



I have segregated all the 106 questions of **UPSC Mains GS-1 Geography 2013-2025** and arranged them subject-wise and topic-wise. Main theme of each question is marked in bold. Repeated themes are marked in red.

Syllabus Topic	Number of Questions Asked
Geomorphology	9
Oceanography	7
Climatology	20
Environmental Geography	4
Himalayas / Western Ghats	8
Location of Industries & Resources	41
Human Geography (Population, Urbanization, Communication, Transport)	12
Misc/Current Affairs	5
Total	106

Geomorphology

Q1: What do you understand by the theory of **continental drift**? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support. (2013)

Q2: Why are the **world's fold mountain systems located** along the margins of continents? Bring out the **association between** the global distribution of fold mountains and the **earthquakes and volcanoes**. (2014)

Q3: Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines **archipelagos**. (2014)

Q4: Define **mantle plume** and explain its role in **plate tectonics**. (2018)

Q5: Mention the global occurrence of **volcanic eruptions** in 2021 and their impact on the regional environment. (2021)

Q6: Briefly mention the **alignment of major mountain ranges** of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. (2021)

Q7: Describe the characteristics and type of **primary rocks**. (2022)

Q8: What are **Tsunamis**? How and where are they formed? What are their consequences? Explain with examples. (2025)

Q9: 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. (2025)

Oceanography

Ocean Currents:

Q1: Explain the **factors** responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing and navigation? (2015)

Q2: How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their **impacts** on marine life and the coastal environment? Give suitable examples. (2019)



Q3: What are the **forces** that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in the fishing industry of the world. (2022)

Others:

Q1: Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the **El-Nino effect**. Do you agree? (2014)

Q2: Account for variations in **oceanic salinity** and discuss its multi-dimensional effects. (2016)

Q3: Discuss the geophysical characteristics of **Circum-Pacific Zone**. (2020)

Q4: How are the **fjords** formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world? (2023)

Climatology

Cyclone:

Q1: The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called "Phailin". How are the **tropical cyclones named** across the world? (2013)

Q2: Tropical **cyclones are largely confined** to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? (2014)

Q3: Discuss the meaning of **colour-coded weather warnings** for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department. (2022)

Q4: What is **sea surface temperature rise**? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones? (2024)

Monsoon:

Q1: How far do you agree that the **behaviour of the Indian monsoon** has been changing due to humanizing landscape? Discuss. (2015)

Q2: What **characteristics** can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia? (2017)

Q3: Why is the South-West Monsoon called Purvayi's' (easterly) in **Bhojpur Region**? How has this directional seasonal wind systems influenced the **cultural ethos of the region**? (2023)

Climate Change:

Q1: Bring out the causes for the formation of **heat islands** in the urban habitat of the world. (2013)

Q2: Major cities of India are becoming vulnerable to **flood** conditions. Discuss. (2016)

Q3: The process of **desertification** does not have climate boundaries. Justify with examples. (2020)

Q4: Account for the huge **flooding** of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. (2020)

Q5: Discuss the consequences of climate change on the **food security** in tropical countries. (2023)

Q6: How are climate change and sea level rise affecting the very **existence of many island nations**? Discuss with examples. (2025)



Core Concepts:

Q1: What do you understand by the phenomenon of **temperature inversion** in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place? (2013)

Q2: Major **hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located** between 20-30 degree north and on the western side of the continents. Why? (2013)

Q3: Discuss the concept of **air mass** and explain its role in macro-climatic changes. (2016)

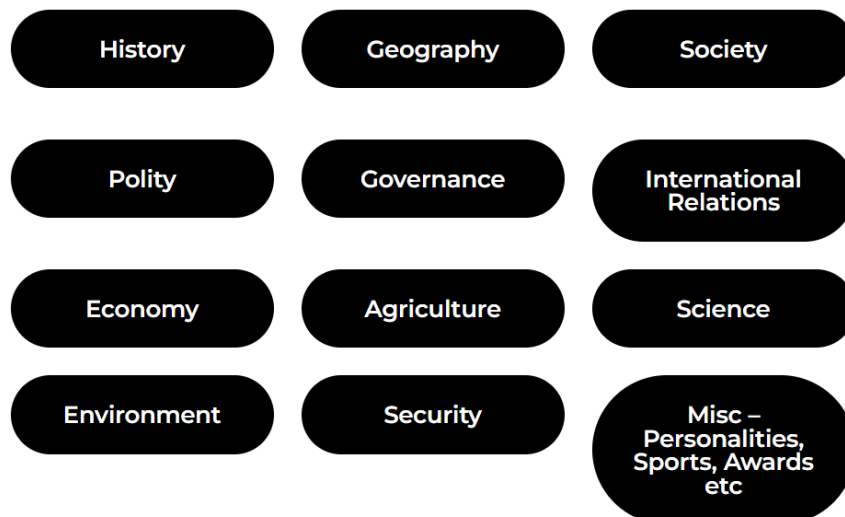
Q4: How does the **cryosphere** affect global climate? (2017)

Q5: Troposphere is a very significant atmosphere layer that determines weather processes. How? (2022)

Q6: What is the phenomenon of '**cloudbursts**'? Explain. (2024)

Q7: What is a **twister**? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico? (2024)

[Click here](#) for May 2025 onwards Current Affairs Notes segregated Paper-wise as under:



Environmental Geography

Q1: What are the consequences of spreading of '**Dead Zones**' on marine ecosystem? (2018)

Q2: Assess the impact of **global warming on coral life** systems with examples. (2019)

Q3: Discuss the causes of the depletion of **mangroves** and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology. (2019)

Q4: What are the environmental implications of the **reclamation of the water bodies** into urban land use? Explain with examples. (2021)

Himalayas / Western Ghats

Landslides:

Q1: Bring out the **causes** for more frequent landslides in the **Himalayas than in Western Ghats**. (2013)

Q2: "The **Himalayas** are highly prone to landslides". Discuss the causes and suggest suitable **measures** of mitigation. (2016)



Q3: Differentiate the **causes** of landslides in the **Himalayan region and the Western Ghats**. (2021)

Glaciers:

Q1: Bring out the relationship between the **shrinking Himalayan glaciers** and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent. (2014)

Q2: How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching **impact on the water resources** of India? (2020)

Tourism:

Q1: The states of **Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand** are reaching the **limits of ecological carrying capacity** due to tourism. Critically evaluate. (2015)

Q2: How can the **mountain ecosystem** be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism? (2019)

Others:

Q1: There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the **Western Ghats**. Why? (2013)

Location of Industries & Resources

Agriculture/Crops/Vegetation:

Q1: Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new **sugar mills** in the Southern states of India? Discuss with justification. (2013)

Q2: Analyze the factors for highly decentralized **cotton** textile industry in India. (2013)

Q3: 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. (2014)

Q4: Why did the **Green Revolution** in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water? (2014)

Q5: Mention the advantages of the cultivation of **pulses** because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by United Nations. (2017)

Q6: Defining **blue revolution**, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. (2018)

Q7: Discuss the factors for localization of agro-based **food processing industries** of North-West India. (2019)

Q8: Examine the status of **forest resources** of India and its resultant impact on climate change. (2020)

Q9: Describing the distribution of **rubber**-producing countries indicate the major environmental issues faced by them. (2022)

Q10: 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. (2023)

Q11: From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net **food exporter** to the world. Provide reasons. (2023)

Q12: What are **non-farm primary activities**? How are these activities related to physiographic features in India? Discuss with suitable examples. (2025)



Various successful candidates of UPSC CSE-24 were part of Ethics/Essay Modules & Other Initiatives. Some of them, with their clickable feedback, are AIR-2, 28, [32](#), [35](#), 53, [54](#), [55](#), 57, [61](#), 72, [91](#), [119](#), [217](#), 219, 247, 256, [261](#), 287, [299](#), 328, 351, 450, 525, 579, 590, 728, 813, 871, 905 etc.

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Energy:

Q1: 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)

Q2: It is said the India has substantial reserves of **shale oil and gas**, which can feed the needs of country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved. (2013)

Q3: What are the economic significance of discovery of **oil in Arctic Sea** and its possible environmental consequences? (2015)

Q4: "In spite of adverse environmental impact, **coal mining** is still inevitable for development". Discuss (2017)

Q5: **Petroleum refineries** are not necessarily located nearer to **crude oil** producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications. (2017)

Q6: India has immense potential of **solar energy** though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate. (2020)

Q7: Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of the uneven distribution of **mineral oil** in the world. (2021)

Q8: Examine the potential of **wind energy** in India and explain the reasons for their limited spatial spread. (2022)

Q9: Explain briefly the ecological and economic benefits of **solar energy** generation in India with suitable examples. (2025)

Q10: 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? (2025)

Manufacturing:

Q1: Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the **Iron and Steel industry** in the world. (2014)

Q2: What is the significance of **Industrial Corridors** in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics. (2018)

Q3: Can the strategy of **regional-resource-based manufacturing** help in promoting employment in India? (2019)

Q4: Account for the present location of **iron and steel industries** away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (2020)



Q5: 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. (2021)

Water:

Q1: India is well endowed with **fresh water resources**. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity. (2015)

Q2: The effective management of **land and water resources** will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain. (2016)

Q3: In what way **micro-watershed development projects** help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India? (2016)

Q4: "The ideal solution of depleting **groundwater** resources in India is **water harvesting** system." How can it be made effective in urban areas? (2018)

Q5: What is **water stress**? How and why does it differ regionally in India? (2019)

Q6: Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to **freshwater resources**? (2023)

Q7: The **groundwater potential** of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India? (2024)

Ocean/Ice:

Q1: Critically evaluate the various **resources of the oceans** which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world. (2014)

Q2: Why is India taking a keen interest in the **Arctic** region? (2018)

Q3: How does the melting of the **Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic** differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. (2021)

Q4: Comment on the resource potentials of the long **coastline** of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas. (2023)

Misc.:

Q1: How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich **Africa**? (2014)

Q2: What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of **IT industries** in major cities of India? (2021)

Q3: Discuss the natural resource potential of '**Deccan trap**'. (2022)

Human Geography (Population, Urbanization, Communication, Transport)

Urbanization & Issues:

Q1: 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)

Q2: **Smart cities** in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of **rural urban integration**. (2015)

Transport:



Q1: Enumerate the problems and prospects of **inland water transport** in India. (2016)

Q2: In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather **inland navigation** in India? (2017)

Q3: How is efficient and affordable **urban mass transport** key to the rapid economic development of India? (2019)

Q4: The **interlinking of rivers** can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. (2020)

Q5: Mention the significance of **straits and isthmus** in international trade. (2022)

Communication:

Q1: Why is the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (**IRNSS**) needed? How does it help in navigation? (2018)

Population Issues:

Q1: Why did **human development** fail to keep pace with **economic development** in India? (2023)

Q2: Why do large cities tend to attract more **migrants** than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries. (2024)

Q3: What is the concept of a '**demographic winter**'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate. (2024)

Q4: Discuss the **distribution and density of population in the Ganga River Basin** with special reference to land, soil and water resources. (2025)

Misc/Current Affairs

Q1: **South China Sea** has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment. (2016)

Q2: Present an account of the **Indus Water Treaty** and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations. (2016)

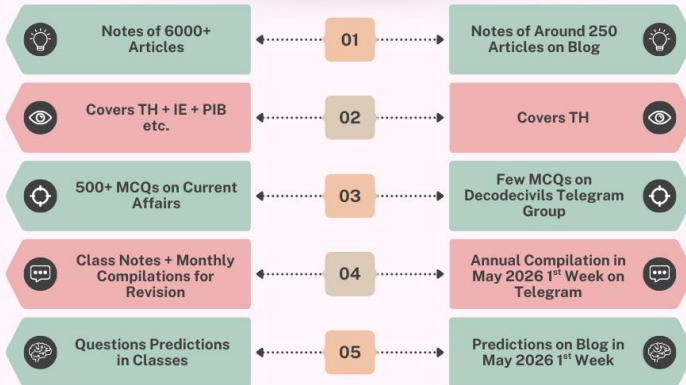
Q3: How does the **Juno Mission** of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth? (2017)

Q4: What are **aurora australis** and **aurora borealis**? How are these triggered? (2024)

Q5: How can AI and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in **locational and areal planning**? (2025)



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[Current Affairs Course is now Live](#). Course will start in October 2025 1st week.

Modules will include class notes, monthly compilation, quarter compilation and annual compilation. This will help in regular revision r/t in the fag-end of preparation.

I will provide my annual compilation, like last year, on Telegram in May 1st week.

[Last year I had promised 20 questions in Prelims from my notes & 28+ Questions could be answered from the same.](#)