# Art & Culture · GS - I

**India’s cultural and historical sites increasingly face pressure from mass tourism and urban expansion. Suggest a framework for sustainable heritage management. (150 words)**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
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| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

- **Carrying capacity; adaptive reuse; buffer zones; community participation; conservation science; tourism revenue; digital documentation; climate resilience.**
- **Provide a practical framework: assess → zone → regulate → involve communities → finance → monitor.**

## Model Answer

India’s heritage is simultaneously a cultural asset, a source of identity and an economic resource. Yet mass tourism, urban expansion, pollution, commercialisation and climate risks can undermine heritage value. Sustainable heritage management therefore requires an integrated framework.

First, authorities should assess the carrying capacity of monuments and heritage cities and regulate visitor flows through timed entry, digital booking and pedestrian zones. Second, heritage-sensitive master plans should establish protected core areas and appropriate buffer zones, preventing incompatible construction. Third, conservation should rely on scientific techniques, regular structural audits and climate-risk assessments. Adaptive reuse can give historic buildings viable contemporary functions without compromising their character.

Local communities should participate in decision-making and benefit through handicrafts, guides, homestays and cultural enterprises. Tourism revenue can partly finance conservation. Digital documentation, GIS mapping and 3D

scanning can preserve records and support restoration.

Finally, heritage governance must coordinate tourism, municipal, archaeological and environmental agencies. Such an approach can convert heritage tourism from a source of pressure into a mechanism for conservation and inclusive local development.

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