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UPSC Mains 2015 GS I

Year-wise PYQ pack · WRAP model answers with canonical links

Official UPSC stems in exam order. Each live answer sits on one WRAP URL; this PDF is the year pack, not a second copy of the article. Open the link under a question for the full page.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains/gs-1/2015/>

Q1 · 12 marks

The ancient civilization in Indian sub continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without breakdown to the present day. Comment.

GS I · 2015 · Indian Heritage and Culture

Revision summary

India kept Sanskrit-Prakrit-vernacular, pilgrimage, and dharma as living practice.

Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece lost their old public cults after conversion and empire.

Harappan script is still unread, so the oldest urban layer is not a proven straight line.

Islam, colonialism, and Partition remade custom even while older forms survived.

The comment is fair as relative continuity, not as zero breakdown.

Flow diagram

Vedic temple Bhakti stream -> Living language ritual

Egypt Mesopotamia Greece -> Cult and script break

Islam colony cities -> Vedic temple Bhakti stream

Living language ritual -> Present India

Islam colony cities -> Present India

Conclusion

- Comment by comparing living ritual and language with dead scripts of the Nile and Tigris, then qualify with Islam, colonialism, and unread Harappa.
- Treat preservation as adaptive memory, not as an unbroken political state from Mohenjo-daro to the Republic.

Indian civilisation kept a denser living chain of language, pilgrimage, and social form than Egypt, Mesopotamia, or classical Greece. The difference is real, but it is continuity through change, not a culture without breakdown.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/the-ancient-civilization-in-indian-sub-continent-differed-from-those-of-egypt-mesopotamia-and-greece-in-that-its-culture-and-traditions-have-been-preserved-without-breakdown-to-the-present-day-comment/>

WRAP Exams

Q2 · 12 marks

Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment.

GS I · 2015 · Indian Heritage and Culture

Revision summary

Mesolithic India left painted and engraved shelters, not cave temples.

Bhimbetka and related sites show hunt, dance, and animals.

Rock-cut architecture belongs to Mauryan and later religious caves.

The line can look modern to us, but the makers had ritual and group aims.

The comment is fair on culture, weak on architecture and on equating two art worlds.

Flow diagram

Mesolithic foragers -> Shelter painting Bhimbetka

Shelter painting Bhimbetka -> Hunt dance ritual

Shelter painting Bhimbetka -> Lively line

Later rock-cut caves -> Different craft

Lively line -> Modern comparison is taste

Conclusion

- **Evaluate by splitting the comment:** strong on cultural life, cautious on aesthetics, reject "rock-cut architecture" as a label for Mesolithic India.

- Name Bhimbetka as a UNESCO rock-art landscape and keep Ajanta out of the Mesolithic box.

Mesolithic shelter painting records food, ritual, and a lively eye for animal and human form. It is not rock-cut architecture, and it is comparable to modern painting only as a later compliment, not as the same art world.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/mesolithic-rock-cut-architecture-of-india-not-only-reflects-the-cultural-life-of-the-times-but-also-a-fine-aesthetic-sense-comparable-to-modern-painting-critically-evaluate-this-comment/>

Q3 · 12 marks

How difficult would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi?

GS I · 2015 · The Freedom Struggle

Revision summary

Gandhi built mass satyagraha from Champaran to Quit India and a daily constructive programme.

Non-violence and a wide Congress made bargaining with Britain possible as a national claim.

War, INA, peasants, and British weakness would still have pushed decolonisation.

Partition shows his limits on communal peace.

Without him freedom would likely have been bloodier and less united, not unthinkable.

Flow diagram

Gandhi satyagraha -> Mass nation
War League INA -> 1947 transfer
Mass nation -> 1947 transfer
Gandhi satyagraha -> Did not stop Partition
No Gandhi -> Harder unity more violence

Conclusion

- **Answer as a counterfactual of difficulty, not as saint worship:** **Gandhi** lowered the cost of unity and raised the moral claim.
- State clearly that 1947 still had other engines, and that Partition shows his method did not solve every conflict.

Without **Gandhi**, Indian independence would still have been on the horizon because Empire was already in crisis, but it would have been more fragmented, more violent, and less able to speak as one people. He did not create the demand for freedom; he made its achievement less impossible.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/how-difficult-would-have-been-the-achievement-of-indian-independence-without-mahatma-gandhi/>

Q4 · 12 marks

Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B R Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate.

GS I · 2015 · The Freedom Struggle

Revision summary

Both men sought dignity, education, and an end to untouchability.

Gandhi relied on repentance, temple entry, and village constructive work.

Ambedkar relied on law, political safeguards, and critique of Hindu caste.

The Poona Pact replaced separate electorates with reserved seats after a clash.

Constitutional abolition of untouchability and later Navayana Buddhism mark **Ambedkar's** distinct strategy.

Flow diagram

Gandhi -> Harijan temple heart
Ambedkar -> Rights reservations exit
Gandhi -> Common dignity
Ambedkar -> Common dignity
Poona Pact -> Clash on electorate

Conclusion

- Elucidate by pairing one shared sentence with two strategy sentences on village, electorate, and religion.
- Do not flatten **Ambedkar** into a **Gandhi** lieutenant or **Gandhi** into an enemy of the depressed classes.

Gandhi and **Ambedkar** wanted the downtrodden raised. **Gandhi** worked through moral reform inside a village Hindu nation; **Ambedkar** worked through rights, separate political power, and, at the end, a new religious home. Indian social justice still lives in the tension between those two paths.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/mahatma-gandhi-and-dr-b-r-ambedkar-despite-having-divergent-approaches-and-strategies-had-a-common-goal-of-amelioration-of-the-downtrodden-elucidate/>

Q5 · 12 marks

It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years, but its experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935 .Discuss.

GS I · 2015 · World's Physical Geography

Revision summary

The 1935 Act trained parties in provincial government and wrote a long federal statute.

The Constitution reused lists, governors, and much administrative design.

Fundamental rights, adult franchise, and a republic were new nationalist work.

Partition added problems 1935 never faced.

Three years were possible because the scaffold already existed; the soul of the text did not.

Flow diagram

GOI Act 1935 -> Provincial ministries lists

Provincial ministries lists -> Drafting speed

Rights republic franchise -> Constitution 1950

Drafting speed -> Constitution 1950

GOI Act 1935 -> not sovereignty Rights republic franchise

Conclusion

- Discuss 1935 as necessary experience and borrowed architecture, then name rights and republic as the Assembly's own historic task.
- Three years look short only if one forgets two decades of legislative practice before 1946.

Without the Government of India Act, 1935, the Assembly would have been slower and less sure with federal lists and parliamentary procedure. With it, India could still not have a free constitution until members wrote rights, adult vote, and a republic on top of that colonial frame.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/it-would-have-been-difficult-for-the-constituent-assembly-to-complete-its-historic-task-of-drafting-the-constitution-for-independent-india-in-just-three-years-but-its-experience-gained-with-the-government-of-india-act/>

Q6 · 12 marks

Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present times?

GS I · 2015 · History of the World

Revision summary

Britain combined coal, cotton colonies, capital markets, and political stability.

Early industrial life meant child labour, crowding, and later slow legal reform.

Present India has democracy and better public health than 1820 England.

Informal work and slums still echo early industrial insecurity.

India also faces global and climate constraints Britain did not have at take-off.

Flow diagram

Coal colonies capital -> England first
England first -> Mills towns disease
Mills towns disease -> Later factory acts
India now -> Health vote laws
India now -> Informal slums

Conclusion

- **Keep the three parts separate:** location of the first revolution, grim early British life, then India as mixed modern rights plus informal hardship.
- Do not claim India has already repeated or already escaped the English path; name both the welfare gap closed and the decent-work gap still open.

England industrialised first because coal, capital, colonies, and a stable market state coincided. Many of its people paid in dirt, hours, and disease before reform. India now lives longer and votes, yet millions still work without the security that a mature industrial society promised, so the comparison is of stage and of rights, not of simple comfort.

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Q7 · 12 marks

To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically.

GS I · 2015 · History of the World

Revision summary

In 1914 Germany's blank cheque and Belgian plan spread a Balkan crisis.

Other powers share 1914 responsibility through alliances and mobilisation.

In 1939 Nazi expansion and the Poland attack make Germany the main European aggressor.

Versailles, slump, and appeasement were conditions, not a substitute for Hitler's will.

Extent is high in both wars, and higher in the second.

Flow diagram

Blank cheque Schlieffen -> WWI general war
Other empires alliances -> WWI general war
Hitler conquest -> WWII Europe
Versailles depression appeasement -> WWII Europe
Hitler conquest -> Main European aggressor

Conclusion

- Split the two wars; do not paste 1939 guilt backward onto 1914 without evidence.
- Use blank cheque and Poland as the two crisp examples of German choice.

Germany can be held largely responsible for turning 1914 into a general war and overwhelmingly responsible for launching the European war of 1939. Critical history still counts allies, empires, and appeasement, but it does not dissolve those two German decisions.

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Q8 · 12 marks

Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity.

GS I · 2015 · Indian Society and Diversity

Revision summary

Four elements are language, religion, caste-tribe, and region with food and festival.

Religion most strongly makes or breaks a shared civic nation.

Language, once recognised in states, built loyalty better than one-tongue force.

Region feeds pride; it threatens the Union mainly with politics of neglect.

Caste is deep social diversity and a test of equal citizenship rather than a single national myth.

Flow diagram

Language -> National identity

Religion -> National identity

Caste tribe -> National identity

Region festival -> National identity

Religion -> Highest glue and risk

Language -> Federal recognition

Conclusion

- Rate by effect on the Union and on a shared citizen story, not by which culture is "more Indian."

- **Name one binding device per element:** linguistic states, secular law, anti-caste rights, and federal cultural listing.

Language, religion, caste-tribe, and region are four living diversities. National identity in India is strongest when the state names them and still offers one citizenship. Religion and language have done most to make or break that feeling; caste structures society; region colours daily pride.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/describe-any-four-cultural-elements-of-diversity-in-india-and-rate-their-relative-significance-in-building-a-national-identity/>

Q9 · 12 marks

Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.

GS I · 2015 · Women, Population and Urbanisation

Revision summary

Extra people strain land and services when growth of jobs is slow.

Poverty, child mortality, and early marriage keep fertility high as household insurance.

Kerala shows social development can cut births without being the richest state.

Coercion without security fails as a population policy.

The link is two-way; poverty and gender are the main drivers of increase, and numbers then deepen scarcity.

Flow diagram

Poverty low female schooling -> High fertility
High fertility -> More claimants on land jobs
More claimants on land jobs -> Poverty low female schooling
Health literacy work -> Lower TFR
Lower TFR -> Easier poverty exit

Conclusion

- **Reject either-or:** poverty and gender inequality fuel births; extra births then crowd services.
- Way forward in policy is female schooling, child survival, decent work, and voluntary family planning, not blame of the poor for existing.

Growing population has made Indian poverty harder to clear, but poverty, child death, and women's lack of power have been the main engines of high fertility. Treat the pair as a loop, and break it with health and education rather than with a single cause.

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Q10 · 12 marks

How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes?

GS I · 2015 · Women, Population and Urbanisation

Revision summary

ST sex ratios have often been less skewed against women than SC ratios.

Women's farm and forest work and bride-price traditions raise women's visible worth in many tribes.

SC life is more tightly bound to caste patriarchy, dowry, and son-need.

SC numbers cluster in regions already known for missing women.

Migration undercount and later arrival of sex-selection clinics are secondary explanations, and the ST lead is not guaranteed forever.

Flow diagram

ST work bride-price -> Higher female share
SC in caste dowry son -> More masculine ratio
Plains missing women belt -> SC in caste dowry son
Sanskritisation clinics -> ST work bride-price
Sanskritisation clinics -> Gap may close

Conclusion

- Explain with kinship and women's work first, then regional concentration of SC in high son-preference zones.
- **Do not romanticise tribes:** witchcraft accusations, land loss, and falling child sex ratios in some ST pockets show the lead can close.

Tribal sex ratios look more favourable to women because many ST economies still give women field and forest roles and weaker dowry-son regimes, while SC groups more often share the caste-Hindu penalty on daughters. The statistic is a social map, not a moral ranking of two poor communities, and it can change as tribes enter the same marriage market.

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Q11 · 12 marks

Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades.

GS I · 2015 · Indian Society and Diversity

Revision summary

Rural-rural and marriage migration stayed large, but rural-urban and inter-state work streams grew.

Sending belts of the north and east fed metros, Gujarat, and Punjab construction and services.

Gulf contract labour after the 1970s oil boom remained the main overseas worker stream.

From the 1990s a skilled and student stream to the West sat beside the Gulf.

Remittances and circular return link both maps; data still miss many short-term movers.

Introduction

For about forty years before 2015, Indian labour moved more often, farther, and into new kinds of work. Inside the country the old rural-rural farm stream remained large, but rural-urban and inter-state moves grew. Abroad, the Gulf contract boom after the 1970s oil shock was joined, from the 1990s, by skilled and student migration to the West.

Body

Internal migration: what changed

- **Census** and NSS rounds still showed a large share of short-distance, rural-rural moves, often of women at marriage, so the map of migration is not only men going to cities.
- Male circular migration from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and parts of the east to Delhi, Mumbai, Gujarat, Punjab, and southern construction belts became more visible from the 1980s and 1990s.
- Work shifted from farm labour toward construction, small manufacturing, transport, security, and informal urban services, which is a change in occupation more than a change in legal protection.
- **Inter-state streams thickened after liberalisation:** industrial Gujarat, the National Capital Region, and metro services pulled labour even when the sending village kept a foothold through remittances and seasonal return.
- Some female streams grew in domestic work, garments, and care, but female labour-force participation stayed low, so internal migration did not become gender-equal.
- Distress after drought or farm crisis still sent people out, yet betterment migration for education and regular wages also rose in better-connected districts.

International migration: what changed

- After the 1973 oil boom, Kerala, then Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and later Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, sent large numbers of contract workers to the Gulf Cooperation Council states under kafala-type rules.
- From the 1990s, information-technology, nursing, and professional visas to the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia created a second, more skilled diaspora beside the Gulf stream.
- Student mobility and family settlement grew, so "labour migration" abroad mixed workers, students, and citizens-in-waiting.

- Kerala's share of Gulf workers remained high, but north Indian and eastern shares rose, which changed the language and skill mix of Indian labour in West Asia.
- Remittances became a major external receipt for Kerala, Punjab, and then several Hindi-belt districts, linking village housing and education to foreign wages.
- Shocks such as the 1990-91 Gulf War, the 2008 slowdown, and periodic Saudi or UAE nationalisation drives showed that overseas Indian labour is cyclical, not a one-way ladder.

Limits and way forward

- **Census** undercounts short-term and circular workers, so trends are clearer in direction than in exact headcount.
- Policy must treat internal migrants as workers with portability of rations and health, and treat overseas workers with recruitment regulation, not only celebration of remittances.

Flow diagram

Village surplus and network -> Internal circular urban
Village surplus and network -> Gulf contract labour
Village surplus and network -> Skilled West and students
Internal circular urban -> Remittance circular return
Gulf contract labour -> Remittance circular return
Skilled West and students -> Diaspora settlement

Conclusion

Over four decades to 2015, internal migration became more urban, more inter-state, and more tied to construction and services, while marriage still moved many women. Overseas, Gulf contract work remained huge, but a skilled Western stream grew beside it. The trend is diversification of destinations and skills, not the end of distress movement.

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Q12 · 12 marks

Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India?

GS I · 2015 · Women, Population and Urbanisation

Revision summary

After 1991, garments, services, and media opened some paid work and rights talk for women.

A slice of educated urban women gained income and delayed marriage.

Much new work stayed informal, and unpaid care did not shrink.

Female labour-force participation did not rise in line with growth.

Class and location decide whether globalisation helps or hurts a woman.

Flow diagram

Open trade media services -> New paid jobs ideas

Open trade media services -> Informal cheap labour

Open trade media services -> Unpaid care double burden

New paid jobs ideas -> Split net effect

Informal cheap labour -> Split net effect

Unpaid care double burden -> Split net effect

Education care law -> Split net effect

Conclusion

- Treat care as infrastructure, enforce equal pay and factory law in export chains, and expand skills beyond a few metro services.

Globalisation has given some Indian women pay, mobility, and a louder rights language. It has also packed many into insecure work, heavier unpaid care, and new social pressures. The net effect is therefore split by class, caste, and city, not a simple story of liberation or ruin.

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Q13 · 12 marks

Debate the issue whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste.

GS I · 2015 · Social Empowerment, Communalism and Secularism

Revision summary

Ambedkar's aim was to destroy caste hierarchy, not to make jati a lasting badge.

Identity assertion can help by refusing humiliation, using law, and converting out of the Hindu order.

It can hinder by turning caste into a frozen vote bank and keeping endogamy.

Symbols without land, schools, and an end to stigmatised work are not annihilation.

Assertion is needed as a path; mixed social life is still the test.

Flow diagram

Ambedkar annihilation aim -> Dalit identity assertion
Dalit identity assertion -> Dignity law office conversion
Dalit identity assertion -> Vote bank endogamy freeze
Dignity law office conversion -> Possible caste weakening
Vote bank endogamy freeze -> Possible caste weakening
Mixed life end of stigma labour -> Possible caste weakening

Conclusion

- Keep dignity movements, but measure success by mixed schools, mixed marriage freedom, exit from stigmatised labour, and declining atrocity-not only by caste census pride.

Contemporary Dalit identity movements work toward annihilation when they break silence, win rights, and exit humiliating religion and work. They work against it when they freeze jati as a permanent electoral tribe. Assertion is a means; annihilation remains the unfinished end.

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Q14 · 12 marks

Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing and navigation?

GS I · 2015 · Geophysical Phenomena

Revision summary

Winds, unequal heating and salinity, Coriolis force, and continent shape originate ocean currents.

The north Indian Ocean also reverses with the monsoon winds.

Warm currents milden high-latitude west coasts; cold currents cool and dry some west coasts.

Upwelling currents support the richest fisheries.

Navigators still use gyres and monsoon flows and must watch fog and ice on cold-current shores.

Introduction

Ocean currents are large, fairly steady flows of seawater. They begin because the sun, wind, and Earth's rotation heat and push the sea unevenly, and because continents block the water. Those flows then move heat, nutrients, and ships, so they are a climate, food, and trade fact, not only a map colour.

Body

Factors responsible for origin and pattern

- Planetary winds, especially the trade winds and westerlies, drag the surface and start the great gyres in each ocean basin.
- **Unequal heating of equator and poles creates density differences:** warm, lighter water and cold, denser water that sink and rise in a slow conveyor.
- Salinity changes from evaporation, rainfall, ice melt, and river input also change density and help drive deep and surface flows.
- The Coriolis effect, from Earth's rotation, turns currents to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern, which shapes gyres and western boundary currents.
- Shape of continents, narrow straits, and the mid-ocean ridges steer, split, or speed the flow, as at the Cape of Good Hope or the Florida Strait.
- In the north Indian Ocean, the reversing monsoon winds reverse surface currents seasonally, which is a special case of wind drive.
- Tides and local coastal winds add smaller currents, but the main origin story is wind plus density plus rotation plus basin shape.

Influence on regional climates

- Warm currents such as the Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift keep northwest Europe milder and wetter than other places at the same latitude.
- Cold currents such as the Humboldt (Peru), Benguela, and California currents cool west coasts, raise fog and aridity, and help make coastal deserts.
- The Kuroshio warms Japan's east; the Labrador Current cools eastern Canada and feeds fog on the Grand Banks where it meets warmer water.

- El Niño is a breakdown of the usual Pacific cold upwelling pattern and shows how current and wind shifts can change rainfall far inland, including the Indian monsoon in some years.

Fishing

- Upwelling along Peru, California, and Benguela brings nutrients to the surface and supports huge fisheries, until El Niño or overfishing cuts the catch.
- Mixing zones on banks and at current edges concentrate plankton and fish, which is why some of the world's great fisheries sit on current maps.
- Warm, nutrient-poor tropical gyre centres are poorer in fish than cold upwelling coasts.

Navigation

- **Sail and steam both used or fought known currents:** the Gulf Stream for the North Atlantic crossing, and monsoon currents in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal for historic Indian Ocean trade.
- Today, routing still saves fuel by riding currents and avoiding adverse flow; ice and fog on cold-current coasts remain hazards.
- Oil spills and plastic also follow current paths, which is a modern navigation and disaster fact.

Way forward for the answer

- List wind, density, Coriolis, and continents first, then one climate, one fishery, and one shipping example each.

Flow diagram

Winds heat salt -> Ocean currents
Coriolis continents -> Ocean currents
Ocean currents -> Regional climate
Ocean currents -> Upwelling fisheries
Ocean currents -> Shipping routes hazards

Conclusion

Ocean currents start from wind drag, heat and salt density, Earth's spin, and the walls of the continents. They milden or dry coasts, feed upwelling fisheries, and still guide ships. To know a region's climate and fish, one must know the current at its shore.

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Q15 · 12 marks

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?

GS I · 2015 · World's Physical Geography

Revision summary

All three megacities pollute, but Delhi is landlocked and winter-trapped.

Himalayan-plain geography and low mixing height hold smoke in the breathing zone.

NCR sprawl, dust, and Punjab-Haryana stubble add a regional plume Mumbai and Kolkata do not share in the same way.

Mumbai's sea breeze and Kolkata's bay and monsoon rain dilute more often.

Delhi's crisis is therefore geography plus regional sources, not only city size.

Flow diagram

Landlocked Gangetic basin -> Winter inversion trap
Himalaya weak wind -> Winter inversion trap
NCR vehicles dust industry -> Winter inversion trap
Farm fire plume -> Winter inversion trap
Winter inversion trap -> Severe Delhi smog
Coastal sea breeze rain -> Mumbai Kolkata dilution

Conclusion

- Delhi needs regional action on farms, NCR industry, dust, and winter transport, because city-only odd-even rules cannot beat a landlocked inversion.

Delhi's air is more serious than Mumbai's or Kolkata's mainly because of inland location, winter inversion, Himalayan-plain trapping, and a surrounding farm-and-town smoke ring. The two older port megacities have the sea and, for Kolkata, heavier rains as natural vents. Emission control must therefore be regional for Delhi, not only municipal.

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Q16 · 12 marks

India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.

GS I · 2015 · Natural Resources and Industries

Revision summary

India has large monsoon and river-groundwater resources, but rain is concentrated in a few months and regions.

Farms use most water, often for thirsty crops in dry belts, with heavy pumping.

Pollution and urban leaks cut the usable share of "fresh" water.

Per-person water has fallen, and disputes delay sharing.

Scarcity is mismanagement of a seasonal endowment, not absence of rain on the map.

Flow diagram

Monsoon snow rivers aquifers -> Large endowment

Large endowment -> Uneven season and region

Paddy cane flood irrigation -> Scarcity

Pollution leaks over-extraction -> Scarcity

Uneven season and region -> Scarcity

Governance and disputes -> Scarcity

Conclusion

- Shift cropping to rainfall, price power and water with care for the poor, treat sewage as reuse, recharge aquifers, and protect floodplains. Supply schemes without demand reform will not end scarcity.

India's fresh-water endowment is large in total and poor in timing, place, quality, and justice. Scarcity is therefore made by monsoon concentration, groundwater mining, farm and urban waste, and weak basin institutions. The critical answer is that nature gave volume; society failed to turn it into secure water.

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Q17 · 12 marks

The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate.

GS I · 2015 · World's Physical Geography

Revision summary

Western Himalayan slopes have a low natural carrying capacity.

Mass pilgrimage and leisure tourism add vehicles, hotels, sewage, and floodway building.

Kedarnath 2013 showed the cost of infrastructure in harm's way.

Hydropower, roads, and climate change also push the same limit.

The claim is largely true for many valleys, but incomplete if tourism is blamed alone.

Flow diagram

Mass hill tourism -> Waste water slope load
Hydel highways defence -> Waste water slope load
Climate extremes -> Waste water slope load
Waste water slope load -> Carrying capacity stress
Caps sewage land-use law -> Carrying capacity stress

Conclusion

- Set valley-wise visitor and vehicle caps, ban building on floodways, treat sewage before the river, and share revenue with villages. Carrying capacity is a planning number, not a slogan against all guests.

These three hill states are near ecological limits in many valleys, and mass tourism is a clear reason. The claim is still only partly true: hydropower, roads, climate, and weak regulation share the damage. The fair evaluation is that tourism has pushed several landscapes past a safe load, but it is one driver among several, and the answer is regulated access, not a myth that the hills would be safe without visitors.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/the-states-of-jammu-and-kashmir-himachal-pradesh-and-uttarakhand-are-reaching-the-limits-of-ecological-carrying-capacity-due-to-tourism-critically-evaluate/>

Q18 · 12 marks

How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscape? Discuss.

GS I · 2015 · Geophysical Phenomena

Revision summary

The monsoon is still an ocean-continent wind system at heart.

Deforestation, irrigation, cities, and aerosols change local rain, onset, and extremes.

Urban heat can mean heavier short storms; sealed soil turns them into floods.

El Niño, the Indian Ocean, and greenhouse warming remain major controls.

- **Agree in part:** humans reshape monsoon behaviour, they do not solely own it.

Flow diagram

Forest to farm city irrigation -> Local monsoon rain

Aerosols heat islands -> Local monsoon rain

ENSO IOD ocean heat -> Local monsoon rain

Global warming -> Local monsoon rain

Local monsoon rain -> More extremes variable spells

Conclusion

- Restore Ghats and catchment forests, cut aerosols, and plan cities for cloudbursts, while still watching the Pacific and Indian Oceans in the forecast.

Humanized landscapes have changed how monsoon rain falls on the ground—more bursts, more urban storms, some local drying after forest loss, and aerosol effects on clouds. That is a real but partial story. The monsoon's large behaviour still answers to oceans and a warming planet. The fair agreement is "yes, in part, and growing," not "the monsoon is now only a land-use product."

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/how-far-do-you-agree-that-the-behaviour-of-the-indian-monsoon-has-been-changing-due-to-humanizing-landscape-discuss/>

Q19 · 12 marks

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

GS I · 2015 · Indian Heritage and Culture

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.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-1/2015/smart-cities-in-india-cannot-sustain-without-smart-villages-discuss-this-statement-in-the-backdrop-of-rural-urban-integration/>

Q20 · 12 marks

What are the economic significance of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?

GS I · 2015 · Natural Resources and Industries

Revision summary

Ice melt has made Arctic oil and shorter polar shipping economically imaginable.

Littoral states and high-cost offshore firms would gain if prices and technology allow.

India would feel it through import prices and routes, not as an owner of the shelf.

Spills, black carbon on ice, and ecosystem loss are the environmental bill.

Climate policy and costly ice operations may strand much of that oil anyway.

Introduction

Melting summer sea ice has opened talk of oil and gas under the Arctic Ocean and of shorter shipping along the Northern Sea Route. For the world economy that could mean new barrels, new routes, and a new geopolitical prize among Russia, Norway, the United States, Canada, and Denmark. For the planet it means drilling in the most fragile cold sea at the same time as climate science asks for less fossil fuel.

Body

Economic significance

- The Arctic is thought to hold a large share of the world's undiscovered conventional oil and gas, much of it offshore, which matters for energy-importing countries if it can be produced at a bearable cost.
- New reserves can shift bargaining power toward Arctic littoral states, especially Russia on the Eurasian shelf, and toward firms that can work in ice.
- The Northern Sea Route and, in longer dreams, a northwest passage, can cut days between East Asia and Europe compared with Suez, which is a shipping and insurance economy as well as an oil story.
- **Ports, icebreakers, pipelines, and search-and-rescue create a high-cost industrial frontier:** jobs and contracts, but also stranded-asset risk if oil prices fall or rules tighten.
- India, as a growing importer and an Arctic Council observer, watches energy access and polar science; Arctic oil is not India's to pump, but price and route changes would still reach Indian import bills.
- Unconventional oil elsewhere (shale) and climate policy can make Arctic barrels uneconomic even if they exist on a map.

Possible environmental consequences

- A spill in cold, ice-covered water is extremely hard to clean; oil persists, and ecosystems recover slowly.
- Drilling, flaring, and extra shipping add black carbon on ice, which darkens the surface and speeds melt, a feedback that harms the climate that made the oil reachable.
- Noise, ice-breaking, and spills threaten polar bears, walrus, migratory birds, and unique cold-water food webs, and they hit Indigenous hunting and culture.
- Opening the Arctic fossil store fights the global need to keep warming in check; burning that oil is a climate cost even if no spill occurs.

- Onshore support roads and camps fragment tundra and permafrost, which can release methane, another climate risk.

Critical balance

- Discovery is not the same as cheap supply; ice, storms, and distance make Arctic oil among the costliest barrels.
- The economic prize is therefore uncertain; the environmental downside is certain if large-scale offshore production proceeds.

Way forward for the answer

- Treat Arctic oil as a strategic reserve with high ecological price, and stress that shipping and climate feedbacks matter even without a gusher.

Flow diagram

Sea ice retreat -> Arctic oil and routes
Arctic oil and routes -> Reserves routes geopolitics
Arctic oil and routes -> Spill soot melt wildlife
Spill soot melt wildlife -> Climate feedback
Price shale climate policy -> Reserves routes geopolitics

Conclusion

Arctic oil, if produced, would add high-cost barrels, new sea routes, and leverage for polar states, with knock-on effects on importers such as India. The environmental consequences—spills, soot on ice, wildlife loss, and more warming—are severe in a slow, cold sea. Economically tempting on a map, the frontier is a climate and ecology gamble more than a safe new Saudi Arabia.

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Compiled answer key

Last pages of this pack. Each question links to the WRAP model answer on wrapexams.com.

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Q1 12 marks	Q2 12 marks	Q3 12 marks	Q4 12 marks
Q5 12 marks	Q6 12 marks	Q7 12 marks	Q8 12 marks
Q9 12 marks	Q10 12 marks	Q11 12 marks	Q12 12 marks
Q13 12 marks	Q14 12 marks	Q15 12 marks	Q16 12 marks
Q17 12 marks	Q18 12 marks	Q19 12 marks	Q20 12 marks

Question-wise key

Q1 · 12 marks Solution

Q2 · 12 marks Solution

Q3 · 12 marks Solution

Q4 · 12 marks Solution

Q5 · 12 marks Solution

Q6 · 12 marks Solution

Q7 · 12 marks Solution

Q8 · 12 marks Solution

Q9 · 12 marks Solution

Q10 · 12 marks Solution

Q11 · 12 marks Solution

Q12 · 12 marks Solution

Q13 · 12 marks Solution

Q14 · 12 marks Solution

Q15 · 12 marks Solution

Q16 · 12 marks Solution

Q17 · 12 marks Solution

Q18 · 12 marks Solution

Q19 · 12 marks Solution

Q20 · 12 marks Solution

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