



Mains Practice Question

Q. Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism. (Answer in 250 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

08 Jan, 2024 GS Paper 1 Indian Society

Approach

- Write a brief introduction about the concept of post-liberal economy.
- Mention how the post-liberal economy impacted to ethnic identity and communalism.
- Write a short conclusion.

Introduction

The concept of a post-liberal economy in India, characterized by economic reforms and liberalization that commenced in the early 1990s, has given rise to a **complex and multifaceted phenomenon**, particularly with its influence on ethnic identity and communalism, in the backdrop of globalization.

Body

Impact on Ethnic Identity:

Positives:

- **Economic Empowerment: Increased access to economic opportunities** has allowed individuals from various ethnic backgrounds to improve their **socio-economic status**.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Post-liberal economy has facilitated **greater cultural exchange** due to **increased trade, tourism, and connectivity**, leading to greater **intercultural understanding**.
- **Entrepreneurship and Regional Identity:** Economic liberalization has encouraged entrepreneurship, allowing regions with distinct ethnic identities to **promote** their **unique products and traditions**.

Negatives:

- **Economic Disparities:** Economic growth has **not been uniform across ethnic groups**, leading to **income disparities** and **potential marginalization of certain communities**.
- **Cultural Homogenization:** The **spread of global consumer culture** through liberalization can **erode traditional ethnic customs and identities**.
- **Regional Disparities: Economic liberalization** may **concentrate wealth and development** in certain regions, leaving **others economically disadvantaged**.

Impact on Communalism:

Positives:

- **Urbanization and Migration: Promote social integration** and reduce the influence of

communalism.

- **Education and Awareness:** Access to better education and information can **foster a more informed and tolerant society**, diminishing communal tensions.

Negatives:

- **Media and Technology:** Can be used to **propagate divisive ideologies and amplify communal tensions**.
- **Rural-Urban Divide:** Economic liberalization can lead to a **rural-urban divide**, with rural areas feeling left behind, potentially fueling communal sentiments.
- **Consumerism: Materialistic values** associated with consumerism may **overshadow cultural and social values**, contributing to a breakdown in community cohesion.

Conclusion

Therefore, on one hand post liberal economy has ushered the country into an era of development and prosperity but at the same time, its effect on ethnic identity and communalism has created **new faultlines**. It needs to be tackled following the value of **brotherhood** as mentioned in the **preamble**.

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