

## **Society Class 11**

**20th August, 2024 at 9:00 AM**

### **RACIAL DIVERSITY (09:10 AM)**

- **Concept of Race**
- **Race is defined as a social group that consists of people having similar physical characteristics such as facial features, color, Complexation, the texture of hair etc.**
- **Race is a biological construct**
- **According to BS Guha, there are six types of races found in India:**
  - **1) Nordic**
  - **2) Negrito**
  - **3) Proto-Australoid**
  - **4) Mongoloid**
  - **5) Mediterranean**
  - **6) Western Brachycephalic**

### **Caste and Race (09:18 AM)**

- | <b>Caste</b>  | <b>Race</b>   |
|---|---|
| <b>Caste is referred to as stratification based on the principle of purity and pollution.</b>                               | <b>Race on the other hand is the characterisation of people based on physical traits.</b> |
| <b>It originated in ancient Indian society linked to the Varna System which later got consolidated in the caste system.</b> | <b>It developed during European colonisation.</b>   |
| <b>The basis of caste is social and religious, which is associated with occupation and endogamy.</b>                        | <b>Race is biological and used to justify discrimination</b>                              |

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| <p><b>Caste is ascriptive and social mobility is restricted but in practice, we do observe it.</b></p> | <p><b>Social mobility in theory is restricted but within the racial category, it is possible depending upon socio-economic conditions.</b></p> |
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**Caste continues to influence politics, social interactions, access to resources, etc.**

**Race plays a minimal role in India.**

- **Both caste and race intersect with other criteria such as gender, ethnicity, class, etc.**

#### **Racial Intolerance:**

- **When people have a prejudiced attitude towards people of other races it often results in discriminatory behaviour.**
- **Obsession over fair complexion due to a colonial hangover, commodification through advertisement, and the practice of racial chauvinism are some of the key examples of the same.**
- **The imbalance between demand and supply often results in a sense of relative deprivation.**
- **It is often observed there is reinforcing of the stereotype on various cultural platforms.**
- **Other prominent examples:**
  - **1) Characterisation in Indian cinema.**
  - **2) Normalisation of racism.**
  - **3) Presence of fringe elements.**
- **There is a lack of racially sensitive attitudes, especially among law enforcement agencies.**
- **For example, a mob attacked the Tanzanian students in the year 2000.**
- **In August 2021, a student from Congo died in police custody which resulted in retaliation against Indians in Congo City.**
- **Similar incidents are observed against northeastern students or against people with dark complexion.**

### **Implications of racial intolerance (09:39 AM)**

- Growing resentment due to feelings of relative depreciation.
- It negatively impacts mental health.
- It leads to feelings of isolation, lowers confidence, and denies them self-respect which in turn leads to self-alienation.
- Anxiety may lead to suicides at a societal level.
- It will threaten social capital due to a lack of harmony and more ghettoization.
- Overall crime rate can increase
- It may threaten unity in diversity, increase incidences of social conflict, regionalism, skewed migration, and strengthen prejudices.
- It promotes a culture of bullying or explicit biases.
- It threatens the potential of the nation to emerge as an education, tourism, and business hub.
- It dilutes our soft power.
- It threatens the Indian diaspora.
- It might lead to brain drain which negatively impacts the demographic dividend
- Chances of external interference which may further destabilise the nation
- Law and order situation leads to divergence of resources which leads to a lack of investment in social infrastructure.
- It dilutes India's value system with respect to "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam".

### **Way Forward**

- The recommendation of the Bezbaruah Committee should be implemented.
- Stringent laws are the need of the hour.
- Fast-track courts for a speedy trial.
- Use of social media outreach to create awareness in society.
- Provide legal awareness to racial minorities.
- Bonding over sports shall be encouraged.

## **Ethno nationalism (09:58 AM)**

- **Ethnic group:**
- **It is defined as a social group, consisting of people united by ties of common ancestry, history, culture etc.**
- **People belonging to ethnic groups have sufficient awareness that they are similar but distinct from others.**
- **Development of ethnic identity:**
- ***Based on this identity and different access to resources this leads to ethnic stratification.***
- ***Ethnic stratification ultimately leads to Ethnic antagonism.***
- ***When an ethnic group becomes self-conscious of political ethnicity, it will lead to the realization of objective reality.***
- **Ethnicity is a concept referring to a shared culture and a way of life.**
- **This can be reflected in language, religion, material culture, and cultural products such as music, art forms, etc.**
- **Ethnicity is both a source of social cohesion and conflict.**
- **Ethno-nationalism is defined as a form of nationalism in which a nation is defined in terms of ethnicity.**
- **Ethnicity is rooted in cultural identity while race is associated with physical characteristics.**
- **Ethnicity can be fluid and encompass multiple cultural identities.**
- **However, race is seen as more rigid due to its association with physical traits.**
- **Race has historically been used to justify unequal treatment and social hierarchies whereas ethnicity can also be a source of conflict or cohesion but is more closely tied to cultural identity and heritage.**

### **Practice Question:**

- **Linguistic, regional rather than religious identity has been the basis of ethno-nationalism in India. (10 marks/150 words).**
- **Approach:**
- ***Here keywords and examples are essential considering this is a 150-word answer.***
- ***Here one may use diagrams and flow charts to make the presentation better.***
- ***Relevant headings and subheadings will keep your answer stick to the demand of the question.***

### **UNITY IN DIVERSITY (10:15 AM)**

- **Unity is defined as a sense of oneness or "we" feeling that helps bind people together.**
- **1) Geographical Bond: India stands geographically united with the Himalayas in the North and the oceans on the other side.**
- **Amidst the geographical unity, we are also politically and culturally united.**
- **People are politically united by the single constitution and single citizenship.**
- **2) Geo cultural**
- **The institution pilgrimage bonds people together as temple culture generates cultural affinity.**
- **For example, the Char Dham connects all four parts of the country.**

### **Regional Bonds (10:27 AM)**

- **Amidst the class diversity there exists, the vertical bond of unity.**
- **Amidst the regional diversity, there exists a horizontal bond of unity with respect to caste.**
- **Inter-Religious- Amidst the regional diversity there exists a common bond of unity that is earning religious merit by visiting religious shrines.**
- **Intra-Religious- Amidst the diversity with respect to sects, and culture it's the teachings of religious scriptures that bind people together.**
- **Examples include Pandemics, sports, art forms, festivals art forms, All India services, cinema, elections, currency, transport and communication, and patriotism.**

### **Secularism (10:48 AM)**

- **It is defined as a principle of separation of the state and the people who have the mandate to represent the state from religious institutions and dignitaries.**
- **It is devoid of both inter and intra-religious dominations.**
- **It seeks to promote equality and freedom both within and between and within religions.**
- **The sphere of policies is separated from the sphere of religion but the nature and extent of separation.**

### **USA Model of Secularism (10:57 AM)**

- It defines secularism as a sphere of policies that is separated from the sphere of religion.
- The state shall not adopt any religion as the state religion.
- No one shall discriminate based on the religion she/he practices.
- The concept was given by Thomas Jefferson.
- Nature: There is a sphere of politics and there is a sphere of religion which are mutually exclusive in nature.
- *US secularism is often termed Soft secularism.*
- *The secularism followed by France is Hard secularism.*
- Rationale: Religion is a private affair hence state neither has the right nor the duty to interfere in religious matters.

### **France Model of Secularism:**

- It is known as Laicite which emerged from the 1905 law of separation between state and church.
- Nature: The state neither supports nor discourages any religion until it does not infringe upon the rights of the citizen and the duty of the state.
- Rationale: It had a history of Church domination where both the king and the commoners wanted to contain the authority of the Church by domesticating religion hence they came up with the concept of secularisation.
- Scope: Due to its commitment to secularism and the complete separation of religion from the state, any explicit display or expression of religious symbols and practices is prohibited in the public sphere, including public spaces, public schools, and public offices.
- Hence the secularism in France is termed as Hard Secularism.

### **Indian Model of Secularism (11:13 AM)**

- Concept: It is a sphere of politics that is separated from religion.
- *However, it is not a strict separation.*
- *There is a porous wall of separation between the sphere of politics and the sphere of religion.*
- *This is to give freedom to progressive voices within every religion and show disagreement with certain aspects of religion.*
- For example, the Abolition of untouchability, the abolition of Talaq-e-Biddat, and allowing entry of women into religious shrines.
- Indian Secularism maintains principled distance (a concept given by Rajiv Bhargava) which is defined as the freedom of the state to decide whether to

**interfere or abstain from interference depending upon what is required to ensure equality, liberty, and justice.**

- **Rationale:** Although it appears that the Indian model of secularism was borrowed from the West.
- **However,** it is rooted in India's unique socio-religious circumstances and the religiously plural nature of Indian society.
- **Commitments of its leadership** to ensure equal respect for all religions.
- **Scope:** There exists a scope for state-sponsored religious reforms.
- **Rights:** It provides for both individual and community-specific rights.
- **Conclusion:** Thus in the context of India it is a positive secularism as it provides enough space to promote and propagate their religion without infringing on the rights of others.

**TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEXT CLASS: CONTINUATION OF THE CHAPTER  
SECULARISM**