

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. How does communalism threaten the Indian democracy? Explain.

Ans. The most common expression of communalism lies in our everyday beliefs. These routines involve belief in the superiority of one's religion above other religions.

A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community; it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.

Political mobilisation based on religion is another form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.

Sometimes, communalism takes its most ugly form in violence riots and massacres. India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of partition.

Q. 2. "In politics, the focus on caste can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else." Justify the statement.

Ans. When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to get necessary support to win elections.

Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to caste sentiment to muster support. Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.

Universal adult franchise and the principle of 'one person one vote' compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support.

Q. 3. Highlight the positive and negative impact of casteism with regard to political expression. Give any three examples to justify the statement.

Ans. Positive Impact of Casteism

(i) With the economic development, large scale urbanisation growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the position of landlords in the village, the old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down.

(ii) The constitution has prohibited any caste based discrimination and laid the foundation of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.

Negative impacts of Casteism

(i) When parties choose candidates in election, they keep in mind the caste imposition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to get necessary support to win elections.

(ii) Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to caste sentiments to muster support.

Q. 4. Write few measures to combat communalism in India.

Ans. Measures to Combat Communalism in India

Communalism can be combated through the following methods:

- (i) Law should ban parties using religion in politics.
- (ii) Socio-economic backwardness of the country should be removed so that people are not used as vote banks.
- (iii) Political parties should rise above narrow gains and stop fanning communal passions.
- (iv) Educational institutions should inculcate secular values among students.
- (v) The Election Commission should prepare a code of conduct for parties so that religion is not used in politics.
- (vi) Mass media, TV, radio, NGOs and people themselves should launch an enlightenment movement so that public opinion is created against communal riots.

Q. 5. How is gender division understood in Indian society? How does political mobilisation of women on this question help to improve women's role in public life?

Ans. (i) Boys and Girls are brought to believe that the main responsibility of women is household work and bringing up children.

(ii) Women do all work inside the house such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after the children, etc. and men do all the work outside the house. It is not that men cannot do such work they simply think that it is for women, to attend to.

(iii) Political mobilisation has helped to improve women's role in public life.

(a) Now women are scientists, space astronauts, doctors, engineers, lawyer and college and university teachers which were earlier not considered suitable for them.

(b) Despite certain improvement, Indian Society remains a male dominated and patriarchal society. Women still face torture, discrimination in various ways.

(iv) In urban areas, poor women work as domestic helps in middle-class homes while middleclass women work in offices.

(v) In fact, the majority of women do some sort of paid work in addition to domestic labour. But their work is not valued and does not get recognition.

Q. 6. How does caste get politicised?

Ans. Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it the neighbouring castes or sub castes, which were earlier excluded from it.

Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiations.

New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.

These castes play different kinds of roles in politics. As in the case of religion, politics based on caste identity alone is not very healthy in a democracy.