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# MAINS ANSWER WRITING APPROACH ANSWERS

Topic- GEOGRAPHY DAY 4



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**Due to the tourism industry, the Himalayan states have reached the ecological carrying capacity of their ecosystems. Evaluate critically. (10 mark) (150 words)**

Beautiful natural landscapes can be found in the hilly states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. As a result, they have the potential to draw visitors from all over the globe. Mountains have become a draw for tourism, which is the **world's fastest-growing business**.

- Because of the high degree of biodiversity and environmental sensitivity of mountain areas, the effects of tourism on mountain ecosystems and biological resources are of major concern, both on a local and global scale. **Tourism puts a strain on local resources.**
- There are concerns that they may be approaching the boundaries of their ecological carrying capacity as a result of this. The carrying capacity of an ecosystem refers to the maximum population size that it can support indefinitely.
- For example, **haphazard urbanisation has encroached on the Dal Lake in Srinagar** to accommodate the booming tourism business. Similarly, in Uttarakhand, which features sacred sites and receives a large number of visitors each year, the expansion of highways and bridges has disrupted the ecological equilibrium.
- However, we cannot say that these locations have reached their ecological carrying capacity as a whole because tourism activities in these areas are limited to very tiny areas when compared to the size of their state.
- It is restricted to Ladakh, Srinagar, and Jammu districts in Jammu & Kashmir. It is largely confined to the western region of Uttarakhand, which is abundant of religious sites such as Badrinath, Kedarnath, Haridwar, Rishikesh, and others. In Himachal Pradesh, tourism attractions are concentrated in three districts: Kullu, Dharamsala, and Shimla, with the rest of the state receiving fewer than 5% of total visitors.

As a result, these states require destination-specific checks rather than a statewide policy. The time has come to promote other locations and diversify the tourism

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business across the state using the eco-tourism principle, which combines **conservation, community, and sustainable travel.**

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**Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world.**

The oceans are a vast and abundant source of resources, with the potential to help meet the world's growing needs for food, energy, minerals, and other materials. However, it is important to critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans and to develop sustainable ways to harness them.

### **Food**

The oceans are a major source of food for billions of people around the world. **Fish and other seafood** are a valuable source of protein, essential fatty acids, and other nutrients. However, **overfishing** is a major problem, and many fish stocks are now depleted. It is important to develop **sustainable fisheries management practices** in order to ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from this vital resource.

### **Energy**

The oceans can also be a **source of renewable energy**. **Wave energy, tidal energy, and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC)** are all promising technologies that can be used to generate electricity from the oceans. These technologies are still in their early stages of development, but they have the potential to make a significant contribution to the world's energy needs.

### **Minerals**

The oceans contain a wide variety of minerals, including **gold, silver, copper, nickel, and manganese**. These minerals are found in nodules and other deposits on the seabed. **Deep-sea mining** is a relatively new industry, and there are concerns about its environmental impact. It is important to develop **responsible mining practices** in order to minimize the impact on marine ecosystems.

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### Other resources

The oceans also contain a variety of other resources, such as **seawater, sand, and gravel**. Seawater can be desalinated to produce fresh water, which is a valuable resource in many parts of the world. **Sand and gravel** are used in construction and other industries. It is important to manage these resources sustainably in order to avoid environmental damage.

### Critical evaluation

While the oceans have a vast potential to provide resources for the world's population, it is important to be critical of the ways in which these resources are harnessed. **Overfishing, deep-sea mining, and other activities** can have a significant negative impact on marine ecosystems. It is important to develop **sustainable management practices** in order to ensure that the oceans can continue to provide for us without being harmed.

### Way forward

- **Sustainable fisheries**
  - **Ocean renewable energy**
  - **Responsible mining**
  - **Desalination**
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