Art & Culture · GS - I

Discuss the role of indigenous festivals in preserving tribal identity and promoting cultural diversity in Northeast India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/11/2026	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Tribal identity, intangible cultural heritage, Wangala festival, Garo community, traditional knowledge, agricultural traditions, cultural transmission, tourism, community participation, cultural preservation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Indigenous festivals are important expressions of India's cultural diversity. They preserve traditional knowledge, collective memory, religious beliefs and community identity, particularly among tribal populations.

Role in Preserving Tribal Heritage

The Wangala Festival of Meghalaya, celebrated by the Garo tribe after the harvest, represents thanksgiving to the Sun God. Traditional drums, dances, rituals and community gatherings transmit cultural practices across generations. Such festivals also strengthen social cohesion and preserve indigenous agricultural traditions.

Contribution to Inclusive Development

Cultural festivals promote responsible tourism, provide livelihood opportunities to local artisans and performers, and enhance awareness of tribal heritage. They also create platforms for intergenerational cultural exchange.

Challenges and Way Forward

Commercialisation, declining interest among younger generations and cultural homogenisation threaten traditional practices. Community-led documentation, educational initiatives, institutional support and protection of indigenous knowledge can strengthen preservation.

Conclusion

Indigenous festivals are living cultural institutions. Preserving them is essential for safeguarding tribal identity and strengthening India's pluralistic cultural heritage.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP