Art & Culture · GS - I

Discuss the contribution of the Ramayana tradition to India's cultural diversity and civilisational continuity. How can public celebrations of literary figures help preserve this heritage?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/10/2026	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Valmiki Ramayana; classical literature; regional adaptations; oral traditions; performing arts; cultural diversity; heritage preservation; social harmony

Model Answer

Introduction

The Ramayana, traditionally attributed to Maharshi Valmiki, is a foundational work of Indian literature. Its narratives and ethical themes have influenced religious traditions, artistic expression and social imagination across generations.

Contribution to Indian Culture

1. Literary Heritage

The Sanskrit Ramayana established enduring narrative traditions and influenced subsequent literary works in several Indian languages.

2. Regional Diversity

Retellings such as the Tamil *Kamba Ramayanam* and the Awadhi *Ramcharitmanas* reflect distinct linguistic, social and devotional traditions.

3. Performing and Visual Arts

Ramayana narratives appear in folk theatre, classical dance, Ramlila performances, paintings, sculpture and oral storytelling.

4. Ethical and Social Ideas

The epic has stimulated discussions about duty, leadership, relationships and moral responsibility, although interpretations differ across traditions.

Role of Public Celebrations

Valmiki Jayanti processions, cultural performances and educational programmes can preserve literary memory, encourage intergenerational learning and create opportunities for community participation.

Way Forward

Schools, libraries, museums and cultural institutions should promote inclusive, historically informed engagement with regional retellings and diverse interpretations.

Conclusion

The Ramayana tradition illustrates how a shared cultural narrative can coexist with linguistic and regional diversity. Its preservation requires both respect for heritage and openness to multiple interpretations.

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