Society & Social Justice · GS - I

India's linguistic diversity is both a civilisational strength and a constitutional responsibility. Analyse how India's constitutional framework promotes linguistic pluralism and examine its significance for national integration and cultural diplomacy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Linguistic diversity, Eighth Schedule, Articles 29 and 30, Articles 343–351, linguistic minorities, national integration, cultural diplomacy, soft power

Model Answer

Introduction

India's linguistic diversity reflects its civilisational depth and pluralistic identity. The Constitution recognises this diversity through safeguards that promote linguistic freedom while maintaining national cohesion.

Constitutional Framework for Linguistic Pluralism

1. **Cultural rights:** Articles 29 and 30 protect the cultural and educational rights of minorities, including linguistic communities.

2. **Official languages:** Articles 343–351 establish the framework for the Union's official language, State languages and development of Hindi.

3. **Eighth Schedule:** It currently recognises 22 languages, reflecting India's multilingual character.

4. **Minority safeguards:** Article 350A promotes primary education in the mother tongue, while Article 350B provides for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

Significance for National Integration and Diplomacy

- **Social cohesion:** Recognition of linguistic identities reduces cultural alienation and strengthens democratic participation.
- **Inclusive governance:** Mother-tongue education can improve foundational learning and access to public services.
- **Cultural diplomacy:** India's literary traditions, languages and multilingual heritage strengthen its cultural engagement internationally.
- **Soft power:** Cultural exchanges and promotion of Indian languages deepen people-to-people relations with partner countries.

Conclusion

Linguistic diversity should be treated as a constitutional asset rather than a barrier to unity. Its protection strengthens internal cohesion and enhances India's civilisational appeal in international relations.

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