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Q5

South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** South Asia's weave is culture and many identities - the state is a late, thin thread
- **One stand:** states matter, but they do not exhaust the region; pluralism is the older fabric
- Move through language, faith, border, SAARC/BIMSTEC. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a weave that can still use a constitution

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a wedding playlist. Stand:** older weave, necessary loom.
- **Headings:** culture, identity, border, counter.

Earn one neighbour example. Peg SAARC or a people-to-people fact.

Close on constitution plus culture.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A wedding playlist in Lucknow already holds a Punjabi beat, a Tamil film song, a qawwali. Passports were not invited. The topic is that older weave: cultures and identities that ignore the map the way a river ignores a checkpoint - until the checkpoint shoots.

One stand

- **Not anti-state. The state is a necessary loom. The cloth is older:** language, caste, faith, a shared monsoon. Write against both hyper-nationalism and a romantic 'no borders'.

Heading map

What the line is asking

- **Woven not around the state:** family, shrine, a market, a film, a cricket crowd.
- **Plural cultures / identities:** not one civilisational slogan.
- **South Asia:** India, neighbours, diasporas.

Culture

- Food, film, a pir's dargah, a temple town that draws a bus from another flag.

Identity

- Caste and language travel better than a visa. So does a wound.

State / border

- 1947, a fence, a file on citizenship: the loom that can tear the cloth.
- SAARC's stall; people-to-people still moves.

The counter

A weave without a state is also a riot's opportunity. Constitutions, a court, a census of rights - the loom that stops a majority identity from eating the rest. **Ambedkar** over a civilisational lullaby. And the line must not erase Tibet, Tamil Eelam memories, or Kashmir as if culture were always gentle.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep the playlist and the Constitution. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Nehru / Asianism

A civilisational neighbourhood - one nod, then the fence.

Ambedkar

Rights against a romantic village-and-civilisation story.

SAARC / BIMSTEC

Official weave vs stalled politics.

Art. 29 / 30

Cultural rights inside one republic.

Indus / Ganga

Rivers as older maps than checkpoints.

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