THE SOCIAL FACT

SPECIAL EDITION - MAINS 2025

THE SOCIAL FACT

INSIDE THIS SOCIOLOCIAL 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 2025 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 THEORIES

- *The recent reports indicate that Amazon has introduced a stricter process for work-from-home (WFH) requests from specially-abled employees as part of its broader return-to-office policy. Under this revised policy, these employees must undergo a "multilevel leader review" and may face monthlong in-office trials to evaluate their needs before remote work is approved:* ***The discrimination faced by specially-abled employees in policies like Amazon's can be conceptualized sociologically as "ableism", which refers to systemic and structural discrimination against people with disabilities. Ableism includes practices, policies, and attitudes that devalue individuals with disabilities, assuming they are less capable or deserving of equal participation in society.***

- *The Samsung workers' strike at its Sriperumbudur plant near Chennai ended after 37 days of protests. Workers had demanded better wages, improved working conditions, and recognition of their union. While workers agreed to return to their duties, Samsung assured there would be no retaliatory action. However, the workers' demand for union recognition remains unresolved, highlighting ongoing labor rights challenges in industrial sector:* ***The labor rights expert, Standing has focused on the rise of the precariat, a new class of workers who face insecure employment conditions. In his book The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class, standing outlines, the risks posed by the growing number of workers in temporary, low-paid, and unstable jobs, many of whom lack union representation and face deteriorating labor condition.***

- *The Information & Broadcasting Ministry has issued an advisory cautioning OTT platforms against streaming content "inadvertently promoting, glamorising, or glorifying" the use of drugs, stating that any violation of the related guidelines might result in further regulatory scrutiny :* **The advisory aligns with Émile Durkheim's theory of moral regulation, emphasizing the role of institutions in maintaining collective conscience. It reflects society's concerns about media's influence on shaping behavior and normalizing deviance, highlighting the need for responsible content creation in digital spaces.**

- *Germany has extended temporary border controls to all its land borders as part of its response to irregular migration and national security concerns. The decision, announced by Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, is primarily focused on strengthening internal security and combating the perceived risks of extremism linked to migration.:* **Germany's actions could be framed within social closure theory, which explains how social groups protect their resources (such as jobs and welfare) by restricting access to outsiders, often leading to exclusionary policies. The reinforcement of border controls can exacerbate divisions between migrants and local populations, potentially increasing ethnocentrism and xenophobia, especially in response to growing support for anti-immigration parties like the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD)**

- *At least 18 people, including 11 women and five children, died after a huge rush of passengers caused by two delayed trains and a special Express train to Maha Kumbh led to a stampede at the New Delhi Railway station. Delays in train departures and the sale of around 1,500 general tickets contributed to the overwhelming crowd:* **The incident reflects Johan Galtung's concept of structural violence, where institutional failures—poor infrastructure, lack of crowd management, and inadequate railway policies—indirectly lead to deaths. The recurring nature of such tragedies in India's public transport system highlights how systemic neglect disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, such as women and children.**

- *According to the Bahai International Community (BIC), Bahai minority faces persecution even after death in Iran. Unlike other minorities, Bahais do not have their faith recognised by Iran's constitution and have no reserved seats in Parliament. They are unable to access the country's higher education and they suffer harassment ranging from raids against their businesses to confiscation of assets and arrest:* **The discrimination against Bahá'í people in Iran may seem to serve the latent function of reinforcing social cohesion and stability within the dominant religious and political framework. By marginalizing a minority group, the majority population may feel a sense of unity and shared identity. At the same time, it may strengthen their (Bahai) own group solidarity and identity, which can lead to collective action.**

- *The Uttar Pradesh police registered a First Information Report (FIR) against three people for forcing a student in Aligarh to urinate on a Pakistan flag, after a video circulating on social media showed a mob surrounding and abusing the boy, and coercing him to urinate on the flag lying on a road. :* **Drawing from Stanley Cohen's concept of moral panics, these incidents show how deviance is socially constructed—where individuals or groups are labeled as "folk devils" to create public anxiety, often inflamed by media and populist rhetoric. The actions are less about actual threats and more about manufacturing enemies to solidify national or communal boundaries.**

GENDER STRATIFICATION

- *Imane Khelif, an Algerian boxer, is now at the centre of a gender row at the Paris Olympics 2024. Many accuse the Algerian boxer of being male or transgender, calling it unfair to women's sports. J.K. Rowling and Elon Musk also joined the debate, questioning the decision made by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Simultaneously, several childhood pictures of Algerian boxer Imane Khelif surfaced on social media, aiming to prove that she is female:* **Sociologists like Judith Butler argue that gender is socially constructed rather than a fixed biological reality. The controversy reflects the tension between the traditional binary understanding of gender**

and more fluid, inclusive perspectives. Butler's concept of "performative gender" suggests that gender is an ongoing performance shaped by societal expectations, which may not align with one's personal identity.

- *The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notice to the Government of Tamil Nadu calling for a detailed report on allegations that Foxconn, a major manufacturer of Apple devices, "systematically excluded" married women from jobs at its iPhone assembly plant. It was also stated that the company did not hire married women because of cultural issues and societal pressure:* **Feminist scholars argue that these practices are part of a systemic effort to control women's economic independence and reinforce traditional gender hierarchies. By excluding married women from the workforce, companies like Foxconn perpetuate the notion that women's primary role is in the home, thus maintaining the economic and social subordination of women.**

- *Surgeon Vice-Admiral Arti Sarin became the first woman officer to assume charge as the Director-General of the Armed Forces Medical Services, the Defence Ministry said. The DGAFMS is directly responsible to the Defence Ministry for overall medical policy matters relating to the armed forces:* **Glass Ceiling refers to the invisible barriers that prevent women from reaching higher levels of leadership and authority, particularly in male-dominated fields like the military. Sarin's appointment signifies a challenge to this "ceiling," as she becomes one of the highest-ranking women in the Indian Armed Forces. Her promotion highlights progress in breaking down gender-based barriers in the military.**

- *An all-woman shift starts at Tata Steel's iron ore mine. This initiative, India's first, underscores the company's unwavering commitment to creating an equitable workplace and empowering women in traditionally maledominated industries," the company said in a statement. :* **The all-woman shift at Tata Steel's mine signifies breaking gendered occupational roles, aligning with Harriet Martineau's focus on gender equity in industrial spaces. It reflects structural changes promoting inclusivity and women's empowerment in traditionally patriarchal domains.**

- *Lancet study shows that the Suicide deaths in Indian men increased 2 times more than women in 2021. Unemployment, family problems, and health issues cause a 33.5 percentage point change in SDR among men :* **The Silent Male Suicide Epidemic" by Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas. This work delves into the societal expectations of masculinity and the resulting pressure that men face, which can contribute to higher suicide rates. She explores how traditional gender norms discourage men from seeking help or expressing vulnerability, leading to increased isolation and mental health struggles, ultimately culminating in higher suicide rates among men.**

CASTE STRATIFICATION

- *Categorically refuting allegations that he was indulging in 'casteism', Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil said the objective of his agitation was to secure reservation for his community and not create rifts between members of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Marathas:* **The above allegation explains the substantialization of caste. It is a term used by French theorist Louis Dumont to describe the process by which caste groups become moral individuals that confront other caste groups. Dumont proposed this idea after being presented with evidence that caste structures were changing in modern times.**

- *Supreme Court judge Justice Pankaj Mithal delved into the revered Hindu scripture Bhagavad Gita – which encapsulates teachings on philosophy, ethics, and spirituality – to say that there was no caste system in primitive India, instead varna system (categorisation) existed. He said according to the varna system no one is to be considered as lower or higher, rather it is preached that everyone is an equal fragment and a part and parcel of him, the almighty:* **This explains the contrasting views on the caste system in India. First school of thought led by Gandhi was critical of untouchability and discrimination, but saw the varna system as a natural categorization meant to promote social harmony and individual duty. He advocated for reform within this framework to uplift marginalized communities. In contrast, Ambedkar vehemently opposed the caste system altogether, viewing it as a mechanism of social oppression that required complete abolition for true equality**

- *Union Cabinet rejected the Supreme Court's recommendation to exclude the creamy layer from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe reservation. The Centre reaffirmed that such a provision does not exist in the Constitution as per B.R. Ambedkar's framework:* **This situation on face value highlights the equality vs. equity debate in affirmative action policies. The exclusion of the creamy layer would represent a move towards equity, aiming to distribute resources more efficiently among the most needy. But the decision also touches on issues of group solidarity and identity politics. By rejecting the exclusion of the creamy layer, the Cabinet avoids creating internal divisions within SC and ST communities. Maintaining a unified approach to reservations helps preserve the collective identity and solidarity of these groups.**

- *Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) founder Thol. Thirumavalavan said sub-categorisation would reduce the numerical strength of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), and only Parliament should have the final say on making changes to the reservation for the SCs. VCK general secretary argued that the Supreme Court's verdict on sub-classification was essentially an attack on the Constitution:* **The VCK's stance reflects a Dalit political mobilization framework, where the emphasis is on retaining unity among Scheduled Castes to challenge the dominant caste-based order. Sub-categorization is viewed as a potential divide-and-rule tactic that undermines collective bargaining power. Historically, movements led by Dalit thinkers like B.R. Ambedkar have sought to highlight the shared oppression of SCs. Fragmentation risks shifting focus from systemic caste oppression to internal competition.**

- *The Supreme Court vowed to go to "any extent possible" to ensure that manual scavenging and hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks are wiped out, saying the issue dealt with the question of human dignity :* **The Supreme Court's stance reflects Ambedkar's critique of caste-based oppression, where manual scavenging symbolizes structural inequality and dehumanization. It also aligns with Goffman's concept of stigma, as such practices perpetuate social exclusion and deny human dignity, highlighting the need for systemic reform to achieve equality and justice.**

- *Some caste Hindu residents of Arungunam village in Tiruvannamalai district on February 11 allegedly sprayed herbicide using drones and destroyed crops raised by Scheduled Caste (SC) farmers on seven acres of panchami land. The farmers had planted black gram and sesame crops on the land:* **Galtung's concept of structural violence applies here, as the denial of land rights and destruction of crops represent institutionalized discrimination rather than direct physical violence. The use of drones for crop destruction also shows how modern technology is being weaponized to maintain social hierarchies, reinforcing economic exclusion.**

ETHNIC AND TRIBAL STRATIFICATION

- *Three principal organisations of the Zeliangrong community in ethnic strife-torn Manipur have asked Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to constitute a District Reorganisation Commission to keep Naga villages out of Churachandpur and Kongpokpi, two districts dominated by the Kuki-Zo people :* **This is a classic example of territoriality, where control over a particular territory is seen as essential to preserving ethnic identity, autonomy, and cultural heritage. The demand for reorganization indicates a perceived need for greater administrative control over areas that are culturally and ethnically significant to the Zeliangrong people. This situation also underscores the importance of ethnic identity in defining territorial boundaries and social organization.**

- *Sexual abuse in Odisha's boarding schools for tribals demotivate first generation learners. The State Minister for ST and SC Development said that over the past five years, there were 22 cases of girls who faced sexual assaults in the 188 residential high schools exclusively for tribal girls, with 34 people being named as accused. Twelve girl students had delivered babies:* **The sexual abuse of tribal girls underscores how intersecting forms of oppression, including caste, class, and gender, contribute to their heightened susceptibility to exploitation and abuse within institutional settings. Feminist sociologists like Vandana Shiva and Leela Dube have examined the intersections of gender, caste, and class, highlighting how patriarchal structures perpetuate violence and discrimination against women and girls.**

CLASS STRATIFICATION

- *A German property developer has sparked outrage with a plan to turn a Second World War tunnel system into a luxury bunker for rich survivalists who fear the outbreak of another 'world war' :* **The plan reflects Thorstein Veblen's theory of conspicuous consumption, where wealth is displayed even in survival scenarios, exacerbating class divides. It also aligns with Bauman's concept of liquid modernity, as the wealthy prioritize individual security over collective well-being, highlighting societal fragmentation and growing inequality.**

- *Ahead of the Assembly election in Maharashtra, industrialist Gautam Adani and the Dharavi redevelopment project in Asia's largest slum cluster have become a rallying point for the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). While the Congress has consistently called the project a 'Modani enterprise', the Shiv Sena (UBT) has held street protests and press events on the issue :* **The Dharavi redevelopment project, which targets Asia's largest slum, can be viewed as an example of gentrification. Gentrification often leads to the displacement of lower-income communities by wealthier ones, as seen in many urban areas around the world. The redevelopment project can also be examined through the lens of neoliberalism, which often promotes privatization and the commodification of public spaces for profit.**

WORK AND ECONOMIC LIFE

- *Two days after issuing termination notices to over 100 staff members owing to a funding shortfall from the Tata Education Trust (TET), Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Acting Vice-Chancellor, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), assured the staff that they would be retained and withdrew the notices, this development came after the TET promised to release funds for the salaries of project and programme faculty and non-teaching staff:* **This situation underscores how economic power and control over resources can dictate organizational decisions and affect workers' security. The funding shortfall and the potential job losses highlight the vulnerability of workers within capitalist structures, where decisions made by those in control of resources (such as the TET) directly impact the livelihoods of employees.**

- *The death of Anna Sebastian Perayil, a 26-year-old employee at EY (Ernst & Young) in Pune, has sparked widespread discussions about workplace stress and toxic corporate cultures. Anna, who joined the company in March 2024, passed away in July after reportedly enduring extreme work pressure, late hours, and deteriorating health. Anna's death has been described by her family as a tragic outcome of a culture that glorifies overwork. Her mother's open letter criticized EY for unrealistic expectations that led to her daughter's untimely demise:* **This tragedy underscores the critiques of toxic corporate cultures that valorize overwork. Organizations like the "Big Four" often perpetuate systemic exploitation through hierarchical power dynamics, lack of support mechanisms, and unchecked workloads. Employees' voices are often suppressed in favor of maintaining productivity and corporate image.**

- *Infosys, one of India's leading IT giants, has found itself at the center of controversy following reports of layoffs at its Mysuru campus. Amid allegations that employees were pressured to resign, the company has denied any use of force or intimidation tactics, stating that it is fully cooperating with the Karnataka Labour Department regarding the matter:* **The layoffs highlight the growing "precariat", a class of workers with unstable employment and lack of job security. IT professionals, despite being in a high-skill sector, often face contract-based work, frequent layoffs, and performance-linked terminations, making them vulnerable to corporate restructuring.**

- *Overexposure to social media, lack of exercise, not spending enough time with one's family and overwork (hours exceeding 55-60 per week) have all worsened mental well-being among Indians and ultimately put the brakes on the pace of economic growth, said the Economic Survey 2024-25:* **Marx's theory of alienation explains how excessive work and digital distractions separate individuals from their personal lives and well-being. The dominance of overwork culture reflects a form of capitalist exploitation, where productivity is prioritized over mental health, leading to burnout and reduced economic efficiency.**

31,000⁺ Hrs of Teaching

31,000⁺ SOCIOLOGY Hrs of Teaching

9500⁺ Students **MENTORED**

240⁺ Final **SELECTIONS**

AN EMINENT **ACADEMY** FOR SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL

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- *A total of 143 young adults from West Bengal working as bonded labourers were rescued from gold manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu between 2019 and 2024. Many of them are scripting their own success stories. Skill training being provided to those rescued from bonded labour in Tamil Nadu :* **Karl Marx viewed bonded labour as an extreme manifestation of exploitation under capitalism, where labour power is commodified and alienated. The rescue and rehabilitation of bonded labourers in Tamil Nadu, through skill training, marks a shift from structural oppression to empowerment. This transition resonates with Amartya Sen's capability approach, which emphasizes enhancing individuals' real freedoms and choices.**

NATION – STATE – SOCIETY

- *In an effort to curb net migration, the Swedish government is planning to introduce a peculiar initiative in which they would pay "foreign-born" Swedish passport holders to emigrate. According to a report by The National News, foreigners who became Swedish nationals could be offered money to leave the country:* **From the perspective of assimilation theory, this move could be seen as an effort to reduce the presence of individuals who may not fully assimilate into the dominant culture. Conversely, it might undermine multicultural policies that advocate for diversity and inclusion.**

- *Colombia has officially banned child marriage after a 17-year-long advocacy campaign. The Colombian Senate passed a bill titled "They Are Girls, Not Wives," which prohibits child marriage and early unions. This reform seeks to protect children, particularly in indigenous communities, where child marriage has been prevalent due to cultural and economic pressures :* **The campaign's persistence over 17 years demonstrates the evolutionary nature of social movements. Despite resistance from cultural traditionalists, activists succeeded in shifting legal and cultural norms. The law represents a transformative victory, showing how sustained advocacy and strategic alliances can lead to legislative change that upends harmful traditions. This movement reflects the characteristics of modern social movements: Intersectionality, Use of technology, Global-National Nexus.**

- *ILO has recommended the governments to uphold fundamental principles and rights at work, especially freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining. It found that countries' compliance with freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining had deteriorated by 7% between 2015 and 2022 :* **Marxism says that rather than protecting workers' rights, bureaucracy often enforces policies that suppress labor movements, ensuring capital accumulation for the ruling class. This aligns with Marx's view that the state, under the guise of welfare, perpetuates class domination and maintains capitalist exploitation.**

- *Donald Trump's approach to foreign policy, often characterized as "America First and in his 2nd stint he supports the withdrawal of USA from WHO (health), Paris Agreement (climate), UNESCO (culture), UNHRC (human rights), and TPP (trade), prioritizing national sovereignty over multilateral cooperation:* **Beck argues that globalization has created a "risk society", where global problems (climate change, pandemics, human rights crises) require transnational cooperation. Trump's retreat from institutions like WHO and the Paris Agreement reflects a rejection of global risk management, prioritizing short-term national interests over collective problem-solving**

- *Opposition MPs targeted the government over the United States' deportation of 104 illegal Indian immigrants, demanding a discussion in Parliament over their "inhuman" treatment, which included shackling arms and legs while on a US military aircraft that reached Amritsar:* **The shackling of deported migrants reflects Foucault's concept of biopolitics, where states exert control over bodies, regulating populations through mechanisms of discipline and surveillance. The use of military aircraft and restraints signifies how migration is securitized, treating undocumented migrants as security threats rather than displaced individuals.**

- *From plastic surgery clinics to tour firms and hotel chains, South Korea's hospitality sector is wary of the potential impact of a protracted political crisis, as some overseas travellers cancel trips following last week's brief martial law :* **From Ralf Dahrendorf 's perspective, the political crisis**

in South Korea highlights the role of authority in shaping social structures and disrupting economic stability. Authority, concentrated in political institutions, influences societal functions such as tourism and hospitality. The martial law episode reveals how power conflicts, rather than economic determinism, can destabilize societal order and create uncertainty in interconnected sectors.

- *Reports says that Non-residents will have a say in voting pattern in Kerala, despite the hike in airfares, a large expatriate population from West Asian countries are likely to be in the State for voting. Candidates and their poll managers too visit these countries to garner Non Residents support :* **The involvement of non-resident Keralites (NRKs) in Kerala's electoral process reflects the concept of transnationalism, where individuals maintain connections, identities, and engagements across national borders. NRKs contribute to Kerala's economy through remittances and also participate in shaping political outcomes, blurring the boundaries between national and transnational political participation.**

- *Leader of Minorities, OBCs, Dalits group warns of State-wide stir if Siddaramaiah is replaced as CM. AHINDA (Kannada acronym for Minorities, OBCs, and Dalits) warning of a State-wide agitation if Mr. Siddaramaiah was replaced. This warning came in the backdrop that a Vokkaliga seer had recently said that Siddaramaiah should make way for D.K. Shivakumar:* **Identity politics involves organizing and mobilizing around shared social identities to achieve political objectives. AHINDA's threat of agitation if Siddaramaiah is replaced exemplifies how marginalized groups leverage their collective identity to exert political pressure. This strategy is aimed at safeguarding their socio-economic interests and ensuring representation in governance.**

- *Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has reiterated his firm opposition to the imposition of Hindi, stating that the state is prepared for another language war if necessary. His comments come amid rising concerns over the Centre's three-language policy :* **Bourdieu argues that language is a**

form of cultural capital, and dominant languages often carry more power in social, economic, and political spheres. The resistance to Hindi imposition in Tamil Nadu reflects an assertion of regional linguistic capital against what is perceived as an attempt to centralize and homogenize cultural identity

- *The interim Bangladesh government headed by Muhammad Yunus has targeted 640 journalists in eight months to throttle media freedom, an Indian rights group said. The New Delhi-based Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) documented these cases in its report released to mark World Press Freedom Day 2025 :* **This repression aligns with Antonio Gramsci's idea of hegemonic dominance, where controlling the narrative becomes essential for sustaining power. Targeting 640 journalists within eight months reflects not just censorship but an attempt to delegitimize independent truth-telling and replace it with state-sponsored narratives.**

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

- *The Rajasthan High Court recently ruled that the right to live with dignity, as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, includes the fulfillment of marital vows, particularly those taken during the traditional Saptapadi ceremony. This judgment emphasizes the importance of upholding commitments made in marriage, specifically in the context of ensuring that spouses honor their mutual responsibilities:* **In India, marriage is not just a personal contract but a social and sacred institution deeply rooted in religious traditions like Hinduism. This decision exemplifies how personal laws and secular constitutional principles interact in India. It reflects the judiciary's role in navigating the delicate balance between respecting cultural traditions and upholding fundamental rights.**

- *A stampede was occurred during a religious gathering at a 'satsang' in Uttar Pradesh, resulted in over 100 deaths. The incident took place in the village of Hathras, where thousands of devotees had gathered to witness the event led by religious preacher Bhole Baba. A massive crowd surge led*

to the tragic loss of life, as people tried to touch the preacher's feet, causing a stampede: **The gathering was centered around a charismatic religious leader, Bhole Baba, who, like many cult or sect leaders, attracted followers through personal appeal and the promise of spiritual benefits. Charismatic leaders often cultivate intense devotion among their followers, leading them to prioritize the leader's presence above safety concerns. The stampede can be seen as a direct consequence of this type of devotion, where followers exhibited extreme enthusiasm and devotion, disregarding their personal safety in the process.**

- *Close to 200 people were killed in brutal weekend violence in Haiti's capital, the United Nations said, with reports that a gang boss orchestrated the slaughter of voodoo practitioners. The killings were overseen by a "powerful gang leader" convinced that his son's illness was caused by followers of the religion, according to civil organisation the Committee for Peace and Development (CPD) :* **The incident reflects Durkheim's view of religion as a source of collective consciousness, where misinterpretations can foster division rather than solidarity. It also aligns with Max Weber's analysis of theodicy, as the gang leader's belief in supernatural causation for suffering highlights how religion can be misused to justify violence, undermining its role in social cohesion.**

- *Men can worship at Sree Gowreeswara Temple, in Ernakulam district of Kerala, wearing shirts starting February 4. The temple authorities have decided to drop the nearly century-old practice of making men remove their upper clothes to worship at the temple:* **Weber's concept of rationalization explains how traditions evolve under changing social conditions. The removal of the upper garment rule reflects an effort to align temple practices with contemporary sensibilities while retaining religious devotion. This shift is part of the broader secularization of religious customs, where rituals adapt to modern expectations of dignity and equality.**

- *Veerashaiva-Lingayats, who are contesting the population data in the 2015 Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, are likely to seek a separate religion code*

*for the community in the national Census : **This reflects ethno-religious assertiveness, where identity politics is used to claim distinctiveness in the socio-political structure, especially in contexts where census categories shape access to resources, representation, and power. It also resonates with Benedict Anderson's idea of imagined communities, where shared narratives—spiritual or historical—are mobilized to construct a separate group identity within the nation-state framework.***

FAMILY AND KINSHIP SYSTEM

- *Taliban ban on women's medical training threatens Afghan health sector. doctor Najmussama Shefajo predicts a rise in maternal mortality rates "within three or four years", following the latest restrictions on women's education:**The Taliban's ban exemplifies Patriarchy Theory, highlighting how gender-based restrictions perpetuate systemic oppression and limit women's agency. It also aligns with Pierre Bourdieu's concept of symbolic violence, where cultural norms legitimize inequality. The ban threatens societal well-being by curbing women's contributions to vital sectors like healthcare, intensifying structural inequities.***

- *As per the provisions of the Uttarakhand UCC, if a live-in couple fails to submit a statement of their relationship within one month of entering into the alliance to the authorities, they shall be punished on conviction with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months: **This explains how states regulate bodies, relationships, and personal choices under the guise of governance. By mandating state surveillance over live-in relationships, the law extends state power into the private sphere, reinforcing institutionalized moral norms over individual freedoms.***

- *Many countries in East and Southeast Asia are in the middle of a population crisis, with fewer births every year and record-low fertility rates. Hospitals in China stopped offering newborn delivery services due to declining demand, Reuters reported. The city of Seongnam, the fourth largest in the South Korea, resorted to hosting mass blind dates hoping that the falling birth rates would reverse: **This crisis arises as couples choosing to not have children, citizens opting to remain single, and spiralling costs***

to raise children may all have contributed to the dip, this population crisis can challenge cultural norms and values associated with family, parenthood, and filial piety. Societies will experience shifts in attitudes towards marriage, childbearing, and the importance of family ties, ultimately the sustainability of social institutions like family may come into question.

- *A coalition of survivors of clergy sexual abuse demanded that cardinals entering the conclave to elect a successor to Pope Francis pick a Pope who will adopt a universal zero-tolerance policy for abuse and himself has a clean record handling cases :* **When institutions fail to uphold these moral codes—as in the case of clergy sexual abuse—it leads to a crisis of legitimacy and anomie, where societal norms break down. This aligns with Habermas' idea of the "public sphere," where civil society exerts pressure on institutions to become more accountable and transparent, transforming private trauma into a moral-political demand for reform.**

SOCIAL CHANGE

- *In recent years, far-right parties have gained significant power across several countries. Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy led a coalition government after winning the 2022 elections, signaling a shift in Italian politics. Similarly, Sweden's far-right Sweden Democrats, with roots in neo-Nazism, became the second-largest party in 2022 and joined the ruling coalition :* **Sorokin posited that societies oscillate between "ideational" (focused on spiritual and religious values) and "sensate" (focused on material and empirical values) cultural systems, with an "idealistic" phase as a balance between the two. The recent surge in far-right movements can be understood as part of a broader reaction to the perceived excesses of a sensate culture, which emphasizes materialism, individualism, and globalism.**

- *Women will get monthly assistance of ₹2,500 under Mai-Behan Maan Yojana if party is voted to power next year: ex-deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav; pledges scheme within a month of govt. formation. BJP also promised similar kind*
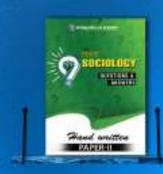
*of scheme in Delhi. DMK is doing it in TamilNadu :***The proposed scheme reflects Amartya Sen's capability approach, emphasizing empowerment by enhancing women's economic freedom. Such welfare initiatives also align with Feminist Theory, addressing structural inequalities and aiming to reduce gender disparity by fostering financial autonomy for women in patriarchal societies.**

- *Puvarti, a Maoist violence-affected village in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, received TV sets under a govt. initiative; children, women, and the elderly watched programmes for hours, says Collector:* **The introduction of TV sets in Puvarti reflects Antonio Gramsci's concept of cultural hegemony, where media serves as a tool for ideological integration and countering alienation in marginalized regions. It symbolizes the state's effort to use technology for social cohesion and awareness in a conflict-affected area.**