

Date - 02 February 2026

UG Semester II

MDC

Sociology

Topic - Features of Indian Society Part 2

The multi-ethnic Indian society

Multi-ethnicity is a major salient feature of Indian society. An ethnic group or ethnicity is a category of people who identify with each other, usually based on a common language or dialect, history, society, culture, or nation.

A society with the co-existence of a wide variety of racial groups is a Multi-ethnic society. India is home to almost multiple racial profiles like Nordic, Dinaric, Proto-Australoid, Mongolian, etc.

Herbert Risley classified the people of India into seven racial types. These are-

Turko-Iranian,

Indo-Aryan,

Scytho-Dravidian,

Aryo-Dravidian,

Mongolo-Dravidian,

Mongoloid, and

Dravidian.

Indian multiculturalism can be explained by the 'Salad bowl theory' - within the large Indian society, the newly arrived cultures do not lose their identity, but rather get intermixed without losing their unique characteristics, just like ingredients in a salad bowl are recognizable while contributing to the overall composition of the salad.