

Daily Mains Practice Answer 4-09-2026

Q. What do temple inscriptions reveal about the role of kings, local elites, communities and religious institutions in maintaining temples? Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Directions: Intro----What do inscriptions reveal?-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Brief about temple inscriptions - important historical sources because they record land grants, donations, repairs, endowments, taxes, rituals and administrative arrangements.

Main Body

What do temple inscriptions reveal?

Stakeholder	Role in temple maintenance	Evidence/Examples
Kings & rulers	Granted land, villages, tax exemptions, gold and money; Built and renovated temples & endowed resources for rituals	Rajaraja I's inscriptions at the Brihadisvara Temple provide detailed information about donations, personnel and temple administration.
Local elites	Donated land, livestock, gold and other resources; Supported construction, festivals, rituals, etc.	Chiefs, merchants and landholding groups frequently appear as donors
Local communities	Participated in collective donations, supplied services, maintained irrigation and supported temple festivals	Ur, Sabha and Nagaram institutions in South India managed resources and temple-related affairs
Religious institutions	Managed endowments, organised rituals, employed priests and other personnel, and maintained temple properties.	Temple authorities administered donated lands and used their income for daily worship and festivals

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion.

Temple inscriptions reveal that the preservation of temples was a shared responsibility rather than a purely royal enterprise.



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