



Mains Marathon

Day 50: India's regionalism is the product of several interrelated circumstances. In this context, explore the various forms of regionalism in India and offer appropriate solutions to reduce their detrimental effects. (150 Words)

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Approach / Explanation / Answer

- Give a brief introduction about regionalism.
- Highlight the types of the regionalism.
- Describe the impact associated with It.
- Give a fair conclusion.

Answer:

A strong affinity to one's own region is referred to as regionalism. Thus, it is an ideology that aims to advance a region's cause. The emergence of regionalism in India is due to a number of reasons, including:

- Regional ideology arose historically as a result of the development of many **regional kingdoms** and frequent **regional battles**.
- **Different food and clothes** evolved as a result of a region's **distinct geography**. The **mother tongue** (linguism) also fostered a strong commitment to one's native tongue, and hence regional identity emerged.
- The emergence of regionalism was also aided by the formation of **regional parties** to safeguard regional interests.
- **Economic inequality** between states led to regionalism as a result of lopsided economic development. In this background, the different types of regionalism are categorized as follows:
- **Parochialism:** When individuals in an area prioritise regional interests over nationalist perspectives.
 - For ex- Violence by **ULFA (Assam) against Bihari**.
- **Regionalism:** When people in an area raise their voices in support of their **autonomy**, rights, and fair part in the development process, and desire independent statehood or autonomy within the state, this is reflected.
 - For ex- Bodoland demand.
- **Secessionism:** when a region wants to break away from the nation in order to recognise itself as a distinct entity on the global map
 - For ex- Z. Phizo demand for Nagaland.
- **Inter-state rivalry:** Conflict over the dividing of shared resources and territorial disputes results from a state's perception of other states as rivals. An example is the Tamil Nadu-Kerala Cauvery

water conflict.

Way Forward:

- To reconcile competing regional objectives, the National Integration Council's function must be redefined.
- Reviving national games such as Hockey, which can become a symbol of unity.
- To prevent racism based on area, cultural sensitization needs to be promoted in universities. For ex- setting up food stalls from other states.
- The focus must also be on the development of underdeveloped, backward and naxal hit regions.
- Such actions will assist in achieving Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat's goal.

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