



## Fraternity in India

**For Prelims:** [Preamble](#), [42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act](#), [Fundamental Duties](#), Constituent Assembly

**For Mains:** Meaning of Fraternity, Challenges of Achieving ideals of Fraternity

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

**Fraternity**, one of the core values enshrined in the Indian Constitution, plays a pivotal role in fostering unity and equality in society. However, the practical application of fraternity in India raises several questions and challenges.

### What is the Origin of the Concept of Fraternity?

- **Ancient Greece:**
  - Fraternity, the idea of brotherhood and unity, has a long history.
  - In Plato's Lysis, the philosopher invokes the **word philia (love) for the strong desire to pursue wisdom.**
    - In this context, fraternity was seen as the strong desire to share knowledge and wisdom with others, making friendship more meaningful through intellectual exchange.
- **Aristotle's Idea:**
  - Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, added to the idea of fraternity by highlighting the importance of the **"polis," the city-state where people belonged as political beings** and friendships among citizens in a city-state (polis) is crucial.
- **Middle Ages:**
  - During the Middle Ages, fraternity took on a different dimension, **primarily within the Christian context in Europe.**
    - Here, fraternity was often associated with **religious and communal bonds.**
    - It was fostered through shared **religious beliefs and practices**, emphasizing a sense of brotherhood among believers.
- **French Revolution:**
  - French Revolution in 1789, which gave rise to the **famous motto "liberté, égalité, fraternité" (liberty, equality, fraternity).**
    - This marked the introduction of **fraternity into the realm of politics, alongside liberty and equality.**
      - Fraternity, in this context, symbolized the **idea of unity and solidarity among citizens** as they fought for their rights and freedom.

### What is the Concept of Fraternity in India?

- India's fraternity has its own journey within **India's sociology**, and the current nature of India's fraternity is different from the political fraternity espoused in its Constitution.

- **Fraternity is a constitutional value in India, alongside liberty and equality, aimed at achieving social harmony and unity.**
  - The framers of the Indian Constitution recognized the importance of fraternity in a **society marred by hierarchical social inequalities.**
- **Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar** stressed the inseparability of liberty, equality, and fraternity, considering them as fundamental tenets of Indian democracy.
- **Constitutional Provisions Related to Fraternity:**
  - **Preamble:**
    - The principle of fraternity was added to the principles in the **Preamble** along with liberty, equality, and justice.
  - **Fundamental Duties:**
    - **Article 51A** on **Fundamental Duties**, added to by the **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment** in 1976 and further amended by 86th Amendment (2002).
    - **Article 51A(e)** generally refers to the duty of every citizen 'to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India.'

## What are the Limits and Challenges to Fraternity in India's Context?

- **Social and Cultural Differences:**
  - India's diverse cultures and traditions can lead to **misunderstandings and conflicts among different communities.**
    - **Religious or caste-based differences** often result in mistrust, discrimination, and even violence, eroding the spirit of brotherhood.
    - Incidents of **religious intolerance or conflicts** can disrupt social cohesion and unity, making it difficult to foster fraternity.
      - Religious minorities have faced such social and political opprobrium countless times in this country.
- **Economic Disparities:**
  - The significant **economic gap between different sections of society** can breed resentment and feelings of discrimination.
  - When people perceive economic barriers to their success, they may hesitate to cooperate, hindering social cohesion, a crucial element of fraternity.
- **Political Differences:**
  - **Political ideologies can create deep divisions in society**, impeding cooperation and dialogue.
    - Such differences often **lead to polarization**, fostering an atmosphere of hostility and intolerance that obstructs constructive engagement.
- **Lack of Trust:**
  - A lack of **mutual trust and understanding among groups** can undermine fraternity.
  - When trust is lacking, working together toward common goals becomes challenging.
- **Failure of Constitutional Morality:**
  - **Constitutional morality**, based on Indian constitutional values, is vital for maintaining fraternity.
    - Its failure can lead to a loss of **confidence in institutions and the rule of law, creating instability and undermining brotherhood.**
- **Inadequate Moral Order:**
  - A functioning moral order in society, including adherence to ethical values and social responsibility, is crucial for democracy's success.
  - Failure in this area can result in the erosion of brotherhood, with unethical actions eroding trust among citizens.
- **Educational Disparities:**
  - Disparities in **access to quality education can perpetuate social inequalities and hinder fraternity.**
  - Educational inequities often result in unequal opportunities, reinforcing divisions among communities.
- **Regional Disparities:**
  - India's vast geographical and regional diversity can lead to disparities in economic development and infrastructure.
  - These **regional inequalities may create a sense of marginalization** among certain

communities, challenging efforts to promote brotherhood.

▪ **Language and Cultural Barriers:**

- India's multitude of **languages and dialects can sometimes create communication barriers.**
  - Language and cultural differences can hinder effective dialogue and cooperation, affecting the spirit of fraternity.

## Way Forward

- Initiatives that **promote social and cultural harmony** among diverse communities are essential to overcoming differences and fostering a sense of brotherhood. These programs should encourage dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among people of different backgrounds.
- **Civic education** should **instill values of fraternity, equality, and social justice** from a young age. Ethical leadership at all levels of society is essential to set an example of responsible citizenship and moral conduct.
- Encouraging **respect for religious and cultural diversity is vital.** Interfaith dialogues, protections for religious and cultural minorities, and promoting a culture of tolerance can help maintain social cohesion.
- Encourage ethical leadership at all levels of society to set an example of moral conduct and responsible citizenship.
- Implement **policies and programs that address economic disparities**, ensuring equitable access to opportunities and resources for all citizens.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims:

**Q. Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India? (2017)**

- (a) Liberty of thought
- (b) Economic liberty
- (c) Liberty of expression
- (d) Liberty of belief

**Ans: (b)**

**Exp:**

- Preamble to the Constitution of India WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:
  - JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
  - LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
  - EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all
  - FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;
  - IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twentysixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.
  - The Preamble does not embody the economic liberty.
  - **Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

### Mains

**Q. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defensible in the present circumstances? (2016)**

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