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Q5(e)

Politics of recognition and deprivation.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · Anthropology GS 2 · 10 marks · Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic), Protohistoric (Indus Civilization). Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan cultures. Contributions of the tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

Core demand of the question

- Write a note on the politics of recognition and deprivation
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

Revision summary

Recognition is the demand to be named with dignity and rights.

Deprivation is the claim of material exclusion.

ST lists, minority articles, and new states are recognition tools.

Land and school gaps are the deprivation file.

A name without a share is an incomplete politics.

Introduction

Politics of recognition is the demand to be named as a people with dignity and rights. Politics of deprivation is the claim that the same people are materially shut out. In India the two usually travel together.

Body**Recognition**

- ST, SC, linguistic minority, and religious minority are names that unlock **Articles 15, 16, 29, and 30**.
- Movements for a new state, a **Sixth Schedule** council, or a language in the **Eighth Schedule** are recognition fights.
- **Charles Taylor's** language of recognition fits, but Indian cases are also census and list politics, not only cultural honour.

Deprivation

- Land alienation, poor schools, and job queues are the material file. Recognition without land is a flag without a field.
- **Ambedkar** treated caste as **graded inequality**, which is deprivation built into recognition of a ranked name.

The twist

- Groups already recognised still claim deprivation. Groups demanding recognition may already hold local dominance.
- **Policy has to test both:** is the name missing, or is the share missing?

Flow diagram

Recognition name -> ST minority list
Deprivation share -> Land school job
Recognition name -> Politics
Deprivation share -> Politics

Conclusion

Recognition names the group. Deprivation measures the share. Indian ethnic politics works when the two are joined, and it sours when a name is won without a livelihood.

Facts & figures

Article 16

Public employment equality and special provision, a deprivation remedy tied to recognised categories.

Eighth Schedule

Language recognition that is prestige politics as well as administrative use.

Sixth Schedule

Territorial recognition of tribal self-rule in listed North-East areas.

Graded inequality

Ambedkar's reminder that a recognised caste name can still encode deprivation.