Geography · GS - I

“The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems”. Substantiate this statement with examples

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

IT-led employment; service-sector growth; skilled migration; urban congestion; housing pressure; regional inequality; sustainable urbanisation

Model Answer

Introduction

The growth of information technology hubs such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Gurugram has transformed India's urban economy. These centres generate employment and investment but also face growing social, infrastructural and environmental challenges.

New Employment Opportunities

- **Direct employment:** IT services, software development, cybersecurity, data analytics and artificial intelligence create skilled jobs.
- **Indirect employment:** Growth in transport, hospitality, retail, housing and food services supports additional livelihoods.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Technology clusters encourage start-ups, innovation and venture investment.
- **Global integration:** IT hubs connect Indian professionals and firms with international markets.
- **Women’s participation:** Formal-sector employment can expand economic opportunities for women, although workplace barriers persist.

Problems Created by IT-led Urbanisation

1. Housing and Infrastructure Pressure

Rapid migration increases rents, informal settlements, traffic congestion and pressure on water and sanitation systems. Bengaluru illustrates the challenges of rapid metropolitan expansion.

2. Environmental Stress

Urban sprawl, groundwater depletion, waste generation and loss of green spaces threaten ecological sustainability.

3. Social Inequality

High-paying technology jobs coexist with low-paid informal work. Unequal access to housing, education and public services can deepen urban divisions.

4. Regional Imbalance

Concentration of technology investment in a few cities leaves many smaller cities and rural regions with fewer high-productivity employment opportunities.

5. Employment Insecurity

Automation, changing skill requirements and global market fluctuations can expose workers to job insecurity.

Way Forward

- Develop affordable housing and reliable public transport.
- Expand digital infrastructure and IT investment in smaller cities.
- Strengthen urban planning, water conservation and waste management.
- Promote continuous skill development and worker protection.

Conclusion

IT hubs can drive productivity and economic modernisation, but their benefits depend on inclusive and sustainable urban governance. Balanced regional development can spread opportunities while reducing the social and environmental costs of growth.

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