Geography · GS - I

Explain how the Himalayan region's physical geography influences its climate, transport connectivity and tourism. Discuss the challenges of managing high-altitude tourism sustainably.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Relief and altitude; orographic rainfall; Himalayan passes; snowfall and road connectivity; border infrastructure; mountain tourism; ecological fragility; disaster preparedness

Model Answer

Introduction

The Himalayas are a young fold mountain system whose high relief, steep slopes and climatic diversity shape regional livelihoods, transport and tourism. Sikkim's high-altitude destinations illustrate both their attraction and vulnerability.

Geographical Influence

1. Climate and Weather

Altitude produces sharp temperature variations, while the Himalayas influence monsoon circulation and precipitation. Snowfall at higher elevations can rapidly alter local weather and road conditions.

2. Connectivity and Strategic Importance

Mountain passes such as Nathu La facilitate cross-border connectivity and hold strategic significance. However, steep terrain, landslides, snow and ice can disrupt transport and increase infrastructure maintenance costs.

3. Tourism Opportunities and Risks

Snow-covered landscapes attract visitors and support local businesses. Unregulated tourism, waste generation, pressure on water resources and poorly managed traffic can damage fragile mountain ecosystems.

Way Forward

Authorities should issue timely weather advisories, regulate vehicle movement during hazardous conditions, strengthen road drainage and slope stabilisation, and establish emergency-response systems. Carrying-capacity assessments, waste management and community-led tourism can reduce ecological pressure.

Conclusion

Sustainable Himalayan tourism requires balancing economic opportunities and strategic connectivity with ecological conservation, climate resilience and visitor safety.

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