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Q4(a)

"Globalisation, on one hand has provided opportunities and on the other hand thrown challenges to Indian villages." Elucidate

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Anthropology GS 2 · 20 marks · Indian Village

5.1 Indian Village-Significance of village study in India; Indian village as a social system; Traditional and changing patterns of settlement and inter-caste relations; Agrarian relations in Indian villages; Impact of globalization on Indian villages.

Core demand of the question

- "Globalisation, on one hand has provided opportunities and on the other hand thrown challenges to Indian villages." Elucidate
- Keep the answer to a 20-mark length of about 250 words

Revision summary

Globalisation links villages to distant labour, media, and crop markets.

Remittances and phones are real openings.

Land, artisan work, and farm risk are the main threats.

Chipko and **Niyamgiri** show local defence against outside extraction.

PESA and FRA are legal tools, not automatic shields.

Introduction

Globalisation ties Indian villages to distant markets, media, and labour circuits. It opens cash and information, and it also strips local control over land, seed, and youth.

Body

Opportunities

- Remittances from Gulf and city work raise house quality and school fees in many dry villages, a pattern **Jan Breman** also documented in labour migration, though he stressed its cost.
- Mobile phones, satellite television, and rural roads cut isolation that **S. C. Dube** still had to travel by jeep in the Shamirpet years.
- Crop markets, dairy cooperatives, and some contract farming raise cash where irrigation and cold chains exist.
- **MGNREGA** and national schemes ride the same fiscal global state. They are not village autarky, but they are a buffer.

Challenges

- Cheap industrial goods and corporate retail undercut village artisans. Land conversion for highways, SEZs, and mining hits Scheduled Area hamlets despite **PESA, 1996** and **FRA, 2006**.
- Agrarian price swings and patented seed raise risk. Youth exit hollows out farm labour, which then returns as seasonal gangs.

- Media Westernisation, in **Srinivas's** sense, shifts consumption faster than local employment. Caste and gender rules may harden as a defence, or they may crack unevenly.

How to read the balance

- **Chipko** in the Garhwal Himalaya was an earlier defence of forest livelihood against outside extraction. **Niyamgiri** later showed a Gram Sabha using law against a global mining plan.
- The village of **Marriott** and Dube was already a part-society. Globalisation intensifies that dependence. It does not create it from zero.

Limit

- Opportunity and threat are not equal for every jati and every region. A Punjab mandi and a shifting-cultivation hamlet do not meet the same global.

Flow diagram

Globalisation -> Remittance market media

Globalisation -> Land seed labour exit

Land seed labour exit -> PESA FRA Niyamgiri

Conclusion

Globalisation gives villages remittance, media, and some markets. It also exposes land, craft, and youth to distant price and extraction. Law such as PESA and FRA is the village's remaining bargaining chip.

Facts & figures

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Rural employment guarantee that buffers some households against market shocks.

FRA 2006

Forest Rights Act that can secure village forest claims against corporate takeover if implemented.

Niyamgiri

Dongria Kondh Gram Sabha process that halted a bauxite project, a global capital versus local sacred hill case.

Chipko

Himalayan forest movement that treated trees as livelihood, an early template for village versus outside extraction.