


GS Advanced Program 2023
Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. : 692008

Name

Email ID.

Roll No.

Mobile No.

Date

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates -


- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard - <https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on - <https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

| Q. No. | Grade/Score |
|---------------------|-------------|
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| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| Overall Grade/Score | |

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 **ForumIAS**

Start Writing Here

Q.1) Do you agree with the fact that low Female Labour Force rate in India could be seen as an economic implication of womanhood?

Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) refers to the number of women aged 16-64 who are in the labour force i.e. working or actively seeking a job.

The FLFPR of India has been low historically and unfortunately is on a decline as well. PLFS data suggests that while FLFPR was around 34% in 2006, it is a mere 25% in 2020. This means that only 1 out of 4 women in India are in the labour force.

An Economic Implication of Womanhood.

There are multiple factors contributing to this low FLFPR which ~~have~~^{are} directly related to the womanhood of women as an identity ascribed by society such as:-

- The gendered division of labour which considers unpaid care work to be an innate requirement of womanhood.
- The process of child birth and its biological requirements force women to quit jobs and/or employers to prefer male employees.
- Women are inherently denied opportunities in some labour intensive / strength needing fields like sports and defence forces.
- A forced expectation of dignity, decency, grace and subsequence from woman attaches stigma to their participation in labour force.

Thus, 'womanhood' as an identity prescribed by societal norms prevents women from spreading their wings. It has economic costs in terms of GDP and social costs in terms of a demoralised female population.

Overall Grading (✓)

| Poor | | | Average | | | Good | | |
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Q.2) One is not born as woman but one is made as a woman by society. Discuss.

While the sex of a person is determined by birth, the identity of the ascribed 'gender' is provided by the society through the set conventions, norms and ideas which shape expectations from both the sexes.

Hence, while a person may be assigned 'female' of sex by birth but the identity of a 'woman' is ascribed to her by the society.
by:-

- The expectations of certain inherent values in a female such as grace, beauty, soft-spokenness, non-assertiveness.
- The convention of certain practices like preferring particular clothes, colours, activities (like cooking, cleaning) etc.
- The preference for certain specific jobs

- like teaching, nursing, hospitality etc.
- The compulsion to take responsibility of unpaid care work at home including undue burden of raising children.
 - The expectation to give up career and prioritize family.

Hence, the society through set norms on the choices, aspirations, activities of women, the gendered division of labour and the expected 'behaviour' of woman ascribes the identity of 'womanhood' to a female.

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Q.3) What do you understand by mandalization of Indian politics? Briefly trace the factors that led to evolution of mandal politics in India.

The word 'Mandalization of Politics' is derived from the name of BP. Mandal, the chairman of the 2nd Backward Classes Commission (1979).

What is Mandalization of Politics?

- The Mandal Commission had recommended a 27.0% reservation for Backward Classes in government jobs and education and
- This led to the evolution of 'Politics of Backwardness' wherein caste based parties evolved which promised such reservations and mobilized voters along caste lines. This phenomenon is called Mandalization of Politics.

Factors in the Evolution

Mandal 1.0 : (1979-1990) : Caste based parties promise ~~the~~ implementation of Mandal recommendations.

- Caste based parties exploited the socio-economic deprivation of OBCs and promised them reservations.
- Lack of awareness and hopelessness from the incumbent leaders allowed OBCs to be influenced by these parties. → poverty and illiteracy was high during 1970s and 80s.

Mandal 2.0 : In (2006), reservation in educational institutions was provided to OBC at 27%.

- Reversed the politics of backwardness.
- Education was realized as an important tool of empowerment, and the skewed representation in favour of upper castes in premier institutes of the country.

Mandal 3.0 : Ongoing : Regional parties are proposing caste census and removing 50% limit on reservations.

Hence, it is important that development should permeate every layer of society else identities like caste will continue to remain arenas of political mobilization and divisiveness.

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Q.4) What is difference between westernization and modernization? Do you think India got westernized instead of modernized?

Westernization v/s Modernization

WESTERNIZATION

- The imitation of the western culture and practices as per convenience and ability.

eg Adopting western attire, festivals

MODERNIZATION

- A change in the values with shift towards liberalism i.e. freedom of choice, individualism and liberty.

eg Accepting LGBTQ+ community's right to choice and love.

India, being a society in transition, has found itself oscillating between modernity and conservatism while it has openly accepted western ideas, culture, values.

Some traces of modernization

- There has been greater autonomy in terms of choice of education, clothes and etc.

- Acceptance of live-in-relationships and LGBTQ community has marginally increased.
- Choice of life partners and right to divorce has found greater acceptance etc.

However, much of this has been through judicial and legislative interventions while there ~~are~~ is greater evidence of outright westernization:-

- Greater popularity of international western content on TV and OTT platforms including music.
- Complete domination of western attire in Indian wardrobes.
- Increased popularity of western cuisine → more restaurants.
- Celebration of festivals of halloween etc without much knowledge of its cultural/religious relevance.
- Preference of online gaming over indigenous Indian games.

Thus, India may have largely skipped modernization and ~~are~~ embraced hollow westernization. While cultural exchange is desirable but attitudinal shifts are more vital.

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Q.5) Describe cultural elements of diversity in India and state their relative significance in building a national identity.

The culture of a society is multidimensional and includes the religion, language, traditions, philosophies, cuisine and attire and the influence these factors have on the lifestyle of its people.

Diversity refers to variations in features/ characteristics of the same reference group.

India being a multi-culture, religious, multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic society, has several elements of cultural diversity.

Elements of India's cultural diversity

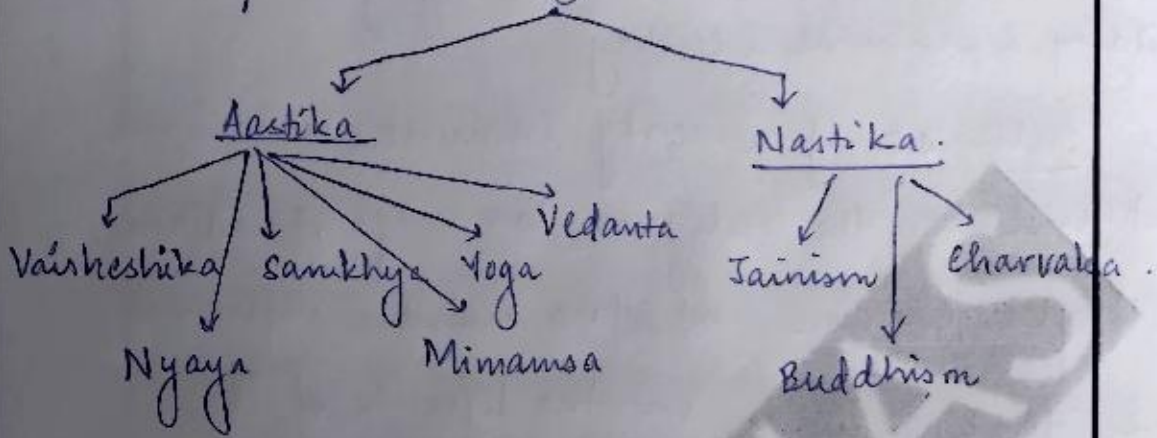
• Religion diversity -

→ 3 main religions of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism originated here.

→ Abrahamic religions and persecuted minorities like Jews have been peacefully accommodated.

→ Intra-religious diversity of Hinduism: Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Shaktism etc.

• Philosophical diversity



• Linguistic diversity

- 19500 mother tongues (RGI data).
- 6 classical languages.
- 22 scheduled languages.

• Racial diversity



- Diversity in fairs and festivals.
- Diversity in cuisine and attire.

Significance in building national identity

- Linguistic diversity and subsequent linguistic reorganization of states has imparted greater national integrity by acknowledging regional aspirations.
- Philosophical diversity has strengthened core moral values, belief in supreme agent and strengthened a sense of unity.
- Religious diversity has inculcated a sense of tolerance with values of love, brotherhood and peace → religious pilgrimages have consolidated cross-cultural connect and national identity.
- Racial and ethnic diversities have created arenas for vibrant social interactions and ~~such~~ inculcated innovation and inquisitiveness of a unique Indian kind.
- Diversity in fairs and festivals has created cross-cultural connect and helped build a composite Indian culture.

Thus, India's cultural diversity makes it a powerhouse of spiritual capital and is a source of its soft power as a diverse-yet-united India.

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Q.6) India's pluralistic society has often posed a threat to our constitutional values. Critically examine.

A pluralistic society is one which is characterized by a dominant culture which seeks soft-integration of minority cultures on a voluntary basis without coercion whilst allowing the minority cultures to preserve their essence, values and beliefs.

India being a religio-centric society with one dominant religion and other minority religions fulfills the criteria to be described as a pluralistic society.

While the constitution of India has been designed as per a multi-cultural society with no dominant religion (Art. 14, 15, 16) (Art. 25-28, 'Secular'), the society is in essence, pluralistic. This has led to a threat being posed to our constitutional values. Such as:-

- Liberty is often denied to minority cultures by the

▶ Eg Eating non-vegetarian food / running such shops on certain auspicious occasions.

- Equality also suffers as often majority cultures, due to their numbers enjoy greater representation in politics and offices of power.

- Fraternity is endangered by suspicions and distrusts among communities.

▶ Eg Recent killings on suspicion of beef consumption. Delhi riots over CAA-NRC apprehensions.

- Justice is often hard to get for some disadvantaged minority communities often due to populist pressure from majorities.

▶ Eg Controversial release of Bilki Bano Case convicts in Gujarat.

- Political appeasements endanger social harmony, fraternity and brotherhood.

However, being a pluralistic society has many advantages that even uphold and promote our constitutional values such as:-

- Soft integration into a dominant culture has helped develop a sense of national

integration and unity.

- It has allowed the evolution of an 'Indian way of life' which is free from lopsided dominance of any one culture.
- It has allowed acculturation and created a holistic, composite culture → promoting fraternity and brotherhood.
- It has inculcated an inherent sense of tolerance and accommodation → promoted national unity and sovereignty.

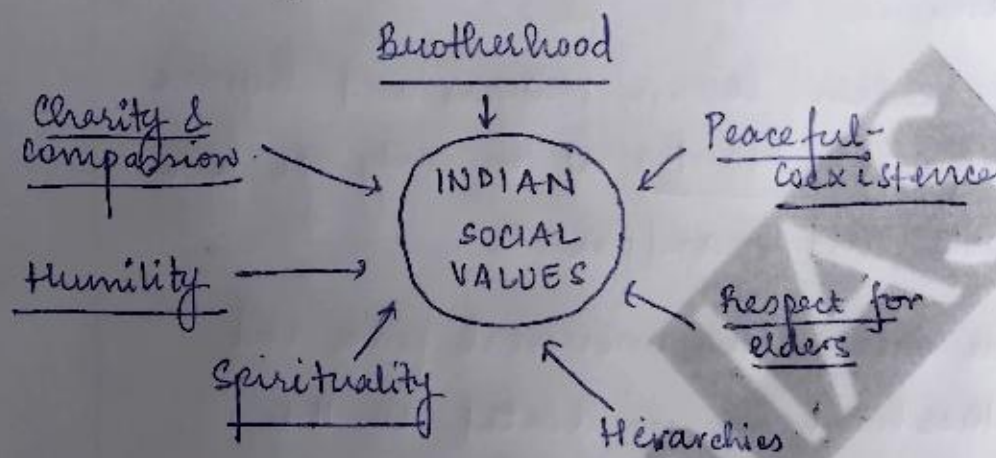
India, is a pluralistic society and in spite of episodic incidents of conflicts, the country has survived and flourished with its diversity.

The way ahead is to empower and educate minorities through confidence building and focused welfare. In this regard, recommendations of Sachar Committee can be wisely implemented.

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Q.7) How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values. Enumerate changes taking place in it.



Indian society has some characteristic values that make it unique, diverse, prosperous and sustainable. Through the continued existence of this great civilization, these values have been sustained and upheld. This has been achieved through

- The Pluralistic society that allows soft-integration into the dominant culture without coercion. Hence, outsiders like Shakas, Greeks, Mughals and Sultanate rulers also embraced Indian values.

- The strong family or 'kula' system of Indian society allows hereditary transmission of values.
 Eg Children learn prayers and hymns like Gayatri Mantra at an early age from parents and grandparents.
- Some values like universal peace and brotherhood are inculcated in the religious books and teachings.
 Eg Vasudhaiv Kutumbham, Sarva Dharma Sambhav etc.
- Some values have religious mandation and hence are perpetuated.
 Eg 'Daan' or charity in Jainism and Hinduism.
- Politics along caste, religion, regional lines have sustained the values of hierarchy.
 Eg Caste based parties and politics.
- Deeply ingrained due to long history or continuous perpetuation.
 Eg Namaste in Anjali Mudra as a mark of respect and humility.

However, there are perpetual changes taking place in these values as India embraces modernity and westernization.

- Institution of family or 'kula' being weakened
→ nuclearization of families.
- Dilution of hierarchies like caste and gender due to affirmative constitutional and legislative actions.
- Increased materialization due to market economies, wealth accumulation, growing incomes & is diluting charity, compassion and simple living.
- Influence of science, rationality and western culture has weakened spirituality.
- Politics of Religion has done great damage to spirit of brotherhood → social media too has a role in this.

there is a need to bring future generations closer to Indian values through education, cultural exchanges and immersion, use of social media and cinema etc. They should have pride in the values that make them Indian.

Overall Grading (✓)

| Poor | | | Average | | | Good | | |
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