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- 
- 
- Home
- UPSC
  - Current Affairs IAS
  -   
  - Quiz IAS
  -   
  - UPSC News Editorial (/Eng)
  - Answer Writing ( /Eng)
  - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
  - UPSC GS (/Eng)
    - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
    - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
    - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
    - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
  - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
  - Yojana ( /Eng)
  - IAS Strategy for Prelims
    - General Studies
    - CSAT
  - IAS Strategy for Mains
    - IAS GS 1
    - IAS GS 2
    - IAS GS 3
    - IAS GS 4
  - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
  - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
  -   
  - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

- Himachal News Editorial (English/Eng)
- Answer Writing (English /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (English/Eng)
- Giriraj
  - Magazine
  - Giriraj Quiz
- Himachal Pradesh
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- Syllabus Prelims Himachal HPAS
  - GENERAL STUDIES
  - CSAT
    - English
    - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
  - English,Hindi,Essay & One Optional
  - HPAS GS 3
  - HPAS GS 2
  - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
  - Haryana Current Affairs
  - Haryana Current Affairs
  - HCS Quiz
  - Haryana News Editorial (English/Eng)
  - Answer Writing (English /Eng)
  - Haryana Essay (English/Eng)
  - HR Government Schemes
  - Haryana Government Schemes
  - Syllabus Mains Haryana HCS
  - Syllabus Prelims Haryana HCS
  - HCS Prelims Test Series

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- [Punjab PCS Current Affairs](#)
- [Daily Quiz Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab News Editorial \(Eng\)](#)
- [Answer Writing \(Eng\)](#)
- [Punjab Essay \(Eng\)](#)
- [All you need to know about Punjab PCS Exam 2021](#)
- [Syllabus Prelims Punjab PCS](#)
  - [General Studies](#)
  - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
  - [PCS GS 1](#)
  - [PCS GS 2](#)
  - [PCS GS 3](#)
  - [PCS GS 4](#)
  - [Online PUNJAB PCS TEST SERIES 2020](#)
- [CSAT](#)
  - [CSAT English](#)
  - [Punjab PCS CSAT](#)
- [Concept Mindmaps](#)
  - [Polity \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Art and Culture \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Punjab PCS Concepts](#)
  - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
  - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
  - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

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- Environment Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- History Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Economics Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
  - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
  - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
  - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
  - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
- Exam Blogs
  - UPSC Exam Blogs
  - Himachal Exam Blogs
  - Punjab exam Blogs
  - Haryana Exam Blogs
  - Rajasthan Exam Blogs
  - E-Magazine
    - E-Magazine for HPAS
    - हिंदी/English में हिंदी-हिंदी/English
    - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
- UPCOMING EXAMS
  - National Exams
  - Himachal Pradesh Exams
  - Punjab Exams
  - Test Series Planner
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## MENU

Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

## Topics Covered



- What is the news?
- What's the Reason for the Absence of Snow? A Complex Endeavour:
- Can you explain what El Nino is?
- Let's grasp the concept of El-Nino using a simple example:
  
- QuizTime:
  - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
  - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
  - Question 1:
  - Model Answer:
  - Question 2:
  - Model Answer:
  - Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:

## ***What is the news?***

- The lack of snow in Gulmarg, Kashmir, this winter is not just a random weather oddity; it is an intricate story influenced by climate change, local conditions, and global events such as El

Nino. Let's dive into this intricate subject, approaching it with the perspective of a UPSC aspirant and delving beyond surface-level understanding.

## ***What's the Reason for the Absence of Snow? A Complex Endeavour:***

### ***The Shadow of EL Nino:***

- **El Nino's Warm Embrace:** This climatic phenomenon, known for its impact on global weather patterns, is caused by warmer sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. El Nino has a weakening effect on Western Disturbances, which are responsible for bringing snowfall to Kashmir through moisture-laden winds. This clarifies the noticeable decrease in rainfall in the area.
- **The Domino Effect:** Precipitation in Kashmir takes a significant dip due to weakened Western Disturbances. In December 2023, Gulmarg experienced a significant 79% decrease in rainfall compared to previous years, which resulted in a lack of snowfall and disappointment for the locals.

### ***Climate Change: A Growing Concern:***

- **The Slow Burn:** Although El Nino has a short-term impact, climate change has a lasting effect. Human

activities are causing global temperatures to rise, which is resulting in changes to weather patterns. As a result, winters in the Himalayas are becoming milder. This results in reduced snowfall, which has a significant impact on water resources and industries that rely on snow, such as tourism.

- Look beyond Gulmarg and consider the Himalayas as a massive water tower for India. Decreased snowfall could result in a decrease in water stored in snowy reserves, which may lead to water scarcity in the future. These developments have significant implications for the agricultural sector, hydropower generation, and the well-being of countless individuals.

### ***Local Factors: Contributing to the Problem:***

- **Devastating Impact:** Picture once vibrant forests transformed into barren landscapes. Regrettably, this is the situation in certain areas of the Himalayas. Deforestation has a significant impact on the region's snow storage capacity, leading to a faster melting of snow. In addition to the rising temperatures, the dry spell becomes even more severe.
- **Land-Use Changes:** The Himalayan ecosystem is impacted by urbanisation and infrastructure development, which disrupts its delicate balance. These changes may affect snow patterns and lead to more arid conditions.

## *Can you explain what El Nino is?*

- El Nino is a climate pattern characterised by the warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. It is part of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon. It appears as higher sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- This warming causes a change in atmospheric circulation, leading to less rainfall in Indonesia, India, and northern Australia, while increasing rainfall and the formation of tropical cyclones in the tropical Pacific Ocean.
- In Kashmir, the effects of El Nino are clear with longer periods of drought, less severe winters, and reduced snowfall. Experts warn that the region can expect to experience increasingly frequent and prolonged periods of drought in the coming years.

## *Let's grasp the concept of El-Nino using a simple example:*

### **Understanding El Nino: The Warm Phenomenon Behind Winter Challenges**

Have you ever encountered someone attributing a peculiar winter to El Nino? Well, it's not merely a mythical figure! El Nino is a genuine climatic phenomenon that can disrupt weather patterns, particularly in winter. Let's explore this topic and discover the fascinating aspects of this "warm guy" in a straightforward manner:

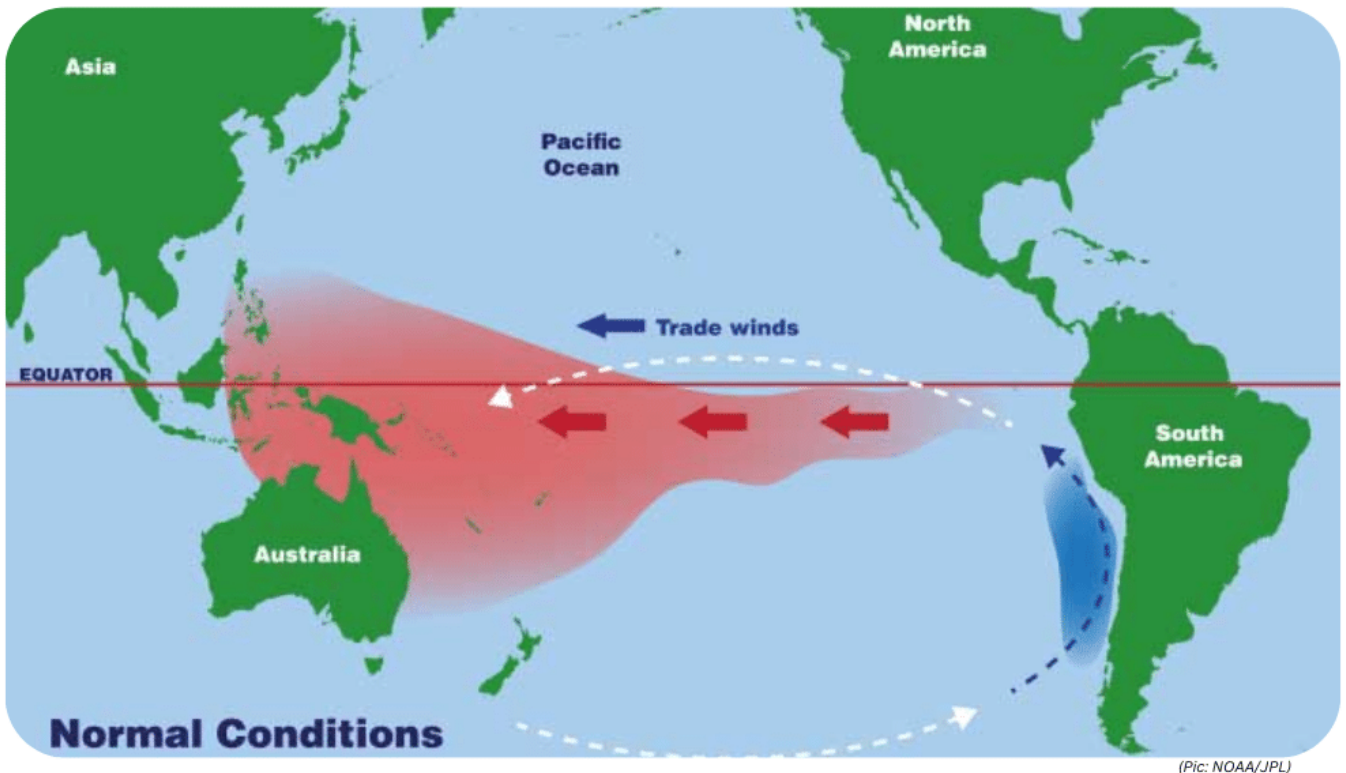


## ***El Nino: A Pacific that is Warmer and More Friendly***

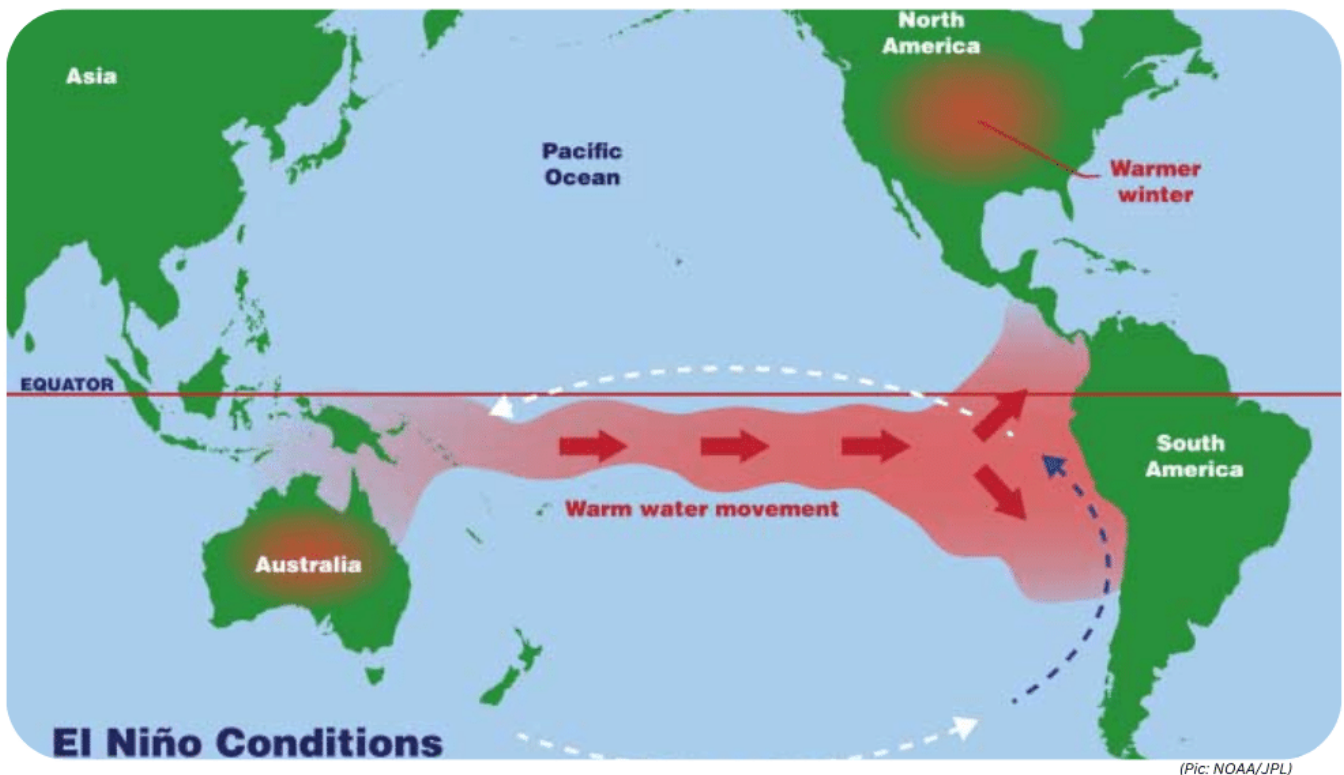
- Imagine the Pacific Ocean, normally calm and collected. Suddenly, a mischievous kid named El Nino comes along and throws a tantrum, warming up the surface of the ocean in the central and eastern parts. This is the essence of El Nino: a period of unusually warm ocean temperatures in the tropical Pacific.

### ***However, what are the effects of a warmer ocean?***

- This warm water plays a mischievous role, causing a disturbance in the typical rhythm of wind and ocean currents. Typically, trade winds blow consistently from the east to the west, propelling warm water towards Asia.



- However, El Nino has the effect of weakening these winds, resulting in the accumulation of warm water near South America. This disrupts the entire weather ecosystem, creating a chain reaction worldwide.



## *What are the repercussions of this heated outburst?*

- **Wetter Winters in Certain Locations:** Imagine the warm water vapour ascending from the ocean as playful bubbles. In certain regions across the globe, particularly in North America and South America, these bubbles become trapped in various wind patterns and result in increased precipitation during the winter months. Imagine El Niño as a cloud machine that has gone completely out of control!
- **Winters Becoming Drier in Other Locations:** While certain areas experience heavy rainfall, others encounter dry conditions. In regions such as Australia and Southeast Asia, the diminished trade winds result in arid weather patterns and

heightened vulnerability to wildfires. It seems as though El Nino decided to have some fun with the rain clouds, playing a game of hide-and-seek!

- **Shifts in Marine Life:** Warmer water has a significant impact on the delicate balance of the ocean's ecosystem. Certain fish species flourish in higher temperatures, while others face difficulties. Imagine El Nino as a skilled chef in the vast ocean, creating a fresh menu that certain organisms may not find appealing!

### ***But is El Nino always the same?***

- Not at all! El Nino can come and go at its own rhythm, sometimes lasting for months, sometimes for years. Just as every individual expresses their frustration in their own unique way, each El Nino occurrence can vary in terms of intensity and consequences.

### ***So, when you hear someone attributing a strange winter to El Nino, keep this in mind:***

- Believe it or not, it's true! El Nino is a genuine ocean phenomenon that can disrupt weather patterns.
- Imagine a playful child creating waves in the vast Pacific, leading to changes in global weather patterns.
- It can be different each time and have varying effects.
- By gaining a deeper understanding of El Nino, we can enhance our preparedness for its unexpected

occurrences and develop a greater appreciation for its significant influence on the wide range of weather patterns that exist on our planet. So, the next time someone points fingers at the “warm guy,” you can be the one to shed light on the scientific explanation behind his mischievous behaviour!



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7

*Are you Ready!*

*Thank you, Time Out !*

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General Studies

## ***Read the Below Instructions Carefully:***

- Click on - Start Quiz
  - Attempt all questions (You can attempt or leave)
  - After Attempting Last Question.
  - Enter Name & Email
  - Click on - Check Result
  - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
- Thank you.

Loading ...



1 / 10

Category: **General Studies**

***Which of the following is NOT a possible geopolitical consequence of water scarcity in the Himalayas?***

- Increased tensions between countries that share Himalayan rivers.
- Displacement of communities due to lower agricultural yield.
- Enhanced regional cooperation in water resource management.
- Increased dependence on alternative water sources like desalination.

Prev

Finish

Next

2 / 10

Category: General Studies

***Ocean and atmospheric variables foretell El Nino. The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) compares air pressure in Tahiti and Darwin. What would SOI values be during an El Nino?***

- A large SOI rise, indicating increased air pressure in both sites.
- Significantly lower SOI values, indicating lower air pressure in both sites.
- A sharp rise in SOI, showing higher air pressure in Tahiti than Darwin.
- A considerable reduction in SOI, indicating lower air pressure in Tahiti and higher in Darwin.

Prev

Finish

Next

3 / 10

Category: General Studies

***The snowless winter in Kashmir is most likely to have the following economic consequences:***

- Increased revenue from alternative winter activities.
- Increased agricultural production as water availability improves.
- Tourism industry disruption and local job losses.
- Improved water security in downstream regions.

Prev

Finish

Next

4 / 10

Category: General Studies

***Which phenomena weakens the trade winds during El***

## **Niño?**

- Increased solar activity.
- Volcanic eruptions.
- Ocean currents shifting direction.
- Changes in Earth's orbit.

Prev

Finish

Next

5 / 10

Category: **General Studies**

***Which climatic phenomena is most responsible for the lower snowfall in Gulmarg this winter?***

- La Niña
- Indian Ocean Dipole
- El Nino
- North Atlantic Oscillation

Prev

Finish

Next

6 / 10

Category: **General Studies**

***Understanding EL Nino helps us in:***

- Predicting specific weather conditions for any location.
- Preparing for potential changes in temperature and precipitation patterns.
- Controlling the occurrence of El Nino events.
- Predicting earthquakes and tsunamis.

Prev

Finish

Next

7 / 10

Category: **General Studies**



***El Nino weakens trade winds, causing warm water to accumulate near South America. The Humboldt Current, which travels north along the western coast, is also affected. Which of these is most likely to result from this altered current?***

- Increased nutrient-rich cold water upwelling near the coast boosts fish numbers.
- Stronger southward Humboldt Current carrying colder temperatures and more rain to Chile.
- Humboldt Current weakening, raising ocean temperatures and changing fish distribution.
- Reduced surface-deep ocean mixing causes ocean acidification.

Prev

Finish

Next

8 / 10

Category: General Studies

***Which of the following is NOT a likely consequence of El Nino?***

- Increased rainfall in North America.
- Dry conditions in Southeast Asia.
- Ocean ecological changes.
- Intense hurricanes in the Atlantic.

Prev

Finish

Next

9 / 10

Category: General Studies

***El Nino events typically last for:***

- Several weeks.
- Several months to one year.

- More than a decade.
- The duration is unpredictable.

Prev

Finish

Next

10 / 10

Category: **General Studies**

***What long-term reason is driving the decrease in Himalayan snowfall?***

- Deforestation
- Urbanization
- Both a and b
- None

Prev

Finish

***Check Rank, Result Now and enter correct email as you will get Solutions in the email as well for future use!***

Check the Result

Your score is

0%

Restart quiz

***Please Rate!***

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# Mains Questions:

## Below Mains Question

Write in Comment Section



### **Question 1:**

*Analyze the complex interplay of El Nino, climate change, and local factors in contributing to the current dry spell in Kashmir's Gulmarg. Discuss the potential long-term implications of this phenomenon for the environment, economy, and regional stability.*

### **Model Answer:**

- There are several factors that have contributed to the lack of snow in Gulmarg this winter. The disruption caused by El Nino on Western Disturbances has an immediate impact, leading to a decrease in precipitation. Nevertheless, the issue of climate change, with its increasing global temperatures, presents a significant long-term

concern. Rising temperatures have a negative effect on snowfall, which in turn affects water storage in the Himalayas and could potentially result in water scarcity down the line. In addition, the problem is worsened by deforestation and changes in land use, which decrease the amount of snow that can be stored and disrupt weather patterns.

- The effects of this drought are diverse. The environment is at risk of experiencing a decrease in snowmelt-fed rivers, which could have negative impacts on ecosystems and agriculture. The tourism industry, which heavily depends on winter sports, is experiencing significant economic losses, which in turn is affecting the livelihoods of the local community. In addition, the issue of water scarcity can intensify geopolitical tensions among nations that share the Himalayan rivers.
- Thus, tackling this problem necessitates a comprehensive strategy. Global cooperation is essential for effectively mitigating climate change. It is crucial to prioritise sustainable forest management practices and responsible land-use planning at the local level. In addition, encouraging different winter tourism activities and adjusting water management strategies can assist communities in dealing with the evolving climate. Through a comprehensive understanding of the various factors at play and taking a well-rounded approach, we can successfully overcome this challenge and secure a sustainable future for the region.

## **Question 2:**

***Critically evaluate the economic viability of relying solely on snow-based tourism in Kashmir, particularly in light of the recent dry spell. Suggest alternative strategies for diversifying the region's economy while ensuring environmental sustainability.***

## **Model Answer:**

- Kashmir's economy has historically been heavily dependent on winter sports and tourism centred around snow. Nevertheless, the current lack of rainfall and the looming concern of climate change raise questions about the long-term viability of this approach. Relying solely on snow-based tourism leaves the region susceptible to weather fluctuations and limits economic diversification.
- It is essential to maintain a balance between economic stability and environmental preservation in order to achieve long-term success. Possible options involve the promotion of eco-tourism all year round, with a particular emphasis on cultural heritage and thrilling adventure activities. In addition, supporting local handicrafts and agricultural production can help generate additional sources of income. In addition, investments in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure have the potential to generate employment opportunities and promote environmental conservation.

- Incorporating a sustainable approach also entails managing waste responsibly, implementing eco-friendly building practices, and encouraging responsible tourism among visitors. Through the implementation of various economic strategies, adoption of sustainable practices, and fostering community resilience, Kashmir has the potential to successfully navigate the challenges posed by climate change and flourish in the coming years.

***Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective.***

***Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:***



***UPSC Prelims:***

- **Current Affairs and Geography:** MCQs: Expect factual questions about:  
El Nino: Characteristics, impact on global

weather patterns (e.g., rainfall changes), connection to trade winds and ocean currents. Climate Change: Causes (greenhouse gases, human activities), consequences (rising sea levels, extreme weather events), international agreements like the Paris Agreement. Focus: Thorough understanding of core concepts, memorizing key facts, ability to interpret data and diagrams related to weather patterns and climate change.

### **UPSC Mains:**

- **General Essay and Paper-I: General Studies:** Both El Nino and climate change can be potential essay topics, demanding a broader perspective and analytical approach. You could:
  - Discuss regional impacts of El Nino (e.g., monsoon variability in India).  
Analyze the interplay between El Nino and climate change in affecting weather extremes. Propose strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts in specific geographical contexts.
- **Optional Paper:** Depending on your chosen optional, these topics might appear directly or indirectly:
  - Physical Geography: Detailed analysis of El Nino's influence on ocean currents, monsoon patterns, and climate models.

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Hindi.*

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# Quiz Time

The profit triples with a doubling of the selling price. Determine the profit percentage.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3



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- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्र
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- Punjab Current Affairs
- PPSC Quiz
- Punjab Mindmaps
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- HCS Quiz
- HCS Editorials
- HCS Mindmaps
- HCS E-Magazine
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- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्र
- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्र
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