



**RAU'S IAS**  
**STUDY CIRCLE**  
— Since 1953 —

**GS PAPER-I**  
**MODEL ANSWERS**  
**MAINS 2023**



## Question 1: Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. (150 words, 10 marks)

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: **Art & Culture**

Possible reason for asking this question:

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: **Foundational**

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: **Medium**

Main demand of the Question: **Highlight how geographical factors played a role in development of Ancient Indian Culture.**

### MODEL ANSWER

#### INTRODUCTION

Geographical factors played a vibrant role in shaping the consciousness of ancient India.

#### BODY OF THE ANSWER

##### Key Geographical Factors and their Impacts

##### **(a) Himalayan mountain ranges:**

- Natural Barrier
- Through passes; invasion of different groups Ex. Persians, Macedonians/Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Pahlavas, Kushan & Hunas. It resulted in significant cultural interactions [Kushans i.e., most Indianized group]

##### **(b) Shielding of arctic winds:**

- Lot of rainfall
- Agricultural prosperity
- Urbanisation
- India emerged as a cradle of civilization

##### **(c) India as a land of rivers:**

- River valleys civilizations (IVC)
- Urbanisation: First urbanisation (IVC) Indus River valley region. Second urbanisation (Mahajanpada Era) Gangetic River valley region

##### **(d) Discovery of Monsoon by HIPPALUS:**

- Mid-Oceans Routes to India Ports were discovered
- Promotion of International Trade
- Availability of Coastal Ports and Plains resulted in emergence of powerful empires in South India. (Ex. Cholas, Cheras, Pandayas etc.)

##### **(e) Geographical Diversity Promoted richness in all spheres:**

- Indians never faced scarcity of resources, always avoided conflicts
- For promotion of trade Indians always welcomed different cultural groups in India
- Resulted in emergence of India as spiritual leader in the world
  - Ascetic culture

- Non-Violence
- Ethnic & Cultural Diversity
- Vasudhaiva-Kutumbakam
- Multiculturalism
- A more humane psyche

### CONCLUSION

Due to its rich cultural diversity & economic prosperity Indians also made significant progress in the fields of technology, literature, science & architecture etc.

## Question 2: What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? (150 words, 10 marks)

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: **Contribution of Important Personalities and Issues of Modern History**

Possible reason for asking this question: **There has been debates on Indian Nationalism and Education System in recent times.**

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: **Foundational**

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: **Difficult**

Main demand of the Question: **Highlights views of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore on Education and Nationalism**

### MODEL ANSWER

#### INTRODUCTION

Approach of Gandhi and Tagore towards education and nationalism were unique and significant in nature.

#### BODY OF THE ANSWER

##### (a) Gandhi Outlook

##### (i) On Education:

- Basic education & Mass-Based Education (Wardha Scheme - 1937)
- Besides learning,
- Focus on 3H
  - H – Hand (Skills/Job-Centric Approach/Productive Crafts)
  - H – Heart (Moral-Purification)
  - H – Head (Spiritual-Upliftment)
- Value based education system
- Harmonious development of mind, body and heart
- Focus on Vernaculars

##### (ii) On Nationalism:

- Main expressions in the form of Swaraj & Ramrajya
- Focus on secular spirit & religious universalism
- Growth of nationalism in India was a result of cultural diversity, moral and spiritual progression
- No British Rule in this process

##### (b) Tagore's Outlook

##### (i) On Education:

- Dynamic & Unique Approach
- Rejected conventional method of schooling system

- Nature & Practice Based Learning Curriculum
- More focus on analysis and interpretation
- Expression in the form of institutions. Ex. (i) Shanti Niketan (1863), further developed into (ii) Vishwa Bharati (1921)
  - Adoption of thoughts according to present scenario
  - Environmental consciousness
  - Moral values
  - Interpersonal skills
  - Community & society-oriented awareness

**(ii) On Nationalism****Two Aspects of Nation & Nationalism:**

- Visualised it beyond the national map
- Visualised it from inside of national boundary
- International humanistic concerns
- Focus on ending discrimination & system of privileges
- He himself writes "I am a poet of the world ...."
- Promoting equality
- This will bring forward shape of true nation

**CONCLUSION**

Due to its rich cultural diversity & economic prosperity Indians also made significant progress in the fields of technology, literature, science & architecture etc.

**Question 3: Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world. (150 words, 10 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: **World History, Impact of Colonialism**

Possible reason for asking this question:

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundational

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: **Difficult**

Main demand of the Question: **Railways and its socio-economic impact on colonial and colonised countries.**

**MODEL ANSWER****INTRODUCTION**

Steam Engine was first developed by James Watt in England and later with industrial revolution and colonialism railways expanded in both advanced and colonised countries. Advent of railways not just revolutionised the transport system but also had complex socio-economic effects.

**BODY OF THE ANSWER****Positive impact of railways:**

- Facilitated quick movement of people and goods leading to increased trade and economic growth, particularly in countries where industrial revolution took place.
- Promoted urbanisation E.g., in Japan & Europe.
- Promoted social inclusion as people from different races and backgrounds such as Dalits, women etc.
- Promote national unification (E.g., Mahatma Gandhi travelled in Railways).

**Negative impacts of Railways:**

- Contributed to drain of wealth and deindustrialisation in colonised countries as exports of finished goods and imports of raw materials by colonial powers.
- Deployment of soldiers and arms became easier during revolts and wars between competing powers. (During Sepoy Mutiny and World Wars)
- Building of railways led to over-exploitation of resources especially in forest areas for timber. Ex. Khasi Revolt.
- Finances for building railways enriched the capitalist countries and but led to impoverished colonised countries.

**CONCLUSION**

Despite negative effects of railways, it has remained the most obvious means of national connectivity and catalyst of socio-economic development in India and beyond.

### Question 4: Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries. (150 words, 10 marks)

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked:

Possible reason for asking this question: IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> assessment report on climate change

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Current

Nature of question: **Easy, Medium or Difficult: Medium**

Main demand of the Question: Highlight how climate change is impacting food security in tropical countries

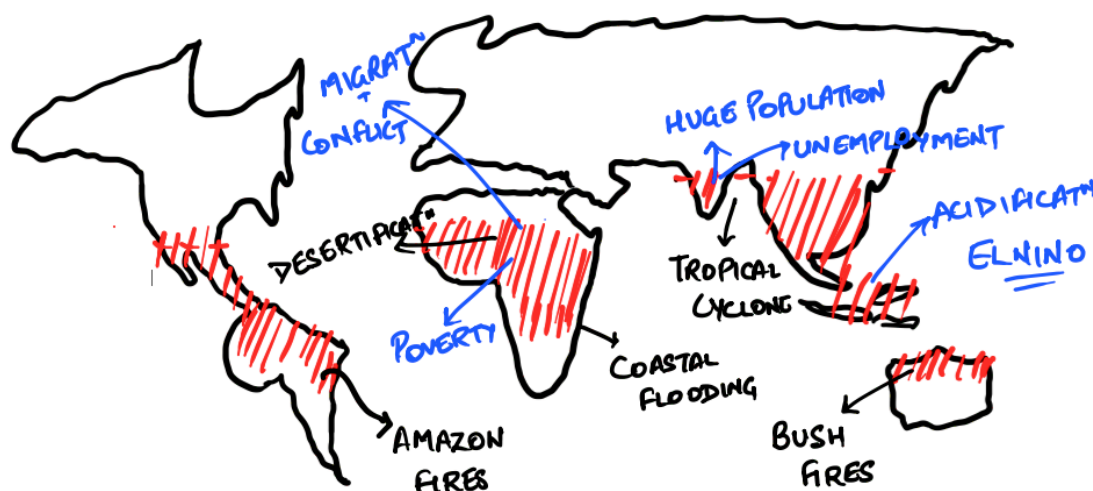
## MODEL ANSWER

### INTRODUCTION

Climate change is affecting food security through increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and greater frequency of some extreme events.

Tropical countries of Asia, Africa and South America face the double burden of experiencing higher weather extremities on one hand and lower potential to deal with such challenges on the other.

### BODY OF THE ANSWER



#### Consequences of climate change on Food Security in Tropical Countries

- **Availability:**
  - Reduces yields in crop and livestock systems. According to NASA, Maize crop yields are projected to decline 24% on account of climate change.
  - Increases pest attacks and diseases and reduces pollinators. E.g., Locust attacks
  - Reduces food quality by spoilage and loss of mycotoxins.
- **Accessibility:**
  - Yield reductions and reduced farmer income limit the ability to purchase food. E.g., 70% of India's rural households depend primarily on agriculture with 82% of farmers being small and marginal.
  - Price rise further affects it, especially the low-income countries.
  - Weather extremities disrupt food supplies and transportation infrastructure.
- **Utilization**



- Reduced nutritional quality on account of increased CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Higher flooding leads to higher infectious diseases. E.g., Mali, Chad and Niger
- **Stability**
  - Widespread crop failure may further increase migration and conflict
  - Higher migration and conflict further hampers food security.

**CONCLUSION**

Interventions such as climate resilient agriculture, enhancing per capita income and better disaster preparedness can help achieve sustainable development goal of food security by 2030.

**Question 5: Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources? (150 words, 10 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Distribution of Resources

Possible reason for asking this question: Recent news regarding freshwater crises

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Current

Nature of question: **Easy, Medium or Difficult: Medium**

Main demand of the Question: Reasons for crisis in freshwater availability and access

**MODEL ANSWER****INTRODUCTION**

Access to freshwater is a human right as it is not only essential for drinking, bathing, sanitation but also for industrial and food security purposes. According to Unicef, almost two-thirds of global population experiences severe water scarcity leading to child mortality, poor sanitation and hurting females and children.

**BODY OF THE ANSWER****Reasons for reduced water availability:**

1. Limited supply of freshwater as freshwater makes up only 1% of total global water supply.
2. Skewed distribution of freshwater resources temporally and spatially. For ex. Monsoons concentrate 85% of India's precipitation in three-month period.
3. Increasing global population even as water supply remains constant.
4. Climate change induced water shortage
5. Low water use efficiency, particularly in agriculture.
6. Export of virtual water in the form of agricultural commodities like Rice and Sugarcane.
7. Over-exploitation of groundwater resources
8. Contamination of water with arsenic, cadmium etc. making it unusable.

**Reasons for crisis in access to freshwater:**

1. Lack of proper water management and governance
2. Inadequate investment and poor management of water supply infrastructure
3. War and conflicts
4. Forced migration
5. Lack of cooperation on water among states and federal units
6. Lack of adequate political focus on water issues.

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, steps like identifying new water resources, improving efficiency of water resources, treating access to minimum quantity of water, mainstreaming use of wastewater, reducing wastage of water, promoting desalination in coastal areas, pricing of water and changing our behaviour towards water is required to improve both the access and availability of freshwater.

**Question 6: How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world? (150 words, 10 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked:

Possible reason for asking this question:

Whether the question was Foundational or Current

Nature of question: **Easy, Medium or Difficult**

Main demand of the Question:

**MODEL ANSWER****INTRODUCTION**

Fjords are unique geographical formations found in certain coastal regions of temperate regions formed by glacial erosion. It is a long, narrow valley with steep sides filled with seawater. It is deeper in inner and middle parts and shallow mountain threshold at the outer end.

Fjords are located on the edge of large continents. Fjords are found along the coasts of Norway, Greenland, Alaska, Chile, New Zealand and Antarctica.

**BODY OF THE ANSWER****Formation of Fjords:**

- Fjords are the result of glacier's immense power to shape landscapes.
- They are essentially drowned glacial valleys formed because of interplay of glacial action and subsequent marine inundation.
- During ice ages, glaciers carved deep U-shaped troughs in valleys through plucking and frost shattering. Once glaciers receded, these valleys submerged due to land subsidence or sea level rise, forming fjords.

**Picturesque Nature of Fjords:**

- Deep carved valleys with rugged cliffs and U-shaped valleys.
- Shallow mouths of Fjords make the waters in Fjords quieter than sea.
- Towering vertical cliffs that rise dramatically from water's edge.
- Calm waters function as mirror like surface which reflects the surroundings.
- Numerous cascading waterfalls which add sound and beauty.
- Changing seasons has different appearance of fjords
- Rich in biodiversity.
- Norway's Geirangerfjord, a UNESCO World Heritage sites, exemplify this scenic attractiveness.

**CONCLUSION**

Fjords, with their origin rooted in glacial activities and their unparalleled beauty, stand as a testament to nature's ability to craft awe-inspiring landscapes.

**Question 7: Why is the South-West Monsoon called Purvaiya (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region? (150 words, 10 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Important Geographical Phenomena

Possible reason for asking this question: Monsoon is an important feature of Indian Geography

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundational

Nature of question: **Easy, Medium or Difficult: Difficult**

Main demand of the Question: Explain the mechanism of monsoon in eastern UP and Bihar Region.

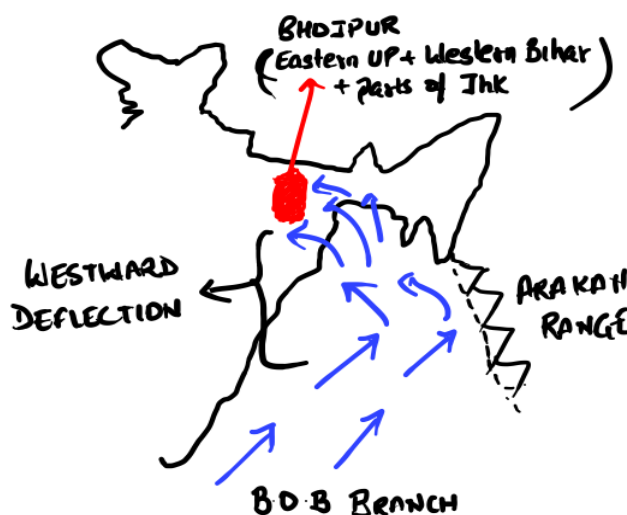
## MODEL ANSWER

### INTRODUCTION

Most parts of India receive Southwestern monsoonal winds in the months of June to September. However, these winds change their direction due to the presence of local factors.

### BODY OF THE ANSWER

**Easterly winds in Bhojpur region:**



**Impact on cultural ethos of Bhojpur:**

- Agriculture: The timing of the arrival of these winds is critical for sowing and planting crops like Paddy.
- Festivals: Communities celebrate festivals like Hariyali Teej, Nag panchami etc in these months celebrating the arrival of monsoon.
- Rituals, Folk songs and dances: Many of the folk songs and dance mention their significance. E.g Kajari songs and Jhijhia dance.
- Cuisine: types of crops grown in the region affect the local cuisine. E.g rice, wheat and various vegetables are used to prepare dishes like Peetha, litti chokha etc
- Clothing and Lifestyle: Light, breathable clothing is preferred. Eg- saree, dhoti, kurtas.

### CONCLUSION

Thus, these winds show the human-environment relationship in one of the most beautiful manners.

## Question 8: Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in Modern India? (150 words and 10 Marks)

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Salient features of Indian Society Possible reason for asking this question: Multiple articles came in newspapers regarding Marriage and its losing significance

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/marriage-is-sacramental-a-word-that-has-lost-its-meaning-due-to-recognition-of-live-in-relationships-says-madras-hc/article34696836.ece>

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: **Foundational + Current**

Nature of question: **Medium**

Main demand of the Question: The question inquires about the perceived decline in the significance of marriage as a sacred institution in contemporary Indian society. It seeks opinions on whether traditional values associated with marriage are diminishing amidst changing societal dynamics.

### MODEL ANSWER

#### INTRODUCTION

In modern times, the notion of marriage as a sacred institution is encountering shifting perspectives. As society undergoes rapid urbanization, globalization, and shifts in social dynamics, the traditional view of marriage as a sacrament faces new challenges, which are as follows:

#### BODY OF THE ANSWER

- **Growing individualism** reflects a shift towards personal freedom and choice in marriage decisions. People today may prioritize their individual happiness, compatibility, and personal goals over conforming to traditional expectations.
- **Emergence of alternatives** such as live-in relationships and single-parent families through adoption or other means, highlights a broader acceptance of diverse family structures in India.
- **Reduced stigma around divorce and separation** allows individuals to end unhappy or unhealthy marriages, promoting personal well-being and autonomy.
- **Rising aspirations among youth:** Pursuing education, careers, and personal development sometimes takes precedence over early or arranged marriages. People aspire to achieve personal and professional goals before committing to marriage.

**Marriage is still sacrament in Indian society, due to following reasons:**

- **Base of family:** Marriage is seen as the institution through which families are formed and sustained. The family is the fundamental building block of Indian culture, and marriage plays a central role in its establishment.
- **Continuity of Lineage:** As marriage is seen as a means to ensure the continuity of one's family and traditions, reinforcing its sacramental value.
- **Religious Significance:** The rituals and customs associated with marriage emphasizes the spiritual significance of this institution.

#### CONCLUSION

Marriage in India is experiencing a dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity. It is not necessarily losing its value, but rather adapting to the diverse needs and desires of a rapidly changing society.

## Question 9: Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society. (150 words, 10 marks)

**Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked:** Role of Women and Women's Organization, Population and Associated Issues

**Possible reason for asking this question:** Women's issues have gained prominence in UPSC examinations and have become a recurrent theme in various news articles.

**Whether the question was Foundational or Current:** Foundation

**Nature of question:** Easy, Medium or Difficult: Medium

**Main demand of the Question:** To highlight various social, economic, and cultural factors that led to the increasing suicide rate among young women.

### MODEL ANSWER

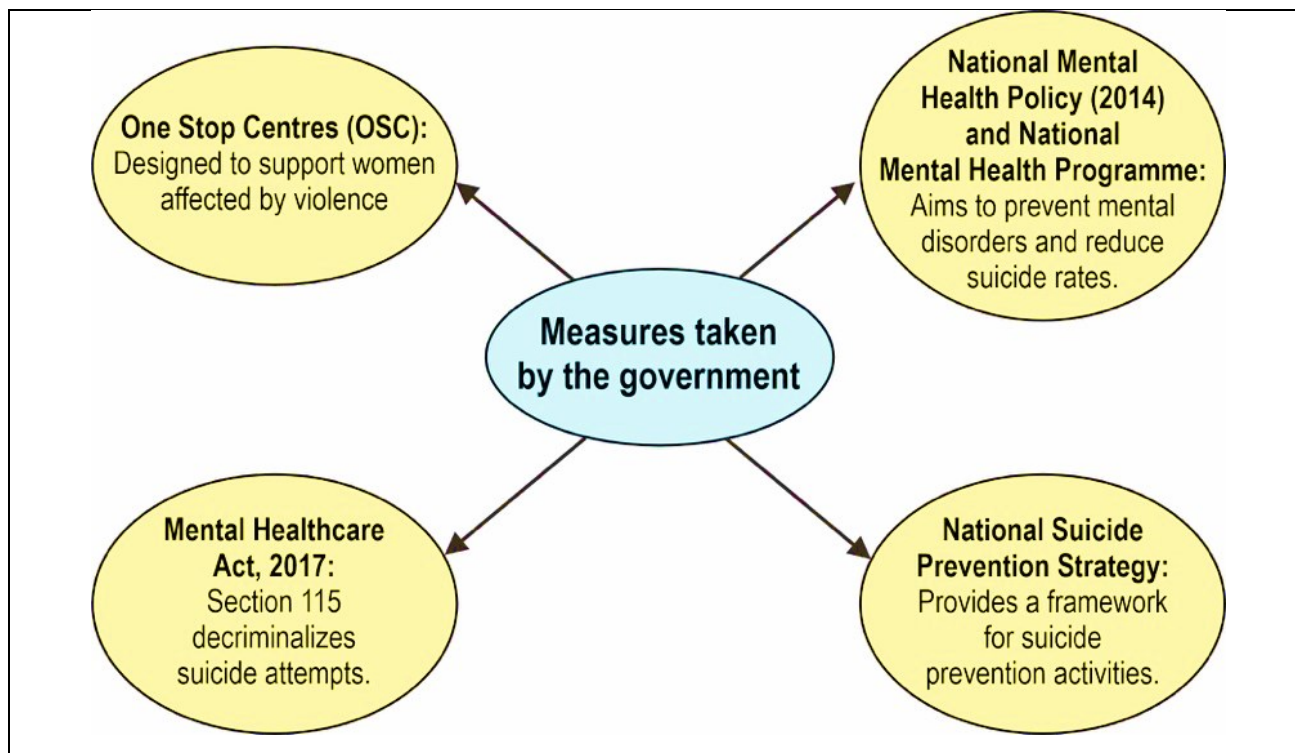
#### INTRODUCTION

India's young women face a serious suicide crisis. NCRB reports a rise from 12.7 to 17.5 per 1,00,000(2011 to 2021), with one woman aged 15-39 ending her life every hour. This highlights a dire need for protection.

#### BODY OF THE ANSWER

- 1. Relative Deprivation:** Despite advances in education and empowerment, stigma persist creating conflicts for young women (**Status inconsistency**). This tension is evident more in South India, where modern perspectives clash with traditional norms [**Lancet (2018)**].
- 2. Changing Family Dynamics:** Globalization has led to shifts in relationship dynamics, contributing to feelings of isolation among young women. The decline in joint families leaves housewives more vulnerable to mental health issues.
- 3. Patriarchal Structure:** Gender discrimination limits education, healthcare, nutrition. Marriage pressure stigmatizes unmarried women. Married women (**Early Marriage**) endure violence, deepening gender bias and despair.
- 4. Limited economic Opportunities:** results in lack of independence (**glass ceiling**) and contributes to pessimism and self-doubt.
- 5. Mental Health Issues:** Unrealistic standards(**beauty**) and excessive burden due to dual role performed by women worsen the situation.
- 6. Sexual Violence:** A high incidence of sexual violence, coupled with victim-blaming and stigma, exacerbates psychological distress.
- 7. Technology and Social Media:** Excessive use fuels depression and cyberbullying.

All these factors could lead to a lot of stress and therefore lead to death by suicide.

**CONCLUSION**

Effective solutions require focus on care economy, legislation against marital rape, one stop Centres to support mental health along with eradicating gender discrimination, violence and promoting education and employment.

**Question 10: Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children. (150 words, 10 Marks)**

**Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked:** Effects of Globalization on Indian society.

**Possible reason for asking this question:** Implication of use of mobile phone have become a recurrent theme in various news articles.

**Whether the question was Foundational or Current:** Current

**Nature of question:** Easy, Medium or Difficult: Easy

**Main demand of the Question:** To highlight the impact of mobile phone on socialisation of children.

**MODEL ANSWER****INTRODUCTION**

According to McAfee's Global Connected Family Study smartphone use in the world among children in the age of 10-14 is 76% , which can have significant impacts on the socialization of children. This is due to working parents, grandparents not living with children due to nuclearization, reduced community feeling, inadequate development of creches and child support services and proliferation of child-centric content like Youtube Kids etc.

**BODY OF THE ANSWER**

**Some of the impacts include:**

1. **Reduced Inter-Personal Bonds:** Diminish crucial cuddling moments between parents and children, leading to a lack of emotional connection and affecting children's security and well-being.
2. **Increased isolation:** Intensify feelings of loneliness and isolation, as digital connections often lack the emotional support of in-person relationships.
3. **Stunted Personality Development:** Hinder the natural development of children's personalities, which primarily occurs through real-world interactions.
4. **Decreased Empathy and Emotional Intelligence:** Excessive engagement in self-promotion on social media, driven by financial incentives, can reduce children's empathy and emotional intelligence by fostering shallow interactions that prioritize individualisation.
5. **Risk of Cyberbullying and Inappropriate Content:** Unsupervised or excessive use of mobile phones can expose children to cyberbullying, inappropriate content, or online dangers promoted suicidal thoughts, feelings of aggression towards others. **E.g.: Blue whale Challenge.**

**CONCLUSION**

To increase children's socialization, prioritize inter-personal Bonds, extracurricular activities, and community involvement. Balancing these strategies will help them develop crucial social skills and build meaningful relationships.



**Question 11: What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? (15 marks, 250 words)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Art & Culture (Vedic Culture)

Possible reason for asking this question: **There has been debate on Sanatana Dharma and how the Vedic culture is a living cultural heritage.**

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: **Foundational**

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: **Medium**

Main demand of the Question:

## MODEL ANSWER

### INTRODUCTION

Though Indo-Aryans were a sub-branch of Aryan family, they developed in India a unique culture compared to European and Iranian Aryans.

### BODY OF THE ANSWER

#### Main features of Vedic society:

- Society was based on Kinship and family, or Kula was the basic unit. Literature reflects patriarchal nature of society. People prayed for Praja (son).
- In society, dominance of priestly and ruling class was reflected by Chaturvarna system. The position of women and Shudras was not good.
- Dwija tradition allowed only Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas to go for Upanayana and hence for Vedic education.
- Early Vedic society the caste system was occupational grouping and social mobility high. However, in later Vedic times caste groups became permanent based on birth and social mobility reduced.

#### Main features of Vedic religion:

- People worshipped different aspects of nature, Ex. rain, water, fire, Prithvi. Prayers and Yagyas were important. Religion was materialistic, moksha was hardly demanded, people demanded Pashu (cattle wealth).
- By Later Vedic Age, more and more rituals emerged. Many gods became important like Vishnu, Prajapati and Rudra. Reaction to rituals also emerged in form of Upanishads.

#### Elements of Continuity:

- Family is still the basic unit of society, bound around idea of kinship.
- Society is still patriarchal.
- There is still prevalence of Varna system.
- Rituals and yagyas are still part of religious practices. Vishnu and Rudra are still considered prominent gods.

- Upanishads remain the base of philosophical system in India.

**CONCLUSION**

The continuity in the features of Vedic society and religion up to even our times almost makes it a living cultural heritage. But it is also desired that the positive elements are supported and negative ones, like secondary position given to women and depressed classes, are weeded out.

**Question 12: What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? (250 words, 15 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: **Art & Culture, Technology forms a part of Culture**

Possible reason for asking this question:

Whether the question was Foundational or Current

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult

Main demand of the Question:

**MODEL ANSWER**

**INTRODUCTION**

Advent of Turks, infused India with new ideas in almost every field including technology and science.

**BODY OF THE ANSWER**

**Technological Changes in Various Fields –**

**(1) Agriculture:**

- In irrigation, Persian Wheel (Saquia) was introduced.
- Sultans like Muhammad Bin Tughlaq also established many model farms to disseminate good agricultural techniques.
- Firoz Shah Tughlaq introduced many new techniques in horticulture, he founded nearly 1200 fruit gardens.

**(2) Trade and Craft:**

- In cotton cloth production, Charkha and carder's bow were introduced, increasing textile production. Rangrazi, coloring of cloth, became a prominent profession. Sultans promoted technique sericulture.
- Paper technology became important, as use of paper became important. Apart from Delhi Sultans, regional rulers like Zain-ul-Abedin promoted bookbinding technique.
- Glass technique improved due to influence from Middle East. Sultans promoted new techniques in leather production, carpet and shawls production, stone polishing.

**(3) Military Technique:**

- Turks brought better horse-riding technique. Also, the Turkish archers used a bow, called Navik, with entirely new technique.

**(4) Art and Architecture:**

- Sultanate period saw the introduction of scientific methods of building arches and domes. A good example is Alai Darwaja constructed by Allauddin Khilji.
- Compared to Indian style of using stones in buildings, Muslims used bricks and gypsum as mortar or binding material in construction technique.

**Impact on Indian Society:**

1. Agricultural production increased because of new techniques and surplus production which could sustain urbanization. Most historians believe that 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase of urbanization in India came with the advent of Turks.
2. Economic activities became very dynamic and diverse and cotton cloth production became much better.
3. New architectural styles emerged in form of Indo-Islamic architecture by confluence of the Indian and Islamic architectural techniques.

**CONCLUSION**

The new techniques introduced in Sultanate time had deep and permanent impact on society reflecting that Sultanate period was period of dynamism.

**Question 13: How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? (250 words, 15 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: **Modern Indian History and Issues of Colonialism**

Possible reason for asking this question:

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: **Foundational**

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: **Medium**

Main demand of the Question: **Highlight how the British policies impacted the tribals in India. Then highlight what was the response of tribals to these policies of the British**

**MODEL ANSWER****INTRODUCTION**

Tribals occupied the forest areas and the resource richness of these areas attracted the British to these areas for their commercial potential. The British policies thus led to unwanted interference in tribal societies.

**BODY OF THE ANSWER****Impact of colonial policies on Tribals –**

- **Land revenue policies** such as zamindari system led to forced commercialisation in tribal regions. Regions under Chaur and Munda tribe.
- **Policy of interference** in social and religious practice enabled the British to stop such tribal acts, for example Mariah sacrifice among tribal Khond. Many Christian missionaries tried to convert tribals to Christianity affecting their cultural rights. Britishers banned local liquor and mandated leases to outsiders to brew palm liquor.
- **Expansionist policy** where tribal communities faced land dispossession and encroachments by colonial powers and landlords, for example in Santhal tribal areas.
- **Protection of Forest rights** through Forests Act such as Forests Act (1865), and Indian Forests Act (1878) restricted tribal access to forests and natural resources, further affecting their traditional hunting, gathering, and agricultural practices like jhum cultivation. (Chenchu).
- **Commercialisation of forests:**
  - Opening of forests encouraged penetration of moneylenders and outsiders who exploited tribals.
  - Need for Oak and Timber for Railways and Navy made Britishers control forests and change their character.
- **Criminalisation of tribes:** Britishers criminalised many tribals who were engaged in long distance trade as criminal tribes and ostracised them.

**Response of Tribals towards Colonial rule –**

- **Resistance and Rebellion:** Some tribal communities actively resisted colonial rule through armed uprisings and rebellions. Ex. Santhal Rebellion of 1855-1856 in Bengal and Bastar Rebellion of 1910 in Central India.

- **Isolation and Avoidance:** some tribes (in Himalayan regions) chose to isolate themselves from colonial authorities and maintain their traditional ways of life in remote areas. They avoided contact with outsiders to protect their culture, land, and autonomy.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Some tribes responded to colonialism by making efforts to preserve their cultural heritage and traditions. Ex. Birsa Munda urged Mundas to give up drinking liquor, clean their village, and stop believing in witchcraft.
- **Non-violent means:** In certain cases, tribal leaders and communities opted for violating the laws and rules of the British such as in Bhagat movement tribal members refused to pay the land rent. Chenchu tribe launched Forest Satyagraha during the non-cooperation movement.

## CONCLUSION

Rise of colonial interference in the tribal regions across India gave rise to the anti-British sentiments during the 19th and early 20th century. This helped the nationalist leaders to unite these tribal regions after Independence following the policy of non-interference and inclusive development.

**Question 14: Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas. (250 words, 15 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Indian Physical Geography and Protected Areas

Possible reason for asking this question: India's natural vegetation

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundational

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: Medium

Main demand of the Question: First highlight the reasons for diversity of India's natural vegetation and in the second half on the significance of protection of wildlife sanctuaries in India.

## MODEL ANSWER

### INTRODUCTION

India's long coastline of 7517 km is rich in varied resources which can be harnessed for development of blue economy.

### BODY OF THE ANSWER

#### Energy Resources:

- Shale deposits along coasts of Gujarat, TN and Andhra Pradesh
- Rich Methane Hydrate deposits along the KG Basin. (Not yet harnessed).

Renewable Energy Potential:

- Significant wind energy potential (665 GW) along with offshore wind.
- Tropical coasts of India have vast solar energy potential.
- Tidal energy and OTEC

#### Mineral Resources

- Monazite sands and critical minerals important for India's nuclear energy security.
- Placer deposits rich in titanium and gold along coasts
- Salt production and export principally in Gujarat.
- Sand and construction material from coasts.

#### Food Resources

- Rich in fisheries – Rich source of protein and exports.
- Seaweeds for food and fertilisers.

Though India has rich resources along its coastal areas, we have not been able to successfully harness them due to technological, policy and financial bottlenecks. There is a need for a comprehensive Blue Economy Policy to harness these resources.

**Natural Hazard Preparedness in coastal areas:**

India's coastal areas suffer from the following natural disasters: Cyclone, Tsunami, Storm surges, coastal erosion. Climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of natural hazards in coastal areas and sea level rise leading to risk of submergence of coastal areas.

**Steps taken for Preparedness:**

- **Legal framework:** Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides framework for handling of natural disaster among NDMA at Central Level, SDMA at State Level and District Magistrate at Local level.
- **Early warning systems:**

Name of disaster	Early Warning System
Cyclone	By IMD
Tsunami	By INCOIS
Storm Surge	By INCOIS
Coastal Erosion	National Centre for Coastal Research

- Guidelines: NDMA has developed comprehensive guidelines for Tsunami and Cyclones but similar guidelines have not yet been developed for other hazards in the coastal areas such as storm surges.

**Specific interventions:**

- National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project aims to undertake structural and non-structural measures to mitigate effects of cyclones in coastal areas.
- Odisha has developed 'Odisha model' of handling cyclones.
- National Centre for Coastal Research monitors the shoreline changes through satellites.
- INCOIS has developed Coastal Vulnerability Index for Indian Coastline.
- MOEFCC has developed Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019 to conserve and protect coastal stretches.
- Other measures: Promotion Mangrove and shelterbelt plantations in coastal areas, awareness among fishermen and coastal communities etc.

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, to sustainable harness the resource potential there is a need for develop a comprehensive policy framework for addressing coastal disasters in line with Sendai Framework of Disaster Management.



**Question 15: Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forest regions of India. (250 words, 15 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Indian Physical Geography and Protected Areas

Possible reason for asking this question: India's natural vegetation

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundational

Nature of question: **Easy, Medium or Difficult: Medium**

Main demand of the Question: First highlight the reasons for diversity of India's natural vegetation and in the second half on the significance of protection of wildlife sanctuaries in India.

## MODEL ANSWER

### INTRODUCTION

India, with its vast expanse, showcases a rich array of natural vegetation, a direct manifestation of its diverse climatic conditions. This diversity, rooted in variations in temperature and precipitation, plays a pivotal role in shaping the country's ecological landscape.

### BODY OF THE ANSWER

#### Factors responsible for diversity of Natural Vegetation in India

##### 1. Physiographic factors

- (a) Altitude: Lower areas have rain forests in Kerala and upper reaches have temperate sholas.
- (b) Aspect: Southern slopes of Himalayas have dense forest as well as tree line upto higher altitude compared to northern slopes.
- (c) Leeward-Windward side: windward side of western ghats have tropical evergreen and leeward side has deciduous vegetation.

**2. Climate-related factors:** Temperature and precipitation are the major factors. Areas of high rainfall and high temperature like western Kerala and Andaman Islands have evergreen forests. Western Rajasthan having high aridity has xerophytic vegetation.

**3. Soil variations:** Edaphic factors like silt and clayey soil having good organic matter better supports the growth of mangroves as compared to sandy soils. E.g Bhitarkanika and Sundarban.

**4. Photoperiod:** Longer duration of sunlight promotes dense vegetation.

**Significance wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions of India:** India has rich rainforests in the Western Ghats, Northeast and A&N islands. These regions are rich in biodiversity and have been included in the Global Biodiversity Hotspots.

- 1. Conservation of flora and fauna as these have endemism. Ex. Lion Tail Macaque etc.
- 2. Water conservation and groundwater recharge.
- 3. Carbon sequestration

4. Soil conservation
5. Forest Resources ex. Minor Forest Produce (Ex. Honey) , medicinal plants (Arogyapacha used for cancer treatment found in Neyyar WLS)
6. Research & Development
7. Tourism and local employment generation
8. Protection of tribal and indigenous culture eg Kani tribes.

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, protected areas like wildlife sanctuaries and national parks are essential to protect the virgin forests and protect the rich natural vegetation of India. Globally, India has committed to protect 30% land and ocean area under protected area network. Thus, India should gradually aim to expand the network of protected areas.

## Question 16: Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India? (250 Words, 15 marks)

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Poverty and development

Possible reason for asking this question: Low performance on Indexes such as Human Development Index and Global Hunger Index

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundation

Nature of question: **Easy, Medium or Difficult: Difficult**

Main demand of the Question: To establish the link between economic and human development and explain the reasons for the lag in human development.

### MODEL ANSWER

#### INTRODUCTION

India experienced near 10% growth in the decade 2000-10 and near fastest growth amongst the world's largest economies in the decade after that. Yet still, our performance on education and health parameters has been laggard. As per census 2011, 74% is our literacy rate with a gender gap of approx. 17%. As per NFHS-5, the stunting rate among children is 35.5% and the wasting rate 19.3%.

#### BODY OF THE ANSWER

Reasons for human development parameters lagging behind economic development are as follows:

- We initially focussed on GDP growth post-independence with the presumption of the trickle-down theory. This however, largely proved to be a mistake according to Amartya Sen. We complemented the macro approach with the HDI based micro approach only since the 10<sup>th</sup> five-year plan.
- Until recently, we have continued to focus exclusively on a BPL line approach to identify beneficiaries for many welfare schemes. This threshold has been kept quite low excluding many deserving beneficiaries. Suresh Tendulkar committee identified 21.9% of the population as poor in 2011 compared to the Socio-economic caste census 2011 identifying 60% of rural and 35% of urban households as poor.
- If the poor earn even marginally above the poverty line they are excluded from beneficiary lists under many government schemes. This means out of pocket expenditure often increases much more than the income, reducing the total consumption capacity on nutrition. Thereby, while between 2004-05 to 2019-20 41.5 crore people came out of poverty in India, malnutrition levels increased in the same time period.
- Census 2021 has not been conducted, potentially excluding many deserving beneficiaries from an updated list on welfare schemes.

#### CONCLUSION

Amartya Sen advocates 6% of GDP allocation each to education and health as the way forward. The National Education Policy 2020 commits to this. Programs such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Poshan 2.0 guide the way forward.

## Question 17: From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons. (250 Words, 15 marks)

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Resources

Possible reason for asking this question: Wheat-Rice export ban from India

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundational

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: **Medium**

Main demand of the Question: Reasons for boost of India's agricultural exports.

### MODEL ANSWER

#### INTRODUCTION

Partition of India led to the most productive parts of India's agricultural land this made India dependent on food imports. (PLI-480 program). However, despite domestic production increasing till the 1990s India's agricultural exports was not very significant due to instability of domestic production and inward looking trade policies.

However, since the 1990s India became a net exporter of agricultural commodities. Exports increased in both dollars terms and as a proportion of total agricultural output.

#### BODY OF THE ANSWER

- **Green Revolution:** Green Revolution boosted agricultural productivity in the areas of Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and coastal deltas of Andhra Pradesh. This made India sufficient in food-production.
- **Marketing reforms:** such as introduction of MSP regime and based on recommendations of CACP, formation of Food Corporation of India for mandatory procurement of cereals from farmers incentivised farmers to boost production of cereals.
- **Adoption of high yielding variety (HYVs)** seeds by farmers has led to increase in per hectare productivity as well as cropping intensity. Later interventions like introduction of Bt-Cotton boosted cotton productivity.
- **Widespread canal irrigation** in alluvial rich areas of northern and coastal areas has brought more area under cultivation leading to increase in overall production.
- **Slowdown in population growth** compared to growth of agricultural production leading to surplus produce which could be exported.
- **Improved infrastructure:** like roads, rail, warehouses, cold storages etc have reduced post-harvest losses.
- **Agro based industries** promoted value addition as well as strengthened the forward linkages with foreign countries.
- **Marine food exports:** Schemes like PMMSY, setting up of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund,

- **Liberal export policies:** First following the economic reforms and later because of WTO agreement. This was further liberalised due to various FTAs signed by India.
- **Other government policies** like land reforms, MSP, Agriculture export policy, setting up of Canada, PMKSY, PMFBY, National mission for sustainable agriculture all have reformed the agriculture sector and ultimately increased the food exports.

## CONCLUSION

India's Agricultural Export Policy aims that India's net agri-exports should cross \$60 billion. This gradual outward orientation of agricultural exports will improve India's image as provider of global food security, boost farmers income and earn foreign exchange for the country.

This can be done by increasing competitiveness by agricultural diversification, boosting productivity, shift towards organic and higher value-added products and developing logistics infrastructure in agricultural exports.

## Question 18: Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises? (250 Words, 15 marks)

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Urbanisation

Possible reason for asking this question: Urban poverty and Urban inequality is in focus

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundational

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: **Medium**

Main demand of the Question: Segregation and

### MODEL ANSWER

#### INTRODUCTION

Urbanisation is a process by which proportion of population in urban areas is increasing. Urban settlements are characterised by close interactions, benefits of agglomeration, anonymity and social mobility.

However, despite its promise India's urbanisation has been characterised as exclusionary marked by segregation and marginalisation.

#### BODY OF THE ANSWER

##### **Factors contributing to segregation in urban areas**

- Spatial segregation:
  - a. Gated communities: Increasing proliferation of gated communities restrict the access to general public and poor. These gated communities exclude poor and highlight the tendency among the elite for social segregation.
  - b. Religious segregation: Poor from minority communities especially Muslims concentrate in ghetto-like localities. Sometimes, some communities do not rent out houses to minorities even if they are willing to pay market rates.
- Access to commons: Poorer parts of the city are denser habitation with lower per capita access to common areas like public parks and roads etc.
- Education: Children of urban poor are mostly educated in government schools and lack in adequate number of teachers.
- Lack of well-developed public transport and common areas means the rich travel in
- Cultural segregation: Urban poor are often migrants who are culturally alienated from the mainstream culture of the metropolises.

##### **Factors contributing of marginalisation**

- Slums and ghettos: Most poor live in informal shanties with poor living conditions, lacking in provision of basic amenities like provision of clean drinking water, sanitation and lighting.
- Lack of government services like access to healthcare, public transport and education.
- Informal sector: Most urban poor are employed in the informal sector with no or limited social security leading to their harassment and exploitation.

- Domestic workers: Domestic help workers do not have dedicated legal framework to offer them protection.
- Environmental marginalisation: Increasing urban pollution levels hits the poorest as they do not have adequate resources to employ RO plants, air purifiers etc. Also, adverse impacts of climate change like heat island effect.
- Political marginalisation: Migrant populations do not have say in the governance of cities. Also, urban local bodies lack effective powers and resources to tackle issues of urban poor.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, in the spirit of New Urban Agenda India should plan for Right to City as the bedrock of inclusionary urbanisation. This can be done by developing common areas, better investment in public provisions of health and education and public housing for urban poor.

**Question 19: Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static? (250 Words, 15 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Salient features of Indian Society

Possible reason for asking this question: Wheat-Rice export ban from India

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundational

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: **Medium**

Main demand of the Question: How is caste system static and changing.

**MODEL ANSWER****INTRODUCTION**

The development of caste consciousness emerged with colonial-era census, transforming it into a competitive force. This led to the formation of caste associations, which later evolved into pressure groups and political entities, all vying for state resources like jobs and education. Eg: Mahajan Sabha and Jat Sabha.

**BODY OF THE ANSWER**

Caste identity in India exhibits a dual nature. Below the "line of pollution" in rural domains and private spheres, it remains largely static. Yet, in the realm of politics and economic structures, it takes on a fluid character.

The surge of identity politics in 1960s followed by the Mandal era politics of 1990s, further accelerated the malleability of caste identity. Middle castes, such as Jats in Punjab, Patidars in Gujarat, Kammas and Reddys in Andhra, and Yadavs in Bihar and UP, benefiting from land reforms, secured political power and became dominant castes. However given the heterogeneous nature of caste blocs, some thrive while others lag behind. This has compelled the latter to assert their subcaste identities to leverage reservation policies, heightening the dynamism and complexity of caste identities in contemporary India.

Conversely, for outcastes like Dalits, caste remains static and oppressive with severe restrictions on commensality within India's socio-cultural fabric. Though Dalit consciousness and identity have developed from Ambedkar's efforts in 1930s to the Dalit movements of the 1970s, the benefits have primarily accrued to a select Dalit middle class. In rural areas, Dalits still encounter a rigid and oppressive caste identity, evident in violent incidents aimed at suppressing their demands for rights and entitlements. Instances include the Kilvenmani violence of 1968, Dharampur violence of 1977, the Karamchedu violence of 1985, and the Hathras rape case of 2020.

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, caste identity is enduring through the sands of time in different forms in different places for differential motives at different points of time in Indian social fabric.



**Question 20: Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism. (250 words, 15 marks)**

Theme or sub-theme from UPSC Syllabus this question was asked: Diversity of India, communalism

Possible reason for asking this question:

Whether the question was Foundational or Current: Foundation

Nature of question: Easy, Medium or Difficult: Difficult

Main demand of the Question: To assess the impact of and relationship between LPG in India and Ethnic identity and communalism

**MODEL ANSWER****INTRODUCTION**

Post-liberal economy in India refers to the period after Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization reforms i.e. 1991-2001 onwards. It marks a shift from a largely government regulated and controlled economy towards an open-market driven and private investment led one.

**BODY OF THE ANSWER**

The impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism has been as follows:

**Positive:**

1. With faster growth there has been a general de-emphasis on ethnic and communal identities. As prosperous times bring more focus to developmental economics and access to avenues of social mobility.
2. Faster growth meant more welfare expenditure which brought the vulnerable sections out of poverty. This led to reduced ethnic and communal clashes as well as perception of relative deprivation amongst communities decreased.

**Negative:**

- As migration increased with regionally imbalanced development with private capital concentration, so did 'Son of the Soil' movements against migrants. These strengthened ethnic identities.
- The inflow of private capital also led to land acquisition in forested regions resulting in tribal displacement. These displaced tribals often got assimilated with mainstream losing their distinctive identities and way of life in the process.
- The post-liberal economies also brought western cultural onslaught resulting in McDonaldization or homogenization of culture and identities – English, pop music, disco, burgers etc. The Fundamentalist reaction to this perceived threat to identity, led to the rise of fringe groups promoting ethnic, religious and linguistic nationalism.
- As Gulf money poured in, changing land ownership patterns between communities, for example in Kerala, communal currents have simmered.

**CONCLUSION**

Ethnic identities and communalism are often more about concerns of relative deprivation and power struggles than community culture or religion itself. Inclusive growth has the potential to redress these parochial tendencies.





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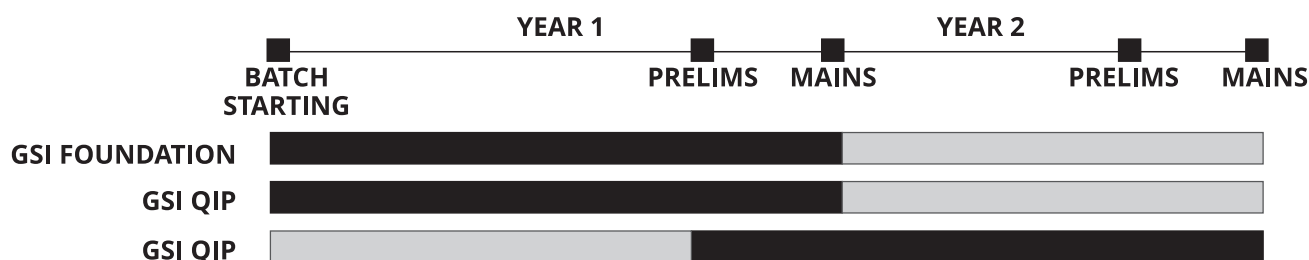
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