Geography · GS - I

Examine the role of aviation infrastructure in promoting regional connectivity and balanced economic development in India's North-Eastern Region.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Regional connectivity, geographical isolation, greenfield airports, Act East Policy, tourism, trade facilitation, multimodal transport, balanced regional development, environmental sustainability

Model Answer

Aviation infrastructure plays an important role in connecting geographically challenging regions with national economic networks. In Northeast India, airports can reduce travel time, improve accessibility and facilitate economic integration.

Role of aviation infrastructure

1. **Overcoming geographical barriers:** Mountainous terrain, river valleys and inadequate surface transport make air connectivity important for regional accessibility.
2. **Economic development:** Airports facilitate trade, investment, employment generation and movement of skilled professionals.
3. **Tourism promotion:** Improved connectivity encourages domestic and international tourism, benefiting hospitality and allied sectors.

4. **Regional integration:** Airports connect remote districts with major economic centres and neighbouring northeastern states.
5. **Strategic importance:** Better connectivity strengthens administrative accessibility and supports India's Act East Policy.

Silchar Greenfield Airport: A regional development opportunity

The proposed ₹2,014-crore greenfield airport near Silchar aims to address operational limitations of the existing Kumbhirgram airport. Its improved infrastructure is expected to benefit southern Assam and neighbouring states, including Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura.

Challenges and the way forward

1. Ensure environmental assessments and sustainable land-use planning.
2. Integrate airports with roads, railways and other transport networks.
3. Maintain affordable air connectivity for ordinary passengers.
4. Encourage private investment and regional economic activities.

Conclusion

Aviation infrastructure can become an instrument of inclusive regional development when supported by multimodal connectivity, environmental safeguards and accessible transport services.

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