

26.10.23

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
Candidates must not write on this margin

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अनिश्चित कुछ न लिखें।

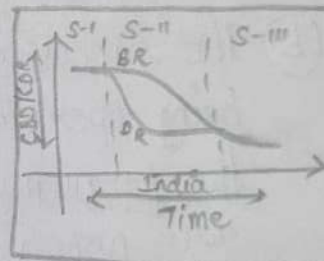
India's rapidly growing urban population poses opportunities for nation building. However, challenges persist in delivering on health, environmental and equity targets to the urban population. Analyse (250 words).

India's urban population is continuously expanding and it is estimated to reach 675 million in 2035 becoming the second highest in the world. Cities play a vital role in fuelling India's growth and development. Opportunities provided by such rapid urbanisation are:-

(a) Encouraging Demographic dividend:

India is presently in the second phase (expanding phase) in the demographic transition and more than 60% of the population

belong to the working age population. This is the ideal time & opportunity to acquire the fruit of growth & development.



(b) With increase in population, Production can be increased which has a direct impact on the country's GDP.

(c) Several jobs which were outsourced earlier can be done by our people with proper skill and knowledge attained.

(d) More than 73% of the workforce take upon multiple jobs for financial benefits, for example gig workers.

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However, several challenges persist in delivering health, environmental & equity targets to the urban population. They are:-

(a) Population Density:

With rapid urbanisation, population density shoots up and there arises an issue of housing due to less land availability. Average urban population density of India is 382 people per square km and of the USA is 94 people per square km.

(b) Sustainable water management:

Water availability directly threatens food and nutritional security, by quick expansion of urban population, a situation of water stress may arise in the near future which is exacerbated by global climate change.

(c) Pollution:

Old-fashioned modes of transport contributes to air pollution, noise pollution and limited greenery may exacerbate the pollution scale. Release of toxic gases & chemicals, burning of fossil fuels are the major sources of pollution in urban areas.

(d) Unemployment:

Unemployment, especially educated unemployment is more prevalent in urban India. Even structural unemployment is the major form of unemployment in India which leads to a paradoxical situation of jobless growth. Unemployment rate, according to NSSO = 6.6%.

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- (c) Non-communicable diseases :
Lack of access to sidewalks & parks that limit active lifestyles, pernicious access to unhealthy food and vicious diet patterns made cardiometabolic diseases (heart disease & diabetes) epidemic ^{common} in India.
The prevalence of obesity, Type 2 Diabetes and cardiovascular disease hinders the efficiency of the production as a whole and also the economic growth.
- (f) Another major concern is solid waste management.
With increase in population, solid waste disposal also increases manifold and it poses a threat to the ecosystem.

Government of India has taken several policy measures to overcome the challenges :-

- (a) Introduction of Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 which aims at skilling lakhs of youth by establishing 30 skill India centres.
- (b) Investment in Green energy, which is among the Saptarishi (7 guiding lights for inclusive development & better future) and electric mobility to improve health & reduce air pollution levels.
- (c) International Solar Alliance is an initiative to impart solar energy in place of polluting substances.
- (d) No-car zones, walking pavements can improve physical activity and reduce pollution.