

India's Religious and Cultural Diversity

Chapter 17: India, a Home to Many · Topic 1

Key Concept

Major religions practised in India include Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Zoroastrianism, each with unique beliefs and practices.

Cultural diversity also includes different languages, art forms, cuisines, and festivals, reflecting the historical and regional variations across the country.

This diversity has led to a rich exchange of ideas, traditions, and practices, often blending to create unique regional cultures found nowhere else.

India's constitution recognises and protects this religious and cultural diversity, promoting secularism and equal rights for people of all backgrounds.

Quick Revision Notes

- India has multiple religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism.
- Cultural diversity includes languages, art, cuisine and festivals.
- Diversity varies by history and region.
- Diversity leads to rich exchange of ideas and traditions.
- Blending creates unique regional cultures.
- India's constitution protects religious and cultural diversity.
- The constitution promotes secularism.
- The constitution ensures equal rights for all backgrounds.

Practice Questions

- 1 List the major religions practised in India.
- 2 Research a festival from a religion different from your own.
- 3 Discuss an example of cultural blending you know about.
- 4 Research how the constitution protects religious freedom.
- 5 Discuss why secularism matters for a diverse country.
- 6 Create a chart of India's religious diversity.