

ANANTAM IAS · PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION PAPER

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Geography Optional

Paper II · Geography of India

2026

Time allowed: **Three hours** Maximum marks: **250**

Typeset from the question paper published by the Union Public Service Commission. English text of all 27 printed questions, with marks and section as printed.

Question Paper Specific Instructions

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS.
2. Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
3. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each Section.
4. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
7. Illustrate your answers with suitable sketches, maps and diagrams wherever considered necessary. These shall be drawn in the space provided for answering the question itself.
8. Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
9. **Question 1(a) is a compulsory map question. Candidates are required to mark the given locations on the outline map of India supplied with the paper and write the significance of each in the QCA Booklet.**

SECTION A

Q1.

- (a) On the outline map of India provided to you, mark the location of all of the following. Write in your QCA Booklet the significance of these locations, whether physical / commercial / economic / ecological / environmental / cultural, in no more than 30 words for each entry: **20**

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bitra Island | 6. Mahi Basin |
| 2. Lohit River | 7. Tamralipta |
| 3. Dras | 8. Toranmal |
| 4. Kuno National Park | 9. Raya Heritage City |
| 5. Yadadri | 10. Varkala |

- (b) Briefly describe the origin, distribution and economic significance of Cuddapah and Dharwar rock systems of India. **10**
- (c) Explain the vertical zonation of vegetation of the Himalayas. **10**
- (d) Describe the geographical conditions necessary for the growth of mangrove forests in India. Explain their ecological and economic significance. **10**

Q2.

- (a) The relationship between El Niño and the Indian monsoon is becoming complex under the conditions of global warming. Critically examine. **20**
- (b) Discuss the role of the private sector in the technological advancements of the defence industry in India. **15**

- (c) Explain the global supply chain for the fertilizer industry in India. How do international prices of key inputs affect domestic production? 15

Q3.

- (a) Examine the causes and consequences of crop diversification in India. How can crop diversification contribute to sustainable agriculture? 20
- (b) India's vulnerability to maritime choke-points has increased sharply over time due to geopolitical tensions. Discuss. 15
- (c) Efficient use of energy resources can resolve the energy crisis in India. Comment. 15

Q4.

- (a) Analyse the spatial distribution of India's automobile industry. How have the clusters like Chennai, Pune and Gurugram emerged as key auto-hubs? 20
- (b) Describe the role of energy pipelines in the industrial development and in reducing the regional imbalances in India. 15
- (c) Divide India into agro-ecological regions and highlight the salient features of any one of them. 15

SECTION B

Q5. Answer the following in about 150 words each. **10×5=50**

- (a) Analyse the consequences of circular migration in India. How does it influence both rural development and the urban economy? 10
- (b) Explain the government initiatives for the redevelopment of slum areas in the mega cities of India. 10
- (c) Discuss how Panchayati Raj institutions play a crucial role in the empowerment of women in India. 10
- (d) "India's approach to the Indian Ocean is cooperative rather than coercive." Critically examine the statement. 10
- (e) Disaster risk reduction and community resilience are the two pillars that need to be prioritized in the flood prone areas of India. Critically analyse. 10

Q6.

- (a) Examine the trends in fertility rates across Indian states over time. How are they projected to evolve by 2050? 20
- (b) Soil and water conservation are the major challenges in the development of hill areas of India. Explain. 15
- (c) With reference to the international boundary between India and Bangladesh, discuss the related issues and challenges. 15

Q7.

- (a) Why is it difficult to improve the quality of air during the winter season in the Gangetic plain? Critically evaluate with suitable examples. 20
- (b) Deforestation in the upper reaches of a river augments the magnitude of soil erosion. Elaborate your answer citing the example of any North Indian river. 15
- (c) Assess the role of geographical isolation in preserving tribal culture, as well as hindering their socio-economic development in India. 15
- Q8.**
- (a) Critically examine the strategic, economic and ecological impacts of the proposed 'Great Nicobar Project'. 20
- (b) Poor road infrastructure and inadequate public transport system remain the key issues in Indian metropolitan areas. Discuss with suitable examples. 15
- (c) Critically examine the environmental and economic consequences of India's rise as a global data centre hub. 15