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THE SOCIAL FACT

is a monthly bulletin for sociology current affairs which tries to give aspirants a new dimensions in their sociology preparations. The Magazine has been designed in such away that the reading experience is enriching and insightful for the readers.

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ISSUE 16 : SPECIAL EDITION

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INSIDE THIS SOCIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

Connecting the dots :

Sociology is a process in making. Everyday newspapers and weekly have many important news, which have sociological angle in subtle form. This chapter helps you to connect those dots and give a clear picture of the reality.

Dear Readers,

As UPSC CSE Mains 2023 is round the corner, we from “The Social Fact team”, like to send good wishes for all the aspirants.

To make your preparation simpler, in this special edition we compiled all previous editions of the ‘Connecting the dots’. We hope, this will save your precious time and bring much needed dynamic for the sociology mains paper.

All The Best!!!

CONNECTING THE DOTS

SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

- *The rate of the people experiencing suicidal thoughts has increased globally after the Covid-19 pandemic, said director (health and family welfare services). Growing social and economic inequalities, protracted conflicts, violence, public health related-emergencies affect the whole population : **This was predicted by Durkheim in his theory of suicide through suicidogenic currents in the complex society, where in, lack of integration and regulation would lead to egoistic and anomic suicide respectively.***
- *The 'kangaroo court' runs on patriarchal diktat. Its administrators claim to speak for the community with the stated aim of exercising social control. Men set the agenda and women are typically disallowed from participating. The fine of ₹25,000 is a form of enforcing social control and pushes people into penury : **The marriage being the social fact is used by the patriarchal society to enforce constraints on the individual agency and their choices to choose their partners. This incident advocates the fact that the social systems are larger than the individual choices as said by Emile Durkheim.***
- *A research found out that Certain emojis take certain meanings based on the audience of the platform. For example, to use the skull as 'death by laughing' can be interpreted correctly on TikTok but maybe misinterpreted on Twitter/ Facebook : **Symbolic interactionism considers society is functioning based on the significant symbols. The meaning of any symbols is based on the common stock of knowledge shared by the group of individuals and it takes different forms and meetings over the period. Emojis are new significant symbols.***

- Several anti-Semitic messages were sent to the Israeli envoy Naor Gilon after Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid, who was the chair of the jury at the International Film Festival of India described *The Kashmir Files*, a film directed by Vivek Agnihotri about the exodus of the Kashmiri Pandit community from the Valley, as “vulgar” and “propaganda” : **Karl Popper says every ideology is totalitarian as it is blinded by ideological bias and hence indifference to plurality of view points. Hence ideology is antithetical to objectivity. Here, irrespective of who is right and wrong, ideology is the core of the issue.**
- The research, revealed by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) this week, found that people who followed some of Instagram’s biggest social media stars including the Kardashians, Ariana Grande and Katy Perry experienced more negative social comparison, meaning they compared themselves unfavorably to the celebrity images they were seeing and developing their low self image : **Merton’s concept of relative deprivation due to Reference group phenomenon. Here the reference group being an out and closed group, converts people into marginal men.**
- Air India airlines has banned Shankar Mishra – accused of urinating on an elderly woman passenger in November – from its flights for a duration for four months. This four-month ban is applicable from January 18 and is over and above the one-month ban implemented by the airline on December 20 : **Durkheim is appropriate to say that in every normal society, there are some abnormal people. They have to be sanctioned to bring society back into harmony and integration. These incidents confirm another fact that value disintegration is real in modern society.**
- Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur where the roles of women are all played by men, called Nupi Shabis. In the case of women’s theatre groups, the roles of men are played by women. Shumang Leela translates to “courtyard performance”. It is performed in an open courtyard surrounded by spectators on all four sides : **A gender bender is a person who dresses up and presents themselves in a way that defies societal expectations of their gender, especially as the opposite sex.**

- A green group has launched a game of flashcards on the birds of India to keep children away from screens to the open for taking a flight to nature. The game titled 'Pakshi Parichay' ('What's that Bird?') entails a set of 40 flashcards on as many species and is aimed at making children get out of their homes, observing birds and learning more about them and this will indirectly socialise the children in a better way. : **As per Parsons, the traditional role of family includes primary socialisation but due to differentiation and specialisation of institutions in the modern society, the family's role are now done by other institutions like NGO, day care centre etc.**
- Nearly two-fifths (39%) of the country's leading figures in government, business, the media and sport attended independent schools compared to the population at large (7%) according to "Elitist Britain", a study by the Sutton Trust. Britain is an increasingly divided society. Divided by politics, by class, by geography. Social mobility, the potential for those to achieve success regardless of their background, remains low : **CW Mills concept of power elite is relevant beyond the USA, where he did research on Military - capital - political office. It also explains the dominance of cultural capital in social mobility.**
- Experts say that it could also hinder the student's ability to solve their own problems. Chat GPT could be a worry for the teachers as it would leave no room for creativity : **The above opinion is the dysfunctional aspect of the chatGPT(Learning illiteracy) but if we speak from Functional aspect, chatGPT is the replication of how social changes affects education. In modern society people are no longer need to solve problems manually like how Einstein like scientists did in 19-20th century, so chatGPT is mere extension of that sophistication.**
- National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has revised its books, including the 12th class History book by removing the chapters on the Mughal empire. The change will be applicable to all the schools that follow NCERT across the country : **Neo Marxists like Althusser strongly proclaims that directly and indirectly political leadership, church, local leadership and industrial houses control education.**

- People who do not portray their true self on Facebook may have a greater stress level and feel less socially connected, a new study has warned. Researchers found that people may express their true self more easily on Facebook than in person, and the more one's "Facebook self" differs from their true self, the greater their stress level and the less socially connected they tend to be : **Psychologist Solomon Asch famously investigated how the social pressures of others could cause someone to conform. The need for one to switch from "real self" to "Facebook self" is due to the pressure of conformity and in the process, the people become less connected with the real society.**
- In a report titled, *We are being punished by the law: Three years since of abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir*, Amnesty documented interrogations, travel bans and detentions of journalists and human rights defenders. civil society and media in Jammu and Kashmir have been subjected to a vicious crackdown by the Indian government, which is determined to stifle dissent using draconian laws, policies and unlawful practices in their arsenal : **Ideological state apparatus of Althusser explains the above observation where in state tries to dominate the narratives in the group using its authority.**

GENDER - STRATIFICATION

- IIT Campuses across India are organizing screenings of Debalina Majumder's 'Gay India Matrimony (GIM)' - the film which along with Shabnam Virmani's 'Had-Anhad' was stalled from screening at Cuttack's Ravenshaw University recently. the film is shown on the very day when a trans-identifying research scholar of JU was manhandled by a family member for being gender non-conforming: **The above incident is an expression to fight against homophobia. It encompasses a range of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as being lesbian, gay, or bisexual. It has been defined as contempt, prejudice, aversion, hatred, or antipathy, may be based on irrational fear, and may also be related to religious beliefs.**

- *In Rajasthan, more than half the cases registered for crimes against women were false. In the majority of the rape cases, the perpetrators are the known people. 56% of these cases of crimes against women are false. This trend is almost similar in other states also. : **Supreme court judge Hima kohli observes that the misuse of a law can't be reason for the repealing or amending a law. We Have Not Reached The Point where Men Need Protection From Women. We can do as much as we can to nip the misuse at the bud. However, there is no denying that the power structure is in favour of men.***
- *The appointment of a man as Scotland's first "period dignity officer" has sparked outrage, with critics calling the news "absurd". Jason Grant was announced as the period dignity officer for the Tay region in a role believed to be the first of its kind, after Scotland became the first country in the world to protect the right to free period products in law : **The under representation of women in the job is the best way to perpetuate patriarchal society, says Sylvia Walby. Even in jobs which deal with women primarily are manned by non-women.***
- *The Supreme Court Collegium stood firm by its resolve to have the government appoint openly gay lawyer Saurabh Kirpal as Delhi High Court judge, saying every individual is "entitled to maintain their own dignity and individuality based on sexual orientation" : **The lack of support from the government explains how The LGBT and Queer face innumerable difficulties in the society where the only Gender Based Movements accepted orientation is heterosexuality. Homosexuality is regarded as abnormal.***
- *Women in Bengaluru can take free rides in city buses on Women's Day. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation to mark the day, has decided to offer free bus rides in all types of buses. By this move, Bangalore joined the list of cities like Delhi, Chennai, which offers free rides in the city : **this will have Impact on women's mobility, which is also linked to education, employment and access to public spaces. Many Women remain immobile due to lack of money with them. Mobility of many others is restricted by families by imposing financial control upon them.***

- *An unmarried woman walked into the State-run J.J. Hospital in December last year seeking an abortion, she was turned away. Doctors at the hospital decided that her case was legally complicated. Her pregnancy had crossed 20 weeks, she was unmarried and the reason for her pregnancy was determined “as due to failure of contraception” : **This is happening despite the landmark judgment by the Supreme Court in September 2022 that unmarried women too can terminate their pregnancy until 24 weeks. This shows the apathy of society towards the women’s rights.***
- *Half of explicitly aggressive and misogynistic tweets containing abusive words are posted by women in the UK, a new study has found. This study provides a birds-eye snapshot of what is ultimately a very personal and often traumatic experience for women : **Patriarchy, Misogyny, Sexism are the structures which are against women but not necessarily by the men. The above example shows how the women are influenced by the patriarchal structure and in turn cause problems to themselves.***
- *A court in Pakistan has caused outrage after it freed a convicted rapist when he agreed to marry his victim. Dawlat Khan, 25, had been sentenced to life imprisonment in May by the district court of Buner, in north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, for the rape of a young deaf woman : **This is an example of victimisation of victim, Malveka Karlekar in her article ‘Breaking silence’ advocates that victims of rape do not break their silence in the court of law or in front of police rather they break their silence through suicide or by joining the brothels.***
- *Over 100 women students of Delhi University broke the curfew timings of their hostels and PGs to participate in a midnight march on a Sunday around North Campus to “reclaim the streets at night”. Raising slogans against curfew timings for women students, they walked around the campus and gathered outside the Arts Faculty till 3 a.m. : **We see this women’s night march as a testament to the resilience and strength of women The march is a strong statement about women demanding the right to live without fear and occupy public spaces without restrictions.***

- *Kalakshetra, the globally recognised Tamil Nadu-based arts and cultural centre, has been rocked by allegations of sexual harassment for weeks now. The allegations, first made online by students of a Kalakshetra Foundation run college, have forced Kalakshetra to dismiss three staff members and the Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin promised the stringent action against the convicted persons: **As a human rights issue, the effort to end violence against women becomes a government's obligation, not just a good idea.** – Charlotte Bunch.*
- *A proposed Bill on granting a day's leave to school and college-going girls and women in jobs was not found worthy of discussion in the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly. An MLA said the Assembly was "too holy" a place to discuss a "letera cheez (dirty thing)": **Only 5 out of 60 MLA are women in Arunachal Pradesh assembly so lack of representation of women in the political sphere trivialize the important issues of the women. Women political inclusion is a social, economic, and political good in itself.***
- *Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) leader Salhoutuonuo Kruse, 55, who made history by becoming Nagaland's first woman Minister, said she was thrilled after being sworn in as one of the 12 Ministers. The main challenge was contesting the polls as a woman in the Naga society that has a patriarchal mindset, although accommodative to a considerable extent now : **Women under public patriarchy are allowed roles in the public sphere, but remain oppressed by the gender inequalities in paid employment, education, economic conditions, and positions of power held in society. This can be a step towards removing public patriarchy in Nagaland.***

CASTE - STRATIFICATION

- A Dalit guest lecturer at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith in Varanasi has lost his job and been barred from entering the university premises for suggesting on social media that women are better off reading the Constitution and Hindu Code Bill instead of fasting during Navratri : **As Andre Betielle says, Constitution may direct on what direction a society should move but the customs would decide the final direction.**
- Over 37% Dalit and Adivasi students were asked their entrance examination ranks by fellow students with the intention of finding out their caste, an internal survey at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay had found last year. The survey also pointed out the institutional discrimination faced by the dalit students are trivialized as individual mental health issues: **Covert casteism is a form of caste discrimination that is disguised and subtle, rather than public or obvious. Concealed in the fabric of society, covert casteism discriminates against individuals through often evasive or seemingly passive methods.**
- The Tamil Nadu police have commenced a probe into the presence of human excreta in an overhead water tank of a Scheduled Caste (SC) colony in Pudukkottai district. Residents of Vengaivasal in Muttukadu panchayat in the Pudukkottai district complained to the police after finding that human excreta was dumped into the overhead water tank that supplies water to the colony : **Dumont holds the notion of purity and pollution interlinked with the caste system and untouchability. The hierarchy of caste is decided according to the degree of purity and pollution. It plays a very crucial role in maintaining the required distance between different castes.**
- Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) announced that the party would contest the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Andhra Pradesh, and organize a large public rally for that. VCK is a dalit party originally from the state of Tamil Nadu : **On a functional side, Dalit consciousness is developing beyond language barrier and on the dysfunctional side, political parties are using one identity (caste) over other (Language) for the vote banks.**

- *The sanitation workers of Dharmapuri pick up human excreta daily — an inhuman job that also has administrative corruption and caste bias built into it; workers speak out about how the administration treats them on a daily basis, but still there is no remedy for the people (mostly so called lower caste) who are doing the inhuman job : **Socio-political instrument like Constitution rejected the age-old concept of purity and Pollution in the caste system but in reality political-bureaucratic structure itself act as hindrance to the eradication, over and above the social biases.***
- *A Class 11 student in Uttar Pradesh was allegedly beaten up by his school principal after he drank water from a bottle kept on a table. A case has been registered against seven persons, including the principal, under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act : **Ambedkar through his work “Annihilation of caste “ says how marginalisation is legitimised in order to sustain the dominance of the ‘upper castes’. He advocated that people belonging to the ‘lower castes’ can achieve parity with other members of the society only when they build self-respect, get educated.***
- *A caste conflict has snowballed into a major issue with the village development committee (VDC) issuing an illegal diktat to socially boycott more than 400 people belonging to the Munnuru Kapu community in Nizamabad. As many as 85 families who have been suffering because of the boycott have approached the district authorities seeking their intervention. : **This is an extreme form of untouchability and pollution concept which is characterized by certain avoidance of physical contact, social sanction, social disabilities and the maintenance of social distance in the attempt to maintain the purity of an individual but here in addition to caste, economic reasons are also part of it.***
- *Papanadu police have arrested a hair dresser at Orathanadu taluk, on the charge of practising ‘untouchability’. He runs a saloon at Kilamangalam area. Hairstyling service was denied to those hailing from the oppressed classes and ‘double tumbler’ system too was prevalent in tea shops : **Despite numerous efforts, Untouchability is still a social fact in villages. BR Ambedkar says Village is nothing but a sink of localism, a den of ignorance, narrow mindedness, and communalism and criticizes Village for its attachment with this social evil.***

STRATIFICATIONS - OTHER TOPICS

- Leaders of six communities (Tai-Ahom, Matak, Moran, Chutia, KochRajbongshi, and Adivasi) in Assam, which are agitating for Scheduled Tribe status in their State, have stressed the need to stay united in their fight. A consensus was arrived at regarding the inclusion of just two of the six agitating communities — Matak and Moran — with more meetings promised to discuss the possibility of including the others : **'Scramble for benefits' concept where group of communities unite to avail the concession of a democratic state. Desanskritization for reservation concept is similar to this.**
- Social diversity missing in the higher judiciary, center tells House panel. The center says the inequitable representation of backward and minority communities in the higher judiciary is evident from the fact that 79% of all high court judges appointed in HC are from the "upper caste", and only 2.8% are from a scheduled caste : **This lack of social mobility is the reflection of a little to no availability of cultural and social capital among the backward castes. The accumulation of knowledge, behaviors, and skills that a person can tap into to demonstrate one's cultural competence and social status is often denied.**
- Words are politically weighted, and an example of that is playing out between the BJP and the Congress over just how to refer to India's tribal communities. According to the Congress, it should be "Adivasi" (original inhabitants), while the Sangh Parivar opts for "Vanvasi": **The problems of tribal people starts from the very naming itself, says GS Ghurye. While Elwin called them as 'original owners of the country', Hunton and Grigson regarded them as 'primitive tribes'. In some cases, they are being associated with caste name also as Ghurye called them as 'backward Hindus.**
- In Bison Hills, wedding bells fall silent as Konda Reddi tribals face 'cultural trauma as the government told them to be prepared to be displaced from Godavari River before the next monsoon arrives: This is a challenge of social transformation. From birth, the wedding to death, every ritual

begins with a holy dip in the Godavari. For some rituals, soil and sand are brought from the banks of the river and offered to our local deities to commence agricultural activities.: **Among many problems, Cultural shock and trauma is the most difficult one faced by the displaced communities since the independence.**

- *The Bareilly Development Authority's (BDA) decision to remove structures and houses said to be illegally built on the land acquired by the authority in two-three villages of the district has led to major protests and pushback. The protesters alleged that about 600 houses are likely to be demolished and at least 21,000 people — mostly from the SC, Muslim, and OBC social groups who either work as daily wage laborers or street vendors — would become homeless: **This is a classic example of marginalization on the basis of the socio-economic structure. Protesters have their concerns and anxieties and are often reminded of their marginal positions.***
- *The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) on Monday evaded a direct question from Odisha's Congress MP, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, on the number of requests for Scheduled Tribe status pending with the Union government and appropriate authorities : **Sociologists like Xaxa criticised the government for their lack of efforts towards the upliftment of tribals. Former Tribal Affairs Secretary Hrusikesh Panda also said that the existing procedure for scheduling was too "cumbersome" and "defeats the Constitutional agenda of affirmative action and inclusion".***
- *Following the Madras high court order, the Tamil Nadu government has issued an order banning performance of 'kuravan kurathi' dance in the cultural programmes. Recently, Madras high court ordered the government to ensure that no dance performance was identified as using a caste/tribal community's name to insult or degrade people belonging to such community : **The government should not grant permission for the cultural programmes depicting obscene and denigrating the social status of people belonging to the kuravar community.***

- The Kerala Forest Department collaborated with the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) in Thiruvananthapuram to conduct a camp that focused on the basics of rocket design and launch. The threeday programme was the first in a series planned by the department's EcoDevelopment and Tribal Welfare wing to enhance scientific temper among forest-dependent communities in the State : **Verrier Elwin's approach towards tribals are criticised as Museumization of tribals. Now, the government is following the integration approach propounded by G.S Ghurye.**
- Gram Panchayat of Herwad village in Kolhapur district approved a resolution to end the widowhood tradition. The Panchayat members declared that no one should force widows to stop applying kumkum, putting on bangles or wearing colorful clothes; the villagers must also not ban them from attending marriages and christening ceremonies. : **The shackles that once decided matters for India's villages, caste, patriarchy, agriculture, no longer exercises their vigorous hold, says Dipankar Gupta.**
- Social media is redefining how people grieve, with Twitter in particular widening the conversation around death and mourning which were earlier considered to be private matters, a new study has found. to discuss, debate, and even canonize or condemn" them : **The effect of technology in the societal structure is evident both in tangible and in intangible terms, even though the results are in latent form.**

WORK AND ECONOMICS

- In 2022, start ups like Byjus, Ola, Unacademy, Vedantu, Chargebee, White hat jr, announced lay-offs. The reasons included restructuring, cost-cutting, automation among others but the most important reason for the mass lay-offs is the lack of unions for the employees in the start ups: **Unions are typically associated with manual labour, while IT employees are associated with "elitism" and "professionalism". They have competitive compensation pay packages, supposedly good conditions of work and a mechanism to address grievances.**

- *The recent data shows that the aggravation of depression and other mental health issues leading to suicide is being repeatedly attributed to technology. Factors such as cyberbullying, loss of self-esteem due to social media, extreme binge-watching of online content or heavy reliance on virtual followers/communities for validation are all said to be contributing to the issue : **Marxist school says that above condition is the consequence of exploitation and alienation of capitalist society. People are moving towards false consciousness like binge watching in the name of leisure and prone to suicidal thoughts.***
- *Elon Musk has given Twitter's staff an ultimatum: commit to being "extremely hardcore" and working long hours, or else leave the company with three months' severance pay. He wrote that employees "will need to be extremely hardcore" to build "a breakthrough Twitter 2.0" and that "long hours at high intensity" will be needed for success : **It is an example of forced workaholism. Workaholism is a motivation to work and having excessive work behavior. It affects the social sphere of the employees by intervening with the close personal relationships and distorts the balance between family and work.***
- *French authorities rejected a nurse's application to be naturalized, arguing that she works too much. French law stipulates that employees cannot work over 48 hours in one week or a weekly average of 44 hours over a 12-week period. "You thus accumulate three jobs for a monthly duration of 271 working hours," it states. : **Karl Marx talks about how economic infrastructure influences the other social superstructure. First world countries who have developed can afford to have policies which prioritize the social well being of the people, which is a distant dream in economically underdeveloped countries.***
- *In recent years, many have embraced hustle culture, believing sustained hard work can turn every dream into reality. However, several studies have shown that overwork can not only lead to early-age burnout but also severely damage people's health : **Marxists argue that hustle culture is the product of exploitative capitalism as it works in favour of economy at the cost of human well being.***

- SS Rajamouli's RRR has created history by becoming the first Indian feature film to win an Oscar. The film's 'Naatu Naatu' soundtrack by MM Keeravani was awarded the Best Original Song Award at the ongoing 95th Academy Awards in USA : **In the Marxist view, The way the win of RRR is branded as the success of India makes to feel that the nomination and win is an attempt to pander to the Indian market. The Academy, like any other organization at this level, needs sponsors and advertising, which in turn needs viewers. Viewership comes from one of the largest countries (India) in the world which, unlike China, does not have any internet restrictions.**
- Twitter has fired thousands of contract workers as Elon Musk continues to implement aggressive measures to bring the social media giant back on its feet. Staff were not given any heads up before being laid off. The terminated staff only discovered they had been let go after losing access to work systems : **Karl Marx predicted that when workers lost their say over the product they produced, they would be removed from the market without their consent and the presence of a vast reserve army of labor increased this plight.**
- A new trend known as 'quiet quitting' has dominated social media platforms like Twitter and TikTok. The phrase doesn't refer to employees actually leaving their jobs, but instead, doing the bare minimum required of them. Employers consider it to be lazy, disloyal and potentially indicative of an overall downward spiral : **Neo Marxist says Capitalism will find new ways and jargon to make the work efficient through exploitation and in turn it will lead to alienation. The need to strike a healthy worklife balance through quiet quitting is seen as rebellion by exploitative capitalism.**
- Following the rumors about the attacks of North Indian migrants in Tamil Nadu, the state government acted swiftly by conducting 100s of camps to alleviate the fears of the migrants and issued pamphlets in Hindi, which is quite different as the party in the power is known for supporting the concept of sons of soil : **The Sons of soil was a prominent phenomenon in the late 1960s to 1990, where people from other state faced discrimination to social isolation. But once the economical integration happens within the country, the economic interest takes precedence over the identity like ethnicity, race, religion etc.**

STATE - NATION - POLITY

- Demonstrators took to streets across Iran again on Saturday over Mahsa Amini despite Internet cuts, as the protest movement sparked by outrage over her death in custody enters a fifth week. Amini's death on September 16 has fuelled the biggest wave of street and social protest, violence seen in the country for years : **Hashtags(#) are becoming new leaders for leaderless movements. The new social movement is taking shape where protesters are using both physical and digital presence for their cause.**
- The FSSAI had issued a directive to the federation of milk producers in Tamil Nadu, asking them to change the labels of their curd packets from 'curd' in English and 'thayir' in Tamil to 'dahi' in Hindi. The directive also applied to other dairy products such as butter and cheese : **Mayron Weiner says that India as a nation state is yet to develop as a nation. In India, people have gone for territorial integration, constitutional integration and political integration.**
- Many human rights activists criticized FIFA (The World governing body for Football) for taking the double standards and imposing its own biased ideology over the sport. They questioned the way Russia is banned from the World cup (WC) by citing the human rights violation but allowing Iran to participate in WC and conducting it in Qatar, which is infamous for human rights violations. : **Ohmae describes how globalization enabled transnational organizations to gain power and influence the society with their own values and ideology.**
- NASA on Monday named the first woman and the first African American ever assigned as astronauts to a lunar mission. Christina Koch, an engineer, was named as a mission specialist for the Artemis II lunar fly-by. Victor Glover, a U.S. Navy aviator, will be the first Black astronaut to be sent on a lunar mission: **This is a conscious effort of Nation building by including women and black people. Nation-building is the process whereby a society of people with diverse origins, histories, languages, cultures, and religions come together within the boundaries of a sovereign state.**

- Almost 6,200 children of Myanmar people who fled the civil war back home are studying in schools in Mizoram, mostly in the border districts. Officials in State capital Aizawl said most of the students who have taken refuge from across the international border are in government-run schools as it shares a 510 km border with Myanmar: **Clifford Geertz opines that Western concept of nation-state is not an omnipresent one and trans-border ethnic nationalism is very much evident in the 21st century.**
- From far-right demonstrators in the US, attacks on synagogues in Sweden, arson attacks on kosher restaurants in France and an increase in crimes against Jews in the UK, globally, anti-Semitism is exploding once again. According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), an annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents in the US showed a 34 per cent increase from 2020 to 2021 : **Robert E Park cites ethnic violence based on race is still present because of the lack of social interaction and presence of racial consciousness. “We vs they” concept is the root cause for new judeophobia.**
- Former U.S. President Donald Trump dramatically raised the stakes of the 2024 election as he warned he was the only candidate who could save America from “warmonger” Democrats and the “zealots and fools” of the mainstream Republican party, similarly in many countries individuals voices are gaining more weightage than the party as whole : **Among many reasons for the crisis of democracy, the lack of intra party democracy in the prominent political parties is the most dangerous one. One-man ship within a party would affect the larger society, once they capture power through the democratic process.**
- In the last few weeks, two important events happened in global geopolitics. Women-Life-Freedom movement in Iran forces the theocratic government to revoke the Moral police, whereas in China, the totalitarian government has eased the zero covid policy due to the increasing protest by the people : **The biggest advantage of the new social movement(NSM) is its very structure and how it organizes. The leaderless NSM makes the demands more dynamic and fluid and able to give platform to “n” numbers of people, which governments find difficult to handle.**

- Rights group Open Stadiums have called on FIFA to throw Iran out of the World Cup finals in Qatar in November because of the country's treatment of women. The organisation said Iranian authorities continued to refuse to allow female fans access to games inside the country despite pressure from the game's governing body : **Pressure groups around the world are now focussing on the social issues like rights, dignity of the women as against 19th century pressure groups and now it ushers a wave of new social movements.**
- German sportswear brand Adidas announced that it would sever its nearly decade-long partnership with US musician and fashion designer, Kanye West. Adidas, which has had a strained relationship with Kanye West, made the decision after the musician's recent controversial statements elicited widespread condemnation by a number of Jewish rights groups. : **Influence of pressure groups is not only confined to the state-nation politics but also to the capitalist economy and its institutions.**
- Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis asked for forgiveness from the kin of the 57 dead in the nation's worst rail disaster and promised to provide relief immediately. Similarly, last year the Indian Prime minister apologized for the inconvenience caused due to the strict lockdowns and informed the government doing everything to relieve the pressure on people : **Tronto argues Care is currently too far removed from the concerns of politics. Caring Democracy traces the reasons for this disconnection and argues for the need to make care, not economics, the central concern of democratic political life. Above incidents are an example of having care at the center of democracy.**
- Young singles campaign for politically aligned love on dating apps. Beyond listing one's political affiliation, some users are more explicit about it in their bios. In a dropdown menu option, one user lists "talk Marxism for hours" as an activity to do together : **Influence of Politics in the family life. Family as an institution lost various functions to others institutions like Schools, Care home, government. Now the politics also taking some other functions such as emotions, away from family.**

- In an attempt at reaching out to the numerically significant Dalit community, Samajwadi Party (SP) national president Akhilesh Yadav is likely to unveil a statue of Bahujan Samaj Party founder and Dalit leader Kanshi Ram at a function in Rae Bareilly. Mr. Yadav will also address a public meeting where he is likely to focus on the party's agenda of Other Backward Classes-Dalit unity, which gained momentum after the 2022 Vidhan Sabha polls : **This is an example of opportunistic politics, which can hamper Indian Secularism, Amartya Sen argued that secular India will be possible only through education, caste free employment and democratic participation.**
- Social media platforms are posing new challenges to child safety. Children are being manipulated on social media platforms, technically known as grooming and these agencies are not ready to cooperate. The government wants these companies to give parents the right to access to accounts of children on social media but these multi-national companies are ignorant and not ready to cooperate with state : **Kenichi Ohmae in his borderless world explains the growing dominance of transnational company in the day to day life of people and its tussle over the nation state.**
- The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes stated that excluding beef from the proposed Ambur biryani festival would be tantamount to "discrimination," and that such restrictions should be avoided in state-sponsored events. The Commission rejected the reason of District Magistrate that organizers were avoiding beef and pork to respect the sentiments of the people, as many Hindus reside in the town : **Bureaucracy is known for its iron cage of rationality but in reality rationality is overshadowed by the dominant group politics and acting as an arm for ideological state apparatus.**
- As Chennai-based The Cherian Foundation turns 20, its popular wig donation campaign enters its 10th year, with about 1,500 cancer patients benefiting from it so far. All the accumulated hair is then washed, treated, woven into wigs and given free of cost to cancer patients from underprivileged families. : **Here, Civil societies acts as a moral support for the vulnerable people. The idea of civil society can be understood**

as intersecting emotions, discourses and practices and can add to the body of scholarly work that nurtures and values everyday life as a lens through which to view wider social processes.

- *Many tens of thousands of Israelis took to the streets in mass rallies on Saturday evening against the government's legislative efforts to dramatically weaken the High Court of Justice and secure political control over judicial appointments : **The new politics moves away from people relying upon elites to represent them. In the new politics, social movements encourage everyone to become involved in campaigns over certain issues. The members of new social movements are often suspicious of leaders and want to retain democratic control over their own organizations.***
- *The study of 129,826 young adult men living in four cities -- Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City and Los Angeles -- in 2020 and 2021 found that men ages 18 to 29 in the most violent zip code of Chicago and Philadelphia faced a higher risk of firearm-related homicide than US soldiers who were deployed to Afghanistan : **Gun Violence is the most prevalent social issue in USA, among many reasons the presence of strong lobby behind the laws, is what preventing the state to take action against the violence. (Pressure groups influence in politics)***
- *The Afghan Journalist Safety Committee, an Afghan watchdog organization that promotes the safety of journalists and press freedom and which was involved in mediation for the station's reopening, welcomed the resumption of broadcasts. A women-run radio station in northeastern Afghanistan has resumed its broadcasts after officials shut it down for a week for playing music during the holy month of Ramadan : **Active Civil society organizations (CSOs) can provide both immediate relief and longer-term transformative change – by defending collective interests and increasing accountability; providing solidarity mechanisms and promoting participation; influencing decision making.***

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

- *The age-old custom of isolating menstruating women from their families and home is still alive and kicking at a village in Veppanthattai. Around 250 families hailing from the Dalit community, which resides in the slum area of the village, follow the practice of forcing a menstruating woman to stay in a concrete hut called muttukkadu outside the village. The community follows this practice fearing the wrath of the village deity if the norm is broken : **Karen Armstrong argues that none of the religion has particularly good for women. Although women may have made significant advances in other field, the gains in most religion is very limited.***
- *40% of the world's 60 million child marriages take place in India according to the National Family Health Survey. India has the 14th highest rate of child marriage in the world, according to the International Center for Research on Women : **Despite the efforts by various Governments and civil societies, this social menace still exists. Child marriage is a complex issue. It is rooted in gender inequality and the belief that girls and women are inferior to boys and men. It is made worse by poverty, lack of education, harmful social norms and practices, and insecurity and amplified by Patriarchy.***
- *On February 25, the students and the officials of the University of Delhi (DU) will wear the Indian angavastrā, a stole-like garment draped over the shoulders, at the 99th convocation ceremony, instead of the typical black robes : **Religious revivalism is a well known concept. The above incident is the example of cultural revivalism in the society. Cultural revivalism refers to the formation of group identity around a common culture, where a claim is forwarded that the aspects of culture with which the group identifies have been recovered after losses due to colonization, forced or voluntary relocation, oppression, or modernization.***
- *The Delhi High Court has stayed proceedings under the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act in a case where a man moved a local court accusing his wife of adultery, taking a prima facie view that protection under the DV Act is not available to the husband : **It is justified by the concept of positive discrimination towards vulnerable communities, Diluting the original intent of the act will help in aggravating the violence against***

women as Crimes against women in India increased by 15.3 per cent in 2021, according to recently-released NCRB data.

- *The transgender community observes Navratri with total dedication to invoke goddess Durga and seek her blessings and this puja, they are organising a unique one every year, making even the idol on their own here. An outfit that works for the rights of the LGBT community said, “We implore the goddess to make us man or woman in our next birth, pray to her to liberate us from the shackles of indignity and humiliation. : **Compensators theory says, As long as the problems of today proliferates, the hope of tomorrow exists, religion will find its place in the world.***
- *Thirty-three years after Khomeini declared Rushdie’s book blasphemous and put a bounty on his head in 1989, the author was stabbed repeatedly at a public appearance in New York State. This has haunted many liberal novelists and thinkers whose writings were also seen as insulting to Islam and the Prophet Mohammad : **Among many reasons for the rise of fundamentalism in the religion, Asish Nandi considered over emphasis of the modernity and liberal ideas without accepting the diversity is resulting in the fundamentalist activities.***
- *Indian Railways has renamed Tipu Express, which plies between Mysuru and Bengaluru, as Wodeyar Express. However, critics have slammed the move on the grounds that this was in continuation of the Bharatiya Janata Party name-changing spree to efface historical legacy of Muslim rulers : **Randhir singh criticised the political parties that they are now increasingly based on interest rather than on ideologies. Cultural nationalism in the name of revisiting the past is becoming new tool for vote bank politics.***
- *TMC invokes Bengali pride after Sourav Ganguly loses out on second term as BCCI chief. TMC cites this as an act of “political vendetta” against one of the biggest sporting icons of West Bengal. It was an attempt to point out that Mr. Ganguly had been “sidelined” since he was from Bengal, thereby attempting to raise the plank of Bengali pride, an issue which the TMC used successfully in the 2021 Assembly polls : **Ethnic mobilisation is very much prevalent in Indian politics, it helps in capturing power for elites and at the same time provides the solidarity for the commoners.***

FAMILY

- To make Uttar Pradesh free of abusive language, Selfie with daughter foundation has launched an innovative campaign “Gaali Band (stop abusing)” whereby a chart is put up in houses and the number of abuses hurled by male members of a family in a day are marked and counted : **Parsons definition of functions of family is criticised by the fact that it gives only the male personality stabilization. The above campaign will solve this issue and ensures dignity of the woman and democratisation of relations.**
- The Maharashtra government has formed a committee to study and gather information on intercaste and interfaith marriages. The 12-member committee has been named as Intercaste/Interfaith Marriage-Family Coordination Committee. : **The government’s panel sought to embody the societal prejudice against non-endogamous marriages in India whose manifestations occur in the form of familial estrangement, social boycotts, “honour” killings, etc.**
- According to a 2020 study published in the Journal Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review, parents’ behaviour differs depending on the gender of the kid. Based on 45 previous studies, the researchers concluded that parents unconsciously behave differently in the case of their sons and daughters. They may support gender equality openly, yet may act along gendered lines : **This will indirectly has an effect on children as nonverbal communication will impact more on kids as compared to the message being openly conveyed to them. (Socialisation and sensitisation process)**
- Same-sex marriages can rock societal values says center and it adds that any change in human relationship should come from legislature, not court, Centre says in its affidavit in response to a Supreme Court decision to examine petitions on same-sex marriage : **Discourses about same-sex marriage are shaped by the combination of the informant’s social imagination of homosexuality with their religious and political ideologies like Young political liberals, Young religious conservatives, Older liberals (detailed explanation is given in our Telegram channel)**

- Muslim, Jain, Sikh, and Christian leaders, along with the RSS, are opposing same-sex marriage as the SC takes up the case, arguing that it contravenes scriptures, societal values, and natural order. it is against the natural family order apart from being in contravention of their differing scriptures. Several leaders reiterated the sentiment that marriage is an institution for procreation, not recreation: **Religious leaders across different faiths have joined hands to oppose the plea for recognition of same-sex marriages in the SC showing the fear of losing their (Religion) hold over the individuals through the institution of the family**

SOCIAL CHANGE

- A research report on contets which are posted online, found that a “wellcrafted lie” will get more engagements than typical, truthful content and that some features of social media sites and their algorithms contribute to the spread of misinformation : **Post Modernists believes social media is the tool for the modernity and deep inside it is also acting as a challenge for social transformation.**
- Two Kerala women reported missing by their families three months apart and bound by a common profession - selling lottery tickets - became victims of human sacrifice in a bizarre ritual orchestrated by a self-styled voodoo man professing to bring luck to a couple facing financial problems : **This is an example of Dipankar Gupta’s ‘mistaken modernity’ concept where in both modern values like rational education coexist with primordial activities like human sacrifice even in an ‘advanced’ state like Kerala.**
- As per All India Survey on Higher Education data, Student enrolments went up by 7.5% in 2020-21 but proportion of SC, OBC, Muslim enrolments down compared to the previous year; number of colleges increased by 1,453; teachers belonging to SC and ST communities continued to be underrepresented; 75 women teachers to every 100 male ones across institutes in country : **Andre Beteille finds out that there is a gender, caste regional gaps in the educational consumption in India. Yogendra Singh considers that education has been operating as a vehicle for the rise of modern India.**

- *Twitter's Considering Charging Brands \$1,000 Per Month for its New Gold Checkmark and for the individuals twitter is planning to charge ₹650 per month in India for the Blue tick : **In twitter blue tick is used for authentication in practical purpose but latent way it is seen as a social status. Now by charging an amount for that features, social status are now dictated by the economic power. In other words commodification of social status is happening in social media.***
- *Controversy erupted at the Jawaharlal Nehru University once again, this time over walls being defaced with anti-Brahmin slogans. Walls of the second and third floors of the school of language and literature and doors of several faculty members have been painted with objectionable slogans : **Despite universities being modern, secular institutions, caste slogans are very much prevalent in India, as Dipankar Gupta says . Modernity, is not about technology and consumption, as is mistakenly believed in India, but has to do with attitudes, especially those that come into play in our social relations.***
- *Nearly 50 years after Native American activist and actor Sacheen Littlefeather was booed off stage at the Oscars for protesting against the misrepresentation of Native American tribes in the entertainment industry, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has apologized to her for the abuse she had to endure : **The change of value system is the marker of modernisation and the society embraces the new pattern variable over other. As it comes from inside the society, it is called orthogenetic change.***
- *Recently, the Times of India published an article about the post covid firing in tech companies and found that a large number of employees are openly announcing their firing on social media, which was once considered taboo: **Many sacked employees announce it on social media because layoffs are no longer seen as a reflection of incompetence rather it is understood by the people as the part of the companies life cycle. It is an example of the percolation of modern values and the ability to differentiate professional life and personal choice.***

- *The past few weeks witnessed an outpouring of anger in the Jain community as hundreds took to the streets protesting two incidents related to holy sites in Jharkhand and Gujarat. While the outcry in Jharkhand was against the categorisation of one of the community's most sacred sites— Sammed Shikharji atop Parasnath Hill in Giridih district — as a religious tourist destination, protests spread to Gujarat against the alleged desecration of a temple in Shatranjaya Hills in Bhavnagar district : **Bainbridge advocates that conventional theory of modernity speaking about secularisation finds no space in empirical context of contemporary social life.***
- *Opinions Divided As Bengaluru's Cubbon Park Bans Food, Games And Public Display Of Affection. According to the new rules, visitors are not allowed to carry food or eat inside Cubbon Park, play games there, click photos and couples can't get too close: **The difference of opinions, in this case, explained the mixed modernity we are living. When two different patterns variable conflict with each other, the government would force to take the decision of majority norms.***

MISCELLANEOUS

- *Tamil Nadu to introduce mental health programme in govt schools, In order to address mental health issues among adolescent children in government and government-aided schools : **Hussley says that education is vital for individual improvement in the society as the school helped them to develop the specialized others and generalized others. The values of equality, justice, and space for creativity make children in School selfconfident and hence play his/her future social roles effectively.***
- *The Dalai Lama has apologized after a video emerged showing the spiritual leader kissing a child on the lips and then asking him to “suck my tongue” at an event in northern India : **This is an example of violence against vulnerable population which includes children.***

- Two environmental protesters appeared in a U.K. court after throwing tomato soup over one of Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" paintings at London's National Gallery. Following the latest "direct-action" stunt targeting works of art, the duo pleaded not guilty to criminal damage : **'Direct action was coined by US anarcho-feminist V. de Cleyre. Radical climate activism seeks to draw media and public attention to the issue. These tactics are designed to disrupt the status quo. Eco terrorism, Gandian Crusaders are other climate change movements.**
- We live in a society governed by rule of law. Rule of law, if understood and implemented properly, is a defense against oppressive structures such as patriarchy, casteism, and ableism. It is an aspirational goal, which is beyond you and me as individuals, but towards which all of us have our parts to play," Justice Chandrachud, who has been nominated as the next Chief Justice of India. : **This speech of CJI is an attempt to change the value system of the people as André Beteille says India is governed by customs more than law. Only when law and customs are in the same page, there will be a consensus in mass mobilisation against social evils.**



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