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Q9

In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your view point.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · GS I · 10 marks · Indian Society and Diversity

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Core demand of the question

- In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your view point
- Cover language, history, ecology, and cases where state borders and culture do not match
- Keep the explanation within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Culture follows dialect, food, and old country names more tightly than State borders.

Bundelkhand, Bhojpuri country, **Konkan**, and Saurashtra are examples of mismatch.

Linguistic States still concentrate a public language and cinema.

Nested diversity means a State can contain many regions and a region can cross States.

The fair view is that regions are the primary cultural units, States the political frame.

Flow diagram

Historic regions -> Speech food festival

States -> Law school official tongue

Speech food festival -> Diversity

Law school official tongue -> Diversity

Historic regions -> often cross States

Conclusion

- **Answer yes, with a caveat:** regions are the finer cultural units; States are the legal frames that sometimes fit and often approximate those units.
- Use concrete belts, not a claim that States have no culture at all.

In India's diversity, cultural units are more often historic-ecological regions than the State outline on a wall map. States matter for law and language policy, but they sit on top of **Konkan**, **Bundelkhand**, Mithila, and similar living regions that ignore those lines.

Facts & figures

States Reorganisation Act, 1956

Law that redrew many State boundaries mainly on a linguistic basis.

Bundelkhand

Cultural-historical region split between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Bhojpuri belt

Speech and folk region across eastern Uttar Pradesh and western Bihar.

Konkan

Coastal cultural strip across Maharashtra, Goa, and part of Karnataka.

Telangana, 2014

New State that showed a linguistic Andhra Pradesh still held distinct regional cultures.

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