



Mains Practice Question

Q. Examine how globalization has influenced the cultural fabric of Indian society. Does it threaten traditional values or foster pluralism? (250 words)

28 Jul, 2025 GS Paper 1 Indian Society

Approach:

- Briefly introduce the concept of globalization.
- Discuss Globalization as a catalyst for cultural pluralism in India.
- Discuss Globalization as a threat to fostering pluralism.
- Conclude with a suitable way forward

Introduction:

Globalization, defined as the increasing **interconnectedness** of the world through the movement of **goods, ideas, information, and people**, has had a profound impact on the cultural fabric of Indian society. While it has opened new avenues for cultural exchange and pluralism, it has also led to concerns about the **erosion of indigenous traditions, languages, and value systems**.

Body

Globalization as a Catalyst for Cultural Pluralism in India :

- **Global Recognition of Indian Traditions:** Practices like **Yoga, Ayurveda**, and **Indian cuisine** have gained global recognition, with the UN declaring June 21 as International Yoga Day, indicating the reverse flow of cultural influence.
- **Cultural Hybridization:** Indian society has demonstrated remarkable adaptability by absorbing global influences while retaining its indigenous identity.
 - The international success of films like Lagaan and RRR showcases cultural fusion with global appeal.
- **Empowerment and Social Change:** Global exposure has amplified discourses around **gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights**, and environmental sustainability, encouraging shifts in social attitudes especially among urban youth.
 - The 2018 decriminalization of **homosexuality (Section 377)** was partly influenced by global human rights movements.

Globalization as a Threat to Traditional Values and Practices:

- **Cultural Homogenization and Westernization:** There is growing concern that Western ideals, consumerism, and media are displacing traditional Indian practices.
 - Festivals are increasingly commercialized, and traditional attire is often replaced by Western clothing.
 - Valentine's Day, an imported concept, is now widely celebrated, often seen as overshadowing indigenous festivals like Basant Panchami.
- **Language Displacement:** English is increasingly becoming the dominant medium in education

and employment, leading to the marginalization of regional languages and literature.

- According to the **People's Linguistic Survey of India 2013**, around 220 languages have been lost in the last 50 years and 197 have been categorised as Endangered.

▪ **Family and Social Structures:** The traditional **joint family system** is giving way to nuclear families, particularly in urban areas, leading to weakening intergenerational bonds and value transmission.

- A **NSSO survey (2011-12)** showed a marked rise in nuclear households across India post-1990s economic liberalization.

Conclusion:

As sociologist **Anthony Giddens** notes, “**Globalization** is a **dialectical process**—it both **enables and constrains**.” India's cultural journey reflects this dual impact—enriching pluralism while challenging traditions. The path forward lies in balancing heritage with global modernity through **conscious cultural negotiation**.

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