

GEOGRAPHY (029)
Sample Question Paper — Set 3
Class XII

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

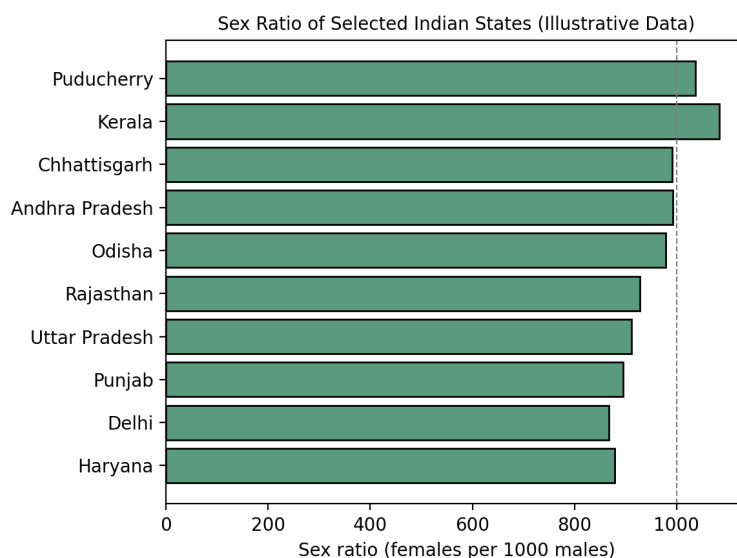
Maximum Marks: 70

General Instructions:

1. This question paper contains 30 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into five sections: A, B, C, D and E.
3. Section A – Question numbers 1 to 17 are multiple choice questions carrying 1 mark each.
4. Section B – Question numbers 18 and 19 are source-based questions carrying 3 marks each.
5. Section C – Question numbers 20 to 23 are short answer type questions carrying 3 marks each. Answers should be written in 80–100 words.
6. Section D – Question numbers 24 to 28 are long answer type questions carrying 5 marks each. Answers should be written in 120–150 words.
7. Section E – Question numbers 29 and 30 are map-based questions carrying 5 marks each.
8. A separate question has been provided for Visually Impaired candidates in lieu of questions with visual inputs such as graphs and maps. Such questions are to be attempted only by Visually Impaired candidates.
9. There is no overall choice, but an internal choice has been provided in a few questions in Sections C, D and E.

SECTION – A (17 × 1 = 17 Marks)

Q.1 Study the bar graph below showing the sex ratio (females per 1000 males) of selected Indian states, and answer the question that follows. [1]



Which of the following states shown has a sex ratio favouring females (i.e. above 1000)?

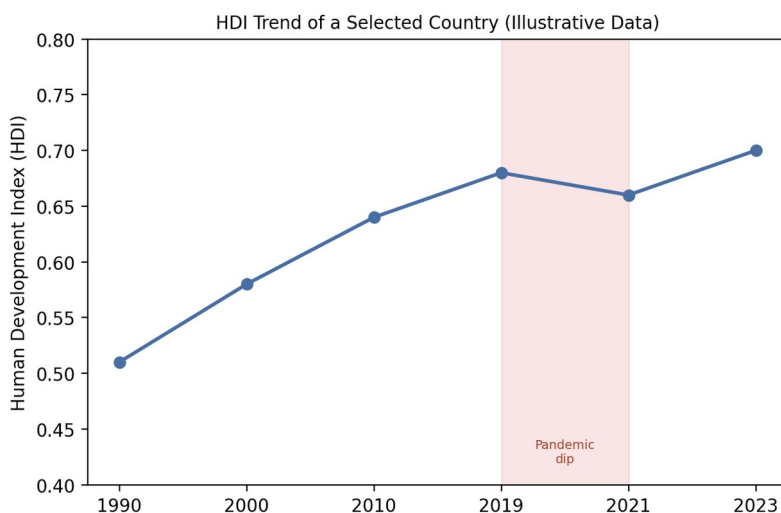
- (A) Haryana
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Kerala
- (D) Delhi

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Which Indian state is generally recognised for having a sex ratio favourable to females?

- (A) Haryana
- (B) Kerala
- (C) Delhi
- (D) Punjab

Q.2 Study the graph below showing the HDI trend of a selected country over time, and answer the question that follows. [1]



Based on the graph, what does the dip observed around 2021 most likely indicate?

- (A) A sudden improvement in education indicators
- (B) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and income indicators
- (C) A permanent decline in the country's HDI
- (D) A change in the method of calculating GNI per capita

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Which global event caused a temporary decline in HDI scores for many countries around 2020-2021?

- (A) The 2008 global financial crisis
- (B) The COVID-19 pandemic
- (C) The dissolution of the Soviet Union

(D) The 1991 Gulf War

Q.3 Country V has recently improved its GNI per capita substantially through natural gas exports, but its literacy rate and life expectancy remain relatively low compared to countries with similar income levels. Which of the following best describes this situation in terms of human development? [1]

(A) The country has achieved balanced human development across all indicators

(B) Economic growth alone does not guarantee balanced human development, since health and education outcomes may lag behind income growth

(C) GNI per capita is the only indicator required to assess human development

(D) Literacy rate and life expectancy have no bearing on the Human Development Index

Q.4 Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and choose the correct option: Assertion (A): Urbanisation in India has been accompanied by the growth of million-plus cities. Reason (R): All urban settlements in India are classified as million-plus cities. [1]

(A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

(B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

(C) A is true, but R is false.

(D) A is false, but R is true.

Q.5 Which of the following is an example of a secondary activity? [1]

(A) A weaver producing cotton textiles in a factory

(B) A fisherman catching fish from a river

(C) A software engineer developing an application

(D) A tour guide leading tourists around a monument

Q.6 Match the following types of mining methods with their description and select the correct code: [1]

Column A (Method)	Column B (Description)
1. Shaft mining	a. Extraction of minerals lying close to the surface by removing overlying layers
2. Open-cast mining	b. Vertical shafts are dug to reach deep-seated mineral deposits
3. Drilling	c. Used mainly for extracting petroleum and natural gas from deep underground reservoirs
4. Quarrying	d. Extraction of building stones or limestone from open surface pits

Codes:

(A) 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-d

(B) 1-a, 2-b, 3-d, 4-c

(C) 1-c, 2-d, 3-a, 4-b

(D) 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a

Q.7 What is the primary purpose of the concept of 'dumping' in international trade? [1]

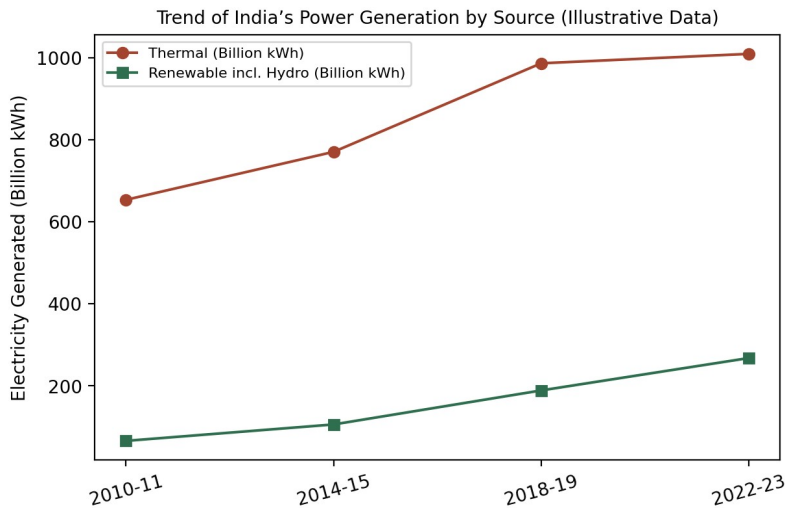
(A) It refers to a country exporting goods at a price lower than their domestic price or cost of production to gain market share abroad

(B) It refers to countries refusing to trade with each other under any circumstances

(C) It refers to the complete banning of imports by a country

(D) It refers to equal pricing of goods across all countries at all times

Q.8 Study the graph below showing the trend of India's power generation by source (in Billion kWh) over selected years, and answer the question that follows. [1]



Based on the graph, which of the following statements is correct?

- (A) Renewable energy generation (including hydro) has grown at a faster rate than thermal generation over the period shown.
- (B) Thermal power generation has declined consistently since 2010-11.
- (C) Renewable energy generation has remained unchanged throughout the period.
- (D) Thermal and renewable generation have grown at exactly the same rate.

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Which of the following energy sources currently contributes the largest share of India's electricity generation?

- (A) Solar energy
- (B) Thermal power (coal-based)
- (C) Wind energy
- (D) Tidal energy

Q.9 A country's population pyramid shows a narrow base and a wide top, with a shrinking share of young people relative to the elderly. Which of the following long-term challenges is this country most likely to face? [1]

- (A) A shortage of schools due to a rapidly rising child population
- (B) A shrinking working-age population relative to a growing elderly population, straining pension and healthcare systems
- (C) An increasing birth rate in the near future without any policy intervention
- (D) No impact on the dependency ratio

Q.10 If international trade statistics show a country consistently importing more than it exports over several years, this situation is best described as: [1]

- (A) A favourable balance of trade
- (B) An unfavourable or negative balance of trade
- (C) A balanced trade account
- (D) A trade surplus

Q.11 Which of the following was NOT among the major goals of India's National Water Policy? [1]

- (A) Promoting equitable access to water for all sections of society
- (B) Encouraging efficient use and conservation of water resources
- (C) Promoting sustainable management of water resources
- (D) Encouraging unregulated and unlimited groundwater extraction

Q.12 Study the table given below showing India's installed power generation capacity (in Gigawatts) by source for two years, and answer the question that follows. [1]

Source	2015 (GW)	2024 (GW)
Thermal (Coal, Gas, Diesel)	173	243
Hydro	42	47
Renewable (Solar, Wind, others)	36	180
Nuclear	6	8

Which of the following statements is correct based on the table?

- (A) Renewable energy capacity grew at a much faster rate than any other source between 2015 and 2024.
- (B) Hydro capacity grew faster than thermal capacity over the period.
- (C) Nuclear capacity declined between 2015 and 2024.

(D) Thermal capacity remained unchanged over the period.

Q.13 Which of the following statements correctly describe the objectives of a national solar energy mission? 1. To reduce the cost of solar power generation through technology and scale. 2. To promote solar energy exclusively for large industries, excluding households. 3. To achieve significant capacity addition in grid-connected and off-grid solar power. 4. To encourage domestic manufacturing of solar equipment. [1]

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (C) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q.14 As a policymaker seeking to reduce a city's dependence on private vehicles and ease traffic congestion, which of the following measures would you prioritise? [1]

- (A) Removing all public bus services
- (B) Expanding and improving affordable public transport and non-motorised transport infrastructure
- (C) Increasing the number of private vehicle registrations without limit
- (D) Discouraging investment in metro rail systems

Q.15 Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and choose the correct option: Assertion (A): Natural gas is increasingly regarded as a relatively cleaner fossil fuel compared to coal. Reason (R): Natural gas produces relatively less carbon dioxide and particulate matter per unit of energy generated compared to coal. [1]

- (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true, but R is false.
- (D) A is false, but R is true.

Q.16 Match the crop in Column A with the geographical condition most favourable for its cultivation in Column B, and select the correct code: [1]

Column A	Column B
a. Tea	1. Black soil, moderate rainfall and a long frost-free period
b. Cotton	2. Warm, humid climate with well-distributed rainfall on hill slopes
c. Jute	3. Well-drained alluvial soil in flood plains with high humidity
d. Coffee	4. Warm and humid tropical climate with well-drained hill slopes

Codes:

- (A) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- (B) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- (C) a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1
- (D) a-3, b-4, c-1, d-2

Q.17 The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, launched by the Government of India, is primarily aimed at: [1]

- (A) Promoting integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects across various ministries and modes of transport
- (B) Restricting the growth of the road network exclusively
- (C) Regulating airline ticket prices
- (D) Reducing investment in railway infrastructure

SECTION – B (2 × 3 = 6 Marks)

Q.18 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: [3]

Environmental determinism, an early approach in human geography, held that human activities and cultures were largely shaped and controlled by the physical environment, with climate and terrain seen as determining factors in the character and development of societies. This view was later criticised for underestimating human capacity for innovation and adaptation, since societies with very similar physical environments have often developed markedly different economic and cultural patterns depending on their technological development and social organisation.

- i. What did environmental determinism argue about the relationship between environment and human society?
- ii. Why was environmental determinism later criticised, according to the passage?
- iii. What does the passage suggest about societies with similar physical environments?

Q.19 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: [3]

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched with the aim of ensuring access to protective irrigation for all agricultural farms and expanding the area under assured irrigation. The scheme brings together various existing water-related schemes under a common umbrella, integrating water source creation, distribution and efficient on-farm application through technologies such as micro-irrigation, promoted under the slogan 'Per Drop More Crop'. By

improving water use efficiency, the scheme aims to enhance agricultural productivity while reducing the strain on scarce water resources.

- i. What is the primary aim of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), according to the passage?
- ii. What technologies are promoted under the 'Per Drop More Crop' approach?
- iii. How does the scheme aim to benefit agricultural productivity while addressing water scarcity?

SECTION – C (4 × 3 = 12 Marks)

Q.20 Explain how the growth of the aviation sector has affected connectivity and economic development in remote regions of India. [3]

Q.21 How can urban planners address the problem of traffic congestion in rapidly growing Indian cities? [3]

Q.22 Identify and explain three measures that can help promote the conservation of India's energy resources. [3]

Q.23 A Discuss the key features of India's population growth after 2011, including the main factors influencing recent trends. [3]

OR

Q.23 B Who are considered 'migrants' in population studies? Why is the study of migration important for understanding population change? [3]

SECTION – D (5 × 5 = 25 Marks)

Q.24 A Explain how primitive subsistence farming is an adaptation to specific geographical conditions. Illustrate your answer with examples from different regions of the world. [5]

OR

Q.24 B "The growth of the renewable energy sector has significant implications for both developed and developing countries." In view of this statement, discuss the factors supporting the growth of renewable energy, and its economic and environmental impacts. [5]

Q.25 A How have countries like Germany and Japan benefitted from the development of high-tech and precision manufacturing industries? What is meant by an 'industrial region'? Give two examples. [5]

OR

Q.25 B Discuss, with examples, any five factors that influence the location of the information technology industry. [5]

Q.26 A Explain the problems faced by residents due to inadequate sanitation infrastructure in Indian cities. How do these problems affect public health? [5]

OR

Q.26 B "Soil erosion has emerged as a serious environmental problem despite being closely linked to specific land-use practices." Analyse this statement with suitable examples. [5]

Q.27 Study the table below showing the composition of India's energy consumption by source (percentage share) for selected years, and answer the question that follows. [5]

Energy Source	2010 (%)	2016 (%)	2023 (%)
Coal	52.9	54.5	49.1
Oil	29.7	27.9	27.2
Natural Gas	8.4	6.2	6.0
Renewables (incl. Hydro)	9.0	11.4	17.7

How has the composition of India's energy consumption evolved since 2010? Highlight five key changes based on the table.

Q.28 A Formulate a development plan for a coastal fishing community region, focusing on sustainable fisheries, education and livelihood diversification, considering the region's ecology and socio-economic challenges. [5]

OR

Q.28 B A river basin has faced worsening water pollution due to unregulated industrial discharge over the past decade. Suggest five measures to promote ecological restoration and sustainable management of this river basin. [5]

SECTION – E (2 × 5 = 10 Marks)

Q.29 On the given world political map, seven geographical features have been marked as A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Identify any five of them using the information given below, and write their correct names. [5]



World Political Map (for representation only, not to scale)

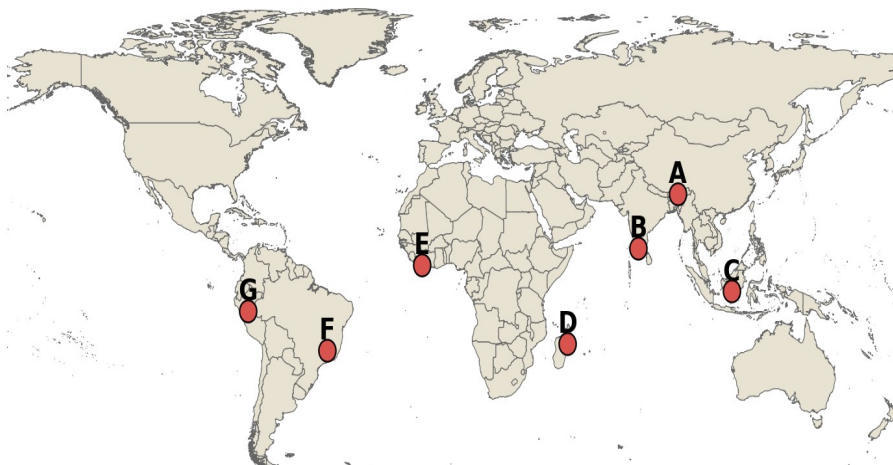
- A. Name a major area of extensive commercial grain farming in North America.
- B. Name a major financial and commercial city of Europe.
- C. Name a major seaport of eastern Asia.
- D. Name a major desert of Africa.
- E. Name a major desert region of South America.
- F. Name a major seaport on the eastern coast of Asia.
- G. Name a major mining area of Australia.

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Answer any five of the following questions:

- A. Name a major area of extensive commercial grain farming in North America.
- B. Name a major financial and commercial city of Europe.
- C. Name a major seaport of eastern Asia.
- D. Name a major desert of Africa.
- E. Name a major desert region of South America.
- F. Name a major seaport on the eastern coast of Asia.
- G. Name a major mining area of Australia.

Q.30 On the given world political map, seven ecological hotspots of the world have been marked as A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Identify any five of them using the information given below, and write their correct names. [5]



World Political Map (for representation only, not to scale)

- A. Name this hotspot located in north-eastern India.
- B. Name this hotspot located along the south-western coast of India.
- C. Name this hotspot located in Indonesia, Asia.
- D. Name this hotspot located in eastern Madagascar, Africa.

- E. Name this hotspot located in the Upper Guinean forests of Africa.
- F. Name this hotspot located in the Atlantic forest region of Brazil.
- G. Name this hotspot located in the Tropical Andes region of South America.

NOTE: The following question is for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of the question above:

Answer any five of the following:

- A. Name the ecological hotspot located in north-eastern India.
- B. Name the ecological hotspot located along the south-western coast of India.
- C. Name the ecological hotspot located in Indonesia, Asia.
- D. Name the ecological hotspot located in eastern Madagascar, Africa.
- E. Name the ecological hotspot located in the Upper Guinean forests of Africa.
- F. Name the ecological hotspot located in the Atlantic forest region of Brazil.
- G. Name the ecological hotspot located in the Tropical Andes region of South America.

GEOGRAPHY (029)

Marking Scheme — Set 3
Class XII

Maximum Marks: 70

SECTION – A

Ans.1 Main: (C) Kerala. Visually Impaired alternative: (B) Kerala. [1]

Ans.2 Main: (B) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and income indicators. Visually Impaired alternative: (B) The COVID-19 pandemic. [1]

Ans.3 (B) Economic growth alone does not guarantee balanced human development, since health and education outcomes may lag behind income growth [1]

Ans.4 (C) A is true, but R is false. [1]

Ans.5 (A) A weaver producing cotton textiles in a factory [1]

Ans.6 (A) 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-d [1]

Ans.7 (A) It refers to a country exporting goods at a price lower than their domestic price or cost of production to gain market share abroad [1]

Ans.8 Main: (A) Renewable energy generation (including hydro) has grown at a faster rate than thermal generation over the period shown. Visually Impaired alternative: (B) Thermal power (coal-based). [1]

Ans.9 (B) A shrinking working-age population relative to a growing elderly population, straining pension and healthcare systems [1]

Ans.10 (B) An unfavourable or negative balance of trade [1]

Ans.11 (D) Encouraging unregulated and unlimited groundwater extraction [1]

Ans.12 (A) Renewable energy capacity grew at a much faster rate than any other source between 2015 and 2024. [1]

Ans.13 (B) 1, 3 and 4 only [1]

Ans.14 (B) Expanding and improving affordable public transport and non-motorised transport infrastructure [1]

Ans.15 (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. [1]

Ans.16 (A) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4 [Tea–warm humid hill slopes with well-distributed rainfall, Cotton–black soil with moderate rainfall, Jute–alluvial flood plains with high humidity, Coffee–warm humid tropical hill slopes] [1]

Ans.17 (A) Promoting integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects across various ministries and modes of transport [1]

SECTION – B

Ans.18 i. Environmental determinism argued that human activities and cultures were largely shaped and controlled by the physical environment, with climate and terrain seen as determining factors. ii. It was criticised for underestimating human capacity for innovation and adaptation to the environment. iii. The passage suggests that societies with similar physical environments have often developed markedly different economic and cultural patterns depending on their technological development and social organisation. [3]

Ans.19 i. The primary aim of PMKSY is to ensure access to protective irrigation for all agricultural farms and expand the area under assured irrigation. ii. Micro-irrigation technologies, such as drip and sprinkler irrigation, are promoted under the ‘Per Drop More Crop’ approach. iii. By improving water use efficiency, the scheme aims to enhance agricultural productivity while reducing the strain placed on scarce water resources. [3]

SECTION – C

Ans.20 The growth of the aviation sector, supported by schemes promoting regional connectivity, has improved access to remote and hilly regions that were previously dependent on long and difficult road or rail journeys. This has boosted tourism, facilitated faster movement of goods and emergency services, and encouraged investment in these regions by reducing the isolation that previously limited their economic development. [3]

Ans.21 Urban planners can address traffic congestion by expanding and improving public transport systems such as metro rail and dedicated bus corridors, promoting non-motorised transport infrastructure such as cycling lanes and pedestrian pathways, and implementing traffic management measures such as staggered office hours and better road design to ease peak-hour congestion. [3]

Ans.22 Any three: (i) Promoting energy-efficient appliances and building designs to reduce overall energy demand. (ii) Encouraging greater use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind to reduce dependence on finite fossil fuels. (iii) Reducing transmission and distribution losses in the power sector through infrastructure upgrades and better management. [3]

Ans.23 A Since 2011, India's population growth rate has continued to decline gradually, reflecting falling fertility rates linked to rising female education, greater urbanisation and expanded access to family planning and healthcare services. Regional variation remains significant, with several states approaching or below replacement-level fertility, while some states continue to show comparatively higher growth, reflecting continuing differences in socio-economic development across the country. [3]

Ans.23 B Migrants are individuals who move from one place of usual residence to another, either within a country or across international borders. The study of migration is important for understanding population change because it directly affects the size, composition and distribution of population in both source and destination areas, influencing labour markets, urbanisation patterns and social infrastructure needs in the regions involved. [3]

SECTION – D

Ans.24 A Primitive subsistence farming is closely adapted to local ecological conditions, relying on simple tools, family or community labour, and shifting cultivation to allow soil fertility to regenerate naturally. In tropical regions of Africa and South America, this often takes the form of 'slash and burn' cultivation on forest land, while in parts of Southeast Asia similar shifting cultivation is adapted to monsoon rainfall and hilly terrain, showing how this farming system is closely shaped by the vegetation, soil and climate available in each specific region, allowing small communities to sustain themselves without extensive external inputs. [5]

Ans.24 B The growth of the renewable energy sector has been supported by factors such as falling costs of solar and wind technology, growing environmental awareness, and government policies including subsidies and renewable purchase obligations. Economically, this growth has created new employment in manufacturing and installation of renewable infrastructure and reduced long-term dependence on imported fossil fuels for many developing countries. Environmentally, increased use of renewable energy has helped reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, although challenges remain in developed and developing countries alike regarding grid integration, storage technology and the pace of transition away from established fossil fuel infrastructure. [5]

Ans.25 A Germany and Japan have benefitted from high-tech and precision manufacturing by leveraging skilled labour, strong research and development investment, and well-established engineering traditions to produce high-value goods such as automobiles, machinery and electronics for global markets, generating substantial export revenue and maintaining technological leadership. An 'industrial region' refers to a geographical area where a cluster of related industries has developed due to shared advantages such as raw materials, transport links or skilled labour; examples include the Ruhr region in Germany and the Kanto region in Japan. [5]

Ans.25 B Any five: (i) Availability of skilled and technically trained labour. (ii) Reliable and high-speed telecommunications infrastructure. (iii) Supportive government policy, including tax incentives for technology parks. (iv) Proximity to educational and research institutions that supply talent and innovation. (v) Relatively lower operational costs compared to more developed regions, which attracts investment from multinational technology firms. [5]

Ans.26 A Inadequate sanitation infrastructure in Indian cities leads to problems such as open defecation and improper disposal of sewage, contamination of water sources, and the spread of waterborne and vector-borne diseases in densely populated areas. These problems significantly affect public health by increasing the incidence of diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera, particularly among children, and place additional strain on already overburdened urban healthcare systems. [5]

Ans.26 B Soil erosion is closely linked to specific land-use practices such as deforestation, overgrazing and poor agricultural practices on slopes, making it appear tied to particular locations where these practices occur. However, it has become a widespread environmental problem because eroded soil and sediment are carried by water and wind well beyond their point of origin, silting up rivers and reservoirs and reducing agricultural productivity over large areas, making its cumulative impact a serious concern that extends far beyond the original site of poor land-use practice. [5]

Ans.27 Any five changes: (i) The share of coal in India's energy consumption declined from 52.9% in 2010 to 49.1% in 2023, after initially rising in 2016. (ii) The share of oil has gradually declined over the period. (iii) The share of natural gas has also declined slightly. (iv) The share of renewables (including hydro) has nearly doubled, from 9.0% to 17.7%, showing the fastest growth among all sources. (v) Despite the growth of renewables, coal still remained the single largest source of energy consumption in 2023, indicating that India's energy transition, while underway, is still in a gradual and ongoing phase. [5]

Ans.28 A A development plan for a coastal fishing community should focus on promoting sustainable fishing practices, such as regulated fishing seasons and gear restrictions, to prevent overfishing and protect marine ecosystems, alongside supporting infrastructure such as cold storage and better market linkages to reduce post-harvest losses. Education initiatives should focus on both formal schooling and skill development in areas such as aquaculture and seafood processing, while livelihood diversification into eco-tourism or small-scale processing industries can reduce the community's sole dependence on wild fish catch, helping build resilience against fluctuations in fish stocks. [5]

Ans.28 B Any five measures: (i) Enforcing stricter regulations and monitoring of industrial effluent discharge into the river. (ii) Setting up or upgrading common effluent treatment plants for industrial clusters along the river basin. (iii) Promoting afforestation along riverbanks to reduce erosion and filter surface runoff. (iv) Encouraging community-based river monitoring and clean-up programmes. (v) Strengthening enforcement of existing water pollution laws through regular inspection and penalties for violations. [5]

SECTION – E

Ans.29 A. The Canadian Prairies (major grain farming area in North America); B. London or Frankfurt (a major financial city of Europe); C. Shanghai or Hong Kong (a major seaport of eastern Asia); D. The Sahara (a major desert of Africa); E. The Atacama or Patagonian Desert (a major desert of South America); F. Yokohama or Shanghai (a seaport on the eastern coast of Asia); G. The Kalgoorlie region or Pilbara (a major mining area of Australia). Visually Impaired alternative answers correspond to the same features described in words. [5]

Ans.30 A. Eastern Himalaya; B. Western Ghats; C. Indonesia; D. Eastern Madagascar; E. Upper Guinean forests; F. Atlantic forest (Brazil); G. Tropical Andes. (Any five) [5]