

62

Indian Society and Social Justice

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 20 questions. • All questions are compulsory • The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. • Answer the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length. • Answers must be written in the space provided. <p>Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</p>
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

Name SHILPI
 Roll No. 0043212 (UPSC)
 Mobile No. _____
 Date 06/11/15
 Signature Shilpi

1. Invigilator Signature _____
 2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

Roll No. _____

Q1. "Values imparted in Indian Society are contributing to the elevation of many Indians to the leadership role in many Silicon Valley Firms." (12.5 Marks)
Explain.

Indian society is rich with such values that helps one to elevate to leadership roles. This is achieved on two planks:



A good leader needs to possess qualities of both a leader and a follower so that when he leads, he can take the whole group/ team with himself.

Here, Indian values of compassion, obedience, love come into picture.

Also, a good leader requires to be an effective communicator. For this, values of deliberation and discussion prevalent since Rig Vedic times in form of village councils assist.

~~A~~ A good needs to possess complete integrity to build trust with

Precisely mention the values which are relevant in context of Silicon Valley

team. and And, Indian society
 imbued values of trust, honesty
 its constituents. Even, integrity of
mind, speech and action are
 pressed upon by ^{ancient} schools of thought
 like Yoga.

Facts related
 to Indians
 in Silicon Valley

Finally, a leader lead not to
 serve his own interests but that of
 the society and its people. This
value of serving comes from Indian

Q1

Ref. rights

philosophy delineated by Kautilya
 when he suggested that not the happiness
 his subjects lies the happiness of
 the king.

All these values contribute to a
 distinct mindset of Indian entre-
 preneurs which help them to gain
 leadership role on the world stage

Q2. "In any society, Gender is fundamentally about power". Discuss in context with the Indian Society. (12.5 Marks)

--	--

Q3. MGNREGA is being seen by many experts as an ideal blend of development and welfare programmes as compared to welfare programmes based on merely transfer of subsidies. Critically analyze? (12.5 Marks)

MGNREGA is a demand-driven poverty alleviation programme by which assets are to be created, thus aiding rural development story.

The combination of two state priorities makes it an ideal programme in Indian society.

World Bank's Report on MGNREGA

is a testimony to the fact

however, programme fell short of its ideal: Assets created by this

scheme were either unviable, unsustainable and even completely non-existent with people being paid for digging holes and filling them up.

Even, contractors were used at some places which is prohibited under

Provisions and pros in detail

MGNREGA Act.

Even in payments, irregularities were witnessed. Having mentioned that, its role in eradicating poverty has to be noted: Tendulkar Committee noted a fall of poverty from 37% in 2004-05 to ^{21.7% in} 2011-12 owing to ~~strong~~ implementation of MGNREGA scheme.

Not only this, "employment" given in MGNREGA has led to "empowerment" of people especially in a psychological ~~social~~ sense. This is a unique achievement of MGNREGA since normal direct transfers ~~don't~~ ^{can't} lead to this sense as people didn't sweat for this money.

Thus, ~~the~~ MGNREGA needs to be strengthened further so that it can achieve its dual aim.

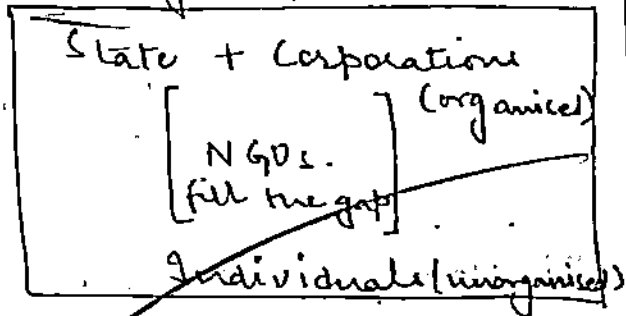
4

Q4. "NGOs are the agents of the state when looked from the broader perspective of maintaining faith in the state." Comment. (12.5 Marks)

NGOs are the ~~main~~ mainstay of social capital of a society. Their

role ~~is~~ as agents can be seen

as:



These help fill the big gap between organised actors and unorganised individuals. In the process, they

help provide legitimacy ~~to~~ to state actions in many ways:

→ State aims to improve welfare of individuals and society by programmes related to poverty alleviation, nutrition, etc. ← NGOs help in implementation of these schemes in an effective way.

→ As these NGOs are closer to people, they are trusted more by society and

their intervention in check legislation
 these changes in people's eyes. ~~their help~~
 in maintaining faith in state's actions.

→ Strong NGO culture preserve values of
the society. They act as advocates
of socio-economic reforms, provide
a grievance - pouring mechanism, thus
upholding freedom of speech and
expression value in society. ~~People~~

5

Disempowered citizens gets a voice
 which will reverberate in highest
 political circles due to these NGOs,
 thus maintaining faith in state

→ NGOs provide few services where
 state is not able to reach people.

Their role in remote, tribal areas
 fill the vacuum left due to absence
 of strong credible governance. Thus,
 they directly take role of state
 institutional keeping people's faith alive
 Thus, NGOs act as agents of state
 while serving the society

Intro in this context

Q5. Drug Abuse has become a major social ill in some of the most prosperous regions of India. Evaluate the social reasons for such widespread entrenchment of drugs in society, particularly in youth and suggest ways to reduce its demand among the targeted group? (12.5 Marks)

According to World Health Organisation, there are 10 lakh registered heroin addicts in India. Such a huge number reflect deep social reasons behind the phenomenon:

- Peer pressure: using drugs is considered "cool" by few youth quarters. This creates a sustainable cycle of its usage years after years.
- Family values: Despite being prevalence of close-knit family culture in India there is a serious communication gap between youth and their guardians. This way youths aren't able to express their anxieties to them and take refuge in drugs. This issue will escalate further with more nuclear families.
- Easy availability of these drugs coupled with unemployment becomes a push

Region specific reasons required

factor for drug usage.

→ unavailability of institutions to look after children not having functional families is another social cause.

To reduce its demand, an emotional appeal has to be made to the youth as to how drugs cause harm to society. It leads

to crimes against women, loss of valuable manpower and hence hollow social fabric.

24

Rehab. centers

Increasing awareness

Consultancy services

psychologists

A social media campaign

based with role models appealing the youth on the issue. Role of educational

institutions and families in educating

newly wards has to be emphasized.

Some tactics like scare tactics might ~~appear~~ be helpful to them like the one used to dissuade tobacco usage.

Thus, a concerted effort from all actors can help reduce substance abuse.

Q6. How do you define "Justice" in context of India? What are the provisions in the Constitution for attaining "Social Justice"?
(12.5 Marks)

Justice is essentially a right-claim of an individual or groups in the rest of society.

Our Constitution enshrines it in the Preamble itself and further the cause of social Justice in

Directive Principles of State Policy.

Article 39 (b) and (c) direct the State to prevent ~~of~~ wealth grab on a grotesque scale by legitimising re-distributing economic and social wealth. Following this, land reforms were initiated after independence.

Article 41 presses upon the State to help its vulnerable population by pension and unemployment allowances.

Briefly explain social, economic and political Justice

Article 38 calls for equal remuneration, healthy work conditions and ~~also~~ leisure time for workers preventing them from exploitation which may be perpetrated by ~~the~~ resourceful class.

Also, Fundamental Rights guaranteed by Article 17, bans untouchability in society giving equal position to scheduled castes which is their justified social claim.

All religious minorities have been given their social due by means of Article 29 and 30.

Thus, our Constitution is a progressive document ensuring social justice to all sections of society.

Mention articles and provisions

3

Q7. Globalization has brought out a structural transformation in Urban India, right at the level of family, increasing the social conflicts and their content. Discuss. (12.5 Marks)

Globalisation has brought in sweeping change in Indian social institutions, its values and all its members within.

For family institution, globalisation has put ~~value~~ ^{a value} on family relationships.

For instance, more nuclear families are preferred because it is difficult to maintain one's parents. However, they are maintained if they assist in child-care responsibilities due to which ^{young} women of family can go work outside.

Also, globalisation has led to increase in incidence of divorces. This is testified in the experience of a city close to Delhi called Gurgaon where a spurt of such cases have arisen along with globalised culture. These divorces attest to changing gender dynamics in society.

Earlier also, women had to wrench for space from men. But now, this conflict has deepened. Women have got empowerment and thus seek reparation when exploited.

Issues like instances of domestic abuse migration, competitiveness, fundamentalism, marginalisation, et al. have been on the rise too as men tend to be distrustful of working women, domestic abuse was prevalent but now fewer reasons are emerging.

Globalisation has also widened the chasm between young and old generations as rate of change from one generation to other is becoming higher.

Value of seeing other, obedience, compassion, honesty are withering away to give way to individualism and consumerism in a globalised culture.

31/2

Q8. What are the delineating features of an aspirational society? Discuss the constraints and potentials of India as an aspirational society. (12.5 Marks)

An aspirational society can be described as the one with focus on knowledge, material gain, influence over ~~area~~ world and nature. Such a society would be characterised by an open culture leading to less restrictions on women, deliberations, freedom of speech, innovation, individualism, flexible socio-economic institutions.

one of the foremost constraints is that of patriarchal beliefs and norms. These norms pervade deeply and hurt women empowerment. and the kind of society leaves almost 50% of population ineffective and voiceless.

Strict family institutions with hierarchies also reflect poorly on aspirational society as it divides labour and prevents

innovation.

Education is another issue - children are taught to cram than to understand which limits their cognitive capabilities. Also, lack of government spending on research does no good to aspirational society.

Precisely discuss in context of Indian

Aspirational society, the sky is the limit. Middle class of India can actually do it. We're brimming with innovative potential - thousands of start-up companies in past few years thriving.

3 1/2

By 2020, 64% of population will belong to working class - this demographic dividend is the biggest potential.

A billion-plus country can possibly solve most world issues - be it civil wars in Africa or maritime conflicts of China - South East Asia, if allowed to thrive.

Define in Indian context

Q9. Secularism in its true essence and not 'majoritarianism' or 'minoritarianism' would further the cause of Indian nation'. Comment. (125 Marks)

India is a land of 8 ~~major~~ major religions of the world. Thus, peaceful co-existence of these religions is necessary to maintain peace in society that would assist the cause of nation-building.

"Major" versus "minor"

religious create a sense of discord in the social fabric which holds back our combined synergies which can be achieved if there is trust.

This causes loss of social harmony leading to economic losses.

For instance, in a village if Hindu and Muslim don't see eye to eye with each other, there can be no true democratic decentralization or

Necessity
in context
of Indian
scenario

participatory development in this village
this would halt their progress and
by extension the entire country.

Pitting religions against each
other ~~and~~ others religious flare
up communal passions that destroy
years of hard work of in development.

Precisely
mention
the underlying
factors

public property is vandalised, spaces
are ^{absorbed} & setting the clock back.
Such situations also bring country
to a brink of civil war,

hampering nation - building
process. Even investors stay away
from such regions causing
economic under-development.

Thus, we need secularism in
its true essence where religions
co-exists with state treating all
of them alike so that nation-building
process is complete.

Briefly as intro.

Q10 "Food Security Act" may be a good plank for addressing the issue of poverty, but on the other side it seems that "hunger" is just basic to 'poverty' and not all of it. Discuss the aspects of poverty in India and their socio-economic consequences. (12.5 Marks)

Poverty is a multi-faced problem of encompassing within it several issues.

It is a function of unemployment, hunger and malnutrition, lack of social security, social customs and norms, sense of disempowerment, vulnerability, lack of housing, among other factors.

Precisely mention the aspects (Ref. hints)

Unemployment: A state of not being employed drags one into multiple deprivations which lead to poor socio-economic indicators like Global Hunger Index. This also leads to increase in crimes in society.

Hunger and malnutrition: This is a cause as well as an effect of poverty in India. Undernourished people have poor health which reduces their ~~economic~~ productive capabilities and more expenditure on health. Together, this leads to

vicious cycle of destitution.

→ Lack of social security schemes practically has made everyone vulnerable to poverty. Lack of insurance, employment allowances, medical facilities are unavailable to a sizable majority.

→ Social customs: India is still a society based on social status with ~~scheduled~~ Scheduled Caste still being social outcasts doing menial jobs. This shows socio-economic caste census as well. This creates friction in society based on caste lines.

→ Some of disempowerment is intricately linked with poverty especially with women facing double discrimination. These are the last ones to get benefit from welfare schemes.

Thus, only a multi-cornered programme can keep in poverty alleviation.

Q11. Is declining sex ratio among children in India occurring due to some deeply rooted problem? Discuss the measures initiated by the government to reverse this trend. (12.5 Marks)

Declining sex ratio is mainly caused by socio-cultural factors in Indian society. The preference to ~~have~~ son is due to ~~having~~ "bread-winning" role of males in society coupled with the dowry culture which put females at a great disadvantage. Even after women participating in economic activities, ~~their~~ role is seen as supporting male income rather than as primary.

The overarching deep rooted problem subsiding all these is the problem of patriarchy leading to male chauvinism. The system is

so entrenched that new socio-economic realities brought in by forces of globalisation, women empowerment can do little to make a dent in it.

Related data

Reasons like female foeticide and infanticide

Sex Selective Abortions

Government responded to this trend by enacting a law criminalising sex-selective abortions like Pre Natal Diagnostic Act, 1994.

This is a prohibitive part of strategy

For persuasive part, government has launched initiatives like

Dhanalakshmi which encourage birth of girls and support their further education. Programmes like Beti

Sachao, Beti Padhao launched for

~~states~~ with focus on states like Haryana ~~as~~ as positive steps.

Recently, Haryana government created a mechanism to monitor functioning of all ultrasound machines in states to prevent sex-determination before birth.

3 1/2

Q12. 'Housing for All by 2020' is a pipedream, given the bias of housing sector in favour of the investors rather than the residents. Comment and discuss the ways through which the present government is planning to achieve this goal. (12.5 Marks)

Housing for All is a formidable challenge given the current shortage of 1.87 crore dwelling units in the country.

To achieve this, government has unveiled urban housing missions like SMART cities, AMRUT and "Housing for All".

The mission ~~are~~ would employ strategies like retrofitting, ~~of~~ redevelopment ~~of infrastructure~~ and parity initiatives to achieve the ~~the~~ goal.

one significant aspect about these missions is their break from previous schemes like JNNURM. Now, Central government has given states the flexibility to

design their own projects based on local needs.

Also, funds will be provided only for those projects for which lands are available to ensure effective utilization of funds.

Role of urban governance

Discussions will be increased by mandatory issue of reselling of all houses and measures adopted by DDA and to curb it

will be increased by mandatory submission by states of steps in this regard. Even JNNURM has sought to strengthen this aspect but it failed miserably

aspect as noted in

DDA and to curb it

However, more needs to be done to achieve housing for all-

like technology acquisition as noted

by Deepak Parikh Committee Report.

Then with suitable approach, the

dream for housing can actually be achieved.

Q13. Globalisation has led to great convergence of desires and aspirations of people in developed and developing regions of the world. How does this change affect political and social behaviour of the people? Cite examples from India and abroad to explain it. (12.5 Marks)

Globalisation has created what is called a cosmopolitan citizen. This citizen has shed narrow national political priorities and connected herself with wider global identities and concerns.

In Israel-Gaza war of 2014, when Government of India refused to condemn Israel's actions, some sections of India raised the banner for the cause of Gaza people.

People now truly feel a sense of universal brotherhood towards people of other countries facing problems.

In Europe, when Conservative governments refused entry to refugees from West Asia, European people rallied for ~~the~~ refugees' causes.

This new citizen is wary of nuclear weapons even if their governments are on a mission to produce more of them.

'Humanitarian Initiative' of non-proliferation enthusiasts of Europe is a case in point whose sole aim is to bring total nuclear disarmament.

Discuss convergence of social behaviour also detail

Even inside the country, globalising forces have caused remarkable changes. In India

The call for True Democracy in countries like China and Russia is sounding again as global citizens are concerned about politics and people of these countries. This is in contrast to "not in my backyard" approach of earlier times.

This, globalization is a powerful force bringing significant changes in how people think and act.

Q14. One of the most suffering lot in the rural and urban India today are the ageing people, mostly the parents of migrating skilled and unskilled workers. Enumerate some of the governmental and non-governmental initiatives to ameliorate their plight and suggest measures for their improvement. (12.5 Marks)

Old aged people in India are ~~the~~ a vulnerable class owing to lack of robust social security mechanisms coupled with erosion of traditional family culture.

To reduce this vulnerability, government has provided them legal protection by enacting Parents Maintenance Act which makes it binding on children to provide for their parents.

~~This~~ is under Article 41 of the constitution, Government of India has launched a National Social Assistance Programme to help old aged people with pensions.

Also, they have greater fiscal incentives in terms of exemption to income tax and medical

Briefly mention about their problems first

Precisely mention more govt. initiatives

insurance.

There are several NGOs working to provide services to old-aged by shelter homes, meaningful employment.

To improve delivery of these services, following steps can be taken:

→ Old age SMART card - which would help them in accessing government-provided services easily in a paperless manner.

A comprehensive Policy on old age People it can be meted encompassing all issues like their pensions, insurance, medical facilities.

→ A quota ⁱⁿ ~~for~~ housing projects for aged people in supporting families.

→ Make them aware of ICT by which they can earn through home as well.

→ A networking platform for them so that they have necessary psychological support.

A lot needs to be done to make this sector empowered and set the right direction.

Q15. Women remain the 'second sex' even if they were economically empowered. Do you agree? Give arguments in favour of your opinion. (12.5 Marks)

The advent of globalisation, social reforms as well as economic changes has increased women's visibility in all spheres of life. This has led to women empowerment but still issues remain. However, this doesn't mean that women would "always" remain the second sex.

The fact that we have countries like Switzerland where women got voting rights in 1973 but now has more women Parliamentarians than men show that what women can achieve.

For a parallel in India, grassroots empowerment in India will lead to meaningful leadership roles in India and "Sarpanch - Pati" culture would soon wither away.

Women are now represented at the helm of financial institutions like SBI Bank, ~~SBI~~ ^{Axis}, HSBC. This is not just symbolic but very effective too.

Women's role is not just limited to their own immediate concerns. Their organisations are leading issues related to environment, education,

and sanitation in India. Women like Vandana Shiva and Gunta Nair are leading environmentalists and accord to more. They would lead more women in these leadership roles.

our patriarchal norms may not give ~~and~~ way to gender equality but empowered, educated, economically-independent women will be a force to reckon with and won't be satisfied with "second sex" status.

3

Precisely mention more factors which are affecting eco. emp. of women.

Q16. SHGs are one of the most potent tool of the participatory development and democratic decentralization. Discuss with relevant examples. (125 Marks)

SHGs are grassroots organisations forming an organised front of hitherto unorganised women usually facing double discrimination to Mid Day meal scheme of the government can be ~~not~~ ^{effectively} implemented if SHGs are involved in cooking process. This will give them meaningful employment as well as decentralise the whole process, making it easier ~~to~~ to implement.

In schemes like MGNREGA, SHGs can improve women participation. Also, they can help in social auditing of MGNREGA leading to transparency and hence meaningful decentralisation.

Financial inclusion schemes like zero-bank account can be

First discuss problems related to govt. prog. and policies

sustainable if women save on
SHG basis rather than independent
 by. This is especially so because
 women are more thrifty than
 men and thus SHGs will be
 more effective. This can be effective
 for woman-enterprises like weaving
~~lots of women~~
 catering business and so on.
 Panchayats at village level

usually ignore women related
 issues like lack of electrification
 sanitation and education. SHGs
 can bring these issues forward
 by giving collectivised voice to the
 domesticated women. This would
 make democratic decentralisation
 more meaningful.

3/2

Q17. The Land Acquisition Bill has been a victim of political opportunism and further hindrance to it would delay public projects further. Outline the major issues of contention in the amendments to the previous bill and explain how they will affect infrastructure projects?

(12.5 Marks)

First define both

GS SCORE

GS MAINS TEST SERIES 2015

Q18. Growth is always accompanied by inequality, however, development is much more equitable and participatory. Do you agree and why? Explain with the help of examples. (12.5 Marks)

Growth of a society relies on individual innovation which is measured by growth in GDP rate, investment rate and other economic indicators. These indicators should ground realities. For instance, India grew by 7.4% in last financial year but this doesn't encapsulate how many people remain poor, hungry or without housing.

Development is dealt with socio-economic indicators like per-capita income, health outcome and educational levels. If a country has 10% highly-educated and 90% almost uneducated population, it would be promptly reflected in its Human Development Index.

World Bank.

Similarly, a country like
Bhutan which may not be an
economic giant cares for happiness
of its people and thus ~~reflects~~
cares more about development
of all its people.

Precisely
mentions the
points of diff.

Growth may be calculated
on how many skyscrapers our
cities have, but development concerns
itself with whether the poor have
proper dwelling units or not.

3 1/2

Ref. hints

Also, growth story might pride
itself by how much investible
capital we have in our economy
but development story would care
about whether the poor sleep hungry
or fed.

Thus, development should be put
at the forefront of policy making
to make inclusive growth.

Q19. 'A number of separate states have been carved out for Tribal population of India, ranging from northeast to central India, but these steps have not been able to address the real issues on ground'. Examine the major issues that affect Tribes of India and explain how the laws that were created to protect them have alienated them from rest of the society? (12.5 Marks)

Tribes in India have poor health, education, indicators vis-a-vis the rest of India. This is exacerbated by their continuous displacement from their original lands. Despite forming 8% of total population, 40% of displaced population is tribal. Their difficult terrain has prevented government from reaching them for their welfare. This led to weak land reforms leading to internal security problems like Naxalism.

Fifth and Sixth Schedules were inserted in the Constitution to help preserve tribal culture and prevent their forceful integration in the mainstream. However, these

were not implemented in their spirit. Tribal Advisory Councils remained ornamental and states legitimised their exploitative actions in the name of consultation with them. This caused double whammy to them; they couldn't protect their way of life due to lack of awareness.

their exploitation was legitimised through their own councils.

Acts like PESA and Forests Rights Right Act were

openly flouted by passing tribal lands as rural lands as noted by Koda Committee Report.

Crony capitalism with mine developers had destroyed tribal life.

A concerted effort needs to be made to stop this exploitation and tribal population made of their legitimate rights.

4

Dilemma between contact and isolation

Q20. 'India's position hasn't improved in social indicators and its rank in HDI has also fallen over the year.' Given such a scenario, explain how the demographic dividend may become a liability for India in future? (12.5 Marks)

Analytically -
India's changing demographic -
estimation of 64% people being in
working age by 2020 - will be
a "dividend" when suitable conditions
are provided

In terms of educational indicators,
if this indicator is low, it would
mean less skilled labour in
future, which would mean
more unemployment rate and
hence more social unrest in
society. To deal with it, more
unemployment allowance will have
to given which would cause more
financial burden.

~~Further~~ low health indicators
suggest a lethargic unhealthy

explain
it

Analytically
discuss
HDI related
facts

workforce that would need more healthcare spending leading to inverted low capital. Already we're struggling to raise public expenditure beyond 1% of GDP which I have constrained fiscal space. Further aggravation in the situation doesn't bode well for health profile of the country.

3/2 Fall in dependency ratio is desirable as long as the new independent population is economically empowered. However, slow growth in per capita income suggests otherwise. Not only this, ^{rising} inequalities in society means that even if per capita income increases on paper, it is mostly exclusive in nature. Thus, it will create more liability in future.