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Q2(c)

Discuss the problems faced by religious minorities in India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Anthropology GS 2 · 15 marks · Linguistic and religious minorities and their social, political and economic status.

5.2 Linguistic and religious minorities and their social, political and economic status.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the problems faced by religious minorities in India
- Keep the answer to a 15-mark length of about 200 words

Revision summary

Religious minorities face violence, stigma, and bloc labelling.

Articles 25-30 protect worship and minority institutions.

Development gaps, as in Muslim education and jobs, are documented.

Mission and conversion disputes hit Christians in some tribal areas.

Srinivas's jati world is recoded as communal blocs in politics.

Introduction

Religious minorities in India are communities that are not the demographic Hindu majority in the Union, though they may be local majorities. Their problems mix security, law, livelihood, and stereotype.

Body**Security and stigma**

- Periodic riots and lynching make bodily safety a first problem, especially for Muslims in mixed towns and for Christians in some tribal belts.
- **Census** and media labels freeze a person as a bloc, which **Louis Dumont** and later critics already saw as a modern communal box rather than everyday jati life.

Law, education, and economy

- **Article 25-30** protect worship and minority schools, yet disputes over personal law, conversion, and institution control keep courts busy.
- **Sachar**-type evidence showed Muslims lag in education, credit, and public jobs in many states. That is a class and discrimination problem, not only a theological one.
- Christians and smaller groups face both privilege talk around English schools and attack talk around mission in **Fifth Schedule** areas.

Anthropology of the problem

- **M. N. Srinivas** showed that Indian ranking is jati-heavy. Communal politics recodes jati into religion for elections.

- Minorities also hold local majorities, as in parts of Kerala, Punjab, or Kashmir, so the problem is relational, not a single all-India fate.

Flow diagram

Religious minorities -> Security stigma
Religious minorities -> Articles 25-30
Religious minorities -> Education jobs lag

Conclusion

Problems of religious minorities are security, unequal development, and legal contest over schools and personal law. The Constitution names rights; practice still depends on region and riot history.

Facts & figures

Articles 25-30

Freedom of religion and minority educational rights.

Sachar Committee

Documented socio-economic lags of Muslims in many states.

Article 29

Right to conserve distinct language, script, and culture.

Fifth Schedule missions

Sites where Christian tribal work meets both schooling and political backlash.