

Insights Secure – 2015

General Studies Paper - 1

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[THE UNDERCOVER GROUP]

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General Studies - 1

Topic: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Q) What are the different colonial architectural styles which can be seen in Bombay city? Also explain the motivation behind such styles. (200 Words)

NCERT

Ans:

The different colonial architectural styles in Bombay and their significant features are given below:

1.) *THE NEO- CLASSICAL:-*

Characteristics:

*derived from ancient Rome.

* Construction of geometric structures fronted with lofty pillars.

Examples: The Town Hall

Idea behind:

* Covered arcaded could better protect pedestrians & shoppers from the scorching Sun & rain .

* To symbolise the splendour of British Empire through magnificent Rome architecture.

2.) *NEO- GOTHIC:-*

Characteristics:

*Derived from churches during medieval period in Western Europe.

* Featured high pitched roofs, pointed arches and splendid decoration.

Example: Victoria Terminus.

Idea behind: This architectural style was revived in nineteenth century for churches.

The probable reason is religious ideals and to assert their monarchy. Indian merchants were happy to adopt the neo-Gothic style since they believed that building styles, like many ideas brought in by the English, were progressive and would help make Bombay into a modern city.

3.) *INDO- SARCENIC:*

Characteristics:

* A blend of Indian and European styles that developed in early 20th century.

* The prominent features of medieval architecture like chhatris, jalis, arches were adopted.

Example: The Municipal Corporation building.

Motive behind:

To assert their rightful authority in India.

Besides, in more Indian localities the traditional styles of architecture continued to prevail. Since, the cities were crowded single roomed multi-storeyed apartments sprawled.

Topic: urbanization

Q) Write a note on the concerns that influenced town planning in the nineteenth century in India. (200 Words)

NCERT

Ans:

A diverse process of urbanisation occurred in 19th century that helped in town planning in India swayed by different factors which can be enumerated as follows

Strategic importance for business

With growing concern of business and trade including raw materials; the places nearby sea became strategically important for urbanization. Bombay; madras; Calcutta are example.

Development of railway

Arrival of railway fuelled to the urbanization process. Every railway station was formed as storehouse of raw materials and gradually it transformed into a urban area. Mirzapur; Zamalpur; Bareilly were examples of railway colonies.

Administrative concern

New administrative buildings fortifying the status of British; quarters of officers called " bunglaw" were built spurring the urbanization process.

Social disparity

The racial discrimination of British led to differentiate town planning with different building structures as they call the buildings of poor " black pagoda".

Revenue concern

For revenue concern; British introduced municipal tax establishing municipal authority which initiated a new era of urbanisation.

Cotton trade

Industrial revolution and American civil war helped increasing cotton production in India leading to many urban trade centres.

Urban planning

For extension of trade and to collect data about social and economic status of people census was begun which was a new concern of urbanisation plan to distinguish people living in rural and urban areas.

Emerging middle class

Growing demand was felt for clerks; peons and other officers which facilitated English educational institutions and communication was development for their daily arrival and departure from home to office or institutions.

Entertainment

For entertainment purpose; theatre and clubs were established leading to growth of urbanisation with different towns.

Sanity

For the concern of spreading diseases from rural to urban areas British took development initiatives in many backward areas.

Climatic influence

Due to moderate and healthy climate British started building houses in hill stations like Himachal, Darjeeling etc.

Defence

British built St George; fort William and choose hill areas for development process from defense purpose. Cantonments were established in several places.

Civil lines

For development purposes British created civil lines clearing rural areas.

Lifestyle

A new wealthy class emerged who built houses on British style in urban areas; organized different programs with drink and Western food for influencing the British officials that initiated another process of urbanization.

Thus; lots of concern helped the growth of urbanisation in this era.

Topic: *urbanization, their problems and their remedies.*

Q) Critically examine the policies and mechanisms that exist in India to assess and monitor the pollution levels on air in cities. (200 Words)

Business Standard

Ans:

Air pollution is increasingly becoming a threat to the health lives of individuals in India, especially the urban cities. The responsibility to keep it under check and prevent its spread falls with Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate, through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The constitutional provision for the same is given under The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 (amended in 1987).

Under the above umbrella, the following steps have been taken to improve the quality of air:

1. National Air Quality Monitoring Programme by the CPCB, under which there are 342 operational stations placed in every city for real time data assessment for subsequent action. However, most of the stations are limited only to a few select cities (Delhi has 19 whereas Haryana has only 3), and also lack the necessary infrastructure and technology to provide accurate and real time data.
2. Bharat IV (2005) norms given by JNNURM for the vehicles plying on Delhi Roads. However, vehicles pre-2005 blatantly flout these norms and continue to run on the roads unabated.
3. National Air Quality Index (AQI) launched under Swachh Bharat, based on the global benchmarks. However, lack of clarity on targeted implementation of the AQI can result in fallacies of the programme, like above.
4. Separation of Industrial and Residential Areas to minimize the impact of pollution on individuals

It is clear from the current state of the policies so far that dealing with Air Pollution needs a comprehensive and inclusive approach, with equally participation and cooperation for the individuals and private sectors. More than regulation, the correct incentives need to be placed towards a cleaner air. Some of such steps can be as following:

1. Making availability of alternative cleaner technologies easier and affordable
2. Increased awareness through schools, hospitals and community locations
3. Partnership with automobile manufacturers to proactively and periodically

monitor the cars at a subsidized rate

4. Encourage innovation, especially by the students, in the technology used for monitoring the pollution levels such that it can be deployed across a wider area in the country

Cleaner Air carries with it other positive externalities of better health, better state of mind for education, better cultural development, better tourism etc, and hence must be taken on priority by the country as a whole.

Topic: urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Q) How an urban region is defined in India? Some commentators argue that considering the flaws in definitions, India has more urban centres than what government estimates reveal. Critically examine why. (200 Words)

The Indian Express

Ans:

In India urban region is defined as having population of above 5000, density over 400 persons/sq. km, and at most 25% people engaged in agriculture.

Adhering to above the urban ratio comes to be 31%. Deficiencies in the above criteria as cited by critics are –

- economic institutions such as insurance and banking institutions.
- administrative institutions such as municipal bodies, various departments and their branches, adalats, police stations, various associations, civil society and NGOs headquarters and branches
- services such as education schools and societies, health care services in the form of hospitals and care centres, water and sanitation supply, proper transport mechanism and widespread communication and information technology penetration
- networking approach with all the above interlinking into a coordinated sphere.

Leaving aside these aspects one hugely underestimates the urban potential of India. Mere adhering to the 5000 or more people norm raises the urban ratio to 47% and if 2000 people then ratio surges to 71% which has widespread ramifications -

- proper targeting of policies
- various programmes launched will be devoid of inclusivity
- wrong targeting results in inefficient results
- planning process gets hampered relating to urbanisation, industrialisation, setting up various institutions, various policies such as PURA
- building up of smart cities and digital India programmes can be affected

It is clear that urbanization based on the agricultural criteria needs to wither away, as many villages with high agricultural participation by people have good institutions with leading luxurious lives. This westernized concept imitating needed to be stopped and an indigenous way has to be recognized and formulated that better suits Indian lands.

General Studies - 1

Topic: The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.

Q) "It was the Rowlatt satyagraha that made Gandhiji a truly national leader." Examine. (200 Words)

NCERT

Ans:

Every other movement started by Gandhiji helped Indian nationalism to attain an unprecedented height.

Earlier movements conceived by Gandhiji like Champaran peasant movement (1917), Ahmedabad mill workers movement (1918), Kheda peasant movement(1918) were addressing any specific issue of particular section of the society. Scope of area was also very limited.

But Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919) against the censure of freedom of press and detention without trial was proactively joined by all the sections of the society from Bengal in the east to Punjab in the west. Sentiments of the aggrieved common people were addressed. Knitting of people, from all religions, all castes, all age groups and both the genders, in the nationalist movement was a distinguished characteristic of the Rowlatt Satyagrah. National newspapers, political journals etc. made Gandhiji a popular figure.

The bloody climax event of Jallianwala Bagh massacre made Gandhiji to call-off the satyagraha. The leadership qualities shown throughout the satyagraha, protesting for a right cause through non-violence route and empathy for the pain of the people, made an appeal among the masses.

Though the apogee in the international popularity was yet to be achieved in the subsequent movements but Gandhiji emerged as a national leader through Rowlatt Satyagraha.

Topic: The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.

Q) Why did Gandhiji choose salt as symbol of protest during the Dandi satyagraha? How do you evaluate the significance and impact of Dandi march on the national movement among all other movements initiated by Gandhiji? Examine. (200 Words)

NCERT

Ans:

Reasons for choosing salt as the symbol of protest during dandi satyagrah-

1. at that time, making salt was state monopoly. since it was necessity of the household, they have to purchase it on the higher prices from the shops.
2. the monopoly over the salt making further deprived the people of the valuable village industry.
3. it also led to the national destruction as the british used to destruct salt collected by villagers from the sea which led to the increase in the national expenditure.
4. this wisdom of gandhiji also mobilised wider discontent beyond the hindus, muslims and backward classes.

the impact of dandi satyagrah was massive. salt satyagrah was organised at many places all over the india. different other approaches were also adopted like the breaking of forest laws. strikes and lock outs by the miners and industry workers, no rent no revenue campaign at many places by tenants and zamindars.

this proved to the second true mass movement of the country after the non cooperation one.

for the first time, the workers and labors indulged in the movement in such mass scale.

this also saw the involvement of the business class and zamindars as they also realised that congress and gandhiji would be the future of the country. the success of the satyagrah and following movement was massive. many people were imprisoned and still the movement didnt stop like the dharsara instance which ultimately led to the gandhi irwin pact and second round table conference. people also got psychological boost from this satyagrah and movement as for the first time their leaders were treated equal to the Britisher.

Topic: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.

Q) What are the causes of volcanic eruption? Examine why it's considered as hazard. Also discuss why predicting volcanic eruptions is said to be a very difficult task. (200 Words)

The New York Times

Ans:

Causes:

- 1) .subduction of one plate under other in case of converging plate boundary and resultant melting of rocks due to high temp and pressure which rises along the fissures of rocks.
- 2)In case of diverging boundaries thinning of upper crust leads to reduction in overlying pressure of rocks causing decrease in rock melting point and formation of magma which rises and erupts as lava from fissure volcanos.
- 3)some continental volcanoes located away from plate boundaries due to stressing of plates and creation of faults.

reasons for hazard:

- 1)air pollution and resulting effects on human ,livestock ,air transport,climate,ozone
- 2) loss of human life and property due to primary effects of lava and ashes,rocks etc.
- 3)secondary disasters like tsunami,earthquakes,mud flow,floods etc caused by volcanic eruption.
- 4) Climatic changes due to large amount of dust and ash in air which causes small ice age.
- 5) Loss of vegetation and wildlife of surrounding areas.

Difficult to detect:

- 1)no defined sequence of events causing eruption.
- 2)subsurface phenomena with very high temperature so most scientific instruments fails to work
- 3)sudden phenomena which provides very less time for analysis and prep.
- 4) Existing methods using seismic analysis not completely reliable

General Studies – 1

Topic: *The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.*

Q) Critically analyse the factors that led to the partition of British India. (200 Words)

NCERT

Ans:

Rise of communalism was the main reason of partition in 1947. Promotion of communalism was a part of british "divide and rule" policy after seeing unity of both community in the revolt of 1857. The factors responsible for partition are as follows-

(1.)Historically there was clashes between hindu and muslims, these conflicts were sunk by many ruler like Akbar,Jan-ul-abbdin.

(2.)Britishers tried to keep away the muslims from national movement as they support Sir Sayyed Ahmed Khan to counter Congress. They try to declare congress as a party of hindus.

Due to this Muslim league shows itself in the favour of muslims.

(3.) Communal award of 1909 create a rift between both communities and it was spreaded in 1919 .Increased bargaining power of Muslim League: immatured demand of autonomy to Muslim majority provinces transformed into the demand for a separate nation for Muslims due to the popular support which Muslim League had been able to gain in the provincial election.

(4.) 'Shuddhi movement' of Arya Samaj , Hindu extremist outfits like 'Hindu Mahasabha ' and 'Rashtriya Swayansevak Sangha ' came in prominanace in second decade of Twentieth century.It created fear in the minds of minority Muslims.To promote the national movement celebration of some festival like Ganesh Utsav,Shivaji Utsav diverted muslims.

Our national leader and Congress party did not oppose the communalism as British rule, infact they accept separate electorate in lucknow pact. Only non cooperation movement showed unity between both community.

After 1940 demand of muslim league became more extreme as it refuse several proposals, national leader were involve in quit india movement. Failure of cabinet mission, direct action made partition inevitable and finally Congress accept the partition ,Partition fetch a massive transfer of population and genocide in history of India. Communal problem of today also have it's root in partition.

Ans2:

Partition of india was an amalgamation of evolving tenets of hindus and muslims which were carried and generated misproportionately .

A prejudice

Some antagonistic feelings cherished by Hindus and Muslims in both pre- partition India and Pakistan comes into looming in 1947.

Such age old prejudices became tightened with changing situations added by cunning and communalist policy of British.

A political root

Accepting separate electorate by congress in Lucknow pact publicly recognized Hindu and Muslims as separate community with differentiated requirements.

At the helm of Lucknow pact; separate electorate in 1909; 1919 and afterwards communal award added the spasm between the two communities.

Reactionary movement

The shuddhi movement; ganapati and shivaji festivals were polarized in character.

These strengthened the already embedded mind gape in each other community.

Lack of religious tolerance

Some activities of hindu mahasabha and rashtriya swayamsevak sangh and cow protection movement disobeyed the religious ethos of Muslims.

It enhanced the hatred towards religious practices to each others community leading to frequent communal violence. It thus provided ingredients to the development of "communalism".

Entrenched minority feeling

British used bargaining policy to stir one group against another. For the sake of political gain and rumors spread by anti social forces that majority hindu will dominate minority Muslims ; minority tendency remain entrenched in mind of each other community.

This led to special preservation of seats in every sphere especially for minority Muslims led fear in others mind about a protective and extended raj of particular group in future.

Some ideological mismatch

The refusal of congress to form government with Muslim league (though landlordism was an issue it was minor and pretty enough to tackle in future) ; prohibition of congress members in joining league; not effective measure to spread the ethos of secularism by the congress were some faults of congress policy.

It increased the isolation and aloofness of mind between the two communities.

Some minor issues

Increased fundamentalist literature; notion of muslim majority NEFP of iqbal were some minor factors contributing to partition.

These contributed to the separatist mentality of common masses.

An immediate factor

The victory of congress with absolute majority in 1937 election and victory even in NWFP emboldened the idea of congress raj with imminent fear in future leading to announcement of direct action plan by jinnah and further development in seaparartist tendency.

A balanced view

Not a single factor; nor a particular ideology; community or political organization was responsible for partition. A long tradition of misunderstandings; hatred conveyed by each other community came out in most diabolic form in the background of 1947.

Thus; lots of factors initiated the most sanguine part of indian history giving a bloat to the ahinsa of gandhi; humanity of Buddha; secularism of akbar in this indian subcontinent.

Topic: *The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.*

Q) Critically discuss how the partition of India in 1947 affected women from both the sides. (200 Words)

NCERT

Ans:

The burden of the partition had been carried by both the nations but it was much more than burden for the women of both the sides.

Women and girls were the primary targets during partition in Punjab as well as Bengal area. Abduction, rape, killing etc. were rampant. In the patriarchal society females were seen as the property. Masculinity and virility were shown in dishonoring the women of the opposite community to honor one's own community.

In many cases women were forced to start a new life with strange people in alien circumstances. When the storm of the partition receded and the dust got settle down, the governments of both the nations started sending the abducted women to their past relatives. Leaving the new life and new relatives and going back to their past community was not less than a second trauma in their lives.

In brief, the partition once again made women realize that they were not more than non-living objects which could be possessed, looted, transferred and thrown as a trash.

Topic: *Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.*

Q) Write a note on Saint Thyagaraja's contribution to Indian classical music. (150 Words)

The Hindu

Ans:

Saint thyagaraja, born in thanjavur district of Tami nadu, was the great composer of carnatic music during 18th century. He composed thousands of devotional compositions in praise of Lord rama. Of special mention are five of his compositions called pancharatna kritis. All of his krithis have depicted lord rama's different kinds of emotions.

The incorporation of 'sangathis' in his kirtanas contributed much to the evolution of carnatic music. Sangati is the exposition of a set of variations on a theme, which unfolds gradually the melodic potential of raga.

He composed the huge repertoire of hundreds of krithis in hundreds of ragas. Enough he contributed in promoting Nadopasana which means attaining godhead, his path breaking innovations in carnatic music. His contributions have had a unique impact on carnatic music, its style, evolution and development.

Topic: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami,

Q) Which factors cause Tsunamis? Examine what caused Fukushima tsunami of 2011 and Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2006. (200 Words)

The Hindu

Ans:

Tsunami is a series of tidal wave caused by displacement in large volume of water caused mainly in ocean. A tsunami of high magnitude can cause intense damage to life and economy as happened during Fukushima and Indian Ocean tsunami.

The below factors cause Tsunami-

1. Seismicity/Earthquakes- When crust below the sea abruptly deforms then it transfers massive amount of energy to water which takes form of the surge .This is the cause of Fukushima tsunami
2. Landslides- They displace huge masses in submarine landslides providing energy at a rate more than water body can absorb hence causing tsunami.Landslides can be result of volcanic activity as well. Such tsunami has taken place in Alaska ,Hawai islands
3. Deep Depressions like Tropical Cyclones- They can cause Tsunami due to low atmospheric pressure and swirling winds which can lift water and make it travel with the cyclone. Eg Super Cyclone of 1999

4. Other factors - glacial convulsions, meteoric activity, man made nuclear blasts also have potentials of causing tsunami

The Fukushima Tsunami was caused by earthquake in Pacific floor which was built up for 9 years as per the experts. It occurred where Pacific plate subducts beneath North America Plate on which Japan archipelago rests.

The Indian Ocean Tsunami was caused by the thrust fault where Indian plate subducts under Burma plate

General Studies - 1

Topic: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues

Q) Critically examine why did Mahatma Gandhi think Hindustani should be the national language? (150 Words)

NCERT

Ans1:

Language provides a common platform to exchange ideas, to share aspirations. Therefore, a national language should be - understandable by majority of the people, assimilation of different regional languages and resonation of various regional cultures.

In the 19th century, Hindustani emerged as a happy combination of both Hindi and Urdu. Influence of different invasions on India, repletion of terms inherited from various regional languages and imprint of different regional cultures were easily manifested in it. Therefore, Mahatma Gandhi thought of Hindustani as a unifying bond between all citizens of India.

But from the start of 20th century, due to communal conflicts, Hindustani remained no more convergence of Hindi and Urdu. Sanskritisation of Hindi and Persianisation of Urdu left Hindustani to stand alone. Picking out words of regional languages from Hindustani tarnished the aroma of diversity of India, which earlier could be smelt in it and gradually it lost the luster of becoming a national language.

Ans2:

Hindustani as blend of 'Hindi' and 'Urdu' was advocated to be the national language of India by Gandhiji. Language as an instrument of harmony and concord between various groups was rightly seen by Mahatma. At the time when religious sentiments

and cultural differences were creeping in the Indian society in form of separate electorate, Shuddhi movement, Ganapati festival - thus polarising people, Gandhi believed that a way of expression that could unite people was the only way out for the nation.

The beauty of Hindustani to accommodate the foreign words and the ease with which it could be learned made it more appreciable and acceptable in the Indian context. Although it would have led to alienation of Dravidian language but it would have interwoven the ethnic diversity in the thread of unity.

Topic: The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.

Q) Discuss the events and other factors that transformed Mohandas Gandhi into Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa. (200 Words)

The Indian Express

Ans:

The personality and spirit of a foreign educated Indian person has forever changed in the land of South Africa. From professional spirit; a utter honorary spirit embraced Mohandas labelling him as "Mahatma". An attempt has been made to show the influence of incidents and factors that transformed his personality in the following way--

Charisma

It is the charisma that awakened the spirit of South Africans about the annihilation of their inherent rights. It is the charisma that made them stand on equal footing in seeking equal privileges for all whether it is in first class compartment in rail or in work.

An innovation to be remembered for ages

The discriminatory step by colonial government in South Africa in case of invalidating all marriages except conducted by Christian rites; toll tax on poor indentured labour; restriction of immigration of labour into South Africa led Gandhi

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to use satyagraha ;a combination of spiritual predominance over physical empowerment that shook the whole world.

A notion of humanity

To stir the spirit of depressed activities gandhi established Tolstoy Farm with the help of different personalities whose model will later take initiatives of social Renaissance in india.

A clarion call

Right from the throwing out of first class compartment in rail upto the utter racial discrimination in south africa; racial discrimination formed the spirit of gandhi for the salvation of humanity and played prominent role in bringing out the voice from the masses against any discrimination of colonial rule.

A saviour

The world has remembered gandhi for his role of Messiah. He taught the illiterate; unconscious south Africans about their rights how to claim their rights ; how to germinate their voice. A london educated barrister is roaming among the poor; illiterate labours and gives them lesson how to live. Pranjivan mehta and tagore in real sense calls him " mahatma".

A lesson

Gandhi saw the evil effects of caste; slavery. He saw that spirit of people is not long lasting . social works are necessary to continue it. A pathan also came to kill gandhi in south Africa. He realized the hardships and challenges a leader has to face. All these strengthened his spirit and transformed his personality.

Thus; a london educated barrister who visited a continent with professional purpose transformed his personality recognising his inner spirit of freedom from bondage for which he dedicated his entire life.

General Studies - 1

Topic: Salient features of world's physical geography (includes India)

Q) Explain the differences between India's eastern and western coastal plains. (150 Words)

NCERT

Ans:

The differences between India's eastern & western coastal plains are as follows:

1. Eastern coastal plains lie along India's east coast and is washed by the Bay of Bengal. Western Coastal Plains, on the other hand, are washed by the Arabian Sea.
2. While the WCP is intersected by the mountain ridges, ECP runs smoothly from North to South with a broad plain and a level surface.
3. ECP (width 80-100 km) is wider than WCP (50-65 km). WCP are sometimes so narrow that Western Ghats touch the sea water.
4. Large rivers make deltas on the ECP but short swift rivers do not form any deltas on the WC.
5. EC is sandy with alluvium and slopes gently towards the sea. It is formed by fertile alluvial soil. Hence, experiences well developed agriculture. WC is relatively rocky with sand and sand dunes. It is mainly formed by coarse grained soil and thus is infertile. It slopes abruptly down to the sea.
6. EC is smooth and unfit for making ports. But, WC is broken and indented for ports. Hence, large numbers of ports are along the WC.
7. Heavy rainfall in WC as compared to EC.

Topic: geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features

Q) What do you understand by river regime? Explain the differences between river regimes of peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers. (200 Words)

NCERT

Ans:

The pattern of the seasonal flow of water in a river channel over a year is known as river regime.

There are striking differences between HR and PR river regimes as listed below:

1. Origin/Source : The HR are fed by both glaciers and rainfall and are thus perennial in nature. The peninsular rivers are fed by rainfall only and thus rain dependent.
2. Catchment Area and Max. flow: Large catchment areas of HRs ensure the maximum flow during the rainy seasons and their maximum flow is far greater than that of the PRs.

3. Variations: Owing to the huge variations in the rainfall in the peninsular plateau, the regimes of different PRs vary widely whereas almost all HRs maintain a sizeable flow.

4. Gradual increase/decrease in flow : Ganga (HR) has a minimum flow during Jan-June and max. flow during Aug/Sept. and gradual steady fall afterwards, whereas Narmada (PR) has very low flow from Jan-July and a sharp rise in August and again a sudden fall in October.

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