Art & Culture · GS - I

Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cultural identity; historical preservation; monuments and artefacts; illicit trafficking; conservation funding; community participation; digital documentation; sustainable tourism

Model Answer

Introduction

India’s art heritage, encompassing monuments, sculptures, paintings, manuscripts, crafts and performing arts, reflects its civilisational diversity. Safeguarding it is essential for preserving historical continuity and cultural identity.

Need to Safeguard Indian Art Heritage

1. **Cultural identity:** Heritage connects present generations with their historical roots and traditions.
2. **Historical significance:** Artworks and monuments provide evidence of past societies, technologies and beliefs.
3. **Economic value:** Heritage tourism generates employment and supports traditional artisans.
4. **Global recognition:** India’s cultural heritage strengthens its international cultural influence.

Challenges and Measures

1. **Prevent illicit trafficking:** Strengthen heritage laws, border monitoring and recovery of stolen antiquities.

2. **Improve conservation:** Provide adequate funding, scientific restoration and regular maintenance of monuments and museums.
3. **Document heritage:** Digitise manuscripts, artefacts and traditional artistic practices.
4. **Promote community participation:** Involve local communities, craftspeople and educational institutions in preservation.
5. **Ensure sustainable tourism:** Regulate visitor pressure and urban development around heritage sites.

Conclusion

Safeguarding art heritage is a shared responsibility of the state and society. Conservation combined with public awareness and scientific management can preserve India's cultural legacy for future generations.