Indian Society –

Keywords and key phrases:

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- **Unity in Diversity** – India's defining socio-cultural identity.
- **Pluralism & Syncretism** – blending of multiple traditions (Bhakti-Sufi).
- **Caste Stratification** – hierarchical ordering of society.
- **Social Exclusion vs Social Mobility** – Dalit/tribal marginalisation vs reservation-led uplift.
- **Patriarchy & Feminisation of Poverty** – gendered inequality in society.
- **Intersectionality** – overlapping social disadvantages (gender + caste + class).
- **Demographic Dividend vs Demographic Disaster** – potential vs challenge of India's population structure.
- **Urbanisation without Industrialisation** – growth of cities without jobs.
- **Nuclearization of Families** – shift from joint to nuclear households.
- **Kinship Networks** – caste, community, and marriage-based support systems.
- **Regionalism & Sub-Nationalism** – identity politics within federalism.
- **Positive Secularism** – Indian model: equal respect for all religions.
- **Communal Polarisation** – manipulation of religious identity for politics.
- **Digital Society** – impact of social media, OTT, and internet penetration.
- **Globalisation & Cultural Hybridisation** – McDonaldisation + Indianisation (Bollywood weddings abroad, yoga globalised).
- **Consumerism & Aspirational Class** – rising middle class redefining values.
- **Generational Gap** – tension between traditional elders and modern youth.
- **Informalisation of Labour** – 80% workforce without social security.
- **Migration & Cosmopolitanism** – rural-to-urban & global diaspora shaping social fabric.

- **Tribal Assimilation vs Autonomy** – debates on integration of Adivasis.
- **Secular Constitutionalism** – Preamble + Articles 25–28 as societal safeguards.
- **Social Justice & Equity** – underpinning of constitutional morality.
- **Changing Marriage Patterns** – rise of inter-caste/interfaith marriages.
- **Ageing Population** – emerging challenge of elderly neglect.
- **Cultural Resilience** – society adapting global trends without losing identity.

General Salient Features and Issues

Keywords

- Diversity, pluralism, caste, family structures, secularism, regionalism, migration, gender relations, social cohesion.

Facts & Data

1. India = world's most populous nation (2023, 1.43B), highly diverse in language, religion, caste, and ethnicity.
2. 22 scheduled languages + 1,600 dialects (Census 2011).
3. Caste: ~16.6% Scheduled Castes, 8.6% Scheduled Tribes.
4. Urbanisation: 36% (2023), projected 50% by 2047.
5. Female literacy = 70% (Census 2011) vs male 84%; gender gap persists.

Core Features of Indian Society

- Diversity & Pluralism: Multi-religious, multi-lingual, multi-cultural; unity in diversity as binding principle.
- Caste System: Traditional hierarchy shaping identity, politics, and access to resources; evolving with modernisation and reservations.
- Family Structures: Predominantly joint families in rural areas; nuclear families growing in urban India.
- Village as Social Unit: Despite urbanisation, ~65% of population still rural; Panchayati Raj institutions central to local governance.
- Religious & Cultural Values: Spiritual

traditions, festivals, and rituals provide continuity and social cohesion.

Analysis

- Strength of Diversity: India's plurality fosters resilience, creativity, and cultural richness.
- Challenges of Social Stratification: Caste-based inequalities, discrimination against Dalits/tribals, and regional disparities create tensions.
- Gender Issues: Patriarchy, low female labour participation (~25%), and violence against women hinder equitable growth.
- Impact of Globalisation: Modern consumerism, social media, and Western values influencing family, marriage, and youth aspirations.
- Migration & Urbanisation: Economic migration reshaping cities; rural-to-urban migration drives slums, urban poverty, and stress on resources.
- Communalism & Regionalism: Identity politics and sectarian divides strain social harmony and federal balance.
- Secularism & Cohesion: Constitutional values safeguard pluralism, but need reinforcement through inclusive policies and civic education.
- Modernisation & Mobility: Education, IT revolution, and reservations improving inter-caste mobility, though inequalities persist.
- Constitutional Legacy: Articles 14–17 (equality, abolition of untouchability), Article 19 (freedoms), Article 25 (religious freedom) protect India's social fabric.

Examples

- Positive: Rise of women leaders (President Droupadi Murmu, India's first tribal woman President), IT professionals from diverse backgrounds.
- Challenges: Caste-based violence (e.g., Una incident, 2016), communal riots, rural–urban divides.
- Transformations: Migration-driven cosmopolitanism in cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi.

Conclusion

Indian society is marked by extraordinary diversity but also enduring inequalities. Its resilience lies in constitutional values, democratic traditions, and reform movements that continue to shape social change. Balancing pluralism with equity is key to making Indian society inclusive, cohesive, and future-ready.

1. Caste in Indian Society

Keywords

- Varna–jati distinction, caste rigidity, endogamy, vertical mobility, reservation, caste-politics nexus.

Facts

1. Scheduled Castes = 16.6%, Scheduled Tribes = 8.6% (Census 2011).
2. Mandal Commission: OBCs ~52% of population.
3. 25% reserved for SC/ST/OBC in central universities.

Analysis (Keywords)

- Inequality: Social exclusion, discrimination, atrocities.
- Politics: Vote bank, caste-based mobilisation.
- Mobility: Education, reservations, urbanisation driving change.
- Challenges: Rural caste violence, limited Dalit empowerment.
- Constitutional safeguards: Articles 15, 17, 46; Prevention of Atrocities Act.

Examples/Legacy

- Dalit assertion movements (Bhim Army).
- Rise of backward caste leaders (Lalu Prasad, Kanshi Ram).

Conclusion

Caste remains a structural reality but constitutional and social reforms continue to promote mobility and equality.

2. Communalism & Secularism

Keywords

- Religious pluralism, communal violence, majoritarianism, secular constitutionalism, civic nationalism.

Facts

1. 22.5% population belongs to religious minorities.
2. Communal violence incidents: ~700 annually (MHA data).

Analysis (Keywords)

- Secularism: Equal respect to all religions, Sarva Dharma Sambhava.
- Challenges: Polarisation, vote-bank politics, hate speech.
- Constitutional base: Preamble (secular), Articles 25–28.
- Institutions: National Commission for Minorities.

Examples

- Riots in Gujarat (2002), Delhi (2020).
- Peaceful interfaith co-existence in Kerala, Sufi–Bhakti legacy.

Conclusion

Indian secularism = positive secularism, balancing freedom of religion with social reform.

3. Women & Society

Keywords

- Patriarchy, gender gap, LFPR, feminisation of poverty, empowerment.

Facts

1. Female LFPR ~25% vs China 61%.
2. Female literacy 70% vs male 84% (Census 2011).

Analysis (Keywords)

- Patriarchy: Violence, wage gaps, unequal care burden.
- Legal protection: PWDVA 2005, Maternity Benefit Act.
- Schemes: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala, Janani Suraksha.
- Social progress: Rise of women leaders, SHGs, digital entrepreneurship.

Examples

- Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA).
- Women pilots in IAF, sports icons (PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu).

Conclusion

Women's empowerment is key to inclusive growth; bridging gaps requires education + social reform + representation.

4. Globalisation & Migration

Keywords

● Cultural homogenisation, brain drain, NRI remittances, cosmopolitanism, diasporic linkages.

Facts

1. India = largest diaspora (32M), remittances $111B (2022, World Bank).
2. Rural-to-urban migration = 60% of total migration.

Analysis (Keywords)

- Positive: Remittances, technology inflow, cultural exchange.
- Negative: Cultural dilution, rural brain drain, urban slums.
- Impact: Cosmopolitan urban centres vs strained rural hinterlands.

Examples

- IT boom from returnee NRIs.
- Kerala & Gulf migration remittances.

Conclusion

Globalisation = double-edged sword: opportunities + challenges, requiring cultural resilience & inclusive urban policy.

5. Regionalism in India

Keywords

- Sub-nationalism, linguistic identity, federalism, secessionism, cooperative federalism.

Facts

1. India has 28 states, 8 UTs; linguistic reorganisation (1956) was key milestone.
2. Over 1,600 mother tongues (Census 2011).
3. Northeastern insurgencies → 100+ groups active historically.

Analysis (Keywords)

- Positive: Strengthens federalism, protects local identity.
- Negative: Fuelled separatism, insurgency, demands for statehood.
- Balancing tool: Article 370/371 safeguards, Finance Commission devolution, Inter-State Council.

Examples

- Telangana statehood (2014).

- Gorkhaland, Bodoland demands.

Conclusion

Regionalism is natural in diverse India—balanced federalism ensures unity in diversity.

6. **Family Structure & Kinship**

Keywords

- Joint family, nuclearisation, patriarchy, matriliny, kinship networks.

Facts

1. Census 2011: Joint families declining; urbanisation driving nuclear trend.
2. Kerala & Meghalaya show matrilineal traditions.

Analysis (Keywords)

- Joint families: Security, collectivism, resource sharing.
- Nuclear families: Autonomy, urban lifestyle, career mobility.
- Challenges: Elderly neglect, childcare gaps, erosion of traditional support.

Examples

- Rise of old-age homes; IT professionals migrating abroad.

Conclusion

Family remains India's social anchor, adapting from joint to nuclear with globalisation.

7. Population Issues & Demographic Change

Keywords

- Demographic dividend, ageing population, fertility decline, migration burden.

Facts

1. India = 1.43B (2023), world's most populous nation.
2. Fertility rate = 2.0 (2023); below replacement in 13 states.
3. Working-age share = 67%, dividend window till ~2055.

Analysis (Keywords)

- Opportunities: Youth workforce, innovation, services exports.
- Challenges: Jobless growth, skill mismatch, unemployment.
- Ageing burden: >140M elderly by 2030, need social security.

Examples

- Kerala's ageing vs Bihar's high fertility → demographic contrasts.

Conclusion

Population is India's biggest asset or liability, depending on how policy leverages education, skilling, and jobs.

8. Social Change under Globalisation

Keywords

- Westernisation, consumerism, digital society, cultural hybridisation, aspirational class.

Facts

1. Internet penetration = 60% India vs US 92%, China 73%.
2. OTT viewership >500M; youth exposed to global culture.

Analysis (Keywords)

- Positive: Cosmopolitanism, women's workforce entry, youth aspirations.
- Negative: Erosion of traditions, fast-food culture, rising materialism.
- Hybrid model: Indian society fuses global trends with traditions (Bollywood, yoga, Indian weddings abroad).

Examples

- Western-style consumerism in metros.
- Globalisation of yoga, Ayurveda.

Conclusion

Globalisation reshapes Indian society, but resilience lies in cultural adaptation without losing core identity.