Art & Culture · GS - I

Discuss the role of mythological heritage sites in promoting cultural tourism and preserving India's intangible cultural traditions.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Ramayana heritage, cultural memory, religious tourism, local livelihoods, heritage conservation, intangible traditions, sustainable tourism, community participation, infrastructure, environmental protection.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's mythological heritage sites connect geographical landscapes with religious traditions, folklore and collective cultural memory. Jatayu Earth’s Centre in Kerala illustrates this relationship through its association with the Ramayana.

Role in Cultural Tourism

- **Cultural identity:** Such sites preserve and communicate traditional narratives across generations.
- **Tourism diversification:** They attract domestic and international visitors through heritage-based experiences.
- **Local livelihoods:** Tourism creates opportunities in hospitality, transport, handicrafts and small businesses.
- **Cultural education:** Interpretation centres and heritage activities help visitors understand regional traditions.

Challenges

Unregulated tourism may cause environmental degradation, overcrowding and commercialisation of cultural traditions. Poor documentation and inadequate community participation can also weaken heritage conservation.

Way Forward

Integrated heritage management, scientific conservation, responsible tourism practices, local employment and digital documentation should be prioritised. Community participation can ensure that tourism benefits residents while respecting cultural sensitivities.

Conclusion

Mythological heritage sites are valuable cultural and economic assets. Their sustainable development can strengthen India's cultural identity while supporting inclusive regional growth.

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