Diversity and National Identity

Sampoorna Biswas
What does it mean to “belong” to your country?
According to Google Autocomplete

(And important to Pakistan too)

Born

Grown up/lived

Culturally/linguistically from here
29 languages with > 1mn speakers
30 more with >100,000 and <1 mn speakers
What does it mean to “look Indian”?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgfAoOMgXPo
While I was searching for that video ...

But the most hilarious one is:
A little history...
Secular
Huge Muslim Population

~14% as of 2011, 3rd largest in the world

Fun fact: Lots of Muslim immigrants, even as lots of Sikhs emigrate to Greater Punjab, AKA Canada ;)

Muslim Population

- Developmental Divide
Religious Minorities

Others: Bahá'í, Zoroastrianism (largest populations in the world), Judaism

Bahá'í, Zoroastrians from Iran
Jews came as traders (500 BCE)
Lotus Temple - Baha’i House of Worship
Oldest Active Synagogue in the Commonwealth
Laws Based on Religion

Hindu Personal Law

Muslim Personal Law (Sharia law)

Christian Personal Law

Uniform Civil Code
Festivals

~ 20 Compulsory Holidays
Includes 3 National Holidays
Diwali: Festival of lights
Ganesh Chaturthi: Maharashtra

Durga Puja: West Bengal
Cuisines of India
Traditional Dresses
Fun fact: Matriarchal Societies?
GARO - INDIA AND BANGLADESH

Key Stakeholders

Property is inherited from the mother to her daughters, and it is the youngest daughter who becomes the heiress of the family.

2 Million
Garo population in India & Bangladesh

Garo women
Women can often choose their husbands, and usually enjoy equality with the men.
Thank you!
References