

MIND MAP

➤ Public/private division

Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own JURISDICTION. The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified.

➤ Women's political representation

In India, the proportion of women in the legislature has been very low. The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never reached even 10% of its total strength. There are more than 10 lakh elected women representatives in rural and urban local bodies.

➤ Religious differences

Many countries including India have followers of different religions. Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics. Women's movement has argued that FAMILY LAWS of all religions discriminate against women.

Gender and politics

Caste and politics

Gender, Religion
And Caste

Religion, communalism
and politics

➤ Communalism

Communal politics is based on the ideas that religion is the principal basis of social community. Political mobilization on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.

➤ Caste in politics

It is not politics that gets caste-ridden; it is the caste that gets politicized. New kinds of castes groups have come up in the political arena like 'backward' and 'forward' caste group.

➤ Caste inequalities

Caste system was based on the exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups. Large scale urbanisation, the growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and old nations of caste hierarchy are breaking down.

➤ Secular state

There is no official religion for the Indian state. Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, that of Islam in Pakistan and that of Christianity in England. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.

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