**Introduction:-**

Hello Everyone, I am XYZ from Group D and I am here to present our viewpoint that India will always remain a tolerant nation.

* India is intrinsically a tolerant nation from ancient times and we all have assimilated various cultures into our subcontinent and accepted them with wide arms. Our culture stayed strong during AIE (Ancient Islamist Expansionism) and British Colonialism because it preached tolerance. Our philosophy preaches ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ which conveys universalism and encourages the curious mind. Our culture is extremely open about sexuality and sex education as we have written various texts about Sex Education like Kamasutra, Anangaranga, Ratirahasyam, Ratimanjari, Nagarasarvasvam, etc.
* The terms of Hindutva and Saffronisation are extremely vague as they spun countless conspiracy theories instead of conveying the correct meaning. When I talk about the philosophies, ancient literature of the sages, various other knowledgeable texts, I am quickly labelled as a Hindutva-maniac who wants to saffronise education for his own good or his religion’s good.
* The religions which come from the Dharmic Family and are distinct from Hinduism, like Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, etc. also preach tolerance and cooperation. The British Colonialism utterly destroyed the tolerant fabric of the Indian society by increasing the communal tensions and also solidifying the already rigid racist, hateful caste system. The British looted the prosperous India and reduced it into Caste, Cow and Curry and also turning India into a third world country.
* The constitution of India acknowledges the diversity of cultures in India which exemplifies its tolerance. Also the one’s claiming about the Intolerance are the privileged ones who have reached that echelon among social strata that only religious intolerance bothers them as an issue instead of various other issues like unemployment, corruption, casteism, naxalism, infrastructure, etc. which are very crucial impediments to India’s path of becoming a superpower.
* Our comparison should be with China, USA, Japan, Germany and not with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, North Korea. In that opinion, USA has no intrinsic culture unlike European and Asian nations. It has solely capitalistic, free-market economy which is infamous for cultural appropriation and constant racism about various Eastern cultures. Cancel culture is also pretty prevalent in Western social media. China on the other hand is pretty clear about purging any capitalistic remnants from their ultracommunist society and did the same during the Cultural Revolution and The Great Leap Forward. Their intrinsic culture is also heavily scrutinized and put under the radar for their ulterior motives. Japan as a country is also very particular and conservative about their culture and are quickly offended when anybody ridicules/appropriates their outfit, food, culture, etc. and are pretty possessive about their identity in general which is a point pretty common in the Right Wing Ideology which is conservative, monarchial, authoritarian, etc.
* Also there is a slight difference between owning and acknowledging our culture and being religious intolerant. Owning and acknowledging our ancient culture to let the world know our identity which has been undestroyed for thousands of years. India as a unique country which must acknowledge the Indic identity which is painted prominently in the majoritarian scarlet colour which are Hindu customs and traditions. Scarlet colour represents Bharatiyatva and Saffron represents Hindutva.
* The other cultures assimilated in India make it a fascinating country to live in and reminisce. India’s religious tolerance is such that both Urdu and Hindi originated in India and are both called Hindustani Languages. India is proud of its Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb which transcends the boundaries of religion for easy exchanges of culture. The Sufi culture in India which is prevalent among Hindustani Classical Music and which is also perfect display of India’s tolerance policy. India’s linguistic richness is such that both ancient languages Tamil and Sanskrit originated in India. We must acknowledge the diversity and pluralist identity of India while also not forgetting the Hindu-centric majoritarian roots (which were for thousands of years and later other cultures influenced the Indian subcontinent in a very non-communalist way) which can make our country a cultural powerhouse in our own way. This is the basic difference between various countries of the Indian subcontinent as well like Pakistan and Bangladesh where the latter also keeps celebrating their religion (Islam) while also keeping their culture intact (Hindu, Buddhist, Islamic).
* Also the word ‘secular’ is highly controversial because it is not primarily there in the Indian Constitution drafted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar but was later added during the Emergency by Indira Gandhi when the constitution was misused and heavily misappropriated. The correct word which depicts India’s rich diverse culture is ‘Pluralism’. The word secular actually means to separate church and the affairs of the state. But removing the Dharmic ethos which is deeply connected to the culture of the country in all terms also like Navayana Buddhism and Chola Shaivism (lated integrated into Hinduism), would be detrimental to the scarlet Bharatiyatva (togetherness) of the country. Instead of saffronised Hindutva, scarletised Bharatiyatva should be our motive. This can lessen our chances of becoming a cultural powerhouse and superpower. So India should be celebrated as a Pluaralist Tolerant Democratic Republic rather than a Secular State.
* Points like India gave asylum to persecuted communities like Zoroasters (Parsis), Sindhis, Jews, Kashmiri Pandits, etc due to its tolerance. India also gave asylum to Dalai Lama during Tibet vs China war when no one was ready to help him.

**Loopholes:-**

1. CAA :- The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 is about giving citizenship to persecuted communities like Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan if they have arrived in India before 31st December 2014. The argument that Muslims are being excluded is a fundamentally flawed idea. This act is legislative measure of inclusion of persecuted minorities from particularly these 3 countries and not exclusion. The Nehru-Liaquat Pact of 1950, gives the critical hostage theory. As far as undivided India is concerned, prior to 1971, population of non-Muslims in Pakistan was 23% which drastically reduced to 3% and is constantly dwindling. Similar case occurs in Bangladesh. Only reasons behind this monumental declines were, that Non-Muslims left the nation and migrated to India or other countries, they were subsumed to the majoritarian population by losing their Non-Muslim identity, or they were killed. In case of Afghanistan it was tyrannical to everyone who didn’t subscribe to their version of Islam. The reason why Shia and Ahmediyyas, Sufis are not included in CAA is that they utterly despise idol-worshippers and might as well endanger a large section of population as they subscribe to the Pakistani version of Islam which is different than Indian version of Islam. Even Indian Muslims for that matter despise Bangladeshi Muslims as well as they are taking up their jobs in India. The constitutional argument given is that of Article 14, which applies concept of equality based on the sample set of people on which you are applying it on. The Shia, Ahmediyya persecution has a sectarian basis while persecution of non-Muslims has a religious basis. The article targets the sample set of religiously persecuted community of Non-Muslims who might seek asylum in India due to their monumental decline from these 3 countries. The article specifically says that even after the citizenship is offered to these persecuted religious minorities, enhanced obligations can be imposed on them if requied even after they turn citizens as they are citizens turned through Naturalization. And if a lie is caught during the CAA process, prosecution will be carried by the host country.
2. Hindu Rashtra:- Now the question where India is a tolerant nation depends upon this question as we talk about the interpretations of Hindutva. The BJP’s version of Hindutva depends upon Savarkar’s Essentials of Hindutva and Bunch of Thoughts by M.S Golwalkar. It was later modified by Deendayal Upadhyaya when he added Gandhian Socialism and Integral Humanism in it. Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s version of a Hindu Rashtra depended upon the need of a distinct geographic and regional identity of an Indian by integrating every single culture into this beautiful motherland. Keshav Sitaram Thackeray’s version of Hindutva was more anti-casteist, reformative and self-aware in its own way. Now Modi’s version of Hindu Rashtra is constantly changing according to the circumstances but the hardline Savarkarite stance is constant. Not everyone in the democratically tolerant India subscribes to this ideology of a political party. We can also subscribe to the nationalist ideology of the Arya Samaj, Swami Vivekananda, Prabodhankar Thackeray, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, etc.
3. 1992 Babri Masjid Demolition:- The media started fear-mongering and it escalated into riots in various cities where people of both sides were killed. The contemporary political instability also led to such extremist activities. Even during riots, India’s tolerance came into picture as many moderate Hindus and Muslims helped each other as Indians.
4. Cow slaughter ban:- There is a law of the land where it is required for a particular person to follow the rules of the country. In this case, we can say that in case of India it is vital to respect sentiments in a pluralist democracy as in any other nation. If one does not follow the law of the land, he/she will be prosecuted according to the law. In case of Singapore which has bizarre law to not eat chewing gum, which is their law of land. Similarly in Saudi Arabia, openly displaying your religion other than Islam is prohibited. Also, as India is tolerant, beef is still legal in various parts of India like Kerala, Goa, Mizoram, Nagaland,etc.
5. Pop Culture Brainwashing of India:- The major reason why people call India as intolerant is due to Bollywood and its subtle brainwashing. The ancient Indian culture was very broad-minded, open and encouraged curiosity. But the education which Bollywood and Indian serials gave is highly problematic as it preached idealistic standards, encouraged racism through stereotypes, promoted American Wannabe capitalist culture and pseudo-secular culture instead of our values and traditions which are rational, logical and scientific.
6. VHP-RSS links with BJP:- The RSS is a paramilitary organization which strives to make a stronger and healthier Bharat and also helps India during any crises or riots. The RSS were on the forefront during 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots which helped and rehabilitated various Sikhs. During the COVID crisis as well, the RSS controlled the traffic, orchestrated various programmes to display India’s unique ancient culture. The VHP on the other hand helps establish stronger connections of Hindus worldwide through various seminars, shows and programmes, etc. There is no proof of a direct link of VHP-RSS with BJP but only baseless claims. Even though there are certain ideological similarities between BJP and RSS-VHP, there is no clear proof that RSS orchestrates the BJP activities in full control in authoritarian way instead of democratic leadership.
7. Agnipath Scheme:- The scheme can help lower the average age in armed forces which in turn can lead to more spending on mobilizing weaponry instead of pensions. This scheme can turn as a boon for making our country as young, energetic and militarily powerful. Significant insurance, decent salary will be provided to the Agniveers. The basic idea of lowering the average age can help more and more young people to join the armed forces and if they don’t get selected in the 25%, they can still use that discipline, mannerism, chivalry learnt during these 4 years to find another appropriate job. Many businessmen have offered employment opportunities to Agniveers after their training ends, 10% reservation will also be offered to them and 3-year skill based degree course will also be held for them. Various job opportunities will be given to Agniveers so as to don’t leave them as unemployed.

**THANK YOU !!!**