Art & Culture · GS - I

Examine the role of heritage tourism and adaptive reuse in preserving Rajasthan's architectural legacy. What challenges arise in balancing conservation with commercial use?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Rajput architectural heritage; traditional havelis; frescoes and courtyards; adaptive reuse; cultural tourism; conservation financing; authenticity; sustainable tourism

Model Answer

Introduction

Rajasthan's forts, palaces and havelis represent its architectural traditions, craftsmanship and social history. Heritage tourism can provide economic incentives to conserve these historic structures.

Role of Heritage Tourism

Conservation Financing: Revenue from heritage hotels and tourism services can support repairs, maintenance and restoration of traditional architectural features.

Cultural Preservation: Historic properties preserve regional art, frescoes, decorative techniques and architectural knowledge while introducing visitors to local traditions.

Employment Generation: Heritage tourism creates opportunities for guides, artisans, hospitality workers and local businesses.

Key Challenges

Commercialisation: Excessive modernisation may damage original features or reduce heritage properties to commercial attractions.

Maintenance Costs: Traditional materials and specialised restoration techniques can be expensive.

Community Participation: Tourism benefits may remain concentrated among property owners unless local artisans and communities are included.

Way Forward

Conservation plans should document original features, use appropriate restoration techniques and regulate intrusive alterations. Local crafts, responsible visitor management and community-based tourism can strengthen economic benefits while preserving authenticity.

Conclusion

Adaptive reuse can make heritage conservation financially sustainable, but commercial activity must remain compatible with historical integrity and cultural significance.

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