Art & Culture · GS - I

Examine the role of traditional knowledge practitioners and institutional patronage in the preservation and popularisation of India's cultural heritage, with special reference to yoga.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/11/2026	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Traditional knowledge systems, guru-shishya tradition, cultural transmission, yoga philosophy, institutional patronage, modernisation, UNESCO intangible cultural heritage, cultural diplomacy, commercialisation, authenticity and preservation.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's cultural heritage has evolved through the interaction of traditional knowledge practitioners, community institutions and organised patronage. Yoga represents an important example of this continuity between ancient knowledge and modern public life.

Role of Traditional Practitioners

Yoga teachers and spiritual practitioners have transmitted knowledge through oral traditions, texts and the guru-shishya system. Their contributions have helped preserve philosophical teachings, ethical principles, meditation and physical practices across generations.

Institutional Patronage and Globalisation

Educational institutions, research organisations and public initiatives have expanded yoga's reach. International recognition, including UNESCO's inscription of yoga on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016, has strengthened its global visibility. Yoga has also contributed to India's cultural diplomacy.

Challenges and Way Forward

Commercialisation, superficial interpretations and inconsistent standards can weaken traditional knowledge. Documentation, research, practitioner participation and responsible institutional support are necessary to preserve authenticity while encouraging wider access.

Conclusion

The preservation of cultural heritage requires cooperation between traditional knowledge holders and modern institutions. Yoga demonstrates how India's cultural traditions can remain relevant while adapting to contemporary society.

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