India.
- II. In 1850, British passed Caste Disabilities Removal Act of 1850,
- III. This enabled lower caste to get admission in schools
- IV. In 1935, Government of India act organized lower caste and tribes in list of Schedule castes and schedule tribes respectively

❑ Reservation to SC and STs

- I. Along with the enactment of constitution, reservations to SCs and STs were introduced
- II. Features of reservation
 - Reservation of seats in the State and Central legislatures
 - Reservation of jobs in government service and PSUs
 - Reservation of seats in educational institutions
 - The proportion of reserved seats is equal to the percentage share of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the total population

❑ Reservation to OBCs

- I. OBCs include the service and artisanal castes
- II. Their situation was not alike Dalits but they too were socially and educationally backward
- III. The first backward commission was formed under Nehru government
- IV. It was headed by Kaka Kelkar and submitted its report in 1953
- V. The recommendation of this report was not executed
- VI. The Second Backward Classes Commission headed by B.P. Mandal was appointed
- VII. In 1990s, the report was implemented and OBC reservation received green flag
- VIII. However, unlike SCs and STs, The proportion of reserved seats is equal to the percentage share of the OBCs in total population as they constitutes upto 40% of Indian population

❑ Statehood to tribes

- I. Gaining statehood is one of the major achievements for Tribes in Independent India
- II. They got statehood for Jharkhand and Chattisgarh and Uttarakhand

❑ Important legislations

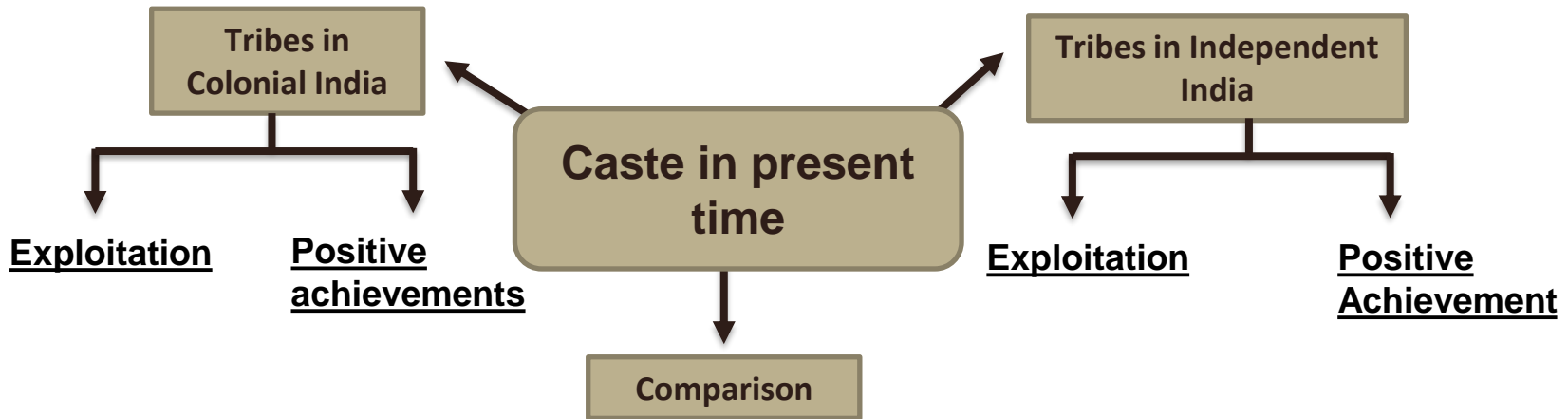
- I. Article 17 of Indian constitution which abolishes untouchability
- II. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of **1989**.
- III. Constitution Amendment (Ninety Third Amendment) Act of 2005

Through these measures, castes and tribes discrimination were countered by state initiatives.

3. Compare and contrast the socio-economic conditions of tribals before and after Independence.

Tribals have faced colonialism in pre-independent and post-independent India. Explain.

Ans- 'Tribe' is a modern term for communities that are very old, being among the oldest inhabitants of the sub-continent. Today, tribes are in much worse conditions as compared to the non-tribals. This has its roots in colonial India



❑ Tribals in colonial India

I. Exploitations-

- a) Late nineteenth century onwards, the colonial government reserved most forest tracts for its own use.
- b) They curtailed the rights of Adivasis of cultivation and over forest produce
- c) Tribes were forced to either use the forests illegally or migrate in search of labour
- d) Hence, all of a sudden tribes were converted from a self sufficient community to helpless

I. Positive Achievements-

- a) Through GOI act of 1935, British organized tribes into a unit under a list of schedule tribes
- b) This helped them gain reservation in legislation

❑ Tribals in Independent India

I. Exploitations-

- a) Adivasi lands were rapidly acquired for new mining and dam projects
- b) Millions of adivasis were displaced without any appropriate compensation or rehabilitation
- c) It was a form of internal colonialism in the pretext of national growth
- d) Eg- Sarovar dam on the river Narmada in Western India and the Polavaram dam on the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh
- e) LPG policy was adopted after 1991
- f) It became easier for corporate firms to acquire large areas of land by displacing adivasis.

II. Positive Achievements-

- a) Tribes were given reservation after the independence
- b) They gained statehood for Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Uttarakhand.

❑ Comparison of tribal condition in Colonial India vs Independent India

Tribes in Colonial India

- I. They were displaced from their areas without any compensation
- II. Political representation was negligible
- III. Tribes were mostly poor
- IV. Reservation was limited to legislature

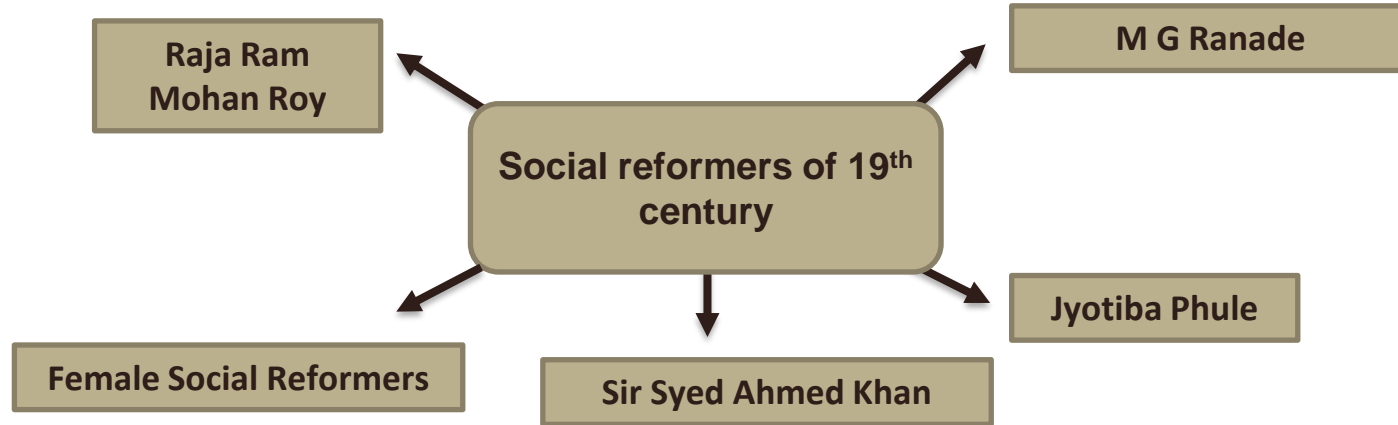
Tribes in Independent India

- I. Though they are displaced on the name of development, but often it is backed up by compensation.
- II. Tribes have growing political representation in democratic India
- III. Through educational efforts, a middle class has developed among the tribal population.
- IV. Reservation is expanded from legislature to Government jobs and access to education.

Hence, though tribes are suffering in Independent India as well. But unlike colonial period, they have the chance to improve their situation in democratic India.

4. Discuss the role of social reformers in dealing with the women's issues during the colonial period

Ans- The first half of 19th century India witnessed the growth of social reforms led by Indian reformers. The nature and issue of social reforms varied from region to region. These reforms included the women's issues as well like Sati system, Widow remarriage.



❑ Raja Ram Mohan Roy

- I. He founded Brahmo Samaj in 1828
- II. Raised voice against Sati System of upper caste
- III. Sati system was the first women issue to get public attention
- IV. He attacked the practice of sati on the basis of both appeals to humanitarian and natural rights doctrines as well as Hindu shastras.

❑ M G Ranade

- I. He was from Bombay
- II. He advocated widow remarriage
- III. He referred Butlers' three sermon's of nature and shastric doctrines.

❑ Jyotiba Phule

- I. He was from Pune
- II. He founded the Satyashodak Samaj
- III. He raised voices for women and untouchables
- IV. Major issue- Women Education, Dalit empowerment**
- V. He along with his wife Savitri Bai Phule opened first girls school in India in Pune.

❑ Sir Syed ahmed Khan

- I. He is the founder of AMU
- II. He was focused to reform the Muslim society
- III. He wanted girls to be educated, but within the precincts of their homes
- IV. He stood for women's education but sought for a curriculum that included instruction in **religious principles, training in the arts of housekeeping and handicrafts and rearing of children.**

❑ Female social Reformers

I. **Savitri Bai Phule**

- a) She was among the first women to get educated
- b) She along with her husband opened first girls school of India in Pune
- c) For her entire life, she raised voice for women education

II. Tarabai Shinde

- a) She was a housewife from Maharashtra
- b) She wrote a book known as **stree Purush Tulana in 1882**
- c) Stree Purush Tulana highlights the double standards of a male dominated society

III. Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain

- a) She was a Bengali author
- b) She wrote a book known as **Sultana's dreams**
- c) This remarkable short story is probably the earliest example of science fiction writing in India
- d) The fiction is about the reversed role of men and women in society
- e) She provided a new perception to the society towards gender roles.



Challenges of Cultural Diversity

1. What are community identities? Why are they important?

Ans- Community identity is the sense of belonging and shared values that unite a group of people. It is acquired by birth. It anchors our self identity. Our community identity can be - Family, religion, region, language, race, Nationality.

❑ Importance of Community Identity

- Our community provides us the language (our mother tongue) and the cultural values through which we comprehend the world.
- It gives us a sense of security and satisfaction as an individual
- We develop an emotional attachment towards our community identity
- It's very hard to shake off the community identity even if we chose to disown them

2. What is meant by cultural diversity? Why are States often suspicious of cultural diversity?

Ans- It refers to the presence of various cultural and ethnic groups within the society. A culturally diverse country may have population of different races, gender, religion, language etc. `

❑ Challenges posed by Cultural Diversity

- Cultural identities are very powerful – they can arouse intense passions and mobilize huge number of people
- In a culturally diverse state, different community identity exists
- These community identities can act as the **basis for nation-formation**
- Cultural differences are often accompanied by social and economic inequality
- This can make situation far worse

3. A nation is a peculiar sort of community that is easy to describe but hard to define. How?

Ans- Nation is a large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory. Nation is easy to describe but hard to define

❑ Why Nation is hard to define-

- I. To define is to set the boundary of Nation building
- II. In a Nation, different community identity (religion, language, race etc.) can exist
- III. Each community Identity can act as a basis of Nation building
- IV. Also, there are many languages, religions or ethnicities that are shared across nations

This makes Nation very hard to define.

5. Explain regionalism in the Indian context.

Ans- Regionalism is the development of political and economic systems based on loyalty to distinct geographic regions. Regionalism in India is rooted in India's diversity of languages, cultures, tribes, and religions.

❑ Impacts in India

- I. After Independence, States were reorganized on the linguistic lines
- II. States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) was set up for this
- III. The report was implemented on 1 November 1956
- IV. This led to formation of many new states i.e. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh.
- V. Ultimately, this reorganization of states on the basis of language helped India to strengthen the unity.

6. Why Communalism is still a challenge to our unity and harmony?

Ans- Communalism refers to refers to aggressive chauvinism based on religious identity

❑ Threat posed by Communalism

- I. Communalists cultivate an aggressive political identity, and are prepared to condemn or attack everyone who does not share their identity.
- II. This impacts the national unity in negative manner
- III. A communalist generalizes people from other community.
- IV. For a communal Hindu, all Muslims, Sikhs are same
- V. This is a threat for communal harmony

Overall, communalism is a serious threat to our national unity and communal harmony

7. Describe some of the important characteristics of Communalism.

Ans- Communalism refers to refers to aggressive chauvinism based on religious identity

❑ Features of Communalism

- I. Communalist has less to do with Personal faith Communalist may or may not be a devout person and vice versa
- II. Communalists cultivate an aggressive political identity, and are prepared to condemn or attack everyone who does not share their identity.
- III. For a communalist, religion is what matters the most
- IV. A communalist generalizes people from other community.
- V. For a communal Hindu, all Muslims, Sikhs are same

8. What is a 'minority group 'Why do minorities need protection from the State?

Ans- Minority is a group of people relatively smaller in number and also disadvantaged.

❑ Need for protection

- I. In India, inclusive society had been the feature of Indian Nationalism
- II. A strong and united nation could be built only when all sections of people had the freedom to practice their religion, and to develop their culture and language
- III. As per Ambedkar, minorities are an explosive force which, if it erupts, can blow up the whole fabric of the state, hence they must be taken care of
- IV. Ignoring the interests of minorities can result into disintegration of state i.e. Liberation of Bangladesh.

9. What are the features of an authoritarian state ?

Ans- An authoritarian state is the opposite of a democratic state.

❑ Features of authoritarian state

- It is a state in which the people have no voice and those in power are not accountable to anyone.
- Authoritarian states often limit or abolish civil liberties like freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of political activity etc.
- In an authoritarian state, the state institutions become unable or unwilling to respond to the needs of the people because of corruption, inefficiency, or lack of resources
- An authoritarian state is one which become somewhat independent of the nation and its people.

10. What are the features of civil society organizations ?

Ans- They are the organization which keep a watch on the state, protest against its injustices or supplement its efforts.

❑ Features of civil society organization

- They should neither be state controlled nor a commercial entity
- Ex- NGOs, International Organizations, trade unions, Media Organization
- They raise voices for different national and regional issues
- Civil liberties organisation/Civil Society organizations have been particularly important in keeping a watch on the state and forcing it to obey the law
- They resist the creation of an Authoritarian state or a corrupt state

11. Could the RTI be a means of forcing the state to respond to the people of India ?
Elaborate

Ans- The Right to Information Act 2005 is a law enacted by the Parliament of India giving Indians access to Government records. This law was passed by Parliament on 15 June 2005 and came into force on 13 October 2005. It forces the state to respond to the people of India

❑ Provisions of RTI

- Under the terms of the Act, any person may request information from a “public authority” which is expected to reply expeditiously or within thirty days.
- The Act also requires every public authority to computerise their records for wide dissemination
- The acts provides citizens to, take copies of documents
- This also provides citizens to, inspect documents, works and records
- It is a fundamental right, available to every citizen of India.

6 Markers

12. In your opinion, has the linguistic reorganisation of states helped or harmed India ? Give reasons.

Ans- Regionalism in India is rooted in India's diversity of languages, cultures, tribes, and religions. I believe, the linguistic reorganization of states has helped India to build national unity while respecting the regional sentiments



❑ Background -

- I. In the 1920s, the Indian National Congress was reconstituted on linguistic lines.
- II. Its provincial units now followed the regional languages i.e. Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati
- III. At the same time, Gandhi and other leaders promised their followers that when freedom came, the new nation would be based on a new set of provinces based on the principle of language.

❑ Efforts After Independence

- I. After Independence, initially the Indian state continued with the British Indian arrangement dividing India into large provinces, also called 'presidencies'.
- II. Due to the fear of Partition, Congress was now hesitant to reorganize states on the basis of linguistic lines
- III. Vigorous movements arose among Marathi and Kannada speakers in Madras and Bombay Presidencies
- IV. However, the most militant protests ensued from the very large community of Telugu speakers.
- V. In October 1953, Potti Sriramulu, a former Gandhian, died seven weeks after beginning a fast unto death
- VI. This infuriated the protests and forced Indian government to form State Reorganization Commission (SRC), which proposed for creation of states on linguistic lines in 1956

❑ Potential Threat

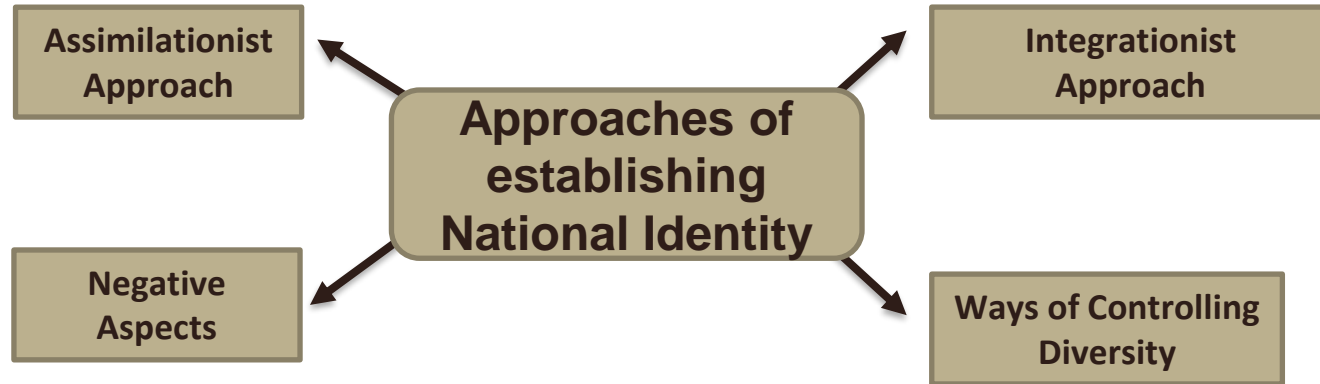
- I. Ignoring the regional sentiments could have resulted into the civil war like Srilanka
- II. It would have also led to the disintegration of India into many factions
- III. E.g. Breakdown of Pakistan in 1971 as a result of ignoring Bengali interests

❑ Benefits

- I. The reorganization of states on linguistic lines avoided the civil war, which happened in case of Srilanka
- II. It helped communities from different regions to restore trust in union of India
- III. It also help us avoid the voices for separation unlike Pakistan in 1971
- IV. Far from undermining Indian unity, linguistic states have helped strengthen it.
- V. It has proved to be perfectly consistent to be Kannadiga and Indian, Bengali and Indian, Tamil and Indian, Gujarati and Indian...

13. Explain the politics of assimilation and integration used to establish national identity.

Ans- Historically, states have tried to establish and enhance their political legitimacy through nation building strategies. They sought to secure the loyalty and obedience of their citizens through policies of assimilation or integration.



❑ Assimilationist Approach

- I. It involves outright suppression of the identities of ethnic, religious or linguistic groups
- II. It aims at persuading, encouraging or forcing all citizens to adopt a uniform set of cultural values and norms.
- III. The values and norms of dominant groups are promoted

❑ Integrationist Approach

- I. It seeks to assert a single national identity by attempting to eliminate ethno- national and cultural differences from the public and political arena
- II. They insist that the public culture be restricted to a common national pattern, while all 'non-national' cultures are to be relegated to the private sphere

❑ Ways of Controlling Diversity

- I. Centralising all power to forums where the dominant group constitutes a majority, and eliminating the autonomy of local or minority groups.
- II. Imposing a unified legal and judicial system based on the dominant group's traditions and abolishing alternative systems used by other groups.
- III. Adopting the dominant group's language as the only official 'national' language and making its use mandatory in all public institutions;
- IV. Adoption of state symbols celebrating the dominant group's history, heroes and culture, reflected in such things as choice of national holidays or naming of streets etc.
- V. Seizure of lands, forests and fisheries from minority groups and indigenous people and declaring them 'national resources'...

❑ Negative Aspects

- I. In both approach, the cultural diversity is suppressed.
- II. This very act of suppression can provoke the opposite effect of intensifying community identity.
- III. Which can ultimately result into civil war, regional conflicts.

14. What is the role and significance of civil society in today's world?

Ans- Civil societies are the organizations which keep a watch on the state, protest against its injustices or supplement its efforts. For e.g. UNO, UNICEF, Amnesty international



❑ What is Civil Society?

- I. They are the organization which keep a watch on the state, protest against its injustices or supplement its efforts.
- II. They should neither be state controlled nor a commercial entity
- III. Ex- NGOs, International Organizations, trade unions, Media Organization

❑ Role of Civil Society

- I. They raise voices for different national and regional issues
- II. Civil liberties organisation/Civil Society organizations have been particularly important in keeping a watch on the state and forcing it to obey the law
- III. They resist the creation of an Authoritarian state or a corrupt state

❑ Authoritarian State

- I. An authoritarian state is the opposite of a democratic state.
- II. It is a state in which the people have no voice and those in power are not accountable to anyone.
- III. Authoritarian states often limit or abolish civil liberties like freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of political activity etc.
- IV. Presence of civil society resist any democratic state to become an authoritarian one

❑ Major Achievements in India

- I. Implementation of Right to Information Act is a major achievement
- II. It was passed by Parliament on 15 June 2005 and came into force on 13 October 2005.
- III. Initially the information of government was made confidential through Official Secrets Act 1923
- IV. But after agitation of people and efforts made by people, RTI Act was passed.

15. What is meant by communalism in the Indian context? Why has it been a recurrent source of tension and violence. (2010,2013) (6M)

Ans- Communalism refers to refers to aggressive chauvinism based on religious identity. Chauvinism itself is an attitude that sees one's own group as the only legitimate or worthy group, with other groups being seen – by definition – as inferior, illegitimate and opposed.



❑ Indian Communalism

- I. In the English language, “communal” means something related to a community or collectivity as different from an individual.
- II. The English meaning is neutral, whereas the South Asian meaning is strongly charged.
- III. The charge may be seen as positive – if one is sympathetic to communalism – or negative, if one is opposed to it.

❑ Features of Communalism

- I. Communalist has less to do with Personal faith Communalist may or may not be a devout person and vice versa
- II. Communalists cultivate an aggressive political identity, and are prepared to condemn or attack everyone who does not share their identity.
- III. For a communalist, Religion is what counts the most
- IV. For a communal Hindu, all Muslims, Sikhs are same
- V. A communalist generalizes people from other community.

❑ Threats associated with communalism

- I. Communalists cultivate an aggressive political identity, and are prepared to condemn or attack everyone who does not share their identity.
- II. This impacts the national unity in negative manner
- III. A communalist generalizes people from other community.
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