

# UPSC

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Roll No!:- 1910170829  
Name!:- Sheaddha soukar

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UPSC mains 2024 | Sectional Test  
Code!:- 771223  
Date!:- 21-03-2025

FORUMIAS

Total Marks : 100

Allotted Time : 90 Min.

**Instructions to Candidates -**

- There are 10 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.

**Q.1)** How has the caste system evolved in India over time? Evaluate its impact on social mobility and economic development.

भारत में जाति व्यवस्था समय के साथ कैसे विकसित हुई है? सामाजिक गतिशीलता और आर्थिक विकास पर इसके प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन करें। (8 Marks)

**Q.2)** Regional aspirations often lead to demands for autonomy or separate statehood. How should India balance regional identity with national unity?

क्षेत्रीय आकांक्षाएँ अक्सर स्वायत्तता या अलग राज्य की माँग को जन्म देती हैं। भारत को क्षेत्रीय पहचान और राष्ट्रीय एकता के बीच संतुलन कैसे बनाना चाहिए? (8 Marks)

**Q.3)** “India’s pluralistic tradition has been both a strength and a challenge.” Discuss with reference to minority communities.

“भारत की बहुलवादी परंपरा एक ताकत और चुनौती दोनों रही है।” अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों के संदर्भ में चर्चा करें। (8 Marks)

**Q.4)** Hate speech and communal violence pose significant threats to India’s secular fabric. Suggest measures to address these challenges while maintaining freedom of speech.

घृणास्पद भाषण और सांप्रदायिक हिंसा भारत के धर्मनिरपेक्ष ताने-बाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण खतरा हैं। अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता को बनाए रखते हुए इन चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के उपाय सुझाएँ। (8 Marks)

**Q.5)** How does rapid urbanization affect climate change and disaster vulnerability? Illustrate with examples.

तेजी से बढ़ते शहरीकरण का जलवायु परिवर्तन और आपदा की संवेदनशीलता पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है? उदाहरणों के साथ समझाइए। (8 Marks)

**Q.6)** Compare and contrast the Smart Cities Mission with similar global initiatives. What lessons can India learn?

स्मार्ट सिटी मिशन की तुलना वैश्विक पहलों से करें। भारत इससे क्या सीख सकता है? (12 Marks)

**Q.7)** How has digital liberalization (ed-tech platforms, online courses) affected literacy and skill development in India?

डिजिटल उदारीकरण (एड-टेक प्लेटफॉर्म, ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम) ने भारत में साक्षरता और कौशल विकास को कैसे प्रभावित किया है? (12 Marks)

**Q.8)** Examine the significance of the Depressed Classes Movement in shaping Dalit identity and rights.

दलित पहचान और अधिकारों को आकार देने में दलित वर्ग आंदोलन के महत्व की जांच करें। (12 Marks)

**Q.9)** Analyze the impact of nuclear families on elderly care and inter-generational bonding.

बुजुर्गों की देखभाल और अंतर-पीढ़ीगत संबंधों पर एकल परिवारों के प्रभाव का विश्लेषण करें। (12 Marks)

**Q.10)** To what extent have NGOs contributed to disaster management and climate resilience in India? Discuss with case studies.

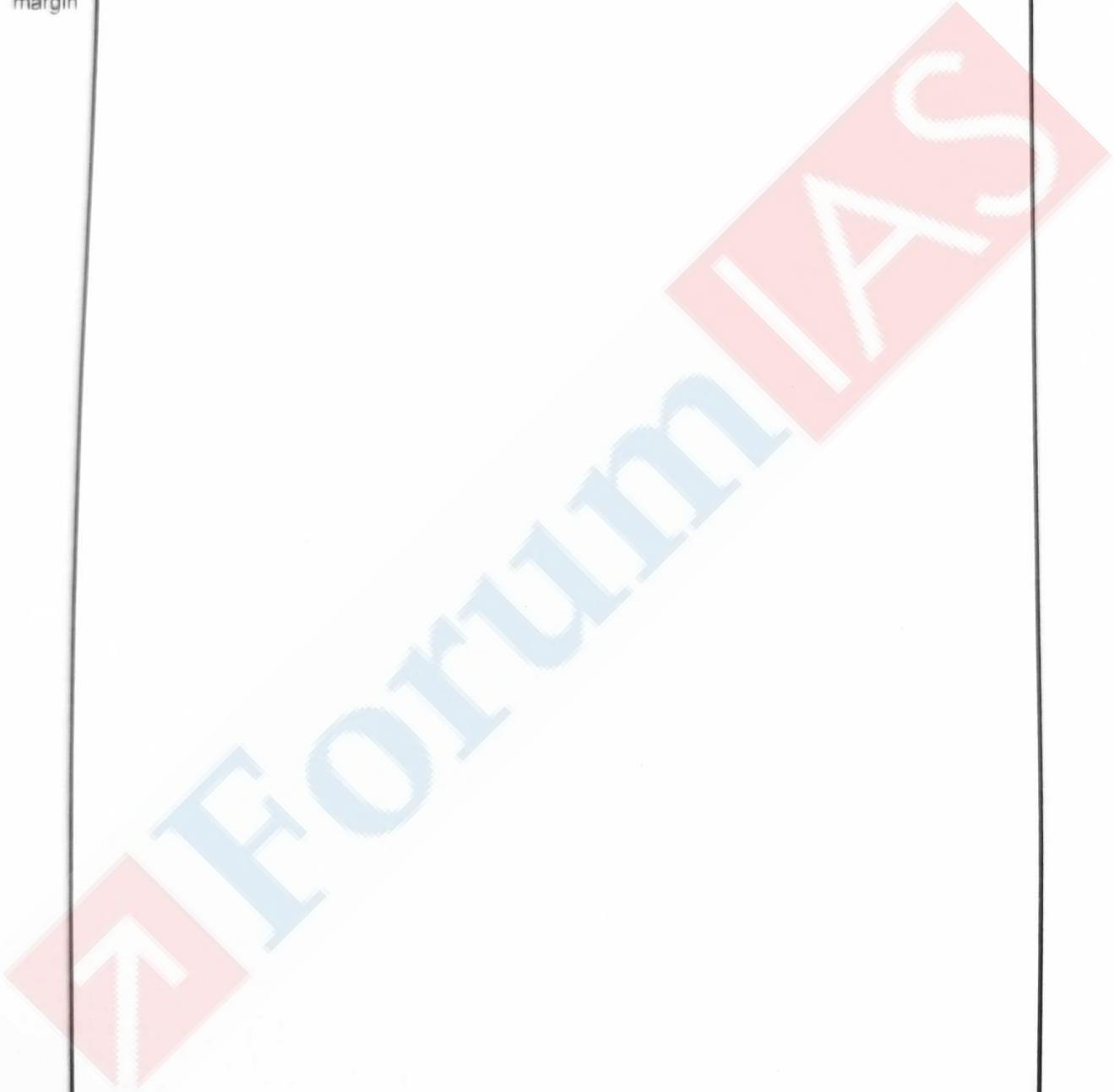
भारत में आपदा प्रबंधन और जलवायु तन्यकता में गैर सरकारी संगठनों ने किस हद तक योगदान दिया है? केस स्टडी के साथ चर्चा करें। (12 Marks)

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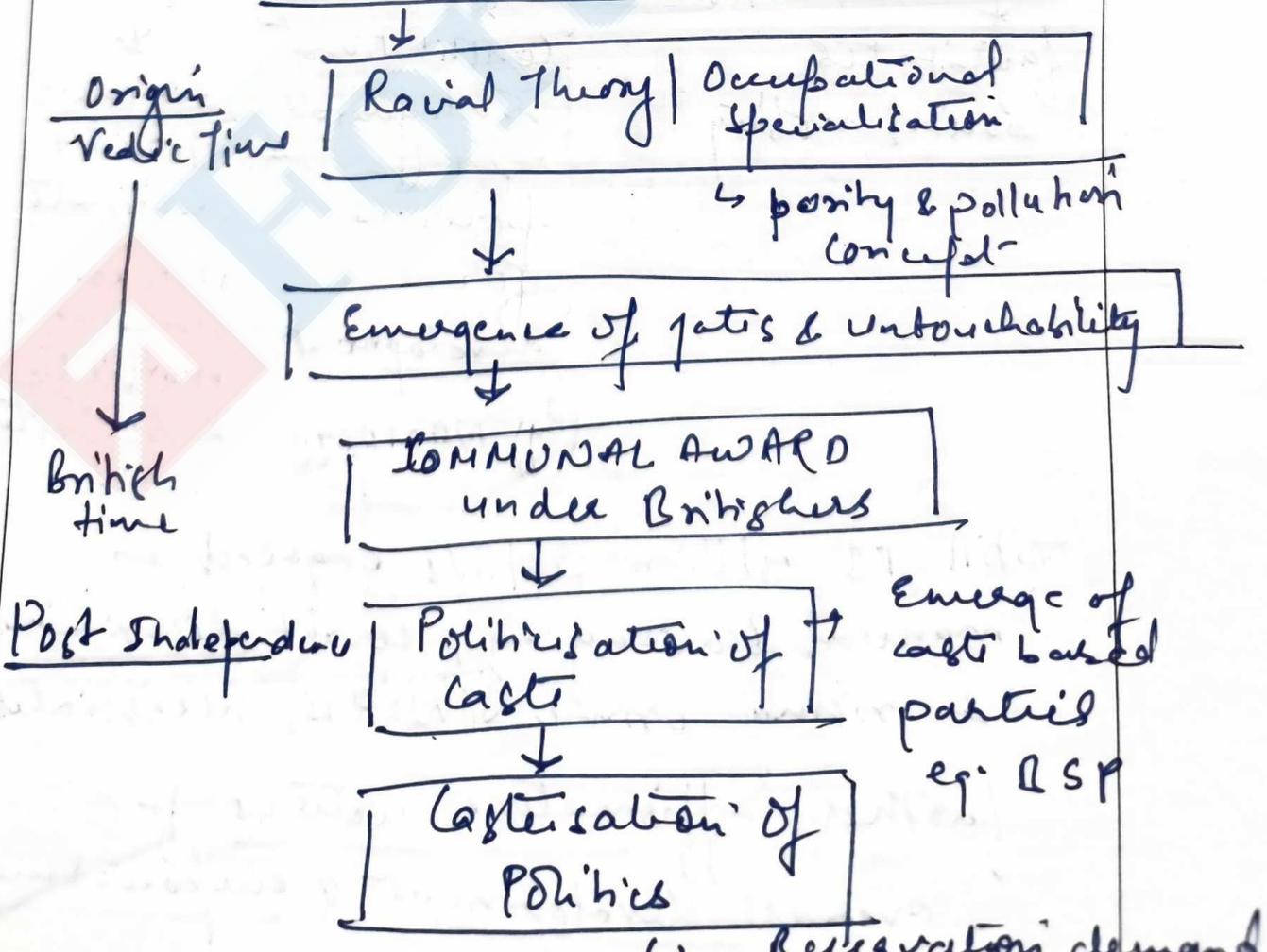
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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

Q.1 How has the caste system evolved in India over time? Evaluate its impact on social mobility & economic development

Caste system is a social structure which stratifies society into hierarchy of groups which is endogamous, ascriptive & decides interaction, opportunities & restrictions.

## EVOLUTION OF CASTE SYSTEM



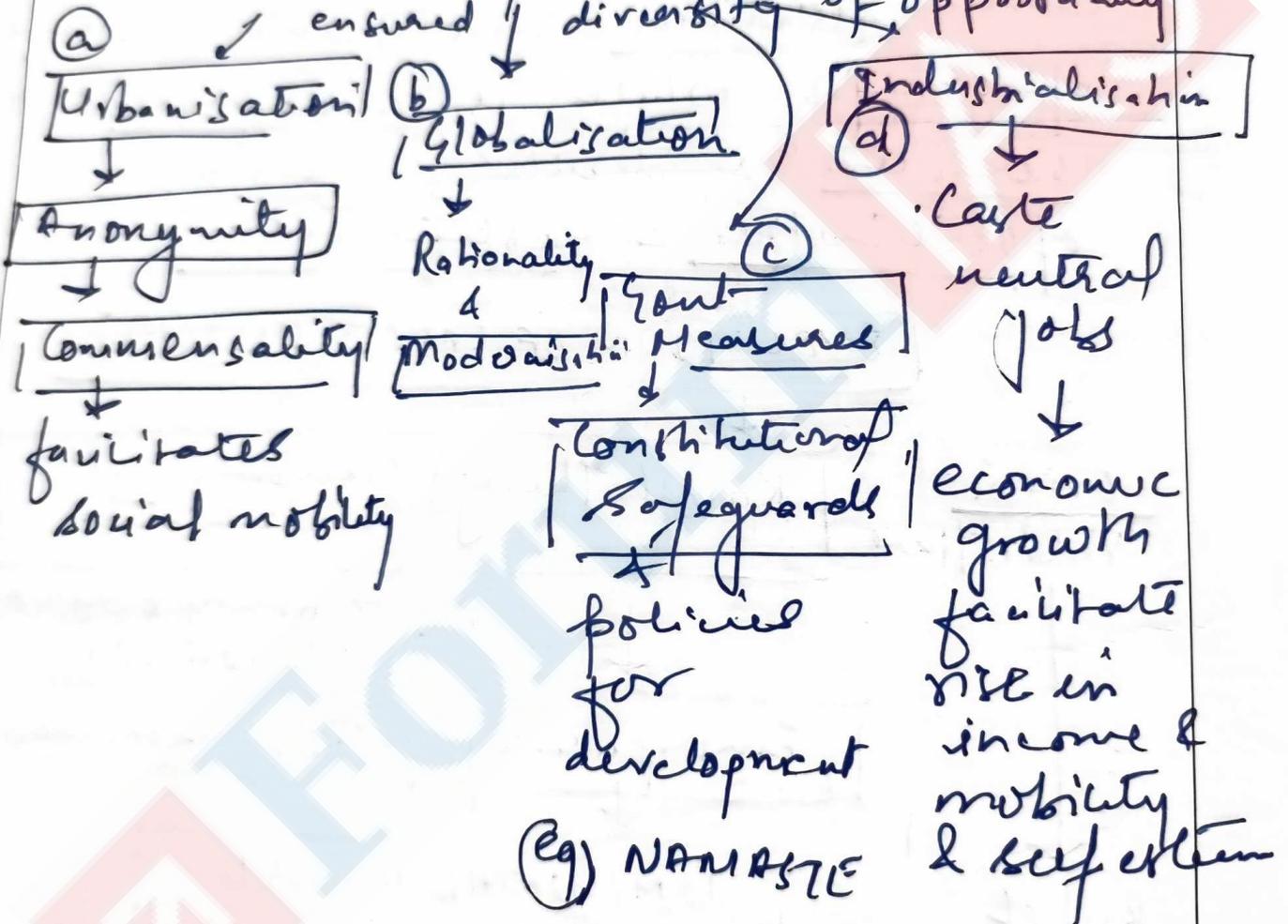
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## Impact of caste system on social mobility & economic development

→ Unlike earlier where economic opportunity was limited by caste (e.g. manual scavenging etc) ensured diversity of opportunity.



Still 13 million SCs engaged in manual scavenging, covert discrimination & rising crime (NCRB) necessitates further affirmative action for overall development & empowerment

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Q.2 Regional aspirations often lead to demands for autonomy or separate statehood. How should India balance regional identity with national unity.

India's federal structure (Article 2) tried to accommodate regional aspirations (Article 371) to ensure territorial integrity however unmet aspirations lead to secessionist demand.

## REASONS FOR DEMAND OF SEPARATE STATEHOOD

- 1) Uneven development  
eg). NE India serving as resource periphery for mainland India with limited development
- 2) Ethnicity disparity  
eg) Kuki & Meitei struggle  
Nagalim demand by ULFA
- 3) Linguistic & cultural identity  
eg) Dravidian Movement -  
Bhil statehood demand
- 4) Religious / Political ambitions  
eg) Khalistan movement

5) Assertion for greater autonomy  
eg) Ladakh demand for statehood  
Tensions post-scrapping Article 370

6) Economic disparity  
eg) Vidarbha & Maharashtra demand.

Balancing regional aspirations with national unity & integrity

1) Strengthening cooperative federalism  
(NITI Aayog)

2) Institutionalising Inter-State Council

3) Region specific programme.

eg) Aspirational District Program

4) Decentralisation of power, function & authority.

eg. PESA effective implementation

5) Participation of local leaders in governance  
eg) Bodoland

6) Dialogue & confidence building  
measures, MOU signing.

7) Preservation of unique identities & recognition

Strengthening governance & equitable resource distribution will strengthen unity

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Q.3) India's pluralistic traditions has been both a strength and a challenge. Discuss with reference to minority communities.

India's pluralism is rooted in multi-religious, multi-lingual & multi ethnic heritage - fostered by inclusivity, accommodation & diversity.

Pluralistic ethos as strength

1) Socio-Cultural Integration enriching culture & art

eg. Ganga - Yamuni Tehzeeb

(a) promotes peaceful coexistence & composite culture

2) Affirmative Actions & Political Representation

eg) Reservation for SC/STs & OBC

→ 27 Muslim representation in Parliament - (2019 LS)

3) Constitutional Safeguards

(a) Article 15, Article 25-30

(b) National Commission for Minorities strengthen institutional support.

4) Economic & Educational upliftment

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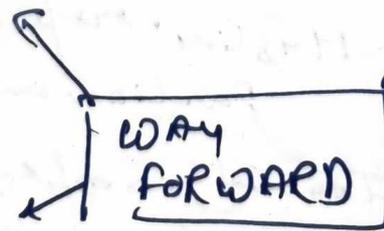
eg. PM's 15 point Programme for minorities

## Pluralism as a challenge

- 1) Communal violence & social tensions  
eg. Delhi Riots (2020)
- 2) Political Polarization (Identity politics)
- 3) Economic & Educational disparities  
eg. Sachar Committee highlighted low literacy (60%) & economic deprivation among Muslims
- 4) Legal & Institutional challenges
  - Misuse of UAPA
  - UCC implementation
  - legal & policy gaps

fast track  
hard crime

Targeted  
Schemes



fostering  
interfaith  
dialogue

crossroot  
empowerment  
via NGO &  
Civil Society

A balanced approach fostering diversity, inclusivity & countering divisive forces while ensuring unity & integrity of India needed.



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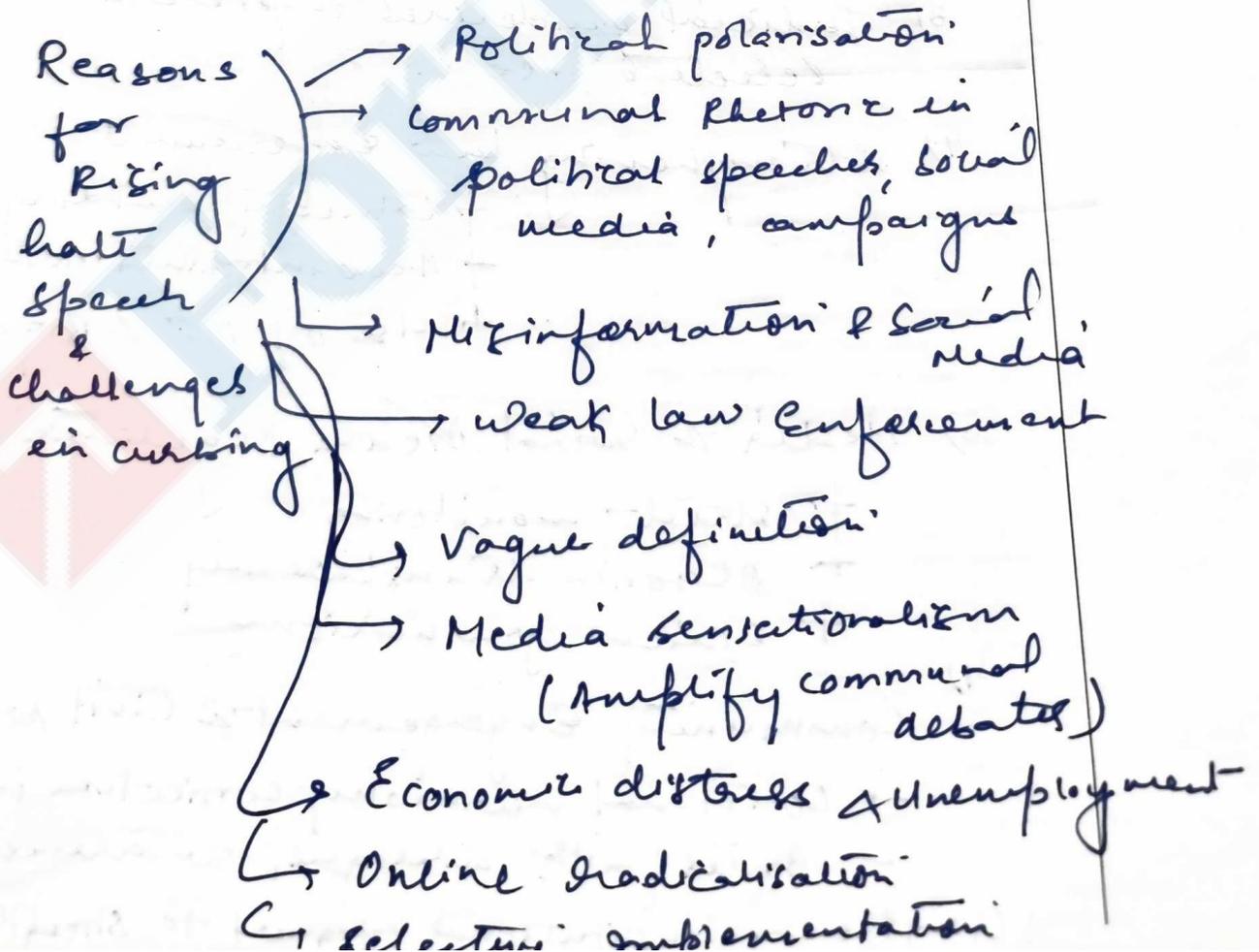
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Q.4 Hate speech and communal violence pose significant threats to India's secular fabric. Suggest measures to address these challenges.

An increase of 74% in hate speech cases and 84% increase in communal instances observed in 2023-2024. (Reuters)

Hate speech pertains to incitement of hatred primarily against a group of persons on basis of race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation etc. (Law Commission)



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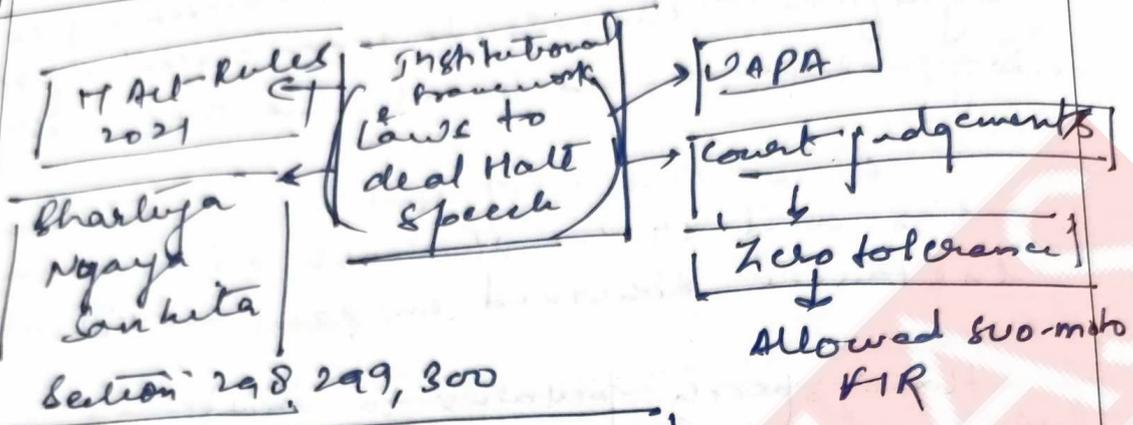
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MEASURES TO ADDRESS S:

- 1) Legal Reforms → Comprehensive legislation
- 2) Establish fast track courts
- 3) Judicial guidelines to prevent selective use.
- 4) Strengthening law enforcement
  - + Capacity building
  - + Accountability mechanism
  - + Use of AI & Big data

- 3) Media & Social Media Regulation
  - + Strict monitoring
  - + Algorithm transparency
  - + Ethical journalism

- 4) Community Engagement & Civil Society
  - Communal harmony curriculum in school
  - Inter faith dialogue, awareness

Strengthening Constitutional safeguard to strengthen secularism



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Q.5 How does rapid urbanization affect climate change & disaster vulnerability? Illustrate

According to UN World Urbanization Prospects, India's urban population would reach 40% by 2036, intensifying environmental & infrastructure pressures.

## IMPACT OF RAPID URBANIZATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER VULNERABILITY

### 1) Urban heat island effect

Excessive concretization leading to trapping of heat thus raising temperature (e.g. Heat wave Delhi, 2023)

### 2) Urban canyon effect & Plume dome

→ Causes poor air quality

→ Increased respiratory & problems

→ Extreme localised weather event - (e.g. Chennai flood)

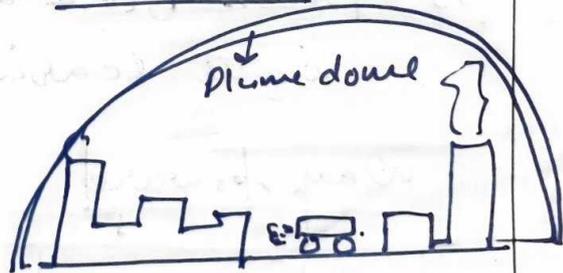


Fig. Micro environment

### 3) Urban flooding & Drainage issues

→ Rapid expansion leading to encroachment into natural water bodies

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eg. Heilki River, Mumbai  
Vembanad lake, Kerala

→ encroaching on natural sink land to flood

eg. Mumbai flood, Chennai flood, Bengaluru flood

## 4) Increased Disaster Vulnerability

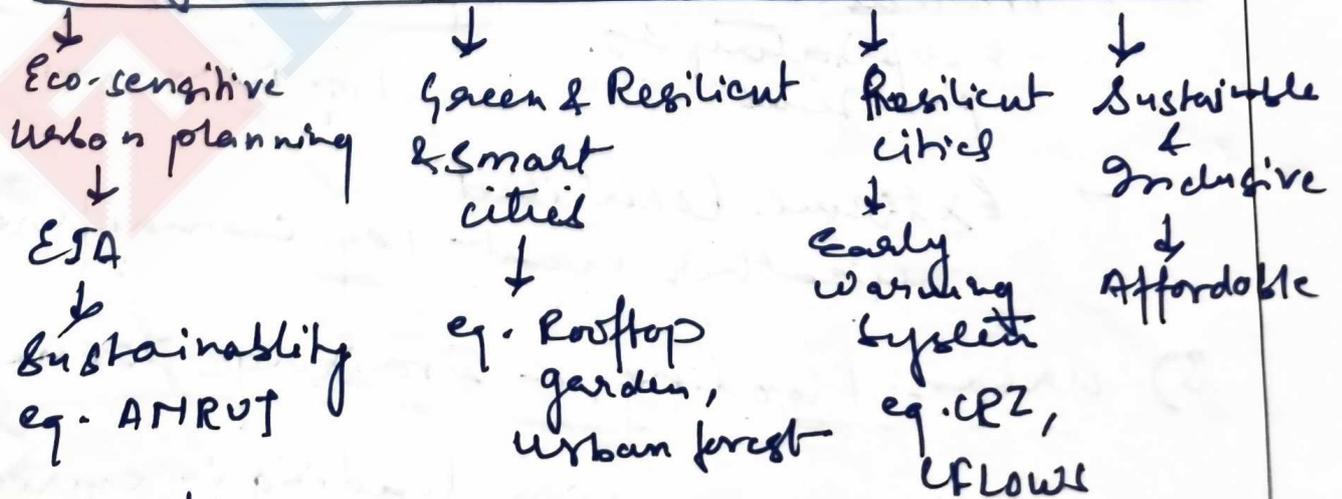
→ Mangrove encroachment → sea storm flooding

→ Settlement in seismic zone increases eq. Turkey Syria

→ High density increases popn vulnerability (2023) Earthquake

5) Green-Blue disconnect, water scarcity, Groundwater depletion

## Way forward



Multi-stakeholder approach integrating policy, technology & community.

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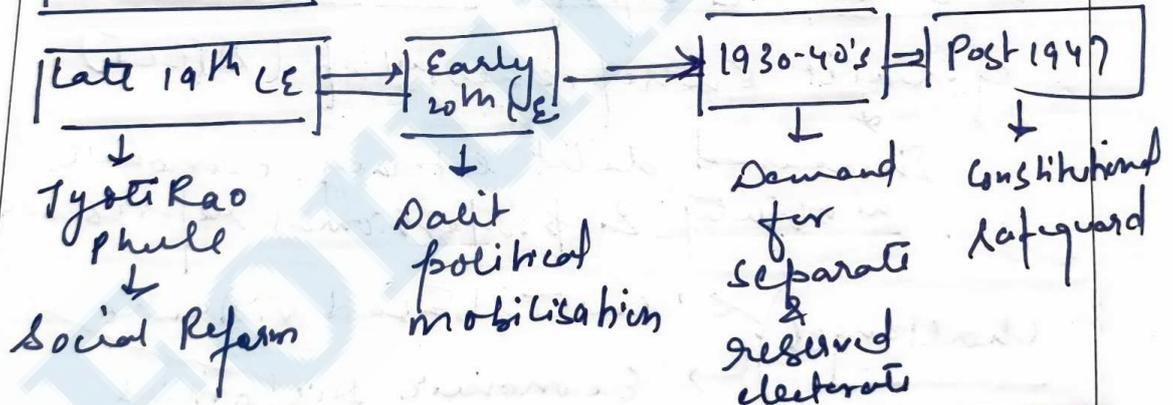
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Q1) Examine the significance of Depressed class movement in shaping Dalit identity and rights.

Depressed class movement aimed at uplifting Dalits by advocating social justice, political representation & economic rights. Led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Jyotirao Phule & other Dalit leaders, led to foundation of constitutional safeguards & affirmative actions.

## Evolution



## Key contribution & significance in Shaping Dalit Identity & Rights

### 1) Political Empowerment

Round Table conference, Poona Pact (1932) & formation of Independent Labour Party led to strengthen Dalit political identity, leading to later BSP.

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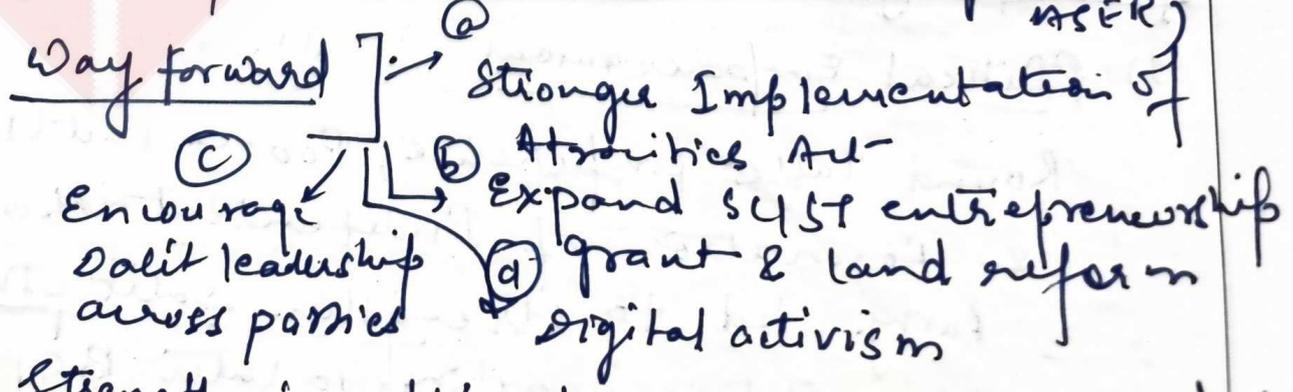
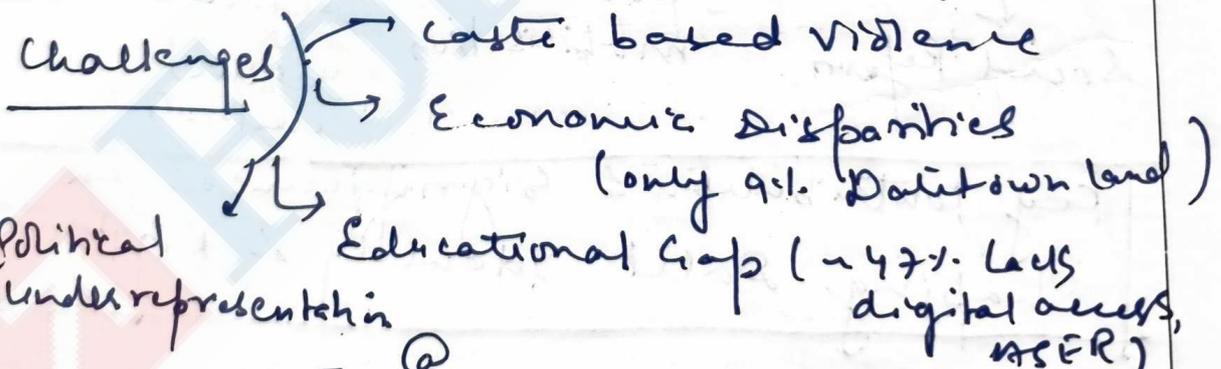
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2) Constitutional Safeguards  
Institutionalized Dalit rights & social justice frameworks through Article 17, reservation policy, SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.

3) Social & Religious Reform  
↳ temple entry movements (Vairikom satyagraha) strengthened Dalit self respect & alternative identity formation.

4) Economic upliftment & Education  
eg. Dalit Entrepreneurship (DILE)  
↳ Increased dalit literacy, economic mobility & professional representation.



Strengthening affirmative action for social justice & inclusion



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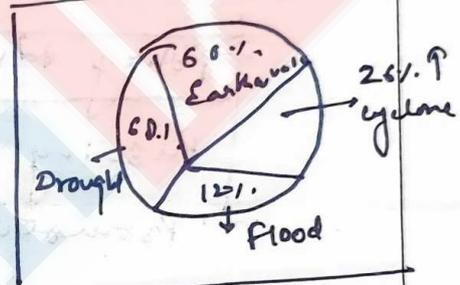
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Q) To what extent have NGOs contributed to disaster management & climate resilience in India? Discuss.

India ranks 6th on Global Climate Risk Index. Due to diverse geography & climate it is highly vulnerable to disasters.



NGO act as crucial partners due to their grassroots presence, flexibility & innovative approaches.

Fig. Vulnerability Graph (NDIM)

## Role of NGO in Disaster Management (DM)

### Pre-Disaster Preparedness & Risk Reduction

- Early warning systems! - collaborate
- capacity building → train volunteers
- Community Based DRR → Promoting Awareness

### Emergency Response & Relief

- Rapid Response teams - Deploy volunteers
- Distribute food, medicine
- eg. Goonj's Robot Initiative

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## Rehabilitation & Recognition

→ Restoring livelihoods → supporting skill development & financial aid

→ Building disaster Resilient Infrastructure

## Policy Advocacy & Climate Resilience

→ Pushing for sustainable climate policies  
→ Promoting nature based solutions  
eg. conservation of wetland

## Case Study:- Odisha, cyclone, SEEDS Role

Odisha frequently faces severe cyclone like foni. NQO SEEDS trained thousand in evacuation drill reducing fatality below 100



## WAY FORWARD

Promoting Public Private NQO Partnership (PPNP)

Technology Adoption

Better funding & Policy support

Strengthening NQO partnership crucial to build Disaster Resilient India.

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Q.1) Discuss the major factors contributing to gender disparities in India. How can policy interventions help bridge gap?

India is ranked poor in Gender Parity Index highlighting the prevalent social, economic & political disparities.

DISPARITIES →

→ POLITICAL

- Only 14% women legislators
- 14% judges
- Sarpanchati
- corrupt

→ ECONOMIC

- 30% pay gap (OECD)
- Glass ceiling, Glass cliff.
- Gender stereotyping of labour

→ SOCIAL

- + Son meta preference
- High maternal mortality rate (~97)
- 50% anemic
- Dual burden (~3 times more unpaid work than men 20x for)

→ TECHNOLOGICAL

- Digital illiteracy,

## POLICY INTERVENTION BRIDGING THE GAP

### 1) Educational Empowerment

- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
- Encouraging enrollment in STEM sector - scholarships

### 2) Economic empowerment

- Promoting entrepreneurship through Stand Up India, SHG formation etc.
- Access to credit enhanced through MUDRA loan, financial literacy

### 3) Legislative & Constitutional Measures

- Article 14, 15, 16, 42 (Maternity leave & equal pay)
- Curbing violence - sexual (POCSO) workplace home (Domestic violence act)

### 4) Behavioural & Attitudinal change

- value education, sensitization, He for She
- community policing

A multi-pronged approach is needed to make society more inclusive & equitable.



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Q2 How have modernisation & globalization influenced changing family roles in India.

Modernisation & globalisation have changed the structure & purpose of family as an institution. Socialisation & security has been outsourced.

changing family roles — due to Globalisation

① → Proliferation of Nuclear families, female headed, blended families

② → Nuclear families preferred over patrilocal / matrilocal due to economic needs.

eg) children move to metropolitan cities for job

③ → Freedom in choosing partner

→ Role of family declining  
↓  
More of individual decision,  
Concept like live-in & cohabitation common

④ → Technological advancement like WhatsApp & telegrams help remain connected to extended family.

⑤ → Generational gap widened as tech savvy children busy with phones; elderly suffer from loneliness.

⑥ → Enhanced status of women financial independence due to labour market participation empowered women sexual choices & capability to take decisions.

⑦ → Socialisation role of family now outsourced to schools, kindergarden, democratic parenting.

⑧ → Increased divorce rates

Balancing of modernisation & traditional cultural values, democratic parenting & respecting choices necessary for healthy & inclusive family & society.



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Q13 India is expected to have a significant demographic dividend in the coming decades. What steps should government take to harness the potential?

India is in its 'Demographic Sweet Spot' with its demographic window of 30-40 years peaking in 2036 with 64% of working population & less dependent.

However, this demographic dividend is not guaranteed, several measures to harness it are:-

## 1) Skill development

→ Industry specific jobs,  
→ Top skill set in emerging technologies like battery storage, renewable energy etc.

→ PMKVY is step in right direction

## 2) Employment generation

→ 12 mn job creation needed annually (NITI Aayog).

→ Boosting domestic manufacturing

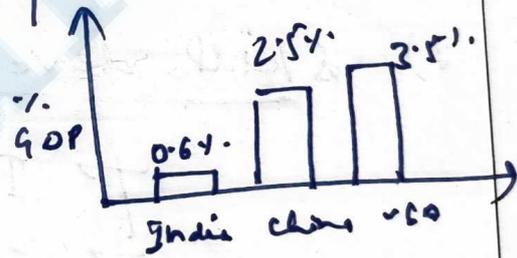
and textile would employ large chunk of population.

- Boost to Make in Andhra & Atmanirbhar Bharat for self reliance
- Economic diversification, especially in rural areas.

eg) Food processing

### 3) Encouraging Entrepreneurship + R&D

- STARTUP India, Atat tinkering Lab, Innovation in agri sector.
- Increasing R&D expenditure to 2%.



### 4) Robust Healthcare System & Social Security Networks

- Increasing expenditure to 2.5% in healthcare (Economic Survey) with focus on decentralisation of healthcare.

A multifronged & comprehensive planning to reap this demographic dividend will help India achieve \$5 billion & become Viksit Bharat by 2047.



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# UPSC

(Mains Answer Sheet for Practice)

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नही लिखना चाहिए

Q1 Analyze the role of technology in the development of smart cities. What are the potential benefits & risks associated with it?

Technological integration in day to day functioning of city to enhance efficiency and better city dwellers experience was is key component of smart city.

## BENEFITS & ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SMART CITY

Help in Decongestion & smoother traffic flow

IOT can efficiently manage waste collection, find out point source of pollution

Help in managing efficient supply of electricity & water by enhancing efficiency.

Help finding innovative & cost effective solution to urban flooding, pollution, reduce crime

eg) Surat MCD saved 50L of water

Increase revenue by employing technology in collecting house tax. eg) Telangana

Benefits

# UPSC

(Mains Answer Sheet for Practice)

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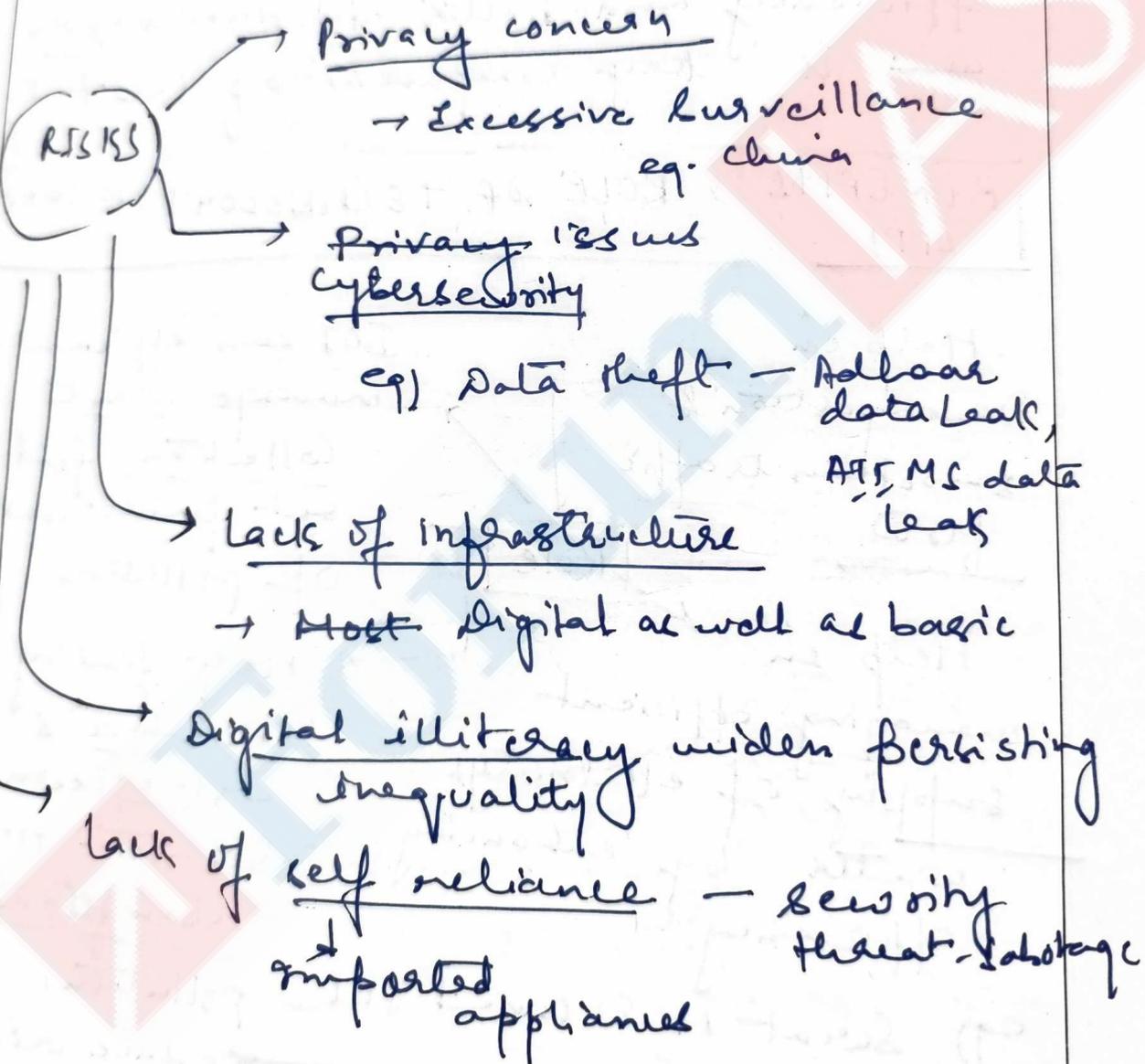
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कृपया में प्रश्न अतिरिक्त

- ↳ optimise resource use
- ↳ help effective resource management
- ↳ Ensure clean environment
- ↳ good quality of life (SDG 11 & SDG 12)



International collaboration & learning from the best international practices, pilot mode implementation would ensure sustainable, inclusive & smart cities - (SDG 11)



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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें

# UPSC

(Mains Answer Sheet for Practice)

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए

Q.5) What do you understand by communalism in Indian context, discuss its historical roots and its impact on Indian society.

Communalism is the socio-political ideology which considers interest of a particular group's religion antagonistic to other. (Rajni Kothari)

Bipin Chandra in his book 'India the historical roots of communalism'

1) Relative deprivation (Perceived/Real)

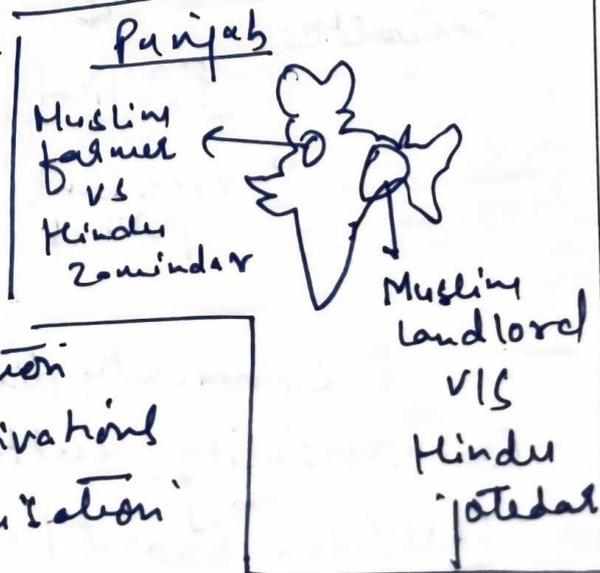
The socio-economic realities coincided with the religious disparity creating tension.

eg) Higher illiteracy among Muslims

2) Power struggle

→ Power struggle among rich middle class,

led to manipulation of existing deprivations & communalisation



# UPSC

(Mains Answer Sheet for Practice)

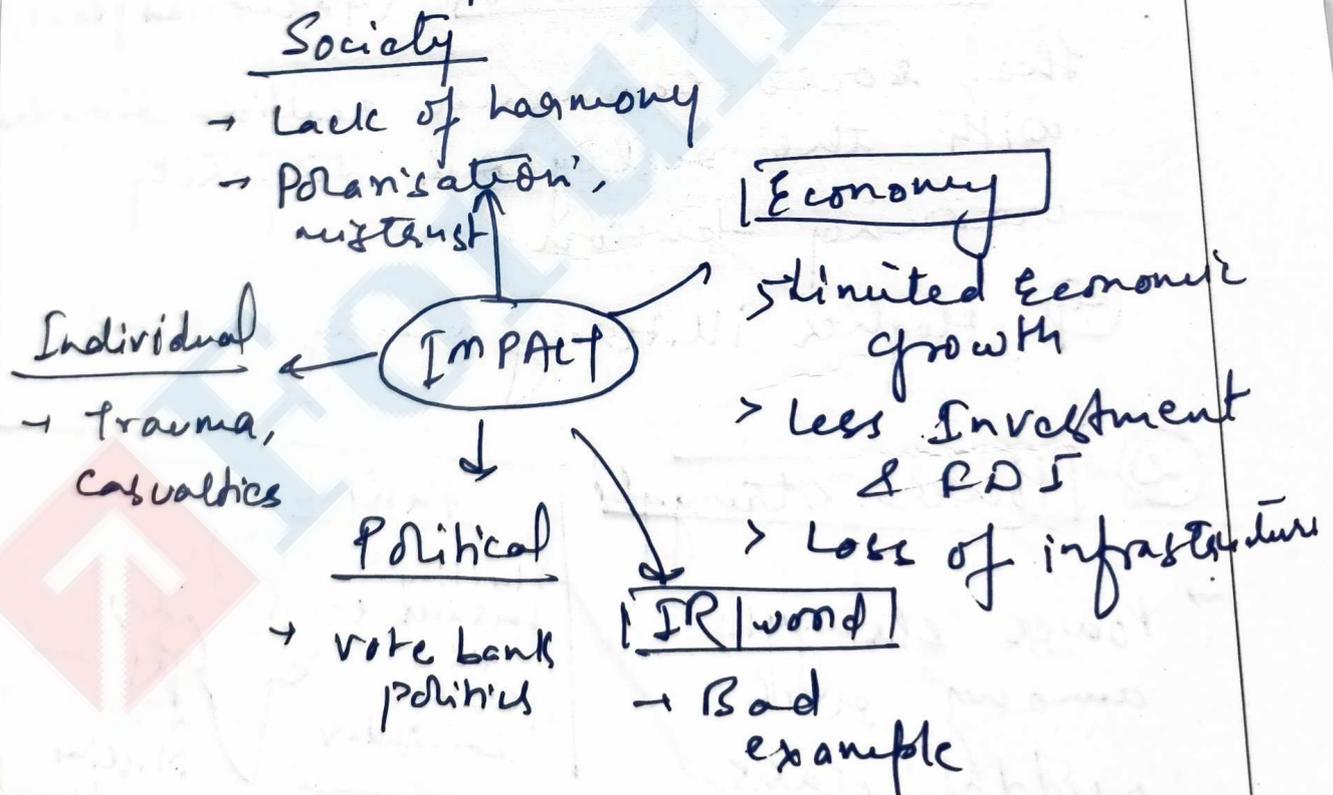
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- ③ British Divide & Rule policy  
 ↓  
 Communal Award      separate electorate  
 Supporting Communal Leaders
- ④ Presenting Indian history as struggle between Hindus & Muslims (once emphasizing Ancient history over medieval)
- ⑤ Hinduisation of national struggle  
 eg. Ganapati puja, Ganga holy dip



Community dialogue (Inter faith), Commensality, cultural Exchange (Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat) needed for Incredible India