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A 'tolerant' India can be majoritarian(The Hindu, GS-1, Art and Culture)

Context:- Pew Research Center report which was based on 30,000 people mainly on religious identity, nationalism and tolerance in Indian society. This survey was conducted in 17 languages.

Findings of Survey:-

- "it is very important to be Hindu to be 'truly' Indian", 64% of Hindus think.
- "it is very important to speak Hindi to be truly Indian",80% among them say.
- 80% of surveyed people think that respecting other religions is a very important part of their own religious identity.
- 91% of surveyed people assert that they are free to practice their religion.
- 77% of Muslims believe in the Hindus way of life of karma.

- when it comes to interreligious marriages the table turns and which assert that 67% of Hindus and 80% of Muslims believe it is important to stop women of their communities from marrying outside;
- The survey depicts that 86% of Hindus have their close friends come mainly or entirely from their religion
- 95% of Muslims (and Sikhs) said that they "are very proud to be Indian"

What is Culture?

- Culture is a way of life which includes from food to dance from literature to architecture.

What is Multiculturalism and Pluralism:-

- On one hand Multiculturalism refers to the coexistence of diverse religious, ethnic or cultural groups within a society and on the other cultural pluralism refers to a phenomenon where minority groups participate fully in the dominant society, but while maintaining their cultural differences.

What are the feature of Multiculturalism:-

- Composite culture
- Culture beyond compartments
- Constant dialogue
- Mutual change of Ideas
- Interrogation of settled belief.

Why compartmentalization in Indian society?

- Absence of solid state civil society engagements in pedagogy.
- Segregation at the workplace based on caste, religion etc.
- Lack of interpersonal relationships in society.
- Lack of intercultural relations.
- Politics based on religion.

There is a stark difference between south India and north India according to Pew Research:-

- In several aspects south differs from the north not by a small, but a substantial margin to the rest of India but huge in which are like superiority of one's own religion, having friends and neighbors from other religions, preventing inter-religious marriages, the importance of being a Hindu and speaking Hindi to be a true Indian, prohibition of beef.

Success of multiculturalism in India some argue that it is there but some confront. We have communities of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis etc. that have melted well and enhanced the progress of India. India is one of the most diverse countries in the world in terms of cultural, religious and linguistic diversity etc. This diversity follows mainly from length and breath across the country. There is always a challenge for a nation to strike a balance between unity and diversity or managing unity in such diverse socio-cultural situations. In India pluralism describes the reality

of cultural diversity and It is an attempt to create a society in which the best of all inputs continue to integrate. It also allows for many different groupings but does not try to impose a uniform status on all of them. But at the same time multiculturalism means showing respect and tolerance to other cultures and faith. It also says that all minority values must have equal status to those of the majority. Our constitution also provides fundamental rights for the preservation of diversity.

What is Skyboxification of American life:-

- According to The American philosopher Michael J. Sandel, There is a "skyboxification of American life" because of rising extreme inequalities of capitalism in which the affluent classes and people of poor means have no connection at all and they "live and work and shop and play in different places" and their "children go to different schools.
- But this is not true for India as compartmentalization is mainly based on Caste, religion, language and which further manifest into rich and poor.

What is the way forward:-

- The way forward for the fear of other social groups, especially minorities is the increased interaction among them in a variety of public and private settings.
    - For examples:- Despite anti-Muslim sentiments ,there is a big difference in positive attitudes towards other social/religious groups when members of those groups are personally known in United States and West Europe. Even there this much higher Anti-Muslim sentiments much higher numbers than India are willing to accept Muslims as neighbors.

- Majoritarianism accompanied by mere acceptance of minority communities as non-interacting enclaves is the death of democracy so interaction is to the core of the society.

Extra:-

What are the salient features of Indian society:-

- **Caste System:-**
  - It can be defined as hereditary endogamous group with a common name, a common traditional occupation, a common culture, relatively rigid in matters of mobility, a distinctiveness of status and forming a single homogenous community.

Segmental division of society:-
  - Division of society means social stratification which is largely based on caste. In a general sense Membership to a caste group is acquired by birth, on the basis of which people are ranked in relative to other caste groups.

Civil and religious disabilities:-
  - These consist of restrictions based on contact, dress, speech, rituals etc which are placed on every caste group. It was done in order to maintain purity of specific caste groups so as to maintain hierarchy. For Example, lower caste groups had no access to wells, they were restricted from entering temples etc.

Endogamy: –
  - Members of a particular caste will marry within their caste only. Inter-caste marriages are strictly prohibited. However the phenomenon of inter-caste marriage is increasing in urban areas.

Untouchability:-

- It is the practice of ostracizing a group by segregating them from the mainstream by social custom. Untouchability was a corollary of the caste system, wherein the untouchables (those belonging to the lowest caste groups) were deemed impure and polluted.

Manual scavenging:-
- Manual scavenging eventually became a caste-based occupation, which involves the removal of untreated human excreta from bucket toilets or pit latrines, according to mahatma gandhi it is one of the forms of violence.

Swarn Singh

SPACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY

(GS PAPER-3 SCIENCE TECH

SOURCE- THE HINDU)

Context-

India is working to come with a technological & regulatory framework. The Department of Space has released the draft National Space Transportation Policy. Private players eager to leverage national facilities and the new policy trying to manifest to unlock the potential in the space sector.

Policy:

- Space transportation systems, consists of multiple classes of launch vehicles, provide assured and reliable access to space for making space infrastructure that allows the country to explore opportunities to tackle challenges, not only for the country's needs but also for participation and exploration in global opportunities.
- In addition to sustaining & augmenting the national space infrastructure consisting and containing of earth observation satellites, communication satellites, navigational satellites and satellites for space science & exploration, Indian space transportation systems also enable and multiply the commercial exploitation of

growing opportunities for launch services as well as human spaceflight to near earth orbit & robotic space exploration.

- The recent reforms made by the Government of the country towards unlocking the potential of the space sector in the country are expected to attract and ask the entrepreneurs to invest in cost-effective & quick turn-around space transportation systems added with the important global commercial launch services market being projected for small satellites.
- The Indian space transportation sector is watching the emergence and commencement of new players in the private sector who in order to unlock the commercial potential of small satellite launch services, are eager to leverage the national facilities already established by the Government of India.
- Sustaining independent access to space and the continuous evolution of space transportation capabilities towards human as well as robotic space exploration along with the commercial exploitation of world level opportunities require a robust national space transportation policy aimed at promoting, progressing & fostering national capabilities in the development of end-to-end space transportation systems and strengthening of Public Private Partnerships.

National Space Transportation Policy 2020:

The National Space Transportation Policy authorizes independent and reliable access to space towards tapping space technology in the interest of national development, security & sovereignty and also to instigate an environment for Indian bodies to develop capabilities in the space transportation body and thereby gain a significant position in the global space economy.

- Promote and enhance an environment within the country for Indian bodies to enhance the capability & capacity in-space transportation systems of the country.
- Enable the commercial exertion of the launch capacity and space transportation technologies made by the Department through its commercial arm.
- Focus on advanced research & technology development concerning improving access to space and helping human/robotic space exploration.
- Engage in interchangeably beneficial partnerships with international space agencies/technology providers towards the joint or co-development of advanced space transportation capabilities.

Need for the policy:

- Sustaining independent engagement to space and the continuous evolution of space transportation capabilities towards human and robotic space exploration aligned with the commercial exploitation of global opportunities need a robust national space transportation systems policy.
- The increasing number of startups in the country in recent years, who are looking for to develop independent space launch systems to apprehend the global launch services market, require a easy technological & regulatory pathway in the country so that the private environment can prosper in the area while also bringing in innovative and adaptive technologies including its spin-offs benefiting the country's economy.
- Considering the increasing number of private enterprises in the country who are involved in space activities including launch vehicle development and in order to promote research & development and strengthen the capabilities and potential of Indian entities to capture a significant and important share of the space economy, it is necessary to make available and facilitate the relevant technologies developed

by the Department along with the test facilities & installations including the launch sites through a suitable concurrence mechanism.

- It is important to ensure that the independent launch activities and trials were undertaken by Indian entities are in accordance with applicable treaties & other international agreements due to the impact of such activities on public safety, domestic & global transport, logistics, and in-orbit satellites. Therefore, a legalization mechanism needs to be in place to ensure compliance to the relevant regulations and safety requirements.
- While promoting space industry in the country, sustaining launch capabilities for societal needs & national requirements and necessities is to be ensured.

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