UPSC with Saurabh Kaushik

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GS-I: GEOGRAPHY

Previous Year Questions

UPSC Mains 2013 – 2024

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World Physical Geography

11. Salient Features of World Physical Geography

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Geography)	Year	Marks
Climatology	Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes.	2016	12.5
	Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree?	2014	10
	Troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How?	2022	15
	What do you understand by the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place?	2013	5
	What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered?	2024	15
Cryosphere, Glaciers & Himalayan Ecosystem	Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent.	2014	10
	How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism?	2019	15
	How does the cryosphere affect global climate?	2017	10
	How does the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain.	2021	15
	How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India?	2020	10
	Why is India taking keen interest in resources of Arctic Region?	2018	10
Geomorphology & Plate Tectonics	Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics.	2018	10
	Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks.	2022	10
	Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone.	2020	10
	How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world?	2023	10
	What do you understand by the theory of continental drift? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support.	2013	5
	Why is India considered as a subcontinent? Elaborate your answer.	2021	10
Monsoon Systems	How far do you agree that the behavior of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscapes? Discuss.	2015	12.5
	What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia?	2017	15

	Why is the South-West monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?	2023	10
Oceanography	What are the consequences of spreading of 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystem?	2018	10
	How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and the coastal environment? Give suitable examples?	2019	15
	Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing and navigation?	2015	12.5
	Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects.	2017	15

Natural Resources

12. Distribution of Key Natural Resources (World, South Asia and Indian Subcontinent)

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Geography)	Year	Marks
Energy Resources & Fuel Security	Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world.	2021	15
	Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for their limited spatial spread.	2022	10
	India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its development. Elaborate.	2020	15
	It is said the India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved.	2013	10
	What are the economic significances of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?	2015	12.5
	With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, the atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world.	2013	10
Mineral, Marine & Agricultural Resource Potential	Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples.	2020	15
	Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas.	2023	15
	Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world.	2014	10

	Describing the distribution of rubber producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them.	2022	15
	Discuss the natural resource potentials of 'Deccan Trap'.	2022	10
	How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa?	2014	10
Water Resources, Scarcity & Management	In what way can flood be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India?	2017	15
	In what way micro-watershed Development projects help in water conservation in drought prone and semi-arid regions of India.	2016	12.5
	India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.	2015	12.5
	Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations.	2016	12.5
	The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain	2016	12.5
	The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system. How can it be made effective in urban areas?	2018	15
	The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine.	2020	15
	What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India?	2019	15
	Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources?	2023	10
	The groundwater potential of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India?	2024	15

Industry Location

13. Factors Responsible for Location of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Sector Industries in Various Parts of the World (including India)

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Geography)	Year	Marks
Primary Sector: Agriculture, Mining & Food Security	Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss.	2021	10

	From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons.	2023	15
	In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development. Discuss.	2017	10
	Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulse because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations.	2017	10
	Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain.	2014	10
	Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water?	2014	10
Secondary Sector: Industry Location & Manufacturing	Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world.	2014	10
	Analyze the factors for highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India	2013	5
	Can the strategy of regional-resource based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India?	2019	10
	Discuss the factors for localization of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India.	2019	10
	Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the Southern states of India? Discuss with justification	2013	5
	Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications.	2017	15
	What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identify industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics.	2018	15
Tertiary Sector: Transport, Tourism & Services	Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India.	2016	12.5
	The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand reaching the limits of their ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate.	2015	12.5
	Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation?	2018	10

Geophysical Phenomena

14. Important Geophysical Phenomena such as Earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic Activity, Cyclone etc.

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Geography)	Year	Marks

Tropical Cyclones & Extreme Atmospheric Events	Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department.	2022	10
	The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called "Phailin". How are the tropical cyclones named across the world?	2013	5
	Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why?	2014	10
	What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones?	2024	10
	What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain.	2024	10
	What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico?	2024	15
Landslides & Slope Instability	Bring out the causes for more frequent landslides in the Himalayas than in Western Ghats	2013	5
	Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats.	2021	10
	The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides. Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.	2016	12.5
Volcanic Activity & Desertification	Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment.	2021	10
	The process of desertification does not have climatic boundaries. Justify with examples.	2020	10

Geographical Features

15. Geographical Features and their Location – Changes in Critical Geographical Features (including Water-bodies and Ice-caps) and in Flora and Fauna and the Effects of Such Changes

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-I Geography)	Year	Marks
Biodiversity, Forests & Coastal Ecology	Assess the impact of global warming on coral life system with examples.	2019	15
	Define blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.	2018	15
	Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.	2019	10
	Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change.	2020	15
	Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forests regions of India.	2023	15
	Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries.	2023	10

Landforms, Strategic Waterways & Earth Sciences	Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples.	2021	**15**
	Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos.	2014	**10**
	Major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 degree north and on the western side of the continents. Why?	2013	**10**
	Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade.	2022	**15**
	Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country but the air pollution is much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so?	2015	**12.5**
	South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.	2016	**12.5**
	There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghat. Why?	2013	**5**
	Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of Fold Mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes.	2014	**10**
	How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth?	2017	**10**

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