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Q6(b)

Examine the impact of heritage tourism on urban socio-spatial patterns in India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Industrialization and Urbanisation in India

Industrialization and Urbanisation in India: Evolution of modern industry in India; Growth of urban settlements in India; Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization; Informal sector, child labour; Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

Core demand of the question

- Examine the impact of heritage tourism on urban socio-spatial patterns in India
- Treat as a 20-mark answer

Revision summary

Heritage tourism turns forts, temples, and bazaars into visitor space.

Rents and brands rise; inner-city poor often lose tenure.

Tradition is performed for outsiders, a modernisation of tradition.

The city splits into a curated core and a service periphery.

Whose heritage is shown is a caste and class question.

Introduction

- **Heritage tourism rewrites the city as a visitor map:** fort, temple, bazaar, and hotel. Socio-spatial patterns then shift. Some streets become stages. Some residents become service labour or get pushed out. The impact is neither pure conservation nor pure harm.

Body

What heritage tourism does to space

- Monument zones in Jaipur, Agra, Hampi-adjacent towns, and old Delhi get cleaned, lit, and policed for the tourist gaze.
- Craft bazaars and 'traditional' food streets are curated. Living workshops may be priced out.
- G. S. Ghurye's civilisational Hindu city can be packaged as a brand, while Muslim, Dalit, and working quarters become backstage.

Socio-spatial winners and losers

- Hotels, guides, and a new middle-class consumer capture rent.
- Vendors, cycle-rickshaw workers, and inner-city tenants face eviction dressed as **beautification**.
- Women's mobility can shrink if streets become male tourist night markets, or expand if day work in crafts grows.

Culture as commodity

- **Yogendra Singh's modernisation of tradition fits well:** ritual and craft survive as performance for outsiders.
- Sacred time is scheduled around charters and light-and-sound shows.
- Authenticity conflicts appear when residents want plumbing more than a photogenic ruin.

Urban pattern outcomes

- **Dual city:** heritage core versus informal periphery.
- Congestion, rising inner rents, and **museumification** of neighbourhoods.
- Some restoration of havelis and tanks that municipal neglect had killed.

Sociological caution

- Heritage is a class and caste selection of whose past counts.

Flow diagram

Heritage tourism -> Monument bazaar hotel
Heritage tourism -> Displacement beautification
Heritage tourism -> Craft as commodity
Residents labour -> Displacement beautification

Conclusion

Heritage tourism recasts urban space as a branded past. It can fund repair and jobs. It also displaces the poor, stages tradition, and splits the city into gaze and backstage. Socio-spatial impact is a political sorting of who may remain in the old street.

Facts & figures

Agra-Jaipur circuit

Monument tourism that reorganises local labour into guides, hotels, and informal services.

Beautification

Clearance of vendors and slums in the name of a world-class heritage street.

Museumification

Living neighbourhoods frozen as a look rather than upgraded as homes.

Yogendra Singh

Tradition packaged through modern organisation and markets.