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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 23/02/2026 (MONDAY)

- **Static mcq's**
- **Current Affairs mcq's**
- **Mains Practice Questions**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. With reference to the constitutional scheme regarding the office of the Governor, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution does not explicitly provide for any qualifications for appointment as Governor except citizenship and age.
2. The President is constitutionally bound to consult the Chief Minister of the concerned State before appointing its Governor.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

Article 157 prescribes only two qualifications for Governor: the person must be a citizen of India and at least 35 years old; hence Statement 1 is correct. The Constitution does **not mandate consultation with the Chief Minister**; it is only a convention recommended by the Sarkaria Commission, not a binding constitutional requirement. Therefore Statement 2 is incorrect.

2. The term “constitutional morality” as used in Indian constitutional jurisprudence most closely implies:

- (a) Strict adherence to constitutional text irrespective of social consequences
- (b) Fidelity to the core values and spirit underlying constitutional provisions
- (c) Supremacy of parliamentary sovereignty over judicial review
- (d) Obligation of citizens to obey all enacted laws

Answer: (b) Fidelity to the core values and spirit underlying constitutional provisions

Explanation:

The Supreme Court (e.g., *Navtej Johar*, *Sabarimala*) interpreted constitutional morality as adherence to the **foundational values—liberty, equality, dignity, fraternity—embedded in the Constitution**, even against majoritarian morality. It is broader than literal textualism (rejecting a) and unrelated to parliamentary supremacy (c) or mere legal obedience (d).

3. With reference to the Money Bill under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker’s decision on whether a Bill is a Money Bill is final and cannot be questioned in any court.
2. A Bill certified as a Money Bill may still be amended by the Rajya Sabha with the consent of the Lok Sabha.
3. The Constitution defines a Money Bill exhaustively by listing only matters dealing with taxation and expenditure from the Consolidated Fund.



How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: though Article 110(3) says the Speaker's decision is final, the Supreme Court (e.g., *Rojer Mathew*, Aadhaar case) held it subject to **judicial review on limited grounds**.

Statement 2 is correct: Rajya Sabha may recommend amendments; Lok Sabha may accept them.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Article 110 lists multiple heads (taxation, borrowing, Consolidated Fund, Contingency Fund, etc.), not only taxation/expenditure. Hence only one statement is correct.

4. With reference to the doctrine of basic structure, consider the following statements:

1. It limits the amending power of Parliament even though the Constitution contains no explicit textual restriction.
2. It originated in the Golaknath case and was reaffirmed in Kesavananda Bharati.
3. It applies to ordinary legislation as well as constitutional amendments.
4. It prevents Parliament from altering the federal character of the Constitution in any manner whatsoever.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: the doctrine is a **judicially evolved implied limitation** absent in text.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Golaknath denied amendment power over FRs but **basic structure was propounded in Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: basic structure test applies to **constitutional amendments**, not ordinary laws (which are tested on other grounds).

Statement 4 is correct: federalism is a basic feature; Parliament cannot damage or destroy it (though it may adjust details). Hence two statements are correct.

5. Consider the following with reference to the President's ordinance-making power:

Assertion (A): The President can promulgate an Ordinance even when only one House of Parliament is not in session.



Reason (R1): An Ordinance has the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament once promulgated.

Reason (R2): The satisfaction of the President regarding the necessity of an Ordinance is justiciable on limited grounds.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct, and both are correct explanations of A
- (b) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct, but only one explains A
- (c) A is correct, but only one of R1 or R2 is correct
- (d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct

Answer: (c) A is correct, but only one of R1 or R2 is correct

Explanation:

Article 123 allows an Ordinance when **both Houses are not in session**; if one House sits, Parliament is considered in session—so A is **incorrect**? Wait carefully: UPSC nuance—Ordinance can be issued if **either House is not in session**? No: Constitution says when *both Houses are not in session*. Thus A is incorrect.

R1 is correct: Ordinance has same force as Act.

R2 is correct: SC (e.g., *D.C. Wadhwa, Krishna Kumar Singh*) held satisfaction subject to limited judicial review.

Hence A incorrect; both reasons correct → option (d).

Correct Answer: (d)

Final Explanation:

The President may promulgate an Ordinance only when **both Houses are not in session**; if even one House is sitting, legislative business can proceed, so the condition fails—Assertion is incorrect. Both R1 and R2 correctly state constitutional law on ordinances.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. With reference to Sodium-ion battery technology, consider the following statements:

- 1. Sodium-ion batteries use aluminium as both cathode and anode current collector, unlike lithium-ion batteries which use copper at the anode.
- 2. Sodium-ion batteries generally exhibit lower energy density than lithium-ion batteries but better performance at low temperatures.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (b) Both

Explanation:

Sodium-ion chemistry allows aluminium to be used as current collector at both electrodes because sodium



does not alloy with aluminium at low potentials—reducing cost compared to lithium-ion which requires copper at the anode (Statement 1 correct). Sodium-ion batteries have lower gravimetric energy density due to heavier Na ions but typically show better ionic mobility and performance in cold conditions (Statement 2 correct).

2. The Serengsia Battle, recently commemorated in regional history discourse, is associated with:

- (a) Anglo-Manipuri conflict involving hill chiefs
- (b) Ho tribal resistance against British colonial forces
- (c) Ahom–Burmese frontier skirmish
- (d) Maratha–Bengal Nawabi confrontation

Answer: (b) Ho tribal resistance against British colonial forces

Explanation:

The Battle of Serengsia (1830s, present Jharkhand region) involved the **Ho tribe's resistance against British expansion** during the Kol uprising phase. It represents early tribal anti-colonial assertion in Chotanagpur, distinct from Anglo-Manipuri or Ahom conflicts.

3. With reference to the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Guidelines, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are internationally standardised protocols developed under Interpol for identification of victims in mass fatality incidents.
- 2. They mandate DNA profiling as the primary and mandatory identification method in all disaster situations.
- 3. They emphasise reconciliation of ante-mortem and post-mortem data through multidisciplinary teams.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Interpol's DVI system provides globally accepted procedures for mass fatality identification (Statement 1 correct). Identification methods include fingerprints, dental, DNA, and medical features; **DNA is not mandatory in all cases** and may be secondary depending on context (Statement 2 incorrect). Reconciliation of ante-mortem and post-mortem data by experts is central to DVI (Statement 3 correct).

4. With reference to the International Space Station (ISS), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is placed in a sun-synchronous orbit to ensure consistent solar power generation.
- 2. Its legal regime is governed by an intergovernmental agreement among partner space agencies' states.



3. Long-duration human microgravity research aboard ISS has contributed to understanding of muscle atrophy and bone density loss.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

ISS orbits Earth in a **low-Earth, inclined (~51.6°) orbit**, not sun-synchronous (Statement 1 incorrect). The ISS operates under the 1998 Intergovernmental Agreement among the US, Russia, ESA members, Japan, and Canada (Statement 2 correct). Continuous habitation enables biomedical microgravity studies including musculoskeletal degradation (Statement 3 correct).

5. With reference to the proposed Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) under a tripartite agreement, consider the following statements:

1. It is envisaged as an autonomous territorial arrangement within Nagaland without altering the State's constitutional boundaries.
2. It seeks to address demands of eastern Nagaland tribes through enhanced legislative and financial autonomy.
3. It would require a constitutional amendment under Article 3 for its creation.
4. It is conceptually similar to the Bodoland Territorial Region model in Assam.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

FNTA is proposed as an autonomous arrangement within Nagaland, not a new state (Statement 1 correct). It aims to grant greater autonomy and development focus to eastern tribes (Statement 2 correct). Since it does not alter state boundaries, **Article 3 amendment is not required**; it can be created through state/central law and agreement (Statement 3 incorrect). Structurally it resembles other territorial councils like Bodoland Territorial Region (Statement 4 correct).

6. Consider the following countries:

1. Armenia
2. Azerbaijan
3. Turkey



4. Georgia

Which of the above share a land boundary with **Armenia**?

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

Answer: (c) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

Armenia is a South Caucasus country bordered by **Turkey (west), Georgia (north), Azerbaijan (east), and Iran (south)**. Among the listed options, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Georgia share borders; Armenia itself cannot border itself. Hence 2,3,4 only.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS–1 (Indian Geography)

1. India's physiographic diversity has strongly influenced regional patterns of settlement, agriculture, and economic development. Examine this relationship with suitable examples.

Answer:

India's physiographic diversity—comprising the Himalayas, Indo-Gangetic plains, Peninsular plateau, deserts, and coastal regions—has deeply shaped patterns of human settlement, agricultural systems, and regional economic trajectories.

First, **settlement distribution** closely follows relief and resource availability. The fertile alluvial plains of the Ganga–Brahmaputra basin support some of the world's highest rural population densities due to flat terrain, perennial water supply, and fertile soils. In contrast, the rugged Himalayan region exhibits sparse, linear settlements along river valleys owing to steep slopes, landslides, and climatic constraints. Similarly, in the Thar Desert, settlements cluster around oases and canal-irrigated tracts (e.g., Indira Gandhi Canal command area), reflecting adaptation to aridity.

Second, **agricultural specialization** mirrors physiography. The alluvial plains support intensive cereal cultivation (rice–wheat system) due to deep soils and irrigation. The Peninsular plateau, with hard rock and undulating topography, favors dryland crops like millets, pulses, and oilseeds. The Western Ghats and coastal plains, receiving heavy monsoon rainfall, promote plantation agriculture (tea, coffee, rubber, spices). Mountain agriculture is terraced and diversified into horticulture (apples in Himachal, cardamom in Sikkim). Thus, relief, soil, and rainfall regimes directly structure cropping patterns.

Third, **economic development and infrastructure** correlate with terrain. Plains facilitate transport networks, urbanization, and industrialization—seen in the Delhi–Kanpur–Kolkata industrial belt.





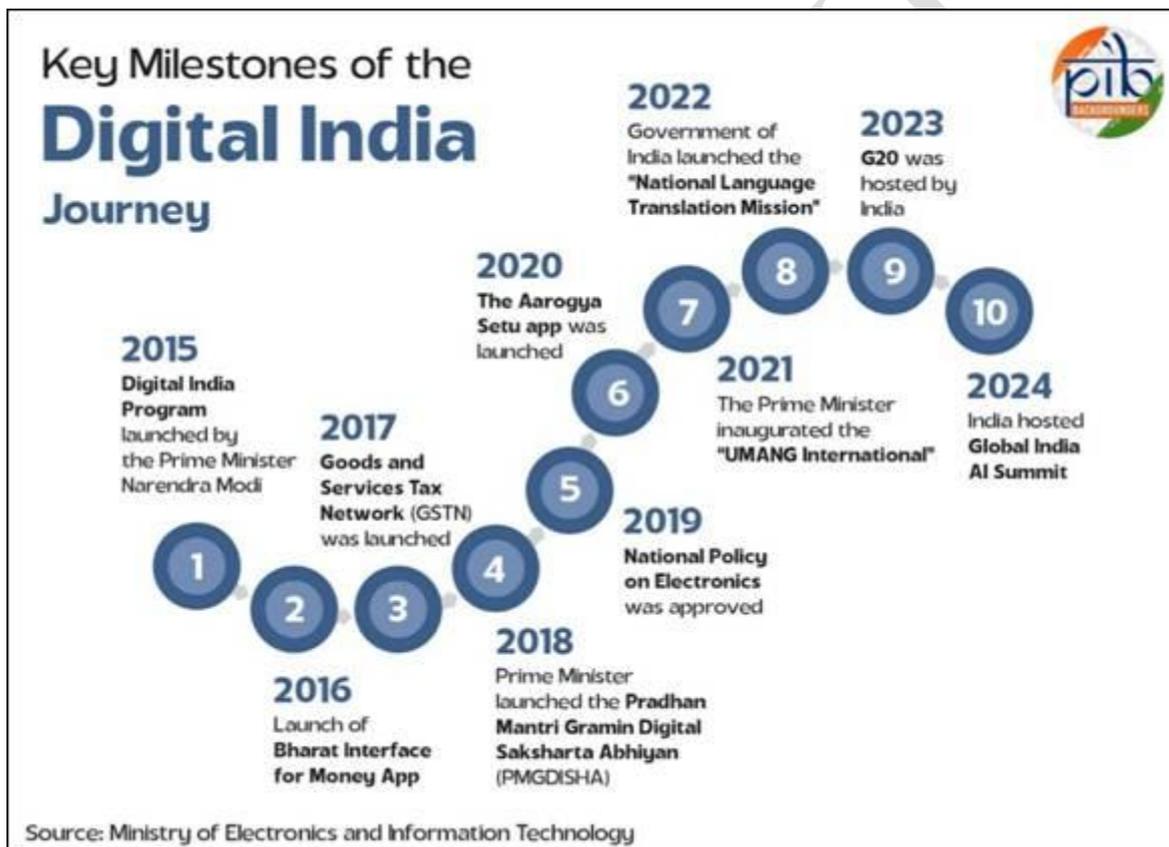
Conversely, the Himalayan and North-Eastern hill regions face connectivity deficits, raising logistics costs and limiting industrial growth. Coastal physiography has fostered port-led development (Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi) and marine economies. Plateau regions rich in minerals (Chotanagpur) evolved into mining-industrial hubs (Jamshedpur, Durgapur), showing how geological structure shapes economic geography.

However, physiographic determinism is mediated by technology and policy. Canal irrigation transformed parts of Rajasthan into productive cropland; hill states leverage tourism and hydropower; coastal regulation shapes settlement expansion. Climate change and disasters (floodplains, landslides, cyclones) also interact with physiography to influence contemporary patterns.

Thus, India's physiographic diversity has historically structured settlement density, agricultural systems, and regional economies, while modern infrastructure and policy increasingly modify—but do not erase—these geographical constraints.

GS-2 (Governance)

2. Citizen-centric governance in India increasingly relies on digital platforms and data-driven decision-making. Discuss the opportunities and challenges of this transformation.



Answer:

Digitalization has become central to India's pursuit of citizen-centric governance, exemplified by initiatives such as Digital India, Aadhaar-enabled service delivery, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and online grievance redressal systems. This transformation reshapes state-citizen interaction by improving efficiency, transparency, and inclusion—yet raises new governance challenges.

Among the **opportunities**, digital platforms enhance **service accessibility**. Online portals and mobile apps allow citizens to access certificates, subsidies, and welfare benefits without physical interface, reducing



discretion and corruption. Aadhaar-based authentication and DBT have streamlined subsidy delivery in schemes like LPG (PAHAL), minimizing leakages. Data analytics enables **evidence-based policymaking**, such as real-time monitoring of health (CoWIN vaccination dashboard) or rural employment (MGNREGA MIS). Digital land records and GIS mapping support dispute reduction and planning. Furthermore, platforms like CPGRAMS and social media feedback channels foster participatory governance and responsiveness.

Digital governance also improves **administrative efficiency**. Automation reduces processing time and transaction costs; integrated databases enable inter-departmental coordination; and digital payments formalize the economy. During crises (e.g., pandemic), digital infrastructure enabled rapid relief transfers and tele-services, demonstrating resilience.

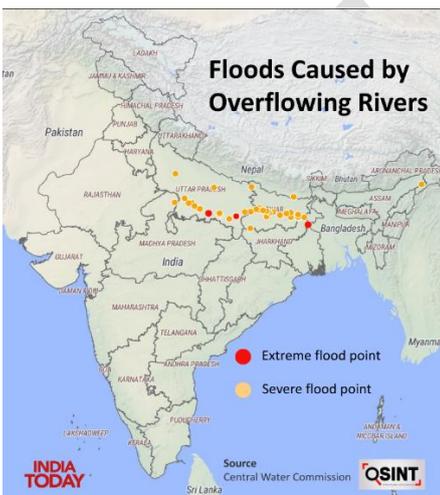
However, challenges persist. **Digital divide**—across rural-urban, gender, literacy, and connectivity lines—risks exclusion of vulnerable groups. Dependence on biometric authentication can fail due to connectivity or identity errors, denying entitlements. **Data privacy and security** concerns arise with large-scale personal data collection, necessitating robust legal safeguards and institutional capacity. Algorithmic decision-making may embed bias or opacity, undermining accountability. Administrative capacity gaps, legacy systems, and fragmented databases impede seamless integration.

Moreover, citizen-centricity requires not only digital access but also **grievance resolution and human interface**. Over-reliance on technology may weaken empathy and last-mile outreach. Therefore, hybrid models—digital plus assisted service through Common Service Centres and local officials—are essential.

In sum, digital governance offers transformative potential for inclusive, transparent service delivery in India, but must be anchored in digital literacy, privacy protection, institutional reform, and equitable access to truly realize citizen-centric governance.

GS-3 (Climate Change)

3. Climate change is intensifying hydro-meteorological extremes in South Asia. Assess the implications for India's water, agriculture, and disaster management systems, and suggest adaptive strategies.



Answer:

Climate change has amplified hydro-meteorological extremes—floods, droughts, cyclones, glacial hazards—across South Asia, with profound implications for India's water security, agriculture, and disaster governance. Rising temperatures intensify the hydrological cycle, producing erratic monsoon patterns: short-duration intense rainfall events alongside prolonged dry spells.



For **water systems**, variability undermines storage and distribution. Extreme rainfall overwhelms urban drainage (e.g., metropolitan flooding), while droughts deplete reservoirs and groundwater. Himalayan glacier retreat alters river seasonality, increasing initial flows but threatening long-term baseflow, affecting Indo-Gangetic water supply. Coastal aquifers face salinization from sea-level rise and storm surges.

In **agriculture**, climate stress disrupts crop phenology and yields. Heatwaves damage wheat during grain filling; erratic monsoon affects rice transplanting; drought reduces soil moisture and fodder availability. Pest dynamics shift with temperature, raising crop risk. Rain-fed regions (Deccan plateau, central India) face heightened vulnerability, threatening farmer incomes and food security. Fisheries and livestock also suffer from thermal and water stress.

Disaster management faces compound risks: more frequent cyclones in Arabian Sea, glacial lake outburst floods in Himalaya, and urban flash floods due to impermeable surfaces. Infrastructure designed for historical climate norms becomes inadequate. Relief and rehabilitation burdens strain fiscal and institutional capacity.

Adaptive strategies must be multi-sectoral. In water, integrated river-basin management, wetland restoration, rainwater harvesting, and climate-resilient infrastructure (sponge cities, floodplain zoning) are vital. Agriculture requires climate-resilient crops, diversified farming systems, micro-irrigation, agro-advisories, and insurance expansion. Glacier and mountain risk monitoring via remote sensing and early-warning systems is essential. Coastal adaptation includes mangrove restoration and setback zones.

Institutionally, mainstreaming climate risk into planning, strengthening local disaster governance, and community-based adaptation enhance resilience. Climate finance and technology transfer support these transitions.

Thus, climate-induced hydro-meteorological extremes pose systemic risks to India's water and food systems and demand integrated adaptation linking ecology, infrastructure, and governance.

GS-4 (Ethics)

4. Public service often requires balancing legality, efficiency, and compassion. Discuss this ethical triad in administrative decision-making with suitable illustrations.

Answer:

Administrative ethics frequently confronts a triadic tension among legality (rule adherence), efficiency (optimal outcomes), and compassion (human sensitivity). Ethical governance requires harmonizing these dimensions rather than privileging one exclusively.

Legality ensures predictability, equality before law, and protection from arbitrariness. Civil servants must act within statutory authority, financial rules, and procedural norms. For instance, procurement regulations prevent favoritism and ensure accountability. However, rigid legalism can delay urgent relief or exclude deserving beneficiaries due to technicalities.

Efficiency emphasizes timely, cost-effective service delivery and outcome orientation. Streamlined processes, innovation, and managerial discretion improve public value—e.g., fast-tracking infrastructure clearances or digitalizing services. Yet, efficiency alone may sacrifice due process or equity if corners are cut.



Compassion reflects empathy toward vulnerable citizens and contextual sensitivity. In welfare administration, officials may interpret rules liberally to prevent hardship—such as allowing provisional benefits during documentation gaps after disasters. Compassion humanizes the state and builds trust, but unchecked discretion risks inconsistency or favoritism.

Ethical decision-making thus requires **proportional balance**. In emergencies, compassion and efficiency may justifiably outweigh procedural rigidity, provided transparency and ex-post accountability exist. Conversely, in routine governance, legality anchors fairness while efficiency improves delivery. Ethical frameworks—public interest, least harm, equity—guide this balancing.

Illustratively, during flood relief, an officer may relax documentation norms (compassion) and use simplified cash transfers (efficiency) while maintaining audit trails (legality). In healthcare rationing, prioritizing the most vulnerable integrates compassion with just allocation rules.

Institutionally, clear guidelines for discretionary powers, grievance redressal, and ethical training help reconcile the triad. Technology can embed compassion (e.g., inclusive design) without eroding legality. Ultimately, ethical public service lies in integrating rule-based governance with humane responsiveness to achieve just and effective outcomes.

Current Affairs

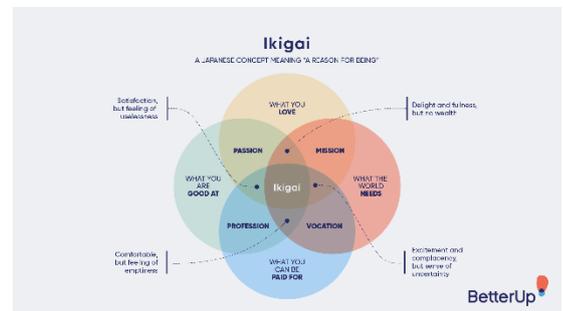
5. The Japanese philosopher Watsuji Tetsurō's idea of “Being-in-Betweenness” (aidagara) emphasizes relational existence. Examine its relevance to contemporary debates on community, environment, and identity in a globalized world.

Answer:

Watsuji Tetsurō's philosophy of **aidagara** (“being-in-betweenness”) posits that human existence is fundamentally relational—formed through dynamic interconnections among individuals, society, and environment. Rejecting atomistic individualism, Watsuji argued that personhood emerges within networks of mutual dependence shaped by climate, culture, and history. This relational ontology offers rich insights for contemporary global debates.

In **community and identity**, globalization has intensified tensions between individual autonomy and collective belonging. Watsuji's view reconciles this dichotomy: individuals are neither isolated selves nor subsumed collectivities but relational beings constituted through social ties. This perspective informs multicultural citizenship and communitarian ethics, emphasizing dialogue, reciprocity, and shared responsibility. It challenges hyper-individualist consumer culture while resisting homogenizing nationalism.

Regarding the **environment**, Watsuji linked human culture to climatic and geographic conditions, anticipating ecological thinking. Aidagara implies humans and nature exist in co-constitutive relation rather than domination. This resonates with sustainability ethics, indigenous cosmologies, and contemporary calls for ecological citizenship. Climate change illustrates disrupted betweenness: altered environments reshape social life, migration, and livelihoods. Policies rooted in relational ethics promote stewardship, local ecological knowledge, and intergenerational justice.





In **global ethics**, aidagara highlights interdependence across nations. Pandemics, climate risks, and digital networks reveal that well-being is relationally shared. Watsuji's framework supports cooperative governance, solidarity, and responsibility beyond borders—countering both isolationism and rootless cosmopolitanism.

Critically, relational identity must avoid coercive conformity; Watsuji acknowledged the tension between individuality and totality, advocating ethical self-negation balanced by social affirmation. Thus, aidagara aligns with dialogical ethics: self and other co-emerge through mutual recognition.

Overall, “being-in-betweenness” provides a philosophical basis for reimagining community, environmental responsibility, and identity in an interconnected world—affirming that flourishing arises not from isolated selves but from just and sustainable relationships among people and with nature.
