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Q8

Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · GS I · 12 marks · Indian Society and Diversity

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Core demand of the question

- Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity
- Pick four elements, explain each, then rank how they help or strain one nation
- Keep the explanation within a 12-mark length

Revision summary

Four elements are language, religion, caste-tribe, and region with food and festival.

Religion most strongly makes or breaks a shared civic nation.

Language, once recognised in states, built loyalty better than one-tongue force.

Region feeds pride; it threatens the Union mainly with politics of neglect.

Caste is deep social diversity and a test of equal citizenship rather than a single national myth.

Flow diagram

Language -> National identity

Religion -> National identity

Caste tribe -> National identity

Region festival -> National identity

Religion -> Highest glue and risk

Language -> Federal recognition

Conclusion

- Rate by effect on the Union and on a shared citizen story, not by which culture is "more Indian."
- **Name one binding device per element:** linguistic states, secular law, anti-caste rights, and federal cultural listing.

Language, religion, caste-tribe, and region are four living diversities. National identity in India is strongest when the state names them and still offers one citizenship. Religion and language have done most to make or break that feeling; caste structures society; region colours daily pride.

Facts & figures

Linguistic states, 1956

Reorganisation that turned language diversity into a federal map and reduced a major secession fear.

Eighth Schedule

Constitutional list of recognised languages that signals official respect for linguistic plurality.

Constitutional secularism

No state religion and freedom of religion as the legal frame for religious diversity.

Anti-Hindi agitations

South Indian resistance that showed language imposition can strain national identity.

Article 17 and reservations

National legal answer to caste diversity through abolition of untouchability and affirmative action.

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