



Gender, Religion and Caste

Gender

- Public/Private division
- Discrimination faced by women.
- Women's political representation

Religion

- Religion and politics
- Communalism
- Secular state

Caste

- Caste and politics
- Caste inequalities
- Caste in politics
- Politics in caste



Gender and Politics

Sex (Biological) V/S Gender (Social expectations)

Sexual division of labour.

Public domain: Women's role in public spaces has been restricted.

Private domain: Women are expected to take the burden of household work

Feminist movement

Demanded equal rights and opportunities

Discrimination on various parts

Literacy rate, jobs, wages, sex ratio and domestic violence

Situation in India being a patriarchal society



Political expression of gender division and political mobilisation helped to improve women's role in public life e.g Scandinavian countries.



Women's Political Representation

E.g 33% seats in local government bodies are reserved for women.

It very low (14.36 % in L.S, 5%

S.L.A)

It should be legally binding to have a fair share of women in elected bodies

Demand for similar reservation at state and national levels. (Recently granted)

In which of the following regions was women representation the highest in their respective National Parliaments (2018) ?

CBSE Board Paper 2024 - Set [32/4/1]

a. Nordic countries

b. America (North and South)

c. Europe

d. Asia



Religion, communalism and politics



Religion and Politics





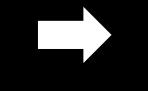
• Women's movement has argued that family laws of all religions discriminate against women.

Religion & politics (Good or Bad)



Political acts towards religion are not wrong as long as they treat every religion equally.

Communalism



Belief that people belonging to the same religion should form a nation, and in this process the power of state is used to establish domination of one religious group over the other.



Fundamentally Flawed



Communalism can take various form in politics

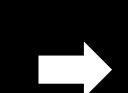
- Creating religious prejudices, stereotypes and domination.
- Political domination by a communal mind.
- Political mobilisation on religious lines (using sacred symbols & Colours)
- Violence riots and massacre.

Secular State



A system to overcome the challenge of communalism, where all religions are treated equally.





(No official religion, freedom of religion, constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, state intervene in the matters of religion to ensure equality)

Read the following statements and choose the correct term mentioned in the Indian Constitution from the given options:

1

- There is no official religion for the Indian State.
- There is freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion in India.

CBSE Board Paper 2024 - Set [32/4/1]

a. Republic

b. Sovereign

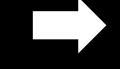
c. Socialist

d. Secular



Caste inequalities in India: Unique, based on hereditary occupational division sanctioned by rituals, discrimination and untouchability.

Caste and Politics



Breaking down of caste structure: Social reformer, (Worked to establish equality), Socio - economic changes (Urbanisation, Literacy and education, Occupational mobility, etc.) and constitutional provisions.

Yet caste has not disappeared totally?



Untouchability has not ended completely, Certain groups still lag behind, Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.

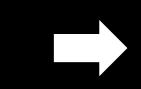
Bablu in Car and Car on Bablu

Caste in politics

Caste as the basis of society → Takes various forms

[Caste composition of a constituency is seen during ticket distribution, appeals are made to caste sentiments, universal adult franchise had brought new consciousness among all caste groups]



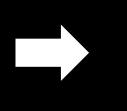


Are election all about caste only NO NO Along with caste other factors also matters.



No constituency have majority of single caste, no party wins the vote of all the voters of a caste or community, many parties may put up the candidates from the same caste, caste communities are not frozen in their voting patterns because the ruling parties and the sitting MP or MLA frequently lose.

Politics in Caste



Politics too influences caste system. (It is not politics that gets caste - ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised)



- Caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating sub castes.
- Coalition among various caste groups.
- Emergence of new caste groups in Political Arena. "Backward" and "Forward"

Positive



Caste and Politics



Negative

Disadvantaged communities gets their share of power

It divert attention from other pressing issues (Poverty, Development and Corruption)





Sexual division of labour: A system in which work division is based on the gender. According to which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family, or organised by them through the domestic helpers and work outside the home is done by men.

Feminist: A woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men and raise voice for such equality.

Patriarchal Society: Patriarchal society literally means a system of rule by male. Patriarchy is a social system in which men hold primary power, moral authority, special privilege, and control over property and takes all the decision.

Family laws: Those laws that deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, etc. In our country, different family laws apply to followers of different religions.

Communalism: Communalism is an ideology whereby it is believed that people belonging to a same religion should form a nation and in the process the power of state is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest.

Secularism/Secular State: Secularism refers to the separation of religion from the state. It means that the state should not discriminate among its citizens on the basis of religion. It should neither encourage nor discourage the followers of any religion.

Hereditary occupational division: It refers to the occupational division among the people which is based on the hereditary system whereby society is divided on the basis of occupation and the occupations are passed on from one generation to another.

Occupational mobility: Shift from one occupation to another, usually when a new generation takes up occupations other than those practised by their ancestors.



Caste hierarchy: A ladder like formation in which all the caste groups are placed from the 'highest' to the 'lowest' castes. Some are considered as upper caste and some are considered as lower caste.

Vote bank: Vote bank is a group of people who can be relied upon to vote together in support of the same party. When people say that any caste is a 'vote bank' of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for that party.

Casteism: A belief system where caste is considered as the basis of society. Where hereditary occupational division was sanctioned by rituals. Members of the same caste group are supposed to form a social community.

Casteism prefers marriage within the same caste group. It also prohibits eating with members from other caste group.





"In India, women still lag behind men despite some improvement since Independence." Support the statement with examples.



- As India is still dominated by Patriarchal society, gender discrimination is prevalent at present.
 Parents prefer to spend money for boy's education.
- Girls perform as well as boys in school, but the literacy rate among women in only 54 percent compared with 76 percent among men.
- The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very little.
- In almost all areas of work, women are paid less than the men, even when both works exactly the same.
- Women still face harassment, exploitation and violence in our society.





Explain the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies. What can be done to improve the situation.



The status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies is as follows:

- Central Legislature: touched 12 percent of its total members in 2014.
- State Legislature: Less than 5 percent of its total members are women.
- Panchayati Raj: One-third of the seats are reserved for women.
- It should be legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies.
- There should be the reservation of at least one third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women.





Define communalism. Explain any three forms of communalism in the Indian politics.



- Belief that people belonging to the same religion should form a nation, and in this process the power of state is used to establish domination of one religious group over the other.
- The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, the stereotype of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions.
- A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. For those belonging to the majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.
- Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves the use
 of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to bring the followers of
 one religion together in the political arena.
- Sometimes, communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.





Mention any three features of 'secularism' described in the Indian Constitution.

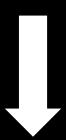


- There is no official religion for the Indian state. Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, that of Islam in Pakistan and that of Christianity in England, our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.
- The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to prefers, practice and propagate any religion or not to follow any.
- The Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities.





Describe any three factors that are responsible for breaking down the Caste system in India?



- Political leaders and social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B. R.
 Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswamy Naicker advocated and worked to establish a society without caste inequalities.
- With economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the position of landlords and Zamindars in the villages, the old rigid notions of Caste hierarchy are dying.
- The Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.





How caste can take several form in politics? Explain.



- While choosing candidates for election, political parties consider the caste composition of the voters to win support.
- Political parties make an appeal to the caste sentiments to win votes.
- Some political parties are known to favour some particular caste.
- Universal Adult Franchise and the principle of one-person-one-vote have compelled the political leaders to bring caste sentiments into politics to muster support.





Describe any five features of the caste system in India.



- It was a hierarchical occupational division of the society, special to India.
- Caste system is both hierarchical and segmented.
- Most important aspect of caste system is 'untouchability'.
- In caste system, the members of the same caste group formed a social community that followed similar occupation, married within the caste and did not mingle with other castes.
- Caste system was based on the exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups.





The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else. Do you agree? Explain.



Introduction

- No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. So, every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
- No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community. When people say that a caste is a
 'vote bank' of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from the caste vote for
 the party.
- Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste (if that caste is believed to dominate the electorate in a particular constituency). Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste, while many voters have no candidates from their caste.
- The Ruling Party of the sitting MP or MLA frequently loses elections in our country. That could not have happened if all castes or communities were frozen in their political preferences.



CIVICS GENDER, RELIGION AND CASTE

CBSE Board Paper 2019 - Set [32/1/1]

"Women still lag much behind men in India despite some improvements since independence." Analyse the statement.

CBSE Board Paper 2019 - Set [32/3/1]

How had the position of women improved in our country since independence? Explain with examples. 3

CBSE Board Paper 2019 - Set [32/2/1]

How can caste take several forms in politics? Explain with examples.

CBSE Board Paper 2019 - Set [32/3/1]

How can caste take various forms in politics? Explain with examples.

CBSE Board Paper 2019 - Set [32/5/1]

Politics and social divisions should not be allowed to mix." Justify the statement.

CBSE Board Paper 2019 - Set [32/4/1]

Describe the different ways through which women face discrimination and oppression in India. 5

CBSE Board Paper 2019 - Set [32/5/12xt



CIVICS GENDER, RELIGION AND CASTE

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/1/1]

Suggest any one way to pay equal wages to women in all areas of work as equal to men. 1

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/1/1]

Suggest any one way to change 'family laws' of all religions.

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/3/1]

Read the following information and write a single term for it.

1
The Constitution of India provides freedom to profess and practice any religion to all its citizens. The Constitution of India prohibits discrimination on religious grounds.

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/5/1]

The Indian Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion because ______. 1

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/4/1]

"Caste system is still prevalent in the Indian society." Suggest any one measure to abolish it. 1





CIVICS GENDER, RELIGION AND CASTE

"Sometimes elections are all about caste in India." How can this situation be avoided? Choose the correctly matched option from the following: **CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/5/1]** Fill in the blank: Castes and Caste system in modern India have undergone a great change because ____ **CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/4/1]** Describe the changes in castes and caste system in modern India. **CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/3/1]** 'Communalism can take various forms in politics.' Explain.



CIVICS GENDER, RELIGION AND CASTE

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/4/1]

Describe the ways of discrimination faced by women in India. 3

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/1/1]

Suggest any one way to protect women from domestic oppression.

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/2/1]

Describe the problems of low representation of women in Indian Legislature. 3

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/2/1]

Describe any three problems of communism in Indian Politics 3

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/2/1]

Describe any three problems of communalism in Indian politics.

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/1/1]

Mention any three features of 'secularism' described in the Indian Constitution. 3

CBSE Board Paper 2020 - Set [32/1/1]

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/1/1]

Read the statements and choose the appropriate option: 1

Assertion (A): Women in different parts of the World organized themselves and agitated for equal rights.

Reason (R): Women's movement aimed at equality in personal and family life as well.

Options:

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the not correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/2/1]

In which one of the following regions is the participation of women in public life the highest? 1

- (a) Nordic countries
- (b) Arab states
- (c) European countries
- (d) Asian countries





CIVICS GENDER, RELIGION AND CASTE

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/6/1]

Which one of the following countries has the highest representation of women in their National Parliament?

- 1
- (A) Russia
- (B) Australia
- (C) Sweden
- (D) India

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/1/1]

Which one of the following matters do NOT deal with the 'Family Laws'?

- (A) Marriage
- (B) Adoption
- (C) Inheritance
- (D) Finance



CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/6/1]

Read the following statements and choose the correct option:

1

- I. There is no official religion in India.
- II. Communities have freedom to profess and practice their religion.
- III. State helps communities by giving aid to educational institutions run by them.
- IV. India believes in theocracy.

Options:

- (A) I, II and III
- (C) II, III and IV
- (B) I, II and IV
- (D) I, III and IV

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/5/1]

Which one of the following statements is not true?

- (a) The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion.
- (b) The Constitution allows us to practice, profess and propagate any religion or not to follow any.
- (c) The Constitution of India allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities.
- (d) As per the Constitution, religion can never be separated from politics.

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/1/1]

Explain any two provisions that make India a secular state.

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/4/1]

"Women face discrimination in various ways in our society." Explain any two ways. 2

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/2/1]

Suggest three steps to enhance the literacy rate among women in India. 3

CBSE Board Paper 2023 - Set [32/5/1]

'Communalism is harmful for the nation.' Explain.



CBSE Board Paper 2024 - Set [32/1/1]

Which of the following term refers to the belief in and advocacy for the social, political and economic equality of women?

- (a) Patriarchy
- (c) Socialist
- (b) Matriarchy
- (d) Feminists

CBSE Board Paper 2024 - Set [32/3/3]

Which one of the following statements, best describes women empowerment? 1

- (A) Encouraging men to take leadership roles.
- (B) Promoting superiority of women over men.
- (C) Ensuring equal opportunities and rights for women.
- (D) Limiting the rights of men in all spheres.

CBSE Board Paper 2024 - Set [32/3/3]

"Role of women is gradually enhancing in the politics of the country" Examine the statement. 2





CBSE Board Paper 2024 - Set [32/5/1]

Two statements, I and II are given below. Read both the statements and choose the correct option. 1

Statement I: Women are now actively contributing to various professions including roles as doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers and university teachers.

Statement II: Political expression of gender division and political mobilization helped to improve women's role in public life.

Options:

- (A) Statement I is true, but II is false,
- (B) Statement I is false, but II is true.
- (C) Statements I and II are true and II is the correct explanation of I.
- (D) Statements I and II are true, but II is not the correct explanation of I.

CBSE Board Paper 2024 - Set [32/1/1]

Read the given statements

1

India has no official religion.

All the communities have freedom to profess and practice any religion in India.

Which one of the following constitutional term is used for the above statements?

- (A) Republic
- (B) Secular
- (C) Sovereign
- (D) Socialist



CBSE Board Paper 2024 - Set [32/5/1]

Read the following provisions regarding Secularism in the Indian Constitution and choose the correct option.

1

- I. The Indian State has not adopted any religion as its official religion.
- II. The Constitution gives freedom to all the citizens to practice and propagate any religion.
- III. The Constitution declares any kind of discrimination done on the basis of religion to be legal.
- IV. It gives the government the right to intervene in religious matters for ensuring equality within religious communities.

Options:

- (A) Only I, II and III are correct.
- (B) Only I, II and IV are correct.
- (C) Only I, III and IV are correct.
- (D) Only II, III and IV are correct.

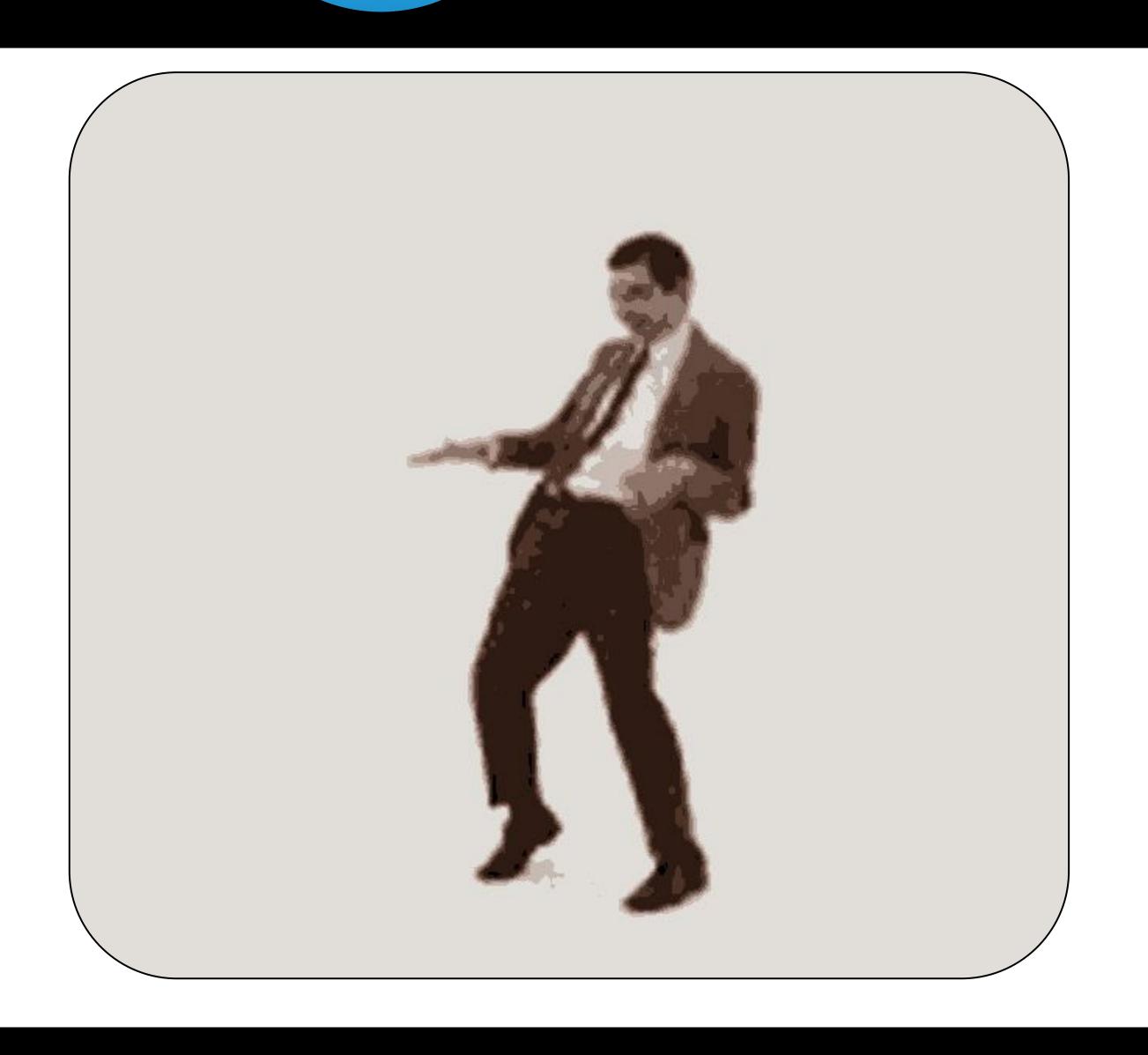








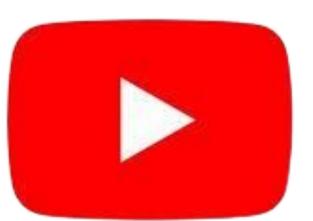
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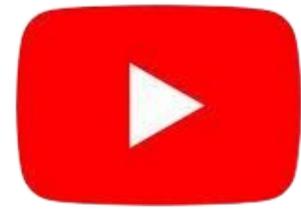
Digraj Singh Rajput





Next Toppers (>>>)





The Social Brains





For Upcoming sessions



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