



SMARTWORK LABS
IAS ACADEMY

**MAINS COACH
PROGRAM - 23**

Answer Writing Skill Development for
**CIVIL SERVICES MAINS
2023**

GENERAL STUDIES TEST 7

Name of the Candidate	SARIKA CHOUHARY		TEST 2319 Modern History, Art & Culture, Indian Society
Mobile Number	[REDACTED]		
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UPSC 2023 Roll Number	0867247	Date - 20 th Aug 23.	

Time Allowed – 3 Hours

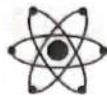
Maximum Marks – 250

Table of Marks			Instructions Set		
QUESTION	MAXIMUM MARKS	MARKS OBTAINED	<p><i>Please Read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. All questions are compulsory. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Answers must be written in English and must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium that the authorized one. Use on black/blue pen ink to write answers. Do not use pencil other than for drawing diagrams/sketches. Answers to Questions no. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Questions no. 11 to 20 should be in 250 words. Keep the word limit indicated in the question in mind. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet must be clearly struck off. 		
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COMMENTS			TIME TAKEN		EVALUATION DATE
			START: 2:45PM	END: 5:55PM	
Email ID for Test Submission - tests submission@smartworklabs.in Email ID for any Grievance - grievances@smartworklabs.in Email ID for other queries - info@smartworklabs.in			SPECIAL REQUEST WITH REGARDS TO EVALUATION -		

MACRO FEEDBACK

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Q.1

Discuss the developments in the field of art and architecture during Mauryan Period.
(150 words, 10 marks)

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Ans: The Mauryan age laid the strong foundation of flourishing art and architectural style which catapulted into a 'Golden Age' for Indian culture during Greecas.

* Developments in Art & Architecture

- ① Kumrahar Palace: made entirely of wood in Pataliputra → had beautiful sculptural designs.
- ② Ashokan Pillars: Carved out of stones (monolithic stones) → sculpted with Ashoka's messages for his people (Dhamma messages).
→ Pillar edicts no. 3, 13.

③ Cave Architecture: beginnings from
Barabar caves dedicated to Ajinkas
↳ Lomas Rishi & Sudama caves
↳ beautiful & intricate carvings
↳ polished interiors & gateways

④ Stupa Art & Architecture: Ashoka built
84,000 stupas exemplified in
↳ Sanchi stupa → Jatke caves
↳ wooden gateways & railings

⑤ The stupa art was the culmination
of Mauryan architectural style
which was perfected later by
Shungas and made magnificent
studies in Indian cultural
developments from 2nd century BCE
onwards.



Q.2

The Bhakti movement was a cultural, social and religious revolution that manifested its influence in India's freedom struggle by galvanizing the nation.

(150 words, 10 marks)

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Ans: The Bhakti movement began in India in the 8th century from South India and travelled across India to reach North by 10th century as transforming the socio-cultural landscape of entire sub-continent.



* Cultural Revolution:

① Idea of unity in diversity propounded:

egs multiple sects of Bhakti flourished

together in harmony.

② Vedantic teaching: → Shankaracharya, → Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

* Social Revolution:

① Ideals of Equality → Breaking Caste Barriers
→ against idol worship.

② Brotherhood → accessible to all &

unity of mankind professed: (eg) - Kabir
& Nanak

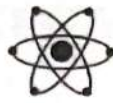
③ Anti-social practices criticised: ~~critic~~
↳ discrimination based on caste,
religion done away with by
saints

* Religious Revolution → permeated to
Islam as
well
(eg) → rise of Sufism

* All these manifested in Indian freedom
struggle, though:

- ↳ idea of Hindu-Muslim unity
- ↳ social-religious reforms
- ↳ Swadeshi movement
- ↳ 1857 Revolt became popular revolt
due to unity of people
- ↳ Reflection of this 'unity in diversity'
in Indian nation → Constitution.

The syncretic culture of Bhakti is
today seen in the secular character of
India.



Q.3

The economic policies of Britishers not only destroyed the indigenous character of the Indian economy but also drained India of its wealth. Explain.

(150 words, 10 marks)

उम्मीदवारी को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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Ans: British rule in India is was always designed and propogated to benefit the mother country at the expense of the colonial masses, clearly manifested in their economic policies of 'Drain of wealth'.

* Destroyed Indigenous Character *

- ① Land Revenue Settlements: → Permanent settlement dispensed peasants.
↳ created Zamindar class as Proprietors of land.
↳ land - market created: dislocation of traditional land relations.
- ② Commercialisation of Agriculture (CA)
↳ forced CA as farmers were



left with no choice but to grow cash crops for survival

(eg) ↳ Sugata Bose's study, 'Bengal & jute cultivation'

* Drained wealth of India

① Company Investments: after 1757 battle ↳ diwani rights of Bengal Bihar & Odisha.

② Home charges: British officers' salaries & pensions. paid out of Indian revenue by Indian revenue

- military expenses of British army

To bring out the real character of the colonial rule, Dadabhai Narsaji wrote "Poverty & Un-British Rule in India" & delegitimise their paternalistic (mafi-baf) rule in India.



Q.4

The 1857 Uprising reminded us that British power was neither natural nor inevitable, but had been constructed by exploiting the lack of unity among Indians.
Elaborate. (150 words, 10 marks)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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Ans: The 1857 uprising was called as the "1st war of Indian Independence" by V.D Savarkar as it broke the shell of invincibility of British rule in India, backed by the popular character of Revolt.

* British Power - neither natural nor inevitable.

① The confidence among the sepoys to revolt & later catapulting into a civil uprising → broke the natural order of things for British rule.

② The 'aspirations' of Sepoys as "peasants in uniform" (Rudranath Mukherjee) were shattered due to → unnatural for land revenue settlement & annexation.



of Awadh in 1856.

③ British did not understand the Indian society & economy → summary settlement
↓
Traditional law & relations changed. → socio-religious reforms were imposed upon people.

④ Without the support of Indians in Army & administration (2 pillars of British rule) → they would not have been able to rule Indians.

* Exploited lack of unity among Indians

- ↳ Schindlers & Halliday supported British against 1857 revolt
- ↳ Intighting among Indian rulers
- ↳ Zamindars supported British
- ↳ middle class intellectuals with British

The internal conflicts within Indians gave space to British to follow their "Divide & Rule" policy & colonise Indians.



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इस हार्डिप में
नहीं लिखना
बाहिए

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Q.5

The English were unwillingly drawn into the political turmoil created by the Indians themselves and were almost forced to acquire Indian territories. Discuss.
(150 words, 10 marks)

Ans: The English were drawn towards the Indian political landscape with the 3 Anglo-Carnatic wars (1746 onwards) and later continued to exploit the internal dissensions to their benefits.

* Unwillingly drawn to political turmoil

① focussed upon only acquiring commercial rights from nephews.

↳ ⑧ → 1717 Farukshiyar's farmans

↳ ⑧ → 1632: Colconde farmans

② wanted to maintain commercial monopoly over other European companies

⑧ → Anglo-Dutch war at Hooghly.

* Indians created turmoil → After the death of



Nizam of Hyderabad → internal succession
problems → invited French into their
matters → English forced to join opposite
side due to Balance of power in
Europe between England + France.

② Anglo-Maratha War (1775) Raghunath
had invited Bombay Company officials
to resolve the succession issues led
to the 3 years later.

* forced to acquire territories → they
did not want to have direct control
eg → buffer state of Awadh
→ Dual Rule (Dyarchy in Bengal)
from (1765-73)

Though the British did not want
to enter Indian politics earlier but
after Plassey (1757) → they rose to political
dominance & began era of British
Imperialism in India.



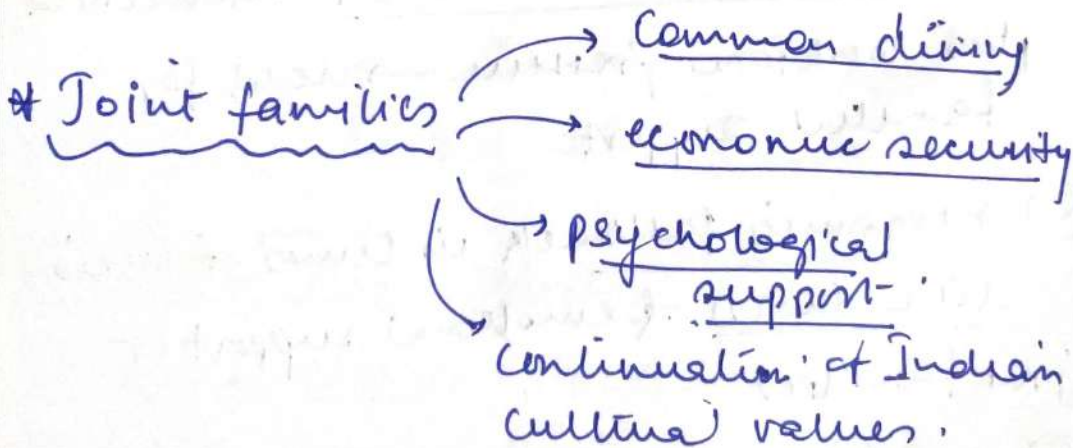
Q.6

Despite the increase in nuclear households, Indians continue to live in joint families. Examine. (150 words, 10 marks)

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Ans: The resilience of Indian culture in the face of forces of change can be seen in the continuation of existence of joint households despite increasing "nuclearisation" of families.



* Nuclearisation is increasing

① Because of Globalisation → increasing privacy & individualistic value

② Improving family incomes → migration of people

→ Urbanisation → more nuclear families.

② Increasing divorce rates; live-in relations
independence of youth for better quality
of life → nuclear families.

* However Continuity of Joint families

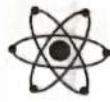
① Double burden on women → Household
plus workforce pressure → need for
familial support.

② Economic fallback in times of crisis
like COVID & emotional support of
joint families.

③ Declining spiritual & overall wellbeing in
urban spaces (confined) → joint
families provide space for spiritual
wellbeing for children and adults.

The endurance of joint family
structure gives a cushion to people to
always have the support of their families.

UPSC--CSE--EXAM



Q.7

Despite decriminalisation there is lack of acceptance for homosexuality in Indian Society. Why? Also discuss what needs to be done to ensure its acceptance in Indian society. (150 words, 10 marks)

Ans: The Supreme Court in Kaatej Johar case gave the landmark judgement to decriminalise homosexuality (section 377) and changed the landscape of Indian society altogether.

However, the success of law on the land is not very effective.

* Lack of Acceptance

① Social change comes from within & not imposed through law (B.R. Ambedkar)

② Traditional values of Indian society continue to find it difficult to accept same-sex relations.

③ Behavioural challenges: discrimination continues because of insensitive behaviour. → rigidity is



cultural values.

* Measures to ensure acceptance

- ① Regular counselling sessions for people and community engagement programmes.
- ② Create awareness through Role models
- ③ Use of social media & OTT platforms to bring the stories of homosexual people to light → creates understanding
(eg) → Taali series by Sushmita Sen.
(for transgenders)
- ④ Humanising the discourse around homosexuality.

When people's hearts & minds are transformed through active involvement with ~~the~~ each other, then only any social transformation can succeed in its intended outcome.



Q.8

Strength of India's multicultural society lies in its diversity and interdependence.
Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

उम्मीदवारी का
इस हाशिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए

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Ans: Societies don't exist in isolation but only in their interaction and interdependence upon each other as members..

Indian society as a "salad bowl" of multiculturalism has thrived in the same spirit.

* Strength in Diversity

① Diverse religions create multicultural practices & harmony..

② In lows cities Gurdwaras provided space for namaz & prepared langar for Ramzans.

② Multi-lingual society → multiple dialects spoken → still all are united in common culture.



(A) Kannada movie 'Kantara' acclaimed
by all alike

(B) Multiple Ethnicities & tribal societies ;
sharing their traditional knowledge
with all others

↳ (C) → make sustainable societies

* Interdependence

(1) Among communities bring people
together

(2) Existence of different food habits
and traditional crafts → (united)

(eg) → tomato delivers food from
arun states to other places

↳ Online platform: like 'Itokri'
giving boost to traditional crafts

↳ uniting all people amidst
diversity.

The strength of our culture lies
in its integration of multiple identities
& strengthening them.



Q.9

Examine the impact of globalization on tribal communities in India.

(150 words, 10 marks)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हार्शिए में
नहीं लिखना
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Ans: Globalisation has unleashed the forces of transformation impacting each section of society and creating a more 'secular and open' space for giving expression to people's aspirations.

* Impact on Tribal Communities in India

I. POSITIVE:

- ① Given them new space to assert their rights through social media platforms.
(eg) → improved literacy
- ② Economic Independence: online selling of their products
(eg) → Bamboo bottles by tribals of Tripura are aiding towards sustainable life style for all.

⑥ Opened opportunities of movement.
better technology and last-mile

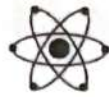
Connectivity -

(eg) → Project 'LOON' by Google →
Providing internet to hard to reach
terrains.

II. NEGATIVE:

- ① Dislocated their traditional culture
Places & practices: - land grabbing
for development.
- ② Encroachment upon their rights by
outsiders. and misappropriation
of their traditional knowledge system.
- ③ Culture of mutual harmony with
nature disturbed ⇒ large scale
projects

The right attitude towards tribals
in face of globalisation would be to
follow the 'Tribal Panchsheel' of Jawaharlal
Nehru.



Q.10

Instead of being the cementing force, secularism has led to alienation of all communities. Examine. (150 words, 10 marks)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्जिन में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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Ans: Secularism was envisaged as a unifying tool for the 'diverse' socio-religious communities of India by creating open & free socio-political space for expressing their aspirations.

* Secularism envisaged as Cementing force

① Added by 42nd amendment after the emergency was proclaimed to give equal status to all religions in the country.

② State to maintain 'principled distance' from all religions and provide assistance to all religions equally.

③ Religious freedom granted through Articles 25, 26 & 29 & 30



* However, alienation of communities

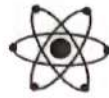
① due to the 'safe distance' of state → inability to enter religious matters.

① → ShahBano case (Muslim women's rights → creates fear & alienation among Muslims)

② Inability to bring uniform civil code: intended to bring unity & uniformity & preserve rights of women → but opposed due to multiple religious practices & rituals.

③ State is unable to protect communal harmony → ~~is~~ limited power with respect to religious interference.

However, Secularism in India is unique blend ^{of} needs of Indian society & has been proven to sustain 'communal Brotherhood & fraternity in nation'.



Q.11

What were the causes for the rise of Buddhism and Jainism in India. How did it influence Indian culture?
(250 words, 15 marks)

उम्मीदवारी को
इस हार्जिए में
नहीं लिखना
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Ans: The rise of heterodox religions of Buddhism & Jainism in the 6th century BCE in India ushered in a wide transformation within the socio-economic & political milieu of Indian subcontinent.

* Causes for Rise

I: Social - ① Unequal status to 'Vaishyas' and 'Shudras'

② Women not allowed to read or hear vedas or other scriptures.

③ aspirations of people diminished by Brahmanical orthodoxy & their dominance over spiritual practices.

II: Economic: ① Improved economic status of 'Vaishyas' - led



them to demand socially upward states
denied by Hinduism

② Practice of usury: & money economy
(punch marked coins) → not acceptable
in Brahmanic traditions but
↳ needed for the trade & commerce
carried by Vaishyas-

III Political: ① New mahajanapadas
that emerged were ruled
by Kshatriyas → gave less importance
to Brahmanic priests.

These events made Vaishyas,
Shudras, Kshatriyas to look towards
other traditions & rise of Buddhism
& Jainism was a result of this
socio-economic & political background.

* Influence upon Indian Culture



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इस हाथिए में
हैं लिखना
नाहिए

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इस हाथिए में
नहीं लिखना
नाहिए

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- ① Culture of Equality is attaining salvation
↳ women allowed in Buddhism saylas.
- ② Syncretism: borrowing good practices from all philosophies → created larger audience & acceptance of Indian culture.
- ③ Connect with outside countries - increase the acceptance & superiority of Indian culture
↳ e.g. Buddhism in South East Asia.
- ④ Integration of multiple people → creating
- ⑤ a multi-cultural society

The Indian culture as it is today has arisen and matured due to the lasting impact of borrowing philosophical practices of multiple religions thereby creating a "multi-cultural" & culturally multiple societies within one nation.



Q.12 Indus Valley Civilisation had one of the most efficient civic administration and effective town planning systems. Elaborate. (250 words, 15 marks)

उम्मीदवार इस हाथिए नहीं लिख- चाहिए

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Ans: The Indus Valley Civilisation (2500-1800 BCE) was the most magnificent civilisations of contemporary times & remains an enigma in its efficient civic administration & town planning till date.

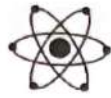
* Efficient Civic Administration

① Multiple Seals & Sealings

(i) with inscriptions indicating 'trade and transportation'

(ii) seals of mesopotamian found in Harappa & Harappan seals found in Ur, Nippur :

② Priest or Merchant Class as central figure for administration



- (i) Priest-Torso found at Mohenjodaro.
and
(ii) 'Unicorn' seals point towards rich
merchant class carrying civic
administration.

③ Dholavira Inscriptions: first long
inscription suggests civic sense
among the people.

④ Distribution & Redistribution of surplus
through centralised transportation
system -
① - Granaries in Harappa.

⑤ Weights & measures - standardised

* Efficient Town Planning

① Drainage system: sewage removal
system along with hygiene sense
by covering the drains.

② Ventilation across houses (windows & doors)

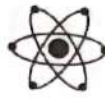
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- ③ Grid-like pattern of roads across sites
- ④ Double storey buildings in Mohenjodaro
- ⑤ Monumental Architecture
 - Great Bath
 - Cemetery H
 - Great Granary
- ⑥ Water Harvesting system: Wells, Shalams

The IVC was an efficient 'civilisation' in terms of coordination among its people and establishing enduring systems of town planning, long distance trade and some degree of centralisation which resulted in it becoming the marvel that it is today.



Q.13

How did the advent of Gandhi in Indian politics lead to a major change in the trajectory of women's involvement in the nationalist movement?

(250 words, 15 marks)

उम्मीदवादी को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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Ans: The Advent of Gandhiji on the national level politics is characterised as a "man based nationalism" phase in the struggle of freedom and age of women participation in the independence of our nation.

* Major changes after Gandhiji's Advent:

- ① He believed in the 'power of people' and focused upon harnessing that power through mass movements.
- ② Champaran, Khed & Ahmedabad Satyagrah movements had proven the efficacy of his methods of 'Non-violence' & 'Satyagrah' in India.

① Till now participation of women had only been through 'Swadeshi' movement

② It was only limited to picketing of shops and raising funds for the movement, but not any leadership roles.

* Women's Involvement After Gandhiji

① He believed in 'Nari shakti' (women's power) and therefore led the Dandi march with their support → Sarojini Naidu on the frontlines of the Dhokans salt march

② Non-cooperation movement: led by



women in various places boycotted
foreign goods and counted arrest

③ Civil disobedience movement & Quit
India movement also saw massive
participation of women

④ Even the increased confidence
among women is seen in their
revolutionary activities

↳ Suniti ~~Das~~, Bina Das

↳ Usha Mehta - Underground Radio

⑤ Women led national organisation formed

↳ Margaret Cousins → All India
Women's conference (1927)

↳ Pandita Ramabai - Arya Mahila
Samaj

Women got the public space to
assert their rights and could gain
both psychological & political empowerment.

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इस हार्शिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए

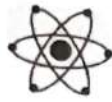
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Q.14 Compare the revolutionary activities before and after the Non-Cooperation (250 words, 15 marks)
Movement.

Ans: Non-cooperation movement from (NCM) 1920-22 was a watershed moment ~~for~~ that transformed the future course of national movement and transformed character of Revolutionary activities along the way.

Revolutionary Activities Before NCM

- ① The Extremist phase of Indian national Congress gave rise to the revolutionary activities by individuals - termed by British as "Revolutionary Terrorists".
- ② Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar in Bengal carried out armed robberies



③ Dacca Anushilan Samiti: by Pulin Das caused 'Barrak Dacoity'.

④ These revolutionaries were inspired by

- ↳ Russian Nihilists
- ↳ Home rule in Ireland
- ↳ Redshirts in Italy.

⑤ Believed in individual Heroic Action
(eg) → Khuddiram Bose & Pratul Chatterjee attempted to ~~kill~~ Kingford.

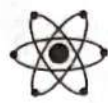
⑥ Tried to establish contact with outside countries (eg) Gaelhar movement in USA (1915).

* After NCM : Revolutionary Activists

① Character changed to 'Group Action'
from individual dacoities & sacrifices

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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② Multiple organisations formed:

(eg) → HRA - 1924 By Azad, Bhagat Singh.
→ HSRA - 1928

③ Started creating awareness among youth (eg) Navjawan Bharat Organisation by Bhagat Singh.

④ Communicated with British through direct confrontation.

(eg) → Bomb in Central Assembly by Bhatnagar, Gopal Ghosh & Bhagat Singh.

⑤ The aim of Revolution was not terrorism but complete independence of people from all forms of Bondages (Bhagat Singh - Why I am an Atheist)

Even Gandhiji recognised the role of revolutionaries & lauded their efforts towards gaining freedom from British rule.



15 Gender-based violence knows no boundaries and affects women of all socio-economic backgrounds. Analyse. Suggest steps that can be taken to prevent violence and thereby promote the general well-being of women.

(250 words, 15 marks)

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Ans: Gender-based violence is a pervasive phenomenon in Indian society that has been affecting the physical, mental and psychological wellbeing of women across the country for ages.

* Gender violence affects all women

① Rural women: less scope of opening up about their grievances and violence.

↳ 77% women talk to only their family & relatives and do not seek any help for domestic violence (NFHS-5)

② Rural women have less economic mobility → less sense of economic & political empowerment

- ③ to patriarchal mindset → confines women to private spaces → no avenues for redressal of gendered violence
- ④ workplace sexual harassment is common among corporates.
- ⑤ Crimes against women increasing (6.5% rise in Delhi - this year from last year - NCRB data)
- ⑥ lack of enabling environment for women to express their concerns.
- ⑦ 'Emotional labour' burdened with dual responsibilities of home & workplace
↳ increased 'internal acceptance' of domestic violence
(~~41%~~ 95% women face domestic violence - NFHS-5)

* Steps to Prevent Violence & Promote Wellbeing

- ① Political Representation through



reservation to provide political empowerment

- ① Behavioural transformation among women to not accept violence & speak up.
- ② Enabling environment for easy reporting of cases of violence
 - ⓑ Mahila Police Karmachari
- ④ Stringent punishments and speedy justice to strengthen women's faith in the legal & judicial system.
- ⑤ Psychological Counselling to women.
 - ⓑ one stop centres → to provide them sense of security.

With women contributing towards the development of country at a rising level, violence against them cannot be tolerated and "Mimam Shakti" is the step in the right direction to harness their power.

Q.16 What is the impact of AI on global society? What opportunities and challenges has it brought to Indian society? (250 words, 15 marks)

उम्मीदवारी व इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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Ans: ~~Art~~ Artificial Intelligence (AI) has permeated all aspects of our life through internet of things, machine learning & data analytics → transforming the world 'as we knew it'.

* Impact on Global Society : POSITIVE

- ① Integration of diverse people through social media tools.
- ② Economic opportunities: in new fields of data analytics; Blockchain cryptocurrency.
- ③ Made life easy & efficient → use of Siri, Alexa for multiple purposes.
↳ more comforted living.



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* Negative Impact

- ① Issue of Privacy: since the world is more connected.
④ → data leaks of facebook
- ② Issue of Regulation of AI: digital frauds through apps happening
→ leads to fear and apprehension in people.
- ③ Ethical issues: familial bonds are getting dehumanised.

* Opportunities for Indian Society | Positives

- ① Economic opportunities: leads to decreasing unemployment (6.8% currently)
- ② Better Quality of life: → internet of things
AI driven devices.

* Challenges for Indian Society | Negatives

① digital divide → not access to internet
for all people.

② Create Regional disparities and widening
of rich & poor gap.

- ↳ Top ~~40%~~^{1%} of Indians earn more than 40% wealth (Oxfam Report)
- ↳ gender gap increasing.

③ Creates regulatory challenges for youth

↳ → new apps created to bully women

↳ 'Clubhouse App'

④ 'Traditional' values of collectivism
breaking up.

While AI has 'potential' to transform the world around us, its power must be harnessed for the inclusive development for all & strengthening the social cohesion.

Q.17

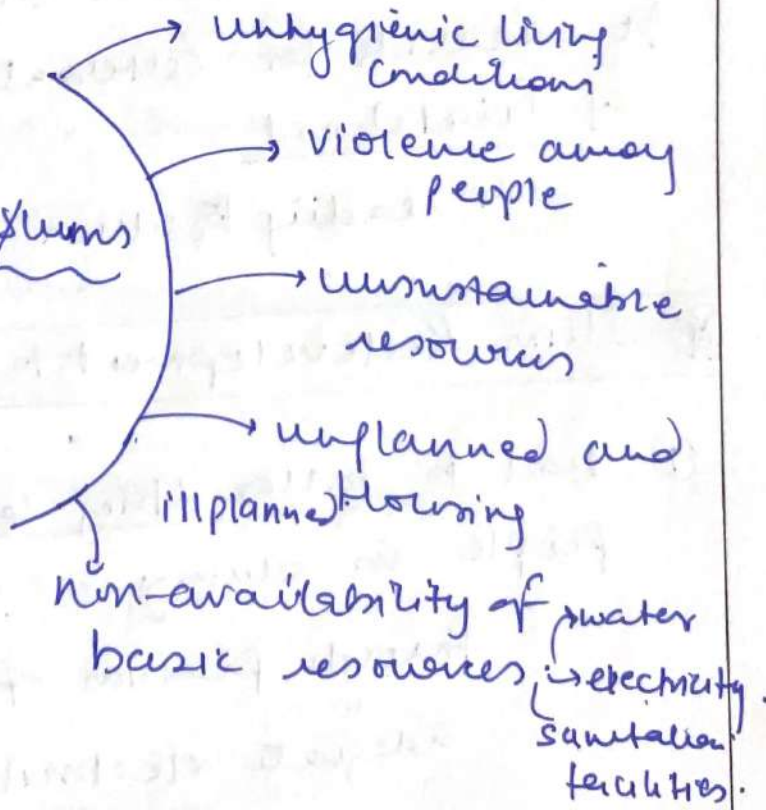
Slums are considered as an integral part of urbanization and as a manifestation of the overall socioeconomic policies and planning in the urban sector. In this context discuss how slum redevelopment can help tackle various issues associated with slums.
(250 words, 15 marks)

उम्मीदवारी को इस दृष्टि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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Ans: The rise of cities and growing urbanisation is linked to the unintended consequences of 'slum' creating a range of challenges for creating sustainable and resilient cities (SOG II).

* Issues of slums



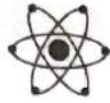
Slums as manifestation of policies & Planning in Urban Sector

① Rising number of population in urban spaces → limited resources of the cities →
- Spillover of people to periphery
- creation of slums.

② Limited Resources for all → leading to search for alternate avenues of livelihood -
↳ leading to slum development

Slum Redevelopment to tackle issues

① lead to better living conditions of people in slums
through provision of water supply
adequate electricity



② providing them economic opportunities

eg → urban NREGA

Rajasthan: providing employment insurance (assured)

③ Provision of Affordable Housing:

eg Delhi's initiative to authorize unauthorised slum colonies.

④ Skilling of youth in slums.

When the problems of slums are resolved, ~~the~~ not only we can have a better pool of human capital & strengthened social contract we can also develop our urban spaces in a more sustainable & holistic manner.

Q.18 Regionalism in India reflects the aspirations of people for power sharing. Do you agree? Substantiate your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)

Ans: Regionalism is the phenomenon when people belonging to a particular geographic space, share common traits to unite them like language, or ethnicity or culture, ~~and~~ assert their unique identity through political process.

* Regionalism reflecting Peoples aspirations for power sharing.

① People want to assert their identity and want recognition of the same.

② → Separation of Andhra Pradesh on linguistic lines. (1956).



② Gives people space to express their
grievances and seek redressal for
the same.

③ Specific regions want more
representation and in Parliament
based on their populations.
↳ due to their specific problems



* However, when the political aspirations
are unmet, Regionalism creates
tendencies of secession within
nation.

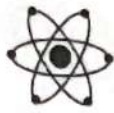
① 'Khalistan movement' - demand
of separate Khalistan out
of Punjab.

② The separate 'Corrakland'

and Nagalin issue.

⑤ These "create" challenge for the internal security of the country.

Regionalism if handled with care can lead to fulfillment of people's wishes & strengthen the social-political fabric of nation and proves to be an 'asset for a federal country like India'.



Status of women in India has been a topic of debate and concern for many years. In this context discuss how despite the progress made in recent years, there are still many challenges that women in India face today.

(250 words, 15 marks)

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Ans → The status of women question has been part of the national discourse since the social-religious reforms of 19th century India and has acquired even greater significance in the context of harnessing the power of 'demographic dividend' in the present.

* Progress made in recent years:

① Education for girls & women

↳ higher enrolment of women in higher education than men (AISHE report)

↳ women encouraged to

participate in STEM fields.

② The Health related challenges are
 tackled better :

↳ maternal mortality decreased
to 97 now.

↳ ASHA workers role in improving
institutional deliveries to 88%.

③ Political Empowerment :- 73rd amendment
provided reservation to women in
PRI (Article 243D)

④ Bridges of Patriarchy broken :

↳ women getting jobs in
corporate sector.

↳ Penetration of AI for women is
more than men (AI index
report 2023) .

⑤ SHGs improving Economic power → 90%
owned by women.



Challenges Remain

- ① 'Sarpanch Pati' syndrome - patriarchy remains
- ② Sexual harassment at workplace is still an issue.
- ③ 95% women still facing domestic violence
- ④ lack of enabling environment for grievance redressal.
- ⑤ Violence against women on rise
(6.5% rise in Delhi over last year)
NCRB.
- ⑥ low political representation & judicial representation (1st women, CJI only in 2027)

To improve their condition,
political will to bring reservation;
behavioral change by people and
coordinated efforts by all stakeholders
is needed for not just women development
but women led development?

Q.20

Although we are transitioning towards modernism, this does not mean that we should completely neglect our traditional values. In context of this statement, explain how our traditional values still hold ground in present times? (250 words, 15 marks)

उम्मीदवासी का इस दृष्टि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

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Ans: Modernisation has penetrated every aspect of our lives and led to 'secularisation' of public spaces and 'rationalisation' of people's minds. Causing widespread changes in society.

* Transitioning towards Modernism *

- ① 'Nuclearisation' of families away from joint family.
- ② 'Urbanisation' leading to 'secularisation' of spaces.
↳ Breaking caste barriers.
- ③ family structures of collectivism



transitioning towards individualism
& privacy.

- ① marriages transitioning from thought
as sacrosanct → to avoidable
- increasing divorces
 - live-in relationships

② How traditional values still hold

① festivals are still celebrated
together

eg → Holi, Diwali get
together

② The rituals of Shraadh
'Pitra dana' still followed
by people
↳ maintaining continuity
with traditional values.

③ marriages are still an occasion



Where each member ~~is~~ plays
important role through various
situations.

④ Joint families still thriving →
People fall back upon their
families in times of crisis.

⑤ Harmony with nature still
continues → (e.g.) 'Pooki puja' at
homes.

Though modernisation has
started off the changes in society,
the strength of our traditional
institutions can be seen in their
relevance even today → that's
why Indian society is acclaimed
world wide for its resilience.