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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Women, Population & Urbanization — GS-I

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

36 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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36 Questions across 4 Sections

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Role of women and women's organizations

2024 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q11. Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation?

2023 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q10. Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society.

2022 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q8. Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.

2021 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q10. Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India.

2019 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q10. What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space?

2018 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q9. 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata.' Substantiate your view.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q15. 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?

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q10. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India?

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q11. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments.

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2013 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q16. "Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organization free from gender bias." Comment.

Population and associated issues

2025 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q16. Discuss the distribution and density of population in the Ganga River Basin with special reference to land, soil and water resources.

2024 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q10. What is the concept of a 'demographic winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate.

2021 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q11. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail.

2019 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q8. "Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q13. Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades.

Poverty and developmental issues

2025 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q9. Achieving sustainable growth with emphasis on environmental protection could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India – Comment.

2025 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q10. Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion.

2024 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q12. In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?

2023 GS-I 10M · 250W

Q11. Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?

2020 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q8. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment.

2018 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q8. 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing.' Explain by giving reasons.

2016 GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q9. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation." Substantiate this statement with suitable examples.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q10. Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty or poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.

Urbanization — problems and remedies

2025 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q8. How does smart city in India, address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice?

2024 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q9. Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries.

2023 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q12. Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?

2022 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q9. How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption?

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2021 GS-I 15M · 150W

Q9. What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India?

2019 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q9. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India?

2017 GS-I 15M · 250W

Q11. "The growth of cities as IT hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems." Substantiate this statement with examples.

2016 GS-I 12.5M · 150W

Q10. With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'.

2015 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q11. 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 GS-I 12.5M · 250W

Q12. Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural-urban integration.

2014 GS-I 10M · 150W

Q1. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss.

2013 GS-I 10M · 200W

Q15. Discuss the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India.

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