Art & Culture · GS - I

Ujjain’s Simhastha preparations and heritage-led development raise questions about balancing pilgrimage, urban infrastructure and cultural conservation. Examine. (150 words)

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 05/10/2026	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

- **Pilgrimage economy; carrying capacity; heritage conservation; infrastructure; sanitation; traffic; local livelihoods; sustainable tourism; participatory planning.**
- **Use Ujjain/Simhastha as the case study; balance development with conservation; conclude with integrated heritage-urban planning.**

Model Answer

India’s pilgrimage cities often face a tension between infrastructure-led modernization and preservation of cultural heritage. Ujjain’s preparations for Simhastha illustrate this challenge. Large pilgrim inflows require roads, public transport, sanitation, water supply, healthcare, digital services and emergency management. However, unplanned construction can damage heritage precincts, river ecosystems and the traditional character of the city.

A sustainable approach should be based on carrying-capacity assessment, zoning of heritage-sensitive areas, pedestrianisation around important sites, efficient public transport and scientific solid-waste and wastewater management. Temporary infrastructure can reduce permanent ecological pressure. Riverfront development must preserve ecological flows rather than merely beautify the banks. Local artisans, priests, traders and residents should be integrated into planning so that the pilgrimage economy generates inclusive livelihoods.

Technology can support crowd forecasting, emergency response and integrated mobility management. Thus,

Simhastha should be treated not merely as an event-management exercise but as an opportunity for heritage-sensitive, climate-resilient and participatory urban development.

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