Society & Social Justice · GS - I

What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Hints: Unity in diversity; civilisational continuity; pluralism; family and community institutions; festivals and rituals; oral traditions; religious coexistence; linguistic diversity; adaptability; constitutional values

Model Answer

Introduction

Indian society is characterised by extraordinary linguistic, religious, regional and ethnic diversity. Its cultural continuity results from a combination of civilisational traditions, social institutions, community practices and the capacity to adapt to changing circumstances.

Factors Sustaining Indian Culture

- **Civilisational continuity:** Ancient philosophical traditions, literature, architecture and artistic practices continue to influence contemporary life.
- **Family and community:** Families and local communities transmit languages, customs, values, food traditions and rituals across generations.
- **Festivals and collective practices:** Festivals such as Diwali, Eid, Christmas, Baisakhi and Pongal sustain cultural expression and community interaction.

- **Religious and philosophical diversity:** Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity and other traditions have contributed to India's plural cultural landscape.
- **Linguistic richness:** Regional languages, folk literature, music and storytelling preserve local histories and identities.
- **Adaptability:** Indian culture has incorporated influences from migration, trade and interaction with other civilisations while retaining distinctive traditions.
- **Constitutional framework:** Freedom of religion, cultural rights and equality provide a democratic foundation for cultural preservation.

Challenges

Globalisation, commercialisation, social discrimination and declining transmission of endangered languages can weaken certain traditions. Cultural preservation must therefore remain inclusive and dynamic.

Conclusion

Indian society sustains its culture through continuity, diversity, community participation and adaptation. Its strength lies not in cultural uniformity but in the ability of different traditions to coexist and evolve within a shared social and constitutional framework.

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