

**Recorded Society Class 12**

**1st July, 2024 at 9:00 AM**

**THE CLASS STARTED (IN CONTINUATION) AT: (01:02 PM):**

**UNITY IN DIVERSITY: (01:03 PM):**

- **Concept of Unity:**
- **Unity is defined as a sense of oneness, 'we' feeling a bond that unites people despite diversity.**
- **Unity can be based on uniformity or difference.**
- **Bonds Of Unity In India:**
- **1) Geographical bond:**
- **1.2) Geopolitical:**
- **We stand geographically untied with the Himalayas in the North & oceans on the side.**
- **Amidst geographical unity, we also are politically united e.g. single constitution, single citizenship, common political culture, etc.**
- **1.2) Geo Cultural:**
- **Institutions Of Pilgrimage:**
- **North: Kedarnath.**
- **West: Dwarka.**
- **East: Puri.**
- **South: Rameswaram.**
- **Institutes of pilgrimage play an important role in promoting interaction & cultural affinity among people living in different parts of India.**
- **Hence, unity is reflected in the network of sacred places & shrines.**
- **2) Regional Bond: (Region is a homogenous area that is physically and culturally distinct).**
- **Region 1: Amidst regional diversity, there exists a common thread of Horizontal Unity with a common caste culture.**
- **Region 2: Amidst the caste diversity, there exists a thread of Vertical Unity in the form of a common language.**
- **3) Religious Bond: Earning religious merit by visiting religious shrines is an example of inter-religious diversity.**
- **Teachings of religious scriptures bind people together.**
- **4) Miscellaneous Examples:**

- **Common theme w.r.t various dance forms.**
- **The cosmopolitan culture of metro cities, All India Services, educational institutes, corporate culture, sports, cinema, food, art, & architecture, festivals, transport, & communication, elections, patriotism, etc.**
- **Diversity In Unity:**
- **It refers to the existence of a plural culture within the nation.**
- **This concept means people from different cultures and communities can come together to form a united entity.**
- **It recognizes the differences and claims differences should be celebrated which in turn can be used to create a strong and resilient society.**
- **Question:**
- **1) What do you mean by Unity in Diversity, illustrate with examples from sociocultural life. (10 Marks/150 Words).**
- **2) How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional, social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it. (10 Marks/150 Words).**
- **Structure: Mention the traditional social values of Indian society.**
- **Mention such steps taken to maintain the continuity.**
- **Enlist the changes**
- **Conclude accordingly.**
- **3) Customs and traditions suppress reason which leads to obscurantism. (10 Marks/150 Words).**

## **SECULARISM: (01:50 PM):**

- **Concept of Secualrism:**
- It is defined as the principle of separation between the state, & people who have a mandate to represent the State from religious institutions, and dignitaries.
- It is devoid of both inter, & intra-religious domination.
- Promotes equality, & freedom both within, & between religions.
- It promotes separation between the sphere of politics, & the sphere of religion.
- However, the nature, & extent of separation depend upon the values it intends to promote.
- **Models Of Secualrism:**
- **USA's Model Of Secularism:**
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**Concept given by:** Thomas Jefferson

**Secularism has the following features:**

**Concept:** 1) The sphere of politics is different from the sphere of religion.  
2) The state shall not adopt any religion as State Religion.  
3) No one shall be discriminated against based on the religion he/she practices.

**Nature:** It promotes an arm's length distance between the sphere of politics, & the

	sphere of religion.
<b>Rationale:</b>	Religion is a private affair hence the State neither has the liability, nor the right to interfere in the religious matter.
<b>Scope:</b>	There is no scope for 'state-sponsored religious reforms'.
<b>Rights:</b>	Rights of individuals (equality, freedom). It does not deal with community-specific rights.

- The USA model of secularism is referred to as 'soft secularism'.
- French Model Of Secularism:
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<b>Known as:</b>	Laicite
<b>Given by:</b>	In 1905 by Law of Separation of the State & the Church.
<b>What:</b>	The state neither supports nor discourages any religion until it does not infringe upon the duties of the State &

rights of other citizens.

**Rationale:** Traditionally the Church was dominating that both the King & commoner wanted to curtail the authority of the Church by domesticating religion. Hence, they came up with the concept of Secularization

**Scope:** Due to its commitment to complete separation & secularization, any explicit expression of religious symbols & practices is banned in the public sphere which means it is banned in public office, schools, etc.

- French Secularism is known as 'Hard Secularism'.
- Secularization:
- Indian Model of Secularism:
- Concept: In the Indian model, the state is allowed to interfere in the sphere of religion but under no condition, religion is allowed to interfere in the sphere of politics.
- State interference: To disagree with certain aspects of religion & give effect to progressive voices within every religion e.g. Abolition of untouchability.

- Hence any mobilization of masses on religious lines to strengthen the vote bank is not allowed.
- **Principled Distance:** According to this principle state has the freedom to decide when to interfere & when to abstain from interference depending upon what is required to promote justice, liberty, and equality.
- **Scope:** There is a scope for state-sponsored religious reforms.
- **Rationale:** Although it appears that the Indian model of secularism was borrowed from the West, however, it is rooted in India's unique socio-historic circumstances i.e.
  - a) Religiously plural nature of Indian society.
  - b) Commitment of its leadership to ensure equal respect for all religions.
- **Rights:** It provides for both individual and community-specific rights.
- Thus, in the context of India, it is positive secularism as it provides enough space to promote and propagate their religion without infringing upon the rights of others.
- **Questions:**
  - 1) How Indian model of secularism is different from the West? (10 marks/150 words).
  - 2) What can France learn from the Indian approach to secularism (10 marks/150 words).
- **Structure of 2nd questions:**
  - a) France fails to recognize the contemporary nature of the Indian society which is multicultural.
  - b) For many religions it is not a matter of faith but a way of life so restricting it to the private domain is not possible sometimes.
  - c) It can learn the concept of principled distance from India.
  - d) Ensuring a balance between religious freedom and freedom of expression by incorporating reasonable restrictions.
  - e) Due inability of France to guarantee the Right to Profess religion has backfired & increased the incidences of radicalization, hence recognizing religious diversity, protection of minority rights & equal respect for all religions can be learned by France by India.

## **SECULARIZATION: (02:45 PM):**

- It is defined as a process by which religious thinking, institutions, and practices lose their social significance.
- **Manifestation: Secularization is manifested as:**
- a) Decline in religious participation.
- b) Decline in religious significance.
- c) More focus on individualism, and freedom of thought.
- For example, Urbanization, individualism, modern education, technological development, etc.
- **Factors that lead to Secularization:**
- Differentiation.
- Privatization.
- Decline in social significance of religion.
- **Question:**
- 1) To what extent is the Indian society secularised explain with an example. (10 marks/150 words).
- **Points for Secularization of India:**
- Adoption of secularism where religion cannot interfere.
- Education has become esoteric and the content is secular.
- Caste is no longer the basis of the division of labor.
- More assertion of rights by women.
- Different judicial pronouncement w.r.t nonessential religious practices.
- Youth is becoming secular w.r.t marriage, accommodation, and commensality.
- Desacralization of marriage.
- Deritualization of practices or increased commodification of practices.
- Due to capitalism consumerist culture has increased which goes against many religious beliefs.
- Deliberations and discussion of Uniform Civil Code.
- Technological advancements and their applications such as medical termination of pregnancy, assisted reproductive technology, etc.
- **How India is not secularised:**
- Prevalence of Caste System, and Caste-based division of labor.
- Communal conflicts and tensions in the society & communalization of politics.

- Not recognizing the right to marriage or having a child w.r.t the third gender.
- Counter reaction to the incidences of Sanskritization.
- Going back to traditions w.r.t marriage, birth, death, etc.
- Identity politics, and cultural revivalism through social media.
- Question:
- 1) What is the impact of the post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism? (15 marks/250 words).
- Points:
- Post-liberal economy refers to deviation from liberal views on globalization. It rejects the individualist view of society and focuses on the reasserting of group identity.
- Impact on Ethnic Identity:
- Caste-based mobilization (demand for OBC status by the dominant caste).
- Concept of re-tribalization.
- Language-related identities.
- Strengthening of regional identities.
- Impact on communalism:
- Increasing communal tensions, communalization of politics, and the proliferation of sects, cults, and godmen.
- Social media fanning the polarization of Indian society, etc.

**TOPICS OF THE NEXT CLASS:**Continuation of the same topic.