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Q19

**Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages.
Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban
integration.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · GS I · 12 marks · Indian Heritage and Culture

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss why smart cities in India cannot last without smart villages, in the light of rural-urban integration
- Link food, water, labour, waste, and governance, then a practical close

Revision summary

Indian cities depend on village food, water, labour, and land.

A smart municipal core on a neglected hinterland produces slums, tankers, and waste belts.

Rural-urban integration is already a fact of **census towns** and migration.

A smart village means services and farm livelihoods, not a copy of city towers.

City plans must include panchayats, or "smart" will not last.

Flow diagram

Capable village -> Food water labour

Food water labour -> Sustainable city

Distress village -> Slum sprawl tanker conflict

Slum sprawl tanker conflict -> Sustainable city

Rurban planning portable welfare -> Capable village

Rurban planning portable welfare -> Sustainable city

Conclusion

- Plan city regions with panchayats, protect floodplains and mandi links, portable welfare for migrants, and jobs in the hinterland so the smart city is not a magnet for despair.

Smart cities cannot sustain themselves if villages stay unserved, unpriced fairly, and used as labour and dump yards. Rural-urban integration is the condition of urban success in India. Make villages capable partners-food, water, work, and local government-or the smart city will choke on its own hinterland.

Facts & figures

Circular migration

Village-city labour movement that builds urban India while households remain rural.

Census towns

Settlements that are urban in fact but rural in administration, a sign of blurred integration.

PURA idea

Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas, an earlier language of linking village clusters to town-level services.

Rurban / cluster missions

Later schemes that try to give rural clusters urban-level infrastructure without full municipalisation.

Peri-urban belt

Fringe where city waste, water demand, and real estate meet village land.

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