



Model Answers UPSC- 2025

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General Model for Writing GS Mains Answers

Step 1: Decode the Question

1. Identify the command word

- *Discuss*: Explain both sides, give examples.
- *Examine*: Analyze in detail with evidence.
- *Elucidate*: Clarify meaning with explanation and examples.
- *Comment*: Express analytical opinion, supported by facts.
- *Critically analyze*: Discuss pros and cons with judgment.

2. Identify key terms – underline important concepts (e.g., “sustainable growth”, “tribal development”, “Harappan architecture”).

3. Check the scope – is it conceptual, factual, analytical, or mixed?

Step 2: Structure Your Answer

For 150-word answers (10 marks)

- 1. Introduction (1–2 sentences)** – Define or contextualize.
- 2. Body (3–4 sentences / 2–3 points)** – Key features, causes, impacts, examples.
- 3. Conclusion (1–2 sentences)** – Forward-looking / evaluative / significance.

For 250-word answers (15 marks)

- 1. Introduction (2–3 sentences)** – Set context, define, or state relevance.
- 2. Body (3–4 paragraphs / 5–6 points)**
 - Paragraph/points can include:
 - Causes / features / trends
 - Examples / case studies

- Government policies / schemes / thinkers
- Data / statistics (if relevant)

3. **Conclusion (2–3 sentences)** – Judgment, significance, or recommendation.

Step 3: Value Addition

- **Examples** – Current events, historical, local, or international examples.
- **Data / Statistics** – Census, NITI Aayog, UN reports, IPCC, etc.
- **Thinkers / Theories** – Sociologists, economists, philosophers, or constitutional provisions.
- **Diagrams / Maps** – Quick sketches of locations, flowcharts, or processes.
- **Micro-examples** – Specific local project, initiative, or case study.

Step 4: Writing Tips

1. **Clarity over length** – Stick to word limit.
2. **Balanced answer** – Avoid biased or one-sided explanation.
3. **Paragraphing** – Helps examiner read easily.
4. **Linkages** – Connect intro → body → conclusion logically.
5. **Terminology** – Use precise terms relevant to the subject.

Step 5: Quick Checklist Before Submission

- Have you answered all parts of the question?
- Did you provide examples/data where possible?
- Is your answer structured with intro, body, conclusion?
- Did you maintain neutral, analytical tone?

UPSC CS MAINS-2025 (General Studies-I)

1. Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

The Indus Valley Civilization (2600–1900 BCE), also called the Harappan Civilization, is renowned for its advanced urban planning and architectural achievements, which reflected both functionality and social organization.

Body:

Harappan architecture was based on a meticulous grid layout with streets intersecting at right angles. Cities like Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, and Dholavira reveal standardized baked bricks (1:2:4 ratio) and uniformity in construction. Public buildings such as the *Great Bath* highlight sophisticated water management and ritual spaces, while granaries indicate centralized storage and administrative control. Residential houses featured courtyards, wells, bathing areas, and private drains connected to an elaborate underground drainage system. The division between the citadel (administrative/religious hub) and the lower town (residential/commercial) illustrates planned socio-political stratification. Towns also integrated fortifications, marketplaces, and dockyards (Lothal).

Conclusion:

Thus, Harappan architecture exemplified urban rationality, standardization, and civic concern, making it a pioneering model of town

planning whose principles remain relevant for modern sustainable urban development.

2. Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Akbar, the Mughal emperor (1542–1605), ruled over a diverse empire with people of many faiths. To keep unity and peace, he followed the idea of *Sulh-i-kul* or “peace for all,” which became the core of his religious policy.

Body:

One of his first steps was removing the *jizya* and pilgrimage taxes, which had earlier burdened non-Muslims. At his court in Fatehpur Sikri, he set up the *Ibadat Khana*, a hall where scholars of different religions—Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Parsis, and even Jesuit priests—discussed ideas freely. He encouraged translations of Hindu texts like the Mahabharata (*Razmnama*) into Persian so that people across cultures could understand them. His marriages with Rajput princesses were not only political but also symbols of acceptance. In 1582, he tried to bring together the best teachings of various faiths through *Din-i-Ilahi*, though it stayed limited to a few followers.

Conclusion:

Through these efforts, Akbar built an atmosphere of dialogue and tolerance, leaving behind a legacy of pluralism that remains central to India's cultural fabric.

3. 'The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.' Elucidate.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

The Chandella rulers of Bundelkhand (10th–12th century CE) built the famous Khajuraho temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for their intricate sculpture and Nagara-style architecture.

Body:

The art at Khajuraho, especially in temples like Kandariya Mahadev, displays vitality and movement. Sculptors carved deities, apsaras, musicians, warriors, and erotic couples with remarkable detail. Figures are shown in fluid postures like *tribhanga*, giving a sense of rhythm and grace. The scenes are not limited to the sacred but also capture everyday life—women applying makeup, dancers, farmers, and animals—making the art lively and human-centered. The erotic sculptures symbolize tantric philosophy and the integration of spiritual and worldly life. Collectively, the carvings show vigor, energy, and a celebration of human emotions.

Conclusion:

The Chandella sculptors transformed stone into life-like forms, filling it with resilience, passion, and diversity, making Khajuraho a symbol of artistic excellence and spiritual imagination in Indian history.

4. How are climate change and the sea level rise affecting the very existence of many island nations? Discuss with examples.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Small island nations are the most vulnerable to climate change. With most of their land barely a metre above sea level, even minor changes in climate and ocean levels threaten their survival.

Body (Impacts):

- **Risk of Submergence:** Maldives (80% <1m above sea level), Kiribati, and Tuvalu may lose large parts of land.
- **Saltwater Intrusion:** Inundation of freshwater sources, as seen in Marshall Islands and Maldives.
- **Coral Reef Loss:** Great Barrier Reef (Australia) and reefs in Fiji face bleaching, harming fishing and tourism.
- **Livelihood Crisis:** Fisheries decline in Pacific Islands, agriculture loss in Seychelles.
- **Climate Refugees:** Kiribati has started relocating citizens to Fiji; Maldives is exploring overseas resettlement.
- **Economic Disruption:** Tourism collapse in Mauritius and Seychelles due to beach erosion.

Conclusion:

Sea-level rise is not just an environmental issue for island nations but a question of existence. Their crisis highlights the urgency of global cooperation on mitigation, adaptation, and climate justice.

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

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Non-farm primary activities are resource-based occupations other than crop farming, such as fishing, forestry, mining, quarrying, and animal husbandry. Their spread in India is strongly influenced by physiographic diversity. The influence according to region can be seen as follows:

Body:

- **Himalayas:** Rich forests support timber, resin, and medicinal plants; horticulture like apples in Himachal and saffron in Kashmir; hydropower on fast-flowing rivers.
- **Indo-Gangetic Plains:** Inland fishing and dairy farming, aided by fertile alluvium and perennial rivers.
- **Coastal Plains:** Fishing in Kerala, prawn farming in Andhra, and salt extraction in Gujarat due to long coastlines.
- **Peninsular Plateau:** Mineral wealth drives mining—iron ore in Jharkhand, coal in Chhattisgarh, bauxite in Odisha.
- **Thar Desert:** Gypsum and salt mining, camel rearing, and solar/wind energy harnessing.

Conclusion:

Thus, non-farm primary activities are closely tied to India's physiography. They diversify rural livelihoods and contribute significantly to the economy alongside agriculture.

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

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Solar energy, an abundant and renewable resource in India, plays a dual role in meeting climate commitments and driving economic growth.

Body:

• **Ecological Benefits:**

- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels, lowering carbon emissions (India targets 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030).
- Minimizes air and water pollution, unlike coal power plants.
- Encourages decentralized clean energy, e.g., solar pumps under *PM-KUSUM* scheme reducing diesel use.

• **Economic Benefits:**

- Lowers energy import bills—India imports ~80% of crude oil.
- Creates jobs in panel manufacturing, installation, and maintenance (over 1.6 lakh jobs in solar sector).
- Supports rural livelihoods—solar micro-grids in Bihar and UP power irrigation and small enterprises. Large projects like Bhadla Solar Park (Rajasthan) provide cheap, scalable power.
- Self reliance and Reduction in solar equipment imports from China.

Conclusion:

Solar energy in India delivers climate-friendly growth, balancing ecological sustainability with inclusive economic development.

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7. What are Tsunamis? How and where are they formed? What are their consequences? Explain with examples.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Tsunamis are long high sea waves triggered by sudden disturbances in ocean basins, posing severe risks to coastal regions.

Body:

- **Formation:**

- Generated mainly by undersea earthquakes at tectonic plate boundaries (subduction zones).

- Can also result from volcanic eruptions, landslides, or meteorite impacts.
- Common along Pacific “Ring of Fire” (Japan, Indonesia, Chile).
- Important events include 2004 Sumatra earthquake (magnitude 9.1) caused massive tsunami, 2011 tohoku earthquake caused Fukushima nuclear disaster and recent 2025 tsunami of Kamchatka peninsula in Russia.

• **Consequences:**

- Coastal flooding, infrastructure destruction, salinization of soil and water.
- Heavy casualties—2004 Indian Ocean tsunami killed ~2.3 lakh people across 14 countries.
- Long-term displacement and livelihood loss, especially for fishing communities.

Conclusion:

Tsunamis, though rare, have devastating human and economic consequences. Early warning systems and coastal preparedness remain the best defense.

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

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

The Smart Cities Mission (2015) seeks to make urban spaces more

inclusive, sustainable, and technology-driven, addressing challenges of poverty and inequality.

Body:

- **Urban Poverty:**

- Affordable housing through convergence with *PM Awas Yojana*.
- Improved sanitation, drinking water, and solid waste management in slums.
- Skill development programs and digital infrastructure to boost employability.

- **Distributive Justice:**

- Inclusive mobility via e-buses, pedestrian-friendly pathways, and metro linkages.
- ICT-based grievance redressal and transparent e-governance reducing elite capture.
- Area-based development projects focusing on livability for marginalized groups.

- **Examples:**

- Pune: ICT-enabled grievance systems.
- Indore: integrated solid waste management benefiting informal workers.
- Bhubaneswar: child-friendly urban planning.

Conclusion:

By blending technology with inclusivity, Smart Cities aim to reduce poverty and ensure equitable distribution of urban benefits, though consistent implementation remains key.

9. The ethos of civil service in India stand for the combination of professionalism with nationalistic consciousness – Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

The ethos of civil services in India combines administrative professionalism with a strong sense of national duty, shaped by both colonial legacy and post-independence nation-building.

Body:

Professionalism implies neutrality, efficiency, adherence to rules, and delivery of public services. Civil servants are expected to uphold integrity, objectivity, and accountability while managing diverse governance challenges. At the same time, Indian civil services are guided by nationalistic consciousness—loyalty to the Constitution, promotion of unity in diversity, and commitment to socio-economic development.

From implementing welfare schemes in rural India to disaster relief operations, civil servants are not mere administrators but agents of inclusive nation-building. The role of Sardar Patel in envisioning the “steel frame” of India highlights this blend of technical competence with patriotic service.

Conclusion:

Thus, the ethos of Indian civil service lies in harmonizing professional excellence with nationalistic commitment, ensuring governance that is both efficient and oriented toward the public good.

10. Do you think that globalization results in only an aggressive consumer culture? Justify your answer.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Globalization has interconnected economies and societies, but its cultural impact is often debated—especially the rise of consumerism.

Body:

It is true that globalization encourages aggressive consumer culture: multinational brands, fast fashion, and digital advertising drive material aspirations. Urban youth adopting Western lifestyles and festive consumerism (e.g., Black Friday sales in India) reflect this trend.

However, globalization is not limited to consumerism. It has facilitated knowledge exchange, cultural fusion, and awareness about sustainability. Fair trade, organic products, and global climate movements show positive global consumer choices. Moreover, globalization has expanded opportunities for small producers and artisans by giving them international markets (e.g., Indian handicrafts on e-commerce platforms).

Conclusion:

Hence, globalization does not only breed consumer excess; it also enables diversity, awareness, and opportunities. The impact depends on how societies negotiate between blind consumption and responsible globalization.

11. Mahatma Joti Rao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule (1827–1890) was a pioneering social reformer whose writings and activism challenged caste, gender, and class hierarchies in 19th-century India. His work addressed issues faced by almost all subaltern groups.

Body:

- **Caste Oppression:** Through his book *Gulamgiri* (Slavery), Phule exposed the exploitation of Shudras and Ati-Shudras, demanding equality and dignity. He founded the *Satyashodhak Samaj* (1873) to mobilize lower castes against Brahmanical dominance.
- **Women's Rights:** With his wife Savitribai Phule, he started schools for girls and widow homes, challenging patriarchy. He criticized child marriage and promoted widow remarriage.
- **Education as Empowerment:** Phule believed education was the key to social upliftment. He opened schools for Dalits, girls, and marginalized communities, stressing vernacular teaching.
- **Agrarian Distress:** He wrote about peasant exploitation by landlords and moneylenders, advocating just land relations and state support for cultivators.
- **Religious Critique:** Phule questioned rituals that justified inequality, promoting rationality and social justice.

Conclusion:

Phule's reformist vision extended to almost all oppressed classes—women, Dalits, Shudras, peasants—and his emphasis on education and equality laid the groundwork for later movements of Ambedkar and the broader subaltern struggle. His ideas continue to inspire debates on social justice in India.

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12. Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

The early phase of independence (1947–1964) was crucial for India's

consolidation, as the nation faced political integration, economic reconstruction, educational reform, and positioning in international affairs.

Body:

- **Polity:** Sardar Patel oversaw the integration of 562 princely states into the Union. The adoption of the Constitution (1950) established a democratic republic with federal features and fundamental rights. The linguistic reorganization of states (1956) strengthened unity in diversity.
- **Economy:** The launch of Five-Year Plans (1951 onwards) under JL Nehru emphasized self-reliance, industrialization, and public sector growth. Land reforms, though uneven, sought to address agrarian inequality.
- **Education:** Establishment of institutions like IITs, AIIMS, and UGC promoted higher learning. Schemes for primary education expanded literacy. Literacy rate of around 18% in 1952 has now reached in 80s
- **International Relations:** India pursued non-alignment, mediating in global conflicts (Korea, Suez) and championing decolonization. However, challenges like the 1962 Sino-Indian War tested India's foreign policy and defense preparedness.

Conclusion:

Through political integration, economic planning, educational expansion, and independent diplomacy, India laid the foundation of a modern nation-state, ensuring stability during a fragile phase of transition.

13. The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

The French Revolution (1789–1799) marked a profound shift from monarchy to the assertion of people's rights. Its ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity continue to resonate globally and influence contemporary political, social, and cultural thought.

Body:

The Revolution challenged feudal hierarchies, establishing the principle that sovereignty resides with the people—a concept central to modern democracies worldwide. The notion of universal human rights, enshrined in the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*, inspired constitutions in Europe, Latin America, and beyond. Movements for civil liberties, gender equality, and abolition of slavery drew legitimacy from revolutionary ideals.

Economically, the French Revolution emphasized the breakdown of privilege-based monopolies, laying a foundation for meritocratic and participatory governance in public institutions. Socially, it fostered secularism and citizenship over inherited privilege, ideas that underpin contemporary nation-states.

Contemporary examples include the 20th-century anti-colonial movements in India and Africa, where revolutionary ideals shaped calls for independence and social justice. The Arab Spring and global

democratic protests also echo the aspiration for equality and accountable governance.

Conclusion:

Thus, the French Revolution is not merely a historical event but a philosophical touchstone for modern democracy, social justice, and human rights. Its enduring relevance lies in inspiring movements that strive for equality, liberty, and participatory governance across the world.

14. 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?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

Oil reserves are distributed unevenly across the globe, with significant deposits found both onshore and offshore. Offshore oil occurs under the seabed, whereas onshore oil is found beneath land surfaces.

Body:**• Offshore Distribution:**

- Concentrated along continental shelves and coastal regions.
- Major regions: Gulf of Mexico (USA, Mexico), North Sea (UK, Norway), West Africa (Nigeria, Angola), Brazil (Campos Basin), Persian Gulf marginal offshore areas.

- Deepwater reserves are increasingly exploited using advanced drilling technologies.

- **Comparison with Onshore Oil:**

- **Accessibility:** Onshore oil is easier and cheaper to extract; offshore requires specialized rigs and higher investment.
- **Environmental Risk:** Offshore drilling risks oil spills affecting marine ecosystems; onshore extraction impacts land habitats.
- **Geological Formation:** Offshore oil often forms in sedimentary basins submerged under water, whereas onshore oil occurs in terrestrial sedimentary formations like the Assam-Arakan basin or Daqing in China.
- **Production Trend:** Declining onshore reserves have shifted exploration to offshore deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas.

Conclusion:

Offshore oil reserves are critical for global energy security, complementing onshore production. Their extraction requires advanced technology, significant investment, and careful environmental management, distinguishing them from traditional onshore operations.

15. How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning? (Answer in 250 words)15

Introduction:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones, integrated with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS), are transforming

locational and areal planning by providing precise data and predictive insights for urban, environmental, and infrastructure management.

Body:

- **Urban Planning:** Drones and RS provide high-resolution imagery of urban sprawl, land use, and infrastructure gaps. AI analyzes patterns to optimize zoning, traffic management, and public utilities. Example: Smart city initiatives in Pune use drone mapping for planning transport corridors.
- **Disaster Management:** GIS and RS detect flood-prone zones and landslides. AI models predict risk, enabling early warning systems. Example: Kerala flood mapping (2018) relied on RS data for rescue operations.
- **Agricultural and Environmental Planning:** Drones monitor crop health; RS tracks deforestation and land degradation. AI forecasts irrigation needs, improving resource allocation.
- **Infrastructure and Resource Allocation:** Utilities like water pipelines, energy grids, and renewable energy projects use integrated AI-GIS planning for site selection. Example: Solar parks in Rajasthan used GIS for optimal panel layout.

Conclusion:

Integrating AI, drones, GIS, and RS enhances accuracy, efficiency, and sustainability in planning. By combining real-time data with predictive modeling, planners can make informed decisions, optimize land use, and address both urban and rural development challenges effectively.

16. Discuss how the changes in shape and sizes of continents and ocean basins of the planet take place due to tectonic movements of the crustal masses.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

The Earth's lithosphere is broken into tectonic plates that float over the semi-fluid asthenosphere. Movements of these plates—divergent, convergent, and transform—continuously reshape the planet's continents and ocean basins, influencing global geography over geological time.

Body:

- **Divergent Movements:** At mid-ocean ridges, plates move apart, creating new oceanic crust. Example: The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is widening the Atlantic Ocean while pushing the Americas westward. This expansion also splits continents, such as the East African Rift System gradually forming a new oceanic basin.
- **Convergent Movements:** When plates collide, one plate may subduct beneath another, deepening ocean trenches and building mountain ranges. Example: The collision of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate formed the Himalayas and altered adjacent oceanic configurations.
- **Transform Boundaries:** Lateral sliding causes faulting and earthquakes, indirectly reshaping coastlines over time. Example: San Andreas Fault in California.
- **Long-Term Impacts:** Plate tectonics leads to supercontinent cycles, such as Pangaea breaking into Laurasia and Gondwana, altering

global sea levels, climate, and biodiversity. Ocean basins widen or shrink, affecting marine currents and continental climates.

Conclusion:

Tectonic movements are the primary drivers of Earth's dynamic surface. Through divergence, convergence, and lateral sliding, they continuously reshape continents and ocean basins, influencing topography, ecology, and human settlement patterns over millions of years.

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

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

The Ganga River Basin, covering parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and neighboring states, is one of the most densely populated regions of India due to fertile soils, extensive water resources, and favorable climate.

Body

- **Land and Soil:** The basin is dominated by alluvial plains, rich in nutrients, suitable for intensive agriculture. This attracts high rural population density and settlement clusters.
- **Water Resources:** Perennial rivers and tributaries support irrigation, fisheries, and drinking water, sustaining dense populations.

Examples include the Indo-Gangetic plains of Bihar and West Bengal.

- **Urban Centers:** Cities like Kanpur, Patna, Varanasi, and Kolkata concentrate industrial and service-sector employment, increasing urban density.
- **Population Density:** Ranges from 500–1,200 persons/km² in fertile districts; coastal delta regions like Sundarbans are moderately dense due to mangrove ecosystems.
- **Economic Linkages:** Agriculture, allied activities, trade, and historical trade routes along the Ganga contribute to population clustering.

Conclusion:

The Ganga Basin's population distribution reflects the interplay of fertile alluvial soils, abundant water, and economic opportunities. While high density supports agricultural and industrial growth, it also poses challenges like flood vulnerability, urban congestion, and environmental stress, necessitating sustainable planning.

- 18. How do you account for the growing fast food industries given that there are increased health concerns in modern society? Illustrate your answer with the Indian experience.**

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

Despite rising awareness of health risks, fast food industries in India have grown rapidly. Their expansion reflects changing lifestyles, urbanization, and socio-economic transformations.

Body:

- **Urban Lifestyle Changes:** Increasing workforce participation, especially among women, and long working hours have created demand for quick, convenient meals. Example: McDonald's, Domino's, and local chains thrive in metros like Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi.
- **Marketing and Cultural Appeal:** Aggressive advertising, affordability, and "Western lifestyle" branding attract young consumers, students, and urban professionals.
- **Economic Growth:** Rising disposable incomes, nuclear families, and organized retail expansion support proliferation. Even Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are witnessing fast-food outlets.
- **Health Awareness vs Convenience:** While obesity, diabetes, and lifestyle diseases are rising, convenience often outweighs health concerns. Many Indian chains offer localized menus (e.g., vegetarian pizzas, McAloo Tikki) balancing taste and cultural acceptance.
- **Technological Factors:** Online delivery platforms like Zomato and Swiggy increase accessibility, reinforcing consumption patterns.

Conclusion:

The growth of fast food in India illustrates a complex interplay of urbanization, lifestyle change, marketing, and technological facilitation.

Although health concerns are real, convenience, aspirational appeal, and cultural adaptation drive continued expansion. Sustainable consumption practices and public health awareness campaigns are essential to mitigate associated risks.

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

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

Sustainable growth aims to balance economic development with environmental protection. In a country like India, with widespread poverty, this goal can sometimes clash with immediate survival needs of poor communities, creating policy dilemmas.

Body:

• **Conflict Points:**

- **Resource Dependence:** Poor rural communities rely on forests, rivers, and common lands for fuel, fodder, and water. Stringent environmental regulations, such as forest conservation laws, can restrict access. Example: The Forest Rights Act (2006) tries to balance rights and conservation, but conflicts persist.
- **Industrial Projects vs Livelihoods:** Large renewable or industrial projects may require land acquisition, displacing poor

farmers or tribal communities. Example: Hydropower dams in Himachal Pradesh displaced villagers while promising green energy.

- **Short-term vs Long-term Gains:** Policies like carbon taxes or restrictions on fuel wood benefit the environment but can in

20. Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Introduction:

Tribal development in India has often been linked to the twin axes of displacement and rehabilitation, as many development projects have historically led to relocation of tribal communities. However, effective tribal development requires a broader framework beyond these two dimensions.

Body:

- **Displacement Issues:**

- Large dams, mining, and industrial projects displace tribal populations, disrupting traditional livelihoods, social networks, and cultural identity. Example: Narmada Valley projects displaced thousands of Adivasis.

- **Rehabilitation Challenges:**

- Resettlement schemes often fail to restore livelihoods or provide equivalent social infrastructure, leading to persistent poverty and marginalization.

- Government programs like the *Tribal Sub-Plan* aim to allocate resources for welfare, but implementation gaps remain.

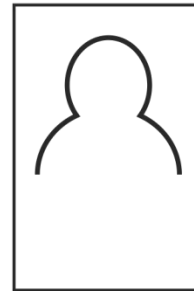
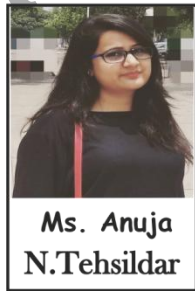
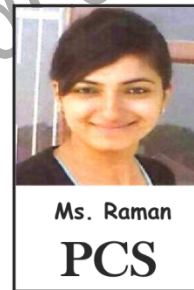
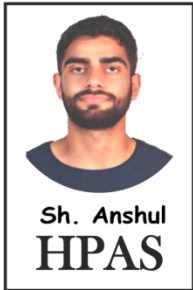
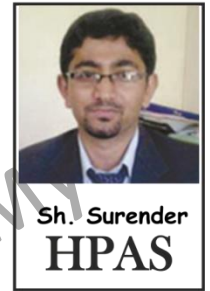
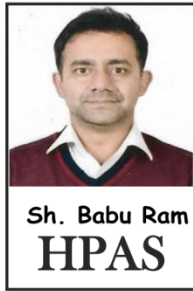
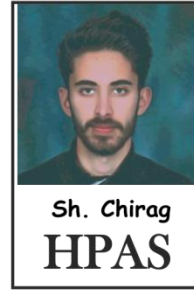
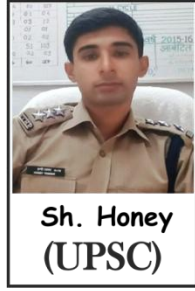
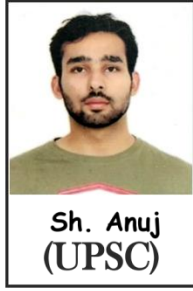
- **Beyond Displacement-Rehabilitation:**

- **Education and Skill Development:** Improving literacy, vocational training, and digital access empowers tribal youth. Example: Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- **Cultural and Land Rights:** Legal safeguards under the Forest Rights Act (2006) and recognition of customary land promote sustainable development.
- **Healthcare and Nutrition:** Integrating health services and nutrition programs ensures holistic well-being.

Conclusion:

While displacement and rehabilitation are critical issues, tribal development must encompass education, health, cultural preservation, and livelihood security. True empowerment comes from enabling self-reliance and participation in decision-making, rather than treating development only as relocation and compensation.

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