



UP - PCS

Provincial Civil Services

Prelims & Mains

Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission, Prayagraj

General Studies

Paper 2 – Volume 3

Society, Social Justice and
Governance



UP - PSC

G.S. PAPER – 2 VOLUME – 3

SOCIETY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND GOVERNANCE

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Evolution of Indian Society

Ancient Times: Indian society was a **stratified society**.

- Society was divided into **Aryans and non-Aryans** was mentioned in **Rig Veda**.
- **Aryan society further divided into 4 groups** based on pursuit of occupations:
 - Brahmana
 - Kashtriya
 - Vaishya
 - Shudra
- This **division of socio-economic activities became a norm**, & part of social devices.



Mediaeval Times

- Indian culture went through a **transformation** influencing language, culture and religion.
- confrontation of Hindu & Muslim culture led to a **mixed culture**: Sufi writings, bhakti movement, Kabir Panth.

Modern India

- advent of British marked **re-emergence of pan Indian culture and national and social awakening** through the process of modernization.
- after independence **amalgamated different caste groups religions, race tribes, linguistic groups**.
- **ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity** as its goals in a secular, socialistic framework.

Themes

Hierarchy

- **India is a socially hierarchical country**, Whether in north or south India, Hindu or Muslim, urban or rural, nearly everything, people, and social groupings are evaluated based on a variety of essential qualities.
- **Caste groupings, individuals, and family and kinship groups all exhibit societal hierarchy**.
- Although **castes are most closely linked with Hinduism**, caste-like groupings can **also be found among Muslims, Indians, Christians, and other religious groups**.
- **Everyone in most villages or towns is aware of the relative ranks** of each locally represented caste, and this information is continually shaping behaviour.
- **Within families and kinship groups, hierarchy plays a vital role**, with men outranking women of equal age and older relatives outranking junior relatives.



Purity and Pollution

- **Social status inequalities:** Expressed in terms of ritual purity and pollution are concepts that range widely between castes, religious groups, and locations.
 - **Purity:** Generally, high status is linked to purity.
 - **Pollution:** Low status is linked to pollution.
- **Some types of purity are inherent.**
 - **Eg:** A member of the high-ranking Brahmin, or priestly, caste is born with more intrinsic cleanliness than a sweeper, or scavenger, caste.
- **Other kinds of purity are more transitory.**
 - **Eg:** A Brahmin recently bathed is more ritually pure than one who has not bathed in a day.
- **Purity is linked to ritual cleanliness:** Includes
 - Daily bathing in running water,
 - Dressing in freshly laundered garments,
 - Eating only foods suited for one's caste,
 - Avoiding direct contact with persons of lower rank or unclean things.
 - **Eg:** Another adult's body waste.
- It is **ritually polluting to be involved with violence.**



Social Interdependence

- **People** are born **into** families, clans, subcastes, **castes**, and **religious communities**, and they feel inextricably linked to them.
- Family has a **high level of emotional dependency** from a psychological standpoint.
- **Economic activities** depend greatly on **social web**.
- **Each person** is connected to **kin through** a variety of **kinship relationships**.
- **Social relationships may assist a person** in any activity
- **Theologically, there is an awareness of interconnection.**
 - A kid learns from birth that his "fate" has been "written" by divine forces and his existence is shaped by strong deities with whom he must have a continuous interaction.

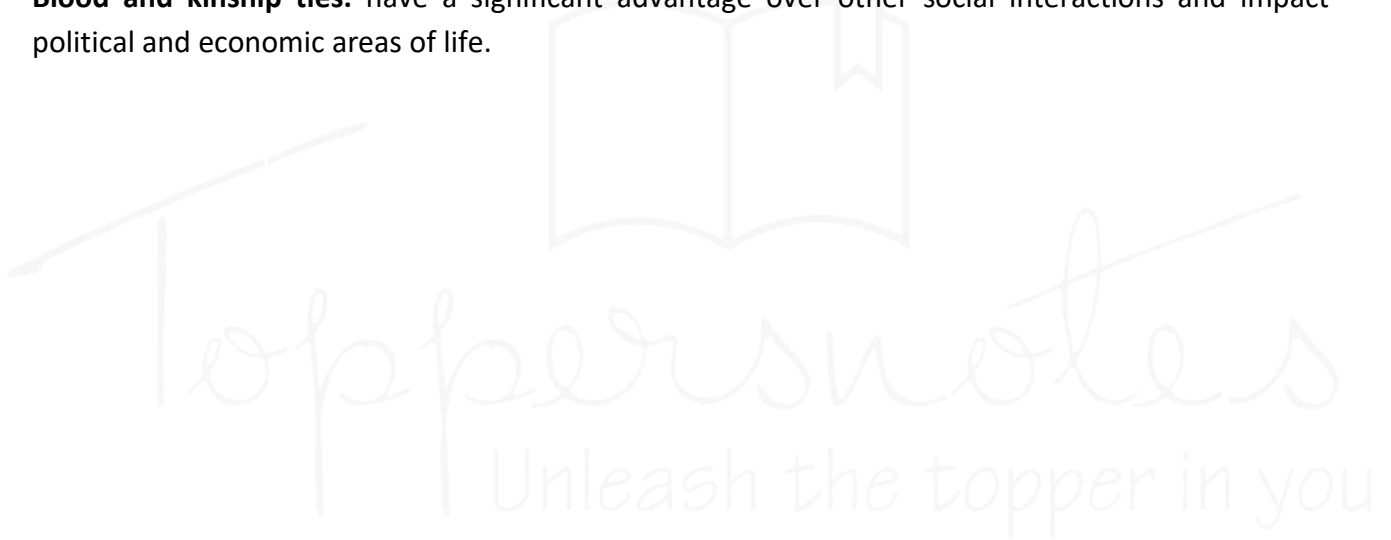


Features of Indian society

- **Multi ethnic society:** Due to the coexistence of a vast range of racial groupings in India, Indian society is multi-ethnic in character.
 - Types of Groups:
 - **Ethno-linguistic:** Shared language and dialect. **Eg:** French Canadians.
 - **Ethno-national:** Shared polity or sense of national identity. **Eg:** Austrians.
 - **Ethno-racial:** Shared physical appearance based on genetic origins. **Eg:** African Americans
 - **Ethno-regional:** A distinct local sense of belonging stemming from relative geographic isolation. **Eg:** South Islanders of New Zealand.
 - **Ethno-religious:** Shared affiliation with a particular religion, denomination or sect. **Eg:** Jews.
- **Multilingual society:** >1600 languages spoken in India.
- **Multi-class society:** divided into several classes, on the basis of one's date of birth, as well as one's financial and social achievements during the course of one's life.
- **Patriarchal society:** males having a higher social position than women.



- **Unity in diversity:** In India, diversity exists on many levels and in numerous forms, yet there remains a basic unity in social institutions and practises.
- **Traditionalism and modernity coexist:**
 - **Traditionalism:** sustaining or preservation of essential beliefs.
 - **Modernity:** a move toward rational thinking, social, scientific, and technical advancement.
- **Achieving a balance between spiritualism and materialism:** Spiritualism's fundamental goal is to help people have a better relationship with God.
 - **Materialism** is a predisposition to emphasise material belongings and bodily comfort over spiritual ideals.
- **Individualism and collectivism are in balance:** Individualism is a moral, political, or social attitude that emphasises personal independence, self-reliance, and liberty.
 - **Collectivism** is the practice of prioritising a group over each person within it. In Indian society, there is a delicate balance between them.
- **Blood and kinship ties:** have a significant advantage over other social interactions and impact political and economic areas of life.



2

CHAPTER

Culture Identity of India



- A broad and diversified range of primarily **intangible components of social life**.
- the values, beliefs, systems of language, communication, and behaviours that people share and that **may be used to characterise them as a group**.
- **Material things shared by a group or community** are also considered part of culture.

Characteristic features of Culture

- **Culture is learned:** Culture is not inherited biologically, but rather is **taught socially**.
 - It is **not an inborn inclination**, but is acquired by connection of others
- **Culture is a social phenomenon:** It is not an individual phenomenon, but rather a product of society. It emerges in society as a result of social interaction.
- **Culture is shared:** Culture is something that is shared. It is nothing that a single person may transmit but is shared by the common population of an area.
 - In a social environment, man shares conventions, traditions, values, and beliefs. These ideas and practises are shared by everybody.
- **Culture can be passed down from generation to generation:** Language is a mode of communication that transmits cultural qualities from one generation to the next.
- **Culture is a Continual Process:** It's like a stream that flows from generation to generation over ages. "Culture is the human race's memories."
- **Culture is integrated:** All parts of culture are interconnected with one another. Culture develops via the combination of its diverse components. The values system is intertwined with morals, norms, beliefs, and religion.
- **Culture is evolving:** It is not stagnant, but it is changing. Changes occur in the cultural process. However, the rates vary from civilization to society and generation to generation.



Culture in India

- Due to the existence of many groups that contribute a distinct blend to India's variety, it is regarded as a **mega culturally varied country**.
- Many culturally varied elements have given India a heterogeneous character in comparison to other major countries.



Cultural Elements of diversity in India

- **Religious Diversity**
 - India is **home to and practises all of the world's major religions**.
 - **Foreign religions have mixed with local culture to create a unique combination** that cannot be found anywhere else.
 - **Eg:** Fusion of Parsi and local cultures in Maharashtra.

- **Language**
 - India is **the 4th most linguistically diverse** country in the world
 - These **languages have evolved over hundreds of years**, this linguistic variety has **resulted in a vibrant mix in India**.
 - **thoughts and issues have a fundamental coherence**.
- **Festivals**
 - Every **area and group in India has its unique festivals** that celebrate their cultural heritage.
 - These **festivals represent the lifeblood of their culture**, and they are carefully preserved and observed.
 - These **celebrations allow communities' identities to be passed down through the generations**.
 - **Eg:** Lohri in Punjab, Pongal in Kerala, and Bihu in the Northeast.
- **Races**
 - India is **host to several of the world's major races**.
 - Over hundreds of years, these **races have mingled to produce the current races resulting in the emergence of several races in India**.
 - **Eg:** Indo-Aryan races, Dravidian races, and so on.

Significance of cultural elements in building national identity

- **Tolerance**
 - **India** has become a **model of tolerance due to the presence of varied cultures**.
 - **India's appreciation of cultural diversity is a beacon of hope in a world** where people are battling over colour and language.
- **Unity in diversity**
 - **India** has been **viewed as a country that respects all traditions and beliefs** as a result of its many cultural aspects.
 - This has **reaffirmed India's commitment to the mantra of unity in diversity**.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **Intangible cultural heritage:** Culture inherited from our ancestors and passed down to our descendants, **it includes:**
 - Oral traditions,
 - Performing arts,
 - Social practises,
 - Rituals,
 - Festive events,
 - Knowledge and practises concerning nature and the universe,
 - knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.
- Intangible cultural heritage is a **critical component in preserving cultural variety in the face of globalisation**.
- **According to UNESCO** “cultural heritage does not end at **monuments and collections of objects**. It also includes **traditions or living expressions inherited** from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events,



knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts”.

- A total of **14 Intangible cultural heritage (ICH)** elements from India have been inscribed on the UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

	Custom/ Culture Expression	Year included
1.	Tradition of Vedic Chanting	2008
2.	Ramlila, the traditional performance of Ramayana	2008
3.	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre	2008
4.	Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India	2009
5.	Navroj*	2009
6.	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala	2010
7.	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan	2010
8.	Chhau dance	2010
9.	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh	2012
10.	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur	2013
11.	Traditional brass and copper craft utensil making among the Thateras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab	2014
12.	Yoga	2016
13.	Kumbh Mela	2017
14.	Durga Puja	2021

Cultural World Heritage Sites in India

S.No.	Name of cultural world Heritage site	State	Year of Notification
1.	Agra Fort	Uttar Pradesh	1983
2.	Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra	1983
3.	Buddhist Monuments of Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh	1989
4.	Champaner-Pavagadh Archeological park	Gujarat	2004
5.	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Formerly Victoria Terminus)	Maharashtra	2004
6.	Churches and Convents of Goa	Goa	1986
7.	Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra	1987
8.	Ellora Caves	Maharashtra	1983
9.	Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh	1986
10.	Great Living Chola Temples	Tamil Nadu	1987

11.	Group of Monuments of Hampi	Karnataka	1986
12.	Group of Mounments at Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu	1984
13.	Group of Monumenta at Pattadakal	Karnataka	1987
14.	Hills Forts of Rajasthan	Rajasthan (Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambhore, Amber, Sub-Cluster, Jaisalmer, Gagron)	2013
15.	Humayun's Tomb Delhi	Delhi	1993
16.	Khajuraho Group of Monuments	Madhya Pradesh	1986
17.	Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya	Bihar	2002
18.	Mountain Railway of India	Tamil Nadu	1999
19.	Qutb Minar and Its Monuments, Delhi	Delhi	1993
20.	Rani-ki-Van (The queen's Stepwell) at Patna, Gujrat	Gujrat	2014
21.	Red Fort Complex	Delhi	2007
22.	Rock Shelter of Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh	2003
23.	Sun Temple, Konark	Orissa	1984
24.	Taj Mahal	Uttar Pradesh	1983
25.	The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	Rajasthan	2010
26.	Archeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University at Nalanda)	Bihar	2016
27.	The Archiectural work of Le corbusier an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement	Chandigarh	2016
28.	Historic City of Ahamdabad	Gujrat	2017
29.	Mumbai's victorian art decoencebles	Maharastra	2018
30.	Jaipur City, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	2019
31.	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana	Telangana	2021
32.	Dholavira: a Harappan City	Gujarat	2021



Significance of Cultural Heritage

- **A diplomatic instrument:** Bridging civilizational gaps and disparities with other nations by hosting cultural festivals to familiarise the two ethnicities with each other's sensibilities.
- **Cultural nationalism** is frequently utilised to foster a nation's unity despite its variety.
- **Proper cultural heritage preservation demonstrates tolerance for syncretism**, teaching lessons on how humans have coexisted for millennia.
- **Cultural heritage may also be used to boost the economy through tourism**, which leads to more people travelling throughout the world.



- As a result, more exchanges and the dilution of negative misconceptions and misunderstandings that arise from a lack of knowledge of other cultures.
- **Climate change:** cultural heritage is a source of constructing and expanding the "knowledge economy" to bring solutions to the world's mounting difficulties.

Government's Initiatives

Adopt a Heritage Scheme

- **Joint initiative:** The Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and the governments of the states and union territories.
- **Introduction:** September 27, 2017 (World Tourism Day).
- **Goals**
 - To **foster collaboration among all stakeholders** in order to successfully promote "ethical tourism."
 - Get **public and private** sector enterprises, as well as **citizens** to take responsibility for **making heritage and tourism more sustainable**.
 - **accomplished through developing, operating, and maintaining world-class tourism infrastructure and facilities at ASI/State historic sites**, as well as other key tourist destinations in India.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Developing** the foundations of **tourism infrastructure**.
 - For a heritage site/monument or a tourist attraction, an all-inclusive tourist experience
 - **Promoting the country's cultural and heritage** worth in order to create income.
 - Increasing the site's tourism appeal in a **sustainable** way by providing **world-class infrastructure**.
 - **Creating jobs** with the active participation of local communities.

