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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Natural Resources & Industrial Location — GS-I

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

45 Questions

Year range: 2013–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

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45 Questions across 2 Sections

1. Distribution of key natural resources across the w...	29Q
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Distribution of key natural resources across the world

2025 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q17. Explain briefly the ecological and economic benefits of solar energy generation in India with suitable examples.

2025 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q18. Give a geographical explanation of the distribution of off-shore oil reserves of the world. How are they different from the on-shore occurrences of oil reserves?

2024 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q20. The groundwater potential of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India?

2023 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q16. Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources?

2023 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q17. Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas.

2023 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q18. Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forest regions of India.

2022 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q15. Discuss the natural resource potentials of 'Deccan Trap'.

2022 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q16. Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for its limited spatial spread.

2025

Q
en

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2025

Q
w

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2020 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q15. The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods, and interrupted navigation. Critically examine.

2020 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q16. India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its development. Elaborate.

2020 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q17. Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change.

2019 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q14. What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India?

2018 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q14. "The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system." How can it be made effective in urban areas?

2018 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q15. Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.

2018 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q19. Why is India taking keen interest in resources of Arctic Region?

2017 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q13. "In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development." Discuss.

2017 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q14. In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all

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2016 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q13. The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain.

2016 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q15. In what way micro-watershed development projects help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India?

2016 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q20. Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q18. India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q20. What are the economic significances of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q24. Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q25. How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa?

2013 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q24. 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 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q25. It is said that India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of the country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resource does not appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved.

Factors for location of primary / secondary / tertiary sector industri...

2025 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q15. What are non-farm primary activities? How are these activities related to physiographic features in India? Discuss with suitable examples.

2025 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q20. How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning?

2023 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q20. From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons.

2022 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q20. Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade.

2021 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q14. Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss.

2020 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q18. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples.

2019 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q16. Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India ?

2019 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q17. Can the strategy of regional-resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India?

2018 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q17. What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics.

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2018 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q20. Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation?

2017 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q18. Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil-producing areas, particularly in many developing countries. Explain its implications.

2016 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q14. Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q18. Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the iron and steel industry in the world.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q22. 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 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q23. Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water?

2013 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q23. (a) Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in southern States of India? Discuss with justification. (100 words) (b) Analyze the factors for the highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India. (100 words)

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