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Q4(b)

Write a critical narrative on the concerns of religious minorities in India.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Religion and Society

Religion and Society: Religious communities in India; Problems of religious minorities.

Core demand of the question

- Write a critical narrative on the concerns of religious minorities in India
- Keep to a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Minorities hold equal citizenship on paper and ranked insecurity in life.

Riot, ghetto, and job exclusion are material concerns.

Hinduisation politics threatens some Christians and syncretic life.

Internal caste and gender, including Triple Talaq as a 2017-18 legal fact, complicate the 'community'.

The narrative should be rights-based, not a vote-bank cartoon.

Introduction

Religious minorities in India live inside a constitutional promise of equal citizenship and a social world of ranked honour. A critical narrative starts from rights, then names riot, under-representation, personal-law traps, and internal caste. It refuses both a story of perpetual victimhood and a story that nothing is wrong.

Body**Constitutional promise**

- No state religion, equality before law, and cultural rights are the civic floor of nation building through plurality.
- **Andre Beteille's disharmony applies:** the creed is equal; practice can be majoritarian.

Material and civic concerns

- Communal violence and **ghettoisation** cut security, housing, and school choice, especially for Muslims after riot cycles.
- Under-representation in police, universities, and private firms is a life-chance concern, not only a feeling.
- Christians in some tribal and southern tracts face conversion politics and violence that Ghurye-style Hinduisation licenses as 'integration'.
- **Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and smaller groups have other files:** memorial politics, Scheduled Caste lists, and regional autonomy.

Internal critique

- Ashraf-ajlaf ranking and Christian caste show minorities are not classless.
- Women's rights inside personal law, including the 2017 Triple Talaq judgment as a 2018-era fact, pit gender justice against a defensive community leadership.
- Elite brokers can speak 'minority' while poor artisans and slum workers remain unseen.

Political misuse

- Security stereotyping and vote-bank talk both flatten citizens.
- A critical narrative defends equal citizenship without treating every reform as a communal attack.

Flow diagram

Constitutional equality -> Minorities
Riot ghetto under-representation -> Constitutional equality
Internal caste gender -> Minorities
Plural civic nation -> Minorities

Conclusion

Minority concerns are security, equal opportunity, and dignity in a disharmonic republic. The critical task is to hold the state to the Constitution, and to hold community elites to class and gender justice inside. Plurality is the nation's method, not a plea for a parallel unequal order.

Facts & figures

Constitutional secularism

Equal civil status without a state church, tested in riot and personal law.

Ghettoisation

Spatial outcome of fear and housing discrimination after violence.

Triple Talaq judgment 2017

A 2018-era legal fact that split gender justice from some minority leadership claims.

Internal ranking

Caste-like splits among Muslims and Christians that a flat 'minority' hides.