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Q5(a)

Regionalism as an opportunity and threat to national integration

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · 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 regionalism as an opportunity and threat to national integration
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

Revision summary

Regionalism is loyalty to language, state, or homeland.

Linguistic states and hill councils can integrate by sharing power.

Sons-of-the-soil politics and separatism threaten the civic nation.

Naga talks show region as a bargain inside the Union.

The constitutional test is share versus exit.

Introduction

Regionalism is political and cultural loyalty to a language, state, or homeland inside India. It can federate the republic, and it can also split the civic nation.

Body**Opportunity**

- **States Reorganisation, 1956**, used language regions to reduce the old multilingual province as a wound. That was regionalism as a safety valve.
- Federal bargaining, hill councils, and **Sixth Schedule** bodies in the North-East turn region into a constitutional share, not a secession script.
- **Naga** peace talks and other accords treat regional identity as something the Union can house.

Threat

- **Sons-of-the-soil** drives and linguistic riots exclude internal migrants and shrink national labour circuits.
- Separatist phases in parts of the North-East and earlier Punjab show region as an armed exit.
- When region fuses with a single religion or caste, it stops being cultural federalism and becomes a veto on the common roll.

Balance

- **M. N. Srinivas** already saw regional languages as modern public spheres. The test is whether the region stays inside the Constitution.

Flow diagram

Regionalism -> Linguistic states councils
Regionalism -> Sons of soil secession
Linguistic states councils -> National integration

Conclusion

Regionalism integrates when it is federal language and council. It threatens integration when it becomes exclusion or secession.

Facts & figures

States Reorganisation 1956

Redrew states largely on language, converting regional demand into federal units.

Sixth Schedule

Autonomous councils in parts of the North-East that house regional tribal government.

Naga movement

Long regional-national question that has swung between armed exit and framework talks.

Sons-of-the-soil

Nativist claim to jobs and land that treats other Indian citizens as outsiders.