Art & Culture · GS - I

Discuss the potential of India's cultural heritage and mythological sites in promoting sustainable tourism. How can such destinations balance tourism development with environmental conservation and local community interests?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 09/11/2026	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cultural heritage, Ramayana tourism circuit, mythological narratives, eco-tourism, local employment, heritage conservation, carrying capacity, waste management, community participation and sustainable infrastructure.

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Model Answer

Introduction

India's diverse cultural and mythological heritage provides significant opportunities for tourism. Destinations such as Jatayu Earth’s Center in Kerala demonstrate how cultural narratives can be integrated with tourism infrastructure.

Tourism Potential

Mythological sites attract domestic and international visitors, promote cultural awareness and generate employment. They can support local businesses, handicrafts, hospitality services and regional infrastructure. Linking such destinations through cultural circuits can strengthen tourism economies.

Challenges and Safeguards

Unregulated tourism may cause ecological degradation, waste accumulation and pressure on local resources. Excessive commercialisation can also weaken the cultural significance of heritage sites.

Way Forward

Tourism development should follow carrying-capacity assessments, scientific waste management and environmentally sensitive infrastructure planning. Local communities should participate in decision-making and receive a fair share of tourism benefits. Interpretation centres and responsible promotion can improve cultural awareness.

Conclusion

Cultural tourism can contribute to inclusive economic development when heritage conservation, environmental protection and community participation remain central to planning.

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