

# UPSC with Saurabh Kaushik

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## GS-I: SOCIETY

### Previous Year Questions

UPSC Mains 2013 – 2024

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## 1. Salient Features of Indian Society; Diversity of India

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Society)	Year	Marks
<b>Diversity &amp; Pluralism</b>	Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.	2015	12.5
	Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.	2019	15
	Given the diversities among tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category?	2022	10
	In the context of diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.	2017	10
	What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India?	2024	15
	Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities.	2024	15
<b>Family, Marriage &amp; Socialization</b>	Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children.	2023	10
	Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in Modern India?	2023	10
	The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss.	2014	10
	Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss.	2024	10
<b>Cultural Continuity &amp; Change</b>	Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems.	2021	10
	How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it.	2021	15
	The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate.	2017	15
	What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.	2019	10

## 2. Role of Women & Women's Organization, Population and Associated Issues, Poverty and Developmental Issues

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Society)	Year	Marks
Population, Migration & Demography	Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.	2015	12.5
	Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades.	2015	12.5
	Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (250 words)	2021	15
	How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes?	2015	12.5
	Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?	2023	15
	Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments.	2014	10
	What is the concept of a 'demographic winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate.	2024	10
Poverty, Inequality & Social Development	An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from deprivation. Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.	2016	12.5
	COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment.	2020	10
	Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing. Explain by giving reasons.	2018	10
	In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?	2024	10
Technology, Digital Economy & Society	How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the educational system in the country? Elaborate your answer.	2020	15
	What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? (250 words)	2021	15
	"Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss (150 words)	2019	10

<b>Women's Empowerment &amp; Gender Issues</b>	Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India.	2014	10
	Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. (150 words)	2021	10
	Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian Society.	2023	10
	How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle class working woman in India?	2014	10
	Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organization free from gender bias. Comment.	2013	10
	What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (250 words)	2019	15
	Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata. Substantiate your view.	2018	15
	Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation?	2024	10

### 3. Urbanisation: Problems and Remedies

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Society)	Year	Marks
Urban Environmental Challenges	Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.	2020	15
	Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world.	2013	5
	Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.	2016	12.5
	What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples.	2021	10
Urban Governance, Policy & Infrastructure	Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success.	2018	15
	With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'.	2016	12.5
	Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration.	2015	12.5
	How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India?	2019	15
IT Economy & New Urban Identities	The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues of employment but has also created new problems. Substantiate this statement with examples.	2017	15
	What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? (250 words)	2021	15
	How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption?	2022	10
Social Dimensions of Urbanisation	Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.	2022	10
	Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries.	2024	10
	Discuss the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India.	2013	10
	Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?	2023	15

#### 4. Globalisation and its Effects on Indian Society

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Society)	Year	Marks
Globalisation & Cultural Identity	Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. (250 words)	2019	15
	Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian Society. Elucidate.	2018	15
	Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer.	2020	15
	To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.	2016	12.5
Globalisation, Women & Migration	Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India.	2015	12.5
	Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family?	2024	15
Globalisation, Technology & Social Change	Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India.	2013	10
	Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India.	2022	15

## 5. Social Empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Society)	Year	Marks
<b>Caste, Sect &amp; Social Identity</b>	Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India. Comment.	2018	10
	Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.	2020	10
	Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static?	2023	15
	Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste.	2015	12.5
	Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion.	2022	15
	Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?	2020	15
<b>Communalism &amp; Religious Identity</b>	Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation. Argue by giving suitable illustrations.	2018	15
	Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism.	2023	15
	Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India.	2017	15
<b>Regionalism &amp; Sub-nationalism</b>	Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue.	2020	10
	Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss.	2013	10
	What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer.	2016	12.5
<b>Secularism &amp; Pluralism</b>	Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer.	2022	15
	How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West?	2014	10
	How the Indian concept of secularism is different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.	2018	10
	What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism. (150 words)	2019	10

<b>Scheduled Tribes, SC &amp; Affirmative Action</b>	What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?	2017	<b>10</b>
	Why are the tribals in India referred to as the Scheduled Tribes? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment.	2016	<b>12.5</b>
	Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment.	2024	<b>15</b>