Society & Social Justice · GS - I

In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your view point.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Linguistic identity; shared traditions; regional history; cultural landscapes; state boundaries; composite Indian identity

Model Answer

Introduction

India's cultural diversity reflects differences in language, customs, food, festivals and historical experiences. Cultural regions often transcend administrative boundaries, although States also play an important role in preserving regional identities.

Why Regions Often Form Cultural Units

- **Shared language:** Punjabi culture extends beyond Punjab into neighbouring areas, while Bengali culture spans West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- **Common traditions:** Rajasthan's folk music, attire and desert traditions provide cultural continuity across administrative divisions.
- **Historical linkages:** The cultural influence of the Tamil region extends across modern political boundaries and overseas communities.

- **Geographical continuity:** Himalayan, coastal and desert regions share lifestyles shaped by common environmental conditions.
- **Religious and social practices:** Pilgrimage networks and festivals connect communities across several States.

Why States Also Matter

States created on linguistic and administrative grounds, such as Maharashtra and Gujarat, provide institutions for promoting languages, literature and cultural heritage. However, no State is culturally homogeneous.

Conclusion

Cultural regions frequently reflect lived identities more closely than political boundaries. Nevertheless, regions and States are complementary: cultural identities evolve through shared histories, while States provide institutional support for their preservation.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP