Modern History · GS - I

Discuss the role of linguistic identity in the reorganisation of Indian states after Independence. How did this process contribute to national integration?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 01/11/2026	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Linguistic identity; States Reorganisation Commission; States Reorganisation Act 1956; federalism; cultural recognition; national integration

Model Answer

Introduction

After Independence, India faced the challenge of reorganising administrative boundaries while preserving national unity. Linguistic identity emerged as a major demand, leading to the formation of states reflecting regional language communities.

Role of Linguistic Identity

1. Recognition of Regional Aspirations

Movements for linguistic states sought administrative accessibility, cultural recognition and greater participation in governance. The Ekikarana Movement united Kannada-speaking regions into Mysore State on November 1, 1956.

2. Institutional Reorganisation

The States Reorganisation Commission examined state boundaries, and the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, reorganised states largely along linguistic lines. Mysore State was renamed Karnataka in 1973.

3. Contribution to National Integration

Recognising linguistic identities reduced feelings of exclusion and strengthened democratic participation. It demonstrated that regional cultures could flourish within the Indian Union.

Challenges

Linguistic boundaries can create disputes over borders, resources and language policy. Therefore, reorganisation must be accompanied by constitutional safeguards and cooperative federalism.

Conclusion

India’s linguistic reorganisation illustrates the flexibility of its federal structure. By accommodating regional identities within a common constitutional framework, it has contributed to national integration.