Art & Culture

Explain the geographical and cultural significance of river-origin sites in India, with reference to Cauvery Theerthodbhava.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/10/2026	—	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

River worship, religious traditions, Talacauvery, Brahmagiri Hills, Western Ghats, cultural identity, pilgrimage tourism, environmental conservation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Rivers in India are not only important geographical features but also hold deep religious, cultural and economic significance. Many rivers are worshipped as sacred entities and are associated with festivals and pilgrimage traditions.

Main Body

1. Geographical significance: The Cauvery originates at Talacauvery in the Brahmagiri Hills of Karnataka's Western Ghats. It flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu before draining into the Bay of Bengal. Its waters support agriculture, drinking-water needs and ecosystems.

2. Cultural significance: Cauvery Theerthodbhava is an annual religious event at Talacauvery. Devotees gather to witness the sacred emergence of water, offer prayers and participate in rituals. The tradition strengthens cultural identity, community participation and pilgrimage tourism.

3. Environmental significance: Such events also highlight the importance of protecting river sources, forests and watersheds. Unmanaged tourism, waste generation and ecological degradation can threaten these sensitive areas.

Conclusion

River-origin sites represent the close relationship between India's geography, spirituality and society. Their conservation requires responsible tourism, protection of natural ecosystems and public awareness of sustainable water management.

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