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Q-1) Examine how citizenship in India functions as a tool for nation-building. Why has it failed to guarantee full and equal participation of diverse communities? Discuss with relevant constitutional provisions and recent developments.

Ans. Citizenship is defined as full and equal participation of an individual to the highest political unit i.e., state. Article 51A of Indian constitution provides with the provisions of citizenship. It includes both rights and duties.

Citizenship as a tool for nation-building —

(1) Inclusive approach —

→ Initially, India provided citizenship to everyone irrespective of caste, creed, religion etc. India also provided citizenship rights to certain migrants.

(2) Promotes unity cohesion —

→ Under Art 14 everyone is equal before the law and under Art 15 it prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc which binds different communities

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together in a society.

## ③ Political-legal dimension —

↳ Citizenship incorporates various civil, political and economic rights like right to equality, right to vote, right to get elected which ensures their collective participation, and democratic representation.

## ④ Social Dimension —

DPSPs guide the state in implementing welfare policies which fosters a sense of belongingness.

Challenges to full and equal participation —

## ① Religious discrimination —

As per Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 excludes Muslim population violating the principle of secularism.

## ② Economic disparity —

↳ Poverty restricts access to health care, education, governance etc leading to social exclusion and reduced influence in civic matters.

↳ Article 16 ~~ties~~ and DPSR tries to address the issues but there are implementation gaps.

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इस हारिए में  
नहीं लिखना  
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Candidates  
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## ③ Literacy gap —

- ↳ An ignorant and illiterate person is unable to participate in society.
- ↳ Low legal literacy creates problem of documentation as is evident in case of NRL and Assam Accord which may lead to problems of statelessness.

## ④

## ④ Regional Disparities —

Remote regions like those of North-East and tribal regions lack infrastructure, reducing their access to development and governance.

## ⑤ Intersectionality —

- ↳ Overlapping identities of caste, gender, poverty, geography, patriarchy exacerbate marginalisation.

↳ e.g. A Dalit woman in a rural area

## ⑥ Extra-judicial interventions —

Practices like Khaap Panchayat and Kangaros Courts are illegal and bypass the legal system.

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## ④ Identity Politics -

Identity Politics disturbs collective nation-building and creates narrative of Us Vs Them.

## WAY FORWARD -

- ① As per Romila Thapar in her book, "On Citizenship" India needs to uphold secularism and constitutional morality.
- ② As per N Ram citizenship laws must align with Preamble's core ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.
- ③ Strengthen social cohesion by promoting fraternity till to counter communal and caste-based divisions.
- ④ Promote inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues.

Promotion of inclusivity and addressing systemic discrimination are essential for realising the full potential of citizenship as a nation-building instrument.

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Q.2 Critically analyse how cultural diversity in India leads to emergence of regions as strong cultural units than states. To what extent have regional deprivation and development deficits drive the formation of new states? Discuss the relevance of a Second State Reorganisation Commission in this context.

Ans. India is known for its rich cultural diversity, language, culture and traditions. India's ability to adapt ensure regional aspirations are addressed without compromising national integrity.

How cultural Diversity strengthens Regions over States —

## ① Ethnic and Tribal autonomy —

- Ethnic groups particularly in North-east and tribal belts have strong cultural identity which makes them strong cultural unit than states.

(e.g.) Nagaland was created to preserve tribal identity

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## ② Cultural consolidation

- Smaller states protect ethnolinguistic homogeneity
- Prevents the dilution of local culture  

e.g., Gorkhaland movement in West Bengal shows how cultural differences leads to demand for separate unit.

## ③ Economic and cultural marginalisation

Peripheral regions within states often feel culturally and economically neglected

e.g. Jharkhand

### Critical analysis —

- Preserves the cultural identity like language, culture, tradition but may lead to weakening of national unity.
- Strengthens grassroots democracy and participatory governance but may lead to rise of identity politics.
- Smaller cultural units increases the administrative efficiency but it may lead to uneven development.

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Regional deprivation and developmental deficits leading to formation of new states -

- ↳ Regional deprivation and developmental deficits play an important role in the formation of new states as we see in case of Telangana, Jharkhand etc.
- ↳ Jharkhand felt that it has huge mineral resources but the tribal population of the region is not getting the benefits. So, Jharkhand separated from Bihar on the grounds of economic optimisation. Also, Jharkhand's focus on mining industries highlights how smaller states can capitalise on localised resources.
- ↳ Every state has its own infrastructure needs while economic activities are centred in one region as we can see in case of Maharashtra - more developed around Mumbai region. Smaller states drove regional development in a better way by focusing on previously marginalised areas.

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But before formation of States on these grounds by Second State Reorganisation Commission it needs to check various other aspects as follows —

## ① Economic Viability —

- ↳ Smaller states create problem of fiscal asymmetry as weaker states will be dependent on central transfer.
- ↳ This will lead to atmosphere of course phenomena.

## ② Resource disputes —

- ↳ Whenever new states are created there are challenges of sharing of resources over water, minerals etc.
- ↳ It may lead to increased burden on judiciary.  
e.g., Lauvry River water dispute

## ③ Identity Politics Amplification —

- ↳ Increased focus on local identity risks creating divisions over unity.
- ↳ Often used by regional political elites to prioritise sub-regional populism over national priorities.

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①

## Strategic Vulnerabilities —

- Fragmentation in strategic regions like border states can weaken national security
- eg) North-eastern states are susceptible to external geopolitical pressures.

②

## Domino effect —

Division of states will set precedent for other states encouraging territorial divisions and risk of political balkanisation.

## WAY FORWARD —

① Regional councils for Translational Autonomy —

- Regional councils can act as bridge between full statehood and status quo.
- Can create regional level autonomous body to tackle development deficit.

②

## Igeo-economic Mapping —

Region specific mapping to check whether new state is economically sustainable or not.

③

## Comprehensive policy framework —

The identity of a person should be intact and for that we to maintain civic cohesion.

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need a comprehensive policy framework with bottom up approach which addresses socio-cultural identity through autonomy.

④ Strengthening local governance —  
Developmental needs can be tackled by empowering sub-federal structure as they provide localised governance solutions.

We should protect regional identity without compromising natural unity as per Wil Kymlicka's theory of multiculturalism. However, we must also prioritise cooperative federalism, sustainable development and effluent governance.

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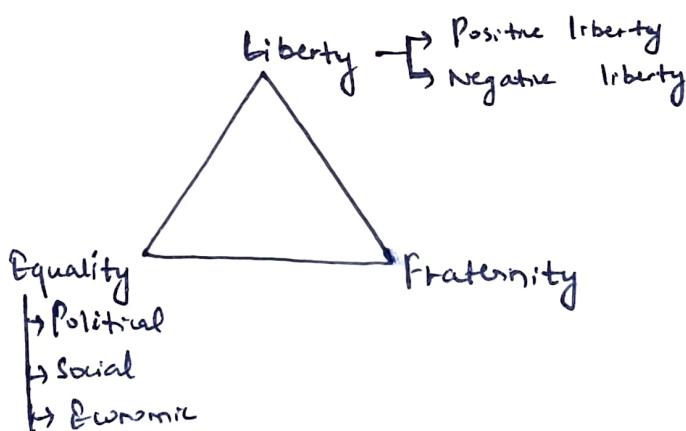
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Q.3- Dr BR Ambedkar envisioned a 'Union of Trinity' - liberty, equality and fraternity - as essential for resolving the 'life of contradictions' in India. Critically examine ~~the~~ how this vision addresses contemporary challenges like social inequality, political polarisation and economic disparities.

Ans. Liberty is defined as absence of external constraints and is able to make independent decisions and act in an autonomous way.

Equality means equal rights and opportunities to every individual irrespective of their social, economic and cultural background.

Fraternity means the sense or spirit of brotherhood that promotes unity and integrity in the nation and binds its people.



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How this vision addresses contemporary challenges -

① Social Inequality -

- ↳ Equality provides legal safeguards <sup>17</sup> the article like 14, 15, 17 to prevent discrimination and untouchability <sup>17</sup> society.
- ↳ Also, there is Prevention of Atrocities Act to prevent discrimination.
- ↳ Fraternity promotes social harmony through interfaith and intercultural dialogues.

But still there are challenges -

- ① Untouchability still exists in covert form in society and is getting transformed into subtle discrimination.
- ② Outpost of feudalism still thrives <sup>17</sup> society like Khaps Panchayats which adjudicate on the conduct and morality of women limiting their liberty.
- ③ Regional and tribal communities face marginalisation as seen in the case of SC / ST etc.

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## ② [Political Polarisation] —

- ↳ Article 19 guarantees freedom of speech and expression ensuring our liberty. It works as a "SAFETY VALVE".
- ↳ Article 25-28 promotes religious freedom and ensures secularism giving equal treatment to all religions. It also upholds the spirit of fraternity and brotherhood.

But still there are challenges —

- ① Provisions of free speech and expression i.e., our liberty is limited using instruments like hate speech, defamation, which creates a direct severe chilling effect.
- ② Digital surveillance and lack of data security challenges freedom as it infringes upon privacy. Data is being used to polarise views and for political opportunism.
- ③ Political intolerance erodes liberty and sense of fraternity.

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## ③ Economic disparities —

- ↳ DPsPs like Article 39 promotes equitable distribution of wealth,
- ↳ Article 43 provides living wage etc for workers
- ↳ Various income policies like MNREGA, PMUKAY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Kalyan Anna Yojana) leads to socio-economic cohesion.

But there are challenges like —

- ① As per OXFAM report top 10% of population controls 77% of wealth. Widening of gap in income violates the principle of equality.
- ② Rising regional disparities hinders the economic development.
- ③ Unemployment, rural-urban divide, digital literacy gap exacerbate inequalities and weakens the social cohesion.

## WAY FORWARD —

- ① Strengthen governance through decentralized planning to address inequality.
- ② Promote community driven initiatives to reduce caste and communal politics.

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③ Shift towards knowledge based economy which is skilled and promote value based education.

BR Ambedkar said, "Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy." Promotion of liberty, equality and fraternity is essential to achieve an inclusive, just and equitable society.