Society & Social Justice · GS - I

How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Family and kinship, religion and festivals, community institutions, cultural transmission, languages and folk traditions, changing family structures, women's empowerment, caste mobility, urbanisation, globalisation, constitutional morality, continuity through adaptation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Indian society combines historical continuity with social transformation. Family, kinship, religion and cultural traditions preserve inherited values, while modernisation, urbanisation and constitutional principles reshape social relationships.

Mechanisms Maintaining Continuity

- **Family and kinship:** Families transmit languages, customs, moral values and traditions across generations. Kinship remains important for caregiving and social support.
- **Religion and festivals:** Rituals, pilgrimages and festivals preserve collective identities and connect contemporary communities with their historical heritage.
- **Community institutions:** Village networks and community organisations continue to influence social relationships, marriage preferences and mutual assistance.
- **Cultural transmission:** Classical arts, folk traditions, oral histories and regional languages sustain cultural heritage.

- **Adaptation of traditions:** Digital platforms and changing forms of celebration allow traditions to survive in new social settings.

Changes Taking Place

- **Family structures:** Urbanisation and migration have encouraged smaller households, although extended-family ties remain significant.
- **Gender relations:** Women's education, employment and legal rights have challenged patriarchal practices.
- **Caste relations:** Education, urban employment and constitutional safeguards have expanded opportunities for social mobility, although discrimination persists.
- **Marriage patterns:** Individual choice and inter-caste marriages are increasing in some settings, while arranged marriages remain widespread.
- **Individualism:** Personal preferences increasingly influence career, lifestyle and partner selection.
- **Globalisation:** Digital communication and global cultural influences are transforming consumption, aspirations and social interaction.
- **Constitutional values:** Equality, liberty, dignity and secularism increasingly shape debates about customs and individual rights.

Conclusion

Indian society maintains continuity not through rigid resistance to change but through selective adaptation. Its future depends on preserving inclusive cultural traditions while eliminating discriminatory practices and upholding constitutional morality.

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