

# Religion and Caste in Politics

Chapter 15: Gender, Religion and Caste · Topic 2

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## Key Concept

Political parties sometimes appeal to religious or caste identities to mobilise voters, which can strengthen community representation but also risks deepening social divisions.

India's secular constitution aims to ensure the state treats all religions equally, though debates continue about how religion should factor into public and political life.

Caste-based reservations in education, jobs, and politics aim to address historical social injustices, though they remain a subject of ongoing political debate and discussion.

Balancing religious and caste-based political mobilisation with national unity and social harmony remains an important and evolving challenge for Indian democracy.

## Quick Revision Notes

- Religion and caste influence Indian politics significantly.
- Parties sometimes appeal to religious or caste identities.
- This can strengthen representation but risk social division.
- India's constitution establishes secularism.
- Secularism means the state treats all religions equally.
- Caste-based reservations exist in education, jobs and politics.
- Reservations aim to address historical social injustice.
- Balancing these factors with unity remains a challenge.

## Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss how religion or caste might influence a political campaign.
- 2 Research India's constitutional principle of secularism.
- 3 Explain the purpose of caste-based reservations.
- 4 Discuss a debate around reservation policy.
- 5 Research a political leader who addressed caste or religious issues.
- 6 Debate how India can balance identity politics with national unity.