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MAD- 2020
Day - 9
Social Issues

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Question:

In this globalized world, discuss how domestic incidences of communalism impact India's image in the world fraternity. Also, discuss its implications.

Answer:

A quick history of the start of Communalism in India:

Communalism in India is result of modern politics, which has its roots in the:

- **Partition of Bengal in 1905**
- **Separate electorate under Government of India Act, 1909** and
- **British government's Communal award in 1932** (which faced strong resistance from Gandhi ji and others).
- **It culminated in the partition of India in 1947.**

All these acts were done by the **British government to appease various communities** of India, primarily Muslims, for their own political needs.

This feeling of **communalism has deepened since then, fragmenting the Indian society** and being a cause of unrest.

Defining Communalism

- Communalism, as used in India, is defined as **a distrust and acrimony among different faith-based social groups** such as Hindu-Muslim, Hindu-Christians, and different ethnic groups which results in riots and violence.
- It is often forwarded by **political functioning of individuals or groups for the selfish interest of particular religious communities or castes.**
- The **rising trend of communalism and the violence** followed is the **major threat posed towards the integrity** of nation.

Causes of Communal Conflicts and Violence:

- **Religious indifferences and misconceptions** are accounted for the communal problems are having opposite faith and belief.
- **Economic Disparities** between the religions also contribute to conflict.
- The Historical distortions and the false interpretations of history which created hostile thought in the minds of the communities.
- **Social problems and imbalance** due to unequal growth of population can be pointed as a factor constructing the growth of communalism.
- **Political Factors**, with the intent of gaining electoral victory, are the primary things causing communal tensions in the present society. It leads to:
 - Religion based politics
 - Polarizing society on communal lines to gain electoral victory

- Partiality of political parties towards one community
- Supporting a communal organization in their fanatic acts

Effects of communalism

- **Disunity in the Society:** It causes hatred among different religious sections in the society and disrupts the peaceful social fabric of our society.
- **Disruption of Trade and Economy:** Economic growth can take place only in environment of peace and tranquility, communalism creates an atmosphere of intolerance and violence which would impede the flow of goods and capital.
- **Threat to Human Development:** Due to prevalent communalism in the society individuals are never at peace and a spiritual powerhouse India seems to lose its charm.
- Because of **selected targeting of groups**, communalism causes problem like unemployment, women 's issue, illiteracy, and other social issues which **impact growth towards sustainable inclusive development**.

India's domestic incidence of communalism can impact its image in the world fraternity in a negative manner:

- The annual report by the **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** places India alongside Pakistan, China and North Korea.
This is the first time India has been placed in this category since 2004.
Though India has rejected this report.
It can impact India's relations with other countries.
- It can hamper **India's bid to UNSC** as a permanent member.
- **Loss of Soft Power: As Social harmony** is more important than economic harmony to **project India as a global leader** in coming decades.
- **Aid from World Bank and IMF can also attract sanctions** if other nations feel that communal harmony is being compromised in India.
- **Tourism and FDI** have a long-lasting impact on India's economy due to the fear of riots, vandalism and communal disturbance.
- If our country is safe then only, we can **project ourselves as a global leader to resolve global communal issues** peacefully.
- India's **moral stature** and **image as a democracy** are also the reason why most countries around the world have welcomed India playing a larger role not only in its region but in the global arena.

Way forward:

- **Public awareness** needs to be raised **about the harmful impact of communalism**.
- **Our constitution**, labels India as a **secular nation** makes provisions to protect the interests of all religions and goes beyond the code of any religion.
- Communalism can be combated with the help of **globalization as a tool:**
 - In the globalized world, all countries are becoming **integrated and dependent** on each other.
 - **Movement of people** from one place to other is becoming very easy, in such conditions to

avoid such potential violence, governments are already promoting cultural exchanges through **shows, programs, heritage walk, cultural visit** by students and parliamentarians.

- **Promoting learning of each other's local language** for easy exchange of ideas.
- **Secularism and Tolerance** is an essential factor which should be practiced in the **political arena**.
- Secular politics ensures the protection of the nation's unity and integrity.
- **Bringing religion to politics** and using religious connections to gain in politics is **contrary to the spirit of secularism**.
- **Stronger and faster penal actions** of those found guilty of benefiting from Communalism.