

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper3- economy- infrastructure; and GS paper2- International relation.

Developing Lakshadweep into a High-End, Eco-Friendly Tourist Destination: Challenges and Strategies

Need for Lakshadweep Development:

Alternative to Maldives:

- Given the tensions with the Maldives, there is a strategic need for India to establish its own high-end tourist destination.

Environmental Preservation:

- Learning from the environmental issues in the Maldives, Lakshadweep's development aims for a sustainable tourism model to avoid ecological harm.

Limited Space Management:

- Lakshadweep's small size necessitates a controlled development approach to prevent overcrowding and environmental degradation.

Economic Growth:

- With only 10 inhabited islands out of 36, Lakshadweep's development addresses the economic growth requirements of the region.

Challenges in Developing Lakshadweep:

Limited Area:

- The small size (32 sq km) and the presence of only 10 inhabited islands pose challenges for large-scale development.

Exclusivity for High-End Tourism:

- Due to space constraints, Lakshadweep may cater primarily to upper-tier travelers, requiring careful planning to manage exclusivity.

Waste Management:

- Efficient waste management is crucial to prevent environmental degradation, drawing lessons from the Maldives' challenges.

Balancing Exclusivity and Accessibility:

- Developing high-end resorts while preserving the local environment requires a delicate balance.

Sustainability:

- Adopting sustainable practices early on is essential to prevent future environmental problems during development.

Learnings from the Maldives:

Environmental Degradation:

- Maldives' experience highlights how excessive tourism can lead to severe environmental degradation.

Waste Management Issues:

- In the Maldives, inefficient waste disposal transformed beautiful islands into garbage dumps, emphasizing the importance of effective waste management in Lakshadweep.

Fragility of Small Island Ecosystems:

- The Maldives showcases the fragility of small island ecosystems, emphasizing the need to balance tourist numbers with ecological conservation.

Recommended Strategies:

Conduct Sustainability Surveys:

- Detailed surveys should precede development to ensure it aligns with environmental sustainability goals.

Target High-End Tourism:

- Focusing on wealthier tourists allows for effective management of demand and generates additional revenue for eco-friendly initiatives.

Developing Lakshadweep into a high-end, eco-friendly tourist destination requires meticulous planning and adherence to sustainable practices to safeguard its environment and exclusivity.