

1. The cabinet mission plan seemed to open an avenue for the reconciliation of a united India with Muslim autonomy. Examine. (250 words)

Answer:

Background:-

- Cabinet Mission of 1946 to India aimed to discuss the transfer of power from the British government to the Indian leadership, with the aim of preserving India's unity and granting it independence.

How it rejected the demand for Pakistan and seemed to open an avenue for the reconciliation of a united India with Muslim autonomy:-

- The cabinet mission plan of 1946 proposed that there shall be a Union of India which was to be empowered to deal with the defense, foreign affairs and communications.
- The cabinet mission recommended an undivided India and turned down the Muslim league's demand for a separate Pakistan. The Cabinet mission restricted the Communal representation
- The representation of the Provincial legislatures was to be break up into 3 sections.
 - Section A: Madras, UP, Central provinces, Bombay, Bihar & Orissa
 - Section B: Punjab, Sindh, NWFP, Baluchistan
 - Section C: Assam and Bengal.
 - These groups were entitled to have their own separate legislatures and to draw up their constitutions according to their own will with the help of the Constituent Assemblies to be elected by the popular electorate.
 - Though the Cabinet Mission plan rejected the idea of separate Pakistan, yet it grouped the provinces in such a way that it gave weightage to the idea of Pakistan, because the Section B would get almost complete autonomy.
- One of the main reasons of rejection of Pakistan was somewhere linked to the justice to the Non Muslims particularly Sikhs.
 - The Mission had the views that the larger part of the proposed Pakistan including the Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan , NWFP and Bengal would have a large number of Non Muslims.
 - Then a smaller truncated Pakistan was also give thought but it was also rejected because , it was thought that Sikhs would be cut in two parts and their clusters of populations will get scattered around the borders.
- Princely states were independent over the question of their participation in Indian constitutional assembly.

Impact:-

- The Congress accepted the proposals related to the Constituent assembly.
- But since, the Muslim league had been given disproportionate representation; it rejected the idea of the Interim Government.

- Congress also rejected the idea of a weak centre and division of India in small states. Congress was against decentralization and the idea was to have a strong centre.
- The Muslim league first approved the plan. But when Congress declared that it could change the scheme through its majority in the Constituent Assembly, they rejected the plan and called the Muslims to resort to "Direct Action" to achieve "Pakistan".

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. The severity of air pollution over Northern India is primarily due to the inherent geographical disadvantages that the region faces. Critically examine. (250 words)
2. Discuss the key issues involved in the Citizenship amendment bill, 2016 and how it will only widen the old fault lines in Assam. (250 words)