

1. What is the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies?

Ans. In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low.

- (i) For example, the percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never reached even 12 per cent of its total strength.
- (ii) Women's share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent. In this respect, India is among the bottom groups of nations in the world.

2. Social divisions based on _____ are peculiar to India.

Ans. Caste

3. Mention any two constitutional measures/provisions that make India a secular state.

Ans. In order to face the challenge of communalism the makers of our constitution chose the model of a secular state. This choice was reflected in several constitutional provisions which are as follows:

- (i) There is no official religion for the Indian state, unlike Buddhism in Sri Lanka, Islam in Pakistan and Christianity in England. Our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.
- (ii) The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion or not to follow any.
- (iii) The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion. At the same time the Constitution allows the state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality within religious communities.

4. Mention different aspects of life in which women are discriminated against or disadvantaged in India.

Ans. To the unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women. Following are the main different aspects of life in which women are against discriminated or disadvantaged in India.

- (i) Women do all work inside the house such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after children etc. and men do all the work outside the home, but their job is not paid.
- (ii) The result of Gender division or sexual division of labour is that women have been confined to the private domain of family, while the public domain has been monopolized by men. Women still lag much behind men despite some improvement since independence. Our society is a male-dominated. Their political participation is very low.

- (iii) The literacy rate among women is only 65 per cent compared to 82 per cent among men. On an average Indian women work one hour more than an average man every day. Yet much of her work is not paid and therefore, often not valued. The law of equal pay for men and women is often violated.
- (v) Due to preference to son the sex ratio has declined in the country to merely 914. Further, this ratio has fallen below 850 or even 800 in some states of India.
- (v) In highly paid jobs percentage of female is very low.

5. State reasons to say that caste alone cannot determine election result in India.

Ans. The focus on caste in politics sometimes gives an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else. We can state following reasons for the same:

- (i) No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single party. So, every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
- (ii) No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community. Usually a large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for the party. Hence people say that “Caste is a Vote Bank”.
- (iii) Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste. Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste while many voters have no candidate from their caste.
- (iv) The ruling party and the sitting MPs or MLAs frequently lose elections in our country. That could not have happened if all castes and communities were frozen in their political preferences.
- (v) All these instances clearly show that while caste matters in electoral politics, so do many other factors. The voters have strong attachment to political parties which is often stronger than their attachment to their caste or community.
- (vi) People within the same caste or community have different interests depending on their economic condition like rich and poor or men and women from the same caste often vote very differently.

6. In India, seats are reserved for women in

- (a) Lok sabha
- (b) State legislative assemblies
- (c) Cabinets
- (d) Panchayati Raj bodies.

Ans. Answer of this question is option (d) that in India 33 % seats are reserved for women in panchayati Raj bodies.

7. Consider the following three statements on the meaning of communal politics. Communal politics is based on the belief that:

- (a) One religion is superior to that of others.
- (b) People belonging to different religions can live together happily as equal citizens.
- (c) Followers of a particular religion constitute one community.
- (d) State power cannot be used to establish the domination of one religious group over others.

Which of the statements is/ are correct ?

- (a) A, B, C and D
- (b) A, B and D
- (c) A and C
- (d) B and D

Ans. Answer of this question is option (c) that A and C are correct.

8. Which among the following statements about India's constitution is wrong?

- (a) Prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- (b) Gives official status to one religion.
- (c) Provides to all individuals freedom to profess any religion.
- (d) Ensures equality of citizens within religious communities.

Ans. Answer of this question is option (b) that constitution had not given official status to one religion.

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