Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the potential of adventure tourism to promote economic development in Himalayan states such as Sikkim. Discuss the environmental challenges and measures required for sustainable tourism.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Local employment, livelihood diversification, eco-tourism, biodiversity, carrying capacity, waste management, disaster preparedness, community participation, responsible tourism.

Model Answer

Introduction

Himalayan states possess distinctive landscapes and biodiversity that offer significant opportunities for adventure tourism. Festivals featuring trekking, paragliding, mountain biking and river rafting can attract visitors and support local economies.

Economic Potential

1. **Employment generation:** Tourism creates jobs for guides, instructors, transport operators, hospitality workers and local artisans.

2. **Regional development:** Visitor spending can improve demand for local products, accommodation and transport services.

3. **Economic diversification:** Tourism provides alternatives to livelihoods dependent on limited sectors, particularly in remote areas.

Environmental Challenges

Unregulated tourism can cause waste accumulation, trail erosion, habitat disturbance and pressure on water resources. Mountainous terrain also exposes visitors to landslides, sudden weather changes and other natural hazards.

Way Forward

- Assess ecological carrying capacity and regulate visitor numbers in sensitive areas.
- Enforce waste-management rules and encourage low-impact transport.
- Establish safety standards, trained rescue teams and weather-monitoring systems.
- Involve local communities in planning and revenue-sharing.
- Promote responsible tourism and conservation awareness.

Conclusion

Adventure tourism can strengthen Himalayan economies if development respects ecological limits. Community participation, environmental safeguards and visitor safety are essential for long-term sustainability.

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