Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Unity in diversity remains the defining feature of Indian society despite the challenges from communalism and regionalism. Comment.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cultural diversity, linguistic diversity, religious pluralism, constitutional values, composite culture, festivals, migration, national identity, communalism, regionalism, federalism, social cohesion

Model Answer

Indian society is characterised by extraordinary diversity of religion, language, ethnicity, region, customs and traditions, yet this diversity coexists with a broader sense of national identity. The Constitution reinforces this unity through equality, secularism, federalism, fundamental rights and cultural protections.

India's composite culture is reflected in shared festivals, food traditions, art, literature and everyday social interactions. Internal migration, urbanisation and democratic institutions have further strengthened social and economic integration. Linguistic reorganisation of states also demonstrated that regional identities can coexist with national unity.

However, communalism can generate religious polarisation, social distrust and violence, while regionalism may encourage parochial identities and demands for greater political autonomy. Unequal development and competition over resources can intensify these tendencies.

India's experience shows that diversity need not undermine national integration when supported by constitutional values, democratic institutions and inclusive development.

Therefore, unity in diversity remains a defining characteristic of Indian society, but sustaining it requires continuous efforts towards social justice, dialogue, tolerance and equitable regional development.