

⇒ 2024 (Precis)

### Sustainable Urbanization: A Shared Responsibility

The vibrant parks in urban centres provide great relief and relaxation. Along with conserving biodiversity, these spaces appeal aesthetically and shape community links. Moreover, the parks enrich <sup>socio</sup> cultural urban experience by hosting diverse events. Beyond leisure, the urban green spaces improve environment, mental health and promote wellbeing. However, sustainable urban policies are crucial to harmonize rapid urbanization with natural spaces. As the cities grow, the preservation of such spaces becomes a collective responsibility to ensure human and environmental health. The goal is sustainable development by integrating nature into urban life.

⇒ 2022 (Precis)

### The Gods and Seers of Ancient Greece

The uncertainty and fragility of life made fearful humans seek communion with the divine and uncover God's wishes. Ancient Greeks had oracles, operated by seers, to comprehend divine signs. These soothsayers interpreted various natural occurrences from lightning, fire, <sup>and</sup> behavioural traits of birds and animals, along with interpretation of dreams and palmistry; however, the Gods also used to spoke directly to humans through intermediaries. These Prophets/Prophetesses,

having transcended their human essence, used to delivery God's wishes to the followers. Hence, the oracles were for the purpose of foreseeing future as they were directly associated with one or other Gods. The notable oracles include Oracle of Delphi linked with Appollo, and that of Dodona associated with Zeus.

⇒ 2025 Precis

### Nationalism: A Double-edged Sword

With the unfolding of time, the ideal origins of nations wither, says Homi K. Bhabha. This signifies the intricate linkage between imagined and lived creation of national identity, just as narratives. Historical and ethnic basis of national identities render them exclusionary and rigid, thus negating the ideals of humanism — a concept debated by various Western and Eastern intellectual traditions. Al-Ghazali emphasizes harmony between varying identities and called for promotion of local affiliations in equilibrium with universal concept of justice. He upholds the concept of inclusive citizenship and balances particularism with universalism. In this domain, Bhabha's work allows a critical evaluation of national

identities with emphasis on shared humanity. Although, the rise of nationalism has promoted parochial tendencies, it has produced mixed consequences overall. Despite the growth of egalitarian values, the urge to dominate continues to manifest itself, which has led to disillusionments with democracy. Iqbal also warned of perils associated with myopic nationalism and imperialist essence of democracy. Imperialism and domination of rich has confined the weaker nations within shackles of territorial love. Still, nationalism is a potent expression of national spirit and needs to be balanced with universal values of humanity.

## ⇒ Precis 2020

Manto encountered demeaning allegations with moral evaluation of his works. However, he kept exploring the bitter realities of life and enigmas of sex in an earthy manner, as did Freud. He was deeply concerned about marginalized classes and depicted both tendencies of man. Thus, his accurate and realistic exploration of duality in human nature stuck with the readers. Apart from having unbiased view of man's fallacies, he treated vulgarity artistically. The depiction of contemporary men and women, and sombre vitality elevated him like Joyce, Lawrence and Caldwell.