Modern History · GS - I

Discuss the role of linguistic and regional aspirations in the reorganisation of Indian states and their significance for 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 Act 1956; regional aspirations; federalism; cultural diversity; national integration

Model Answer

Introduction

India's state boundaries have evolved in response to linguistic, cultural, administrative and regional aspirations. State reorganisation has helped accommodate diversity within the constitutional framework.

Historical Background

The creation of Andhra State in 1953 strengthened demands for linguistic states. The States Reorganisation Act, 1956, subsequently reorganised state boundaries largely on linguistic grounds. Later, states such as Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand emerged through further reorganisations.

Significance for National Integration

Democratic Accommodation: Recognising linguistic and regional identities enables people to participate in governance through familiar languages and institutions.

Administrative Responsiveness: Smaller or reorganised states may address region-specific developmental needs more effectively when supported by adequate resources and institutional capacity.

Federal Balance: Reorganisation provides constitutional mechanisms for addressing regional aspirations without necessarily challenging national unity.

Challenges

Regionalism can sometimes intensify inter-state disputes over water, boundaries, resources and political representation. New states may also face administrative and fiscal constraints.

Way Forward

Cooperative federalism, equitable resource allocation, inter-state coordination and respect for cultural diversity are essential.

Conclusion

India's experience demonstrates that accommodating regional aspirations through constitutional processes can strengthen national integration when accompanied by inclusive development and cooperative governance.

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