Geography · GS - I

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

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Alluvial plains, fertile soil, water availability, irrigation, agriculture, population density, urbanisation, Indo-Gangetic Plain, resource pressure

Model Answer

Introduction

The Ganga Basin contains one of the world's major population concentrations, particularly across the fertile and relatively level Indo-Gangetic Plain.

1. Land Resources

The extensive alluvial plains provide level terrain suitable for agriculture, settlement, transportation and urban development. This has encouraged dense and continuous settlement.

2. Soil Resources

Deep and fertile alluvial soils support intensive cultivation of rice, wheat, sugarcane, pulses and oilseeds. Regular deposition of newer alluvium in parts of the basin further supports agricultural productivity.

3. Water Resources

The Ganga and its tributaries provide abundant surface water, while groundwater supports irrigation and domestic needs. Monsoon rainfall, perennial Himalayan-fed rivers and irrigation networks have enabled multiple cropping.

4. Spatial Distribution

Population density is particularly high in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal plains. Major urban centres and transport corridors further concentrate population.

5. Emerging Challenges

Groundwater depletion, pollution, floods, land fragmentation and declining ecological health increasingly threaten resource sustainability.

Conclusion

The concentration of population in the Ganga Basin reflects the combined advantages of fertile land, productive soils and abundant water. Sustainable resource management is therefore essential to support its large population.

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