Geography

Discuss the significance of infrastructure development in Ladakh for strategic connectivity, regional development and cultural heritage conservation. How can such development be made environmentally sustainable?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/10/2026	—	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Border infrastructure, strategic mobility, Nimmu–Padum–Darcha Road, regional connectivity, tourism, renewable energy, water security, petroglyph conservation, fragile Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable development.

Model Answer

Introduction

Ladakh’s high-altitude terrain and harsh climatic conditions make connectivity, energy access and water management important for both regional development and national security.

Significance of Infrastructure Development

1. **Strategic connectivity:** Alternative road routes improve the movement of armed forces, supplies and civilians.
2. **Regional development:** Better roads and airport facilities can improve access to healthcare, education, markets and tourism.
3. **Energy security:** Hydropower and improved transmission infrastructure can strengthen electricity supply.

4. **Water security:** Water-storage projects can help address seasonal shortages and support agriculture.
5. **Heritage conservation:** A dedicated petroglyph park can protect ancient rock art and promote responsible cultural tourism.

Environmental Considerations

Ladakh’s fragile ecosystem is vulnerable to waste, water stress, unregulated tourism and construction-related damage. Infrastructure projects should therefore include environmental assessments, efficient water use, renewable energy and scientific heritage conservation.

Conclusion

Infrastructure in Ladakh should balance strategic requirements and local livelihoods with ecological protection and preservation of its unique cultural heritage.

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