DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 05/03/2026 (THURSDAY)

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

QUIZ TIME!

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the agrarian structure during the Delhi Sultanate period:

Statement–I: The *iqta* system under the Delhi Sultanate primarily represented a grant of land ownership to nobles in lieu of salary.

Statement–II: Under the reign of Alauddin Khalji, the central administration attempted to directly control revenue assessment and collection in the Doab region, thereby limiting the autonomy of *iqtadars*.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Statement–I is **incorrect**. The *iqta* system did **not grant land ownership**. Instead, it was a **revenue assignment** where an officer (*iqtadar* or *muqti*) was entitled to collect revenue from a territory in lieu of salary, but the **ultimate ownership of land remained with the state**. This was an administrative and fiscal arrangement rather than a feudal land grant.

Statement–II is **correct**. During the rule of **Alauddin Khalji**, major agrarian reforms were introduced. In the fertile **Doab region**, the state attempted **direct measurement of land and revenue collection**, bypassing local intermediaries and limiting the fiscal discretion of *iqtadars*. These reforms aimed to strengthen central authority and ensure a steady supply of revenue to maintain the army.

Thus, **only one statement is correct**.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the ecological significance of keystone species in maintaining ecosystem stability?

(a) They contribute the largest share to total biomass within an ecosystem.
(b) Their removal can trigger disproportionate changes in community structure relative to their abundance.
(c) They exclusively occupy the highest trophic level in food chains.
(d) They regulate abiotic processes such as atmospheric circulation and ocean currents.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
A **keystone species** is one whose ecological role is **disproportionately large relative to its population size**. Even if it is not the most abundant species, its presence maintains the **structure, diversity, and functioning of an ecosystem**.

If a keystone species is removed, it may trigger **trophic cascades**, drastically altering species composition and ecosystem functioning. Classic examples include **sea otters controlling sea urchin populations** in kelp forests and certain predators regulating herbivore numbers.

Option (a) describes **dominant species**, not keystone species.

Option (c) is incorrect because keystone species can occur at **any trophic level**, including plants or herbivores.

Option (d) refers to **large-scale physical processes**, unrelated to ecological keystone roles.

Thus, option **(b)** correctly captures the defining characteristic.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding fiscal policy and macroeconomic stabilization in India:

1. A persistent **revenue deficit** necessarily implies that the government is borrowing even to finance its consumption expenditure.

2. Under the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework**, the Union Government is legally bound to eliminate the fiscal deficit entirely over the long run.

3. During economic downturns, expansionary fiscal policy may deliberately widen the fiscal deficit in order to stimulate aggregate demand.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**.
A **revenue deficit** occurs when **revenue expenditure exceeds revenue receipts**. This indicates that the government must **borrow even to finance its current consumption obligations**, which is generally considered fiscally unsustainable in the long term.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**.
The **FRBM Act** does **not mandate elimination of fiscal deficit to zero**. Instead, it prescribes **targets to reduce and maintain fiscal deficit at a sustainable level** (around a specified percentage of GDP), allowing flexibility during exceptional circumstances such as economic crises.

Statement 3 is **correct**.
In macroeconomic stabilization, governments may adopt **counter-cyclical fiscal policy**. During recessions, expansionary spending or tax reductions can **increase fiscal deficit intentionally** to stimulate aggregate demand and economic growth.

Therefore, **two statements are correct**.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the role and functioning of the office of the Governor in India:

1. The Governor is constitutionally required to act in accordance with the **aid and advice of the Council of Ministers** in all circumstances without exception.

2. The Governor may reserve certain State Bills for the consideration of the President under specific constitutional provisions.

3. The Governor possesses discretionary powers in certain matters such as recommending **President's Rule under Article 356**.

4. The Constitution explicitly defines the scope and limits of all discretionary powers of the Governor.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**.
Although the Governor generally acts on the **aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**, the Constitution provides **certain discretionary powers**, meaning the Governor is not bound in every situation.

Statement 2 is **correct**.
Under **Article 200**, the Governor can **reserve a State Bill for the consideration of the President**, especially when it may conflict with constitutional provisions or central laws.

Statement 3 is **correct**.
The Governor may use discretion in situations such as **sending a report to the President recommending President's Rule under Article 356**, particularly when constitutional machinery is believed to have failed.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**.
The Constitution **does not exhaustively define all discretionary powers**. Some have evolved through **constitutional practice, conventions, and judicial interpretation**.

Hence, **two statements are correct**.

Q5. Consider the following with reference to atmospheric circulation and monsoon dynamics:

Assertion (A): The seasonal reversal of winds associated with the Indian monsoon is closely linked to the differential heating of land and ocean surfaces.

Reason (R1): Landmasses generally heat up and cool down more rapidly than adjacent oceans due to lower specific heat capacity.

Reason (R2): Oceans absorb solar radiation primarily in their upper layers, which allows heat to be distributed through vertical mixing.

Which one of the following is correct?

(a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct, and both explain A.
(b) A is correct, R1 is correct but R2 is not correct.
(c) A is correct, but only one of the reasons correctly explains A.
(d) A is incorrect, but both reasons are correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
The **Indian monsoon system** arises largely due to **differential heating between the Asian landmass and surrounding oceans**.

Assertion (A) is correct because seasonal temperature contrasts between land and sea generate **pressure differences**, causing large-scale wind reversals.

Reason (R1) is correct and directly explains the mechanism: land has **lower specific heat capacity**, meaning it **heats and cools faster than water**, producing stronger seasonal pressure gradients.

Reason (R2) is also correct. Oceans distribute absorbed heat through **vertical mixing and circulation**, preventing rapid temperature changes. This maintains relatively stable ocean temperatures compared to land.

Together, **R1 and R2 explain why land–sea thermal contrast develops**, which ultimately drives the **monsoon wind reversal**.

Therefore, option **(a)** is correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Tetanus and Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine used in India's immunisation programmes:

Statement–I: The Td vaccine replaced the earlier TT (Tetanus Toxoid) vaccine in the national immunisation schedule primarily to provide simultaneous protection against diphtheria resurgence.

Statement–II: Under the Universal Immunisation Programme, the Td vaccine is administered only to pregnant women and is not included for adolescents through school-based campaigns.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Both
(c) None
(d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Statement–I is **correct**. India replaced the **TT vaccine with the Td vaccine** in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) to address the **reemergence of diphtheria in several states** while still maintaining protection against tetanus. The Td vaccine contains **tetanus toxoid and reduced diphtheria toxoid**, thereby providing broader protection.

Statement–II is **incorrect**. The Td vaccine is **not limited to pregnant women**. It is also administered to **children and adolescents (typically at 10 and 16 years)** under school-based immunisation campaigns as part of the **Universal Immunisation Programme**.

Thus, **only one statement is correct**.

Q2. With reference to the SANKALP Scheme implemented by the Government of India, which one of the following best describes its primary objective?

(a) Strengthening skill training institutions and improving outcomes of the Skill India Mission through institutional and capacity reforms
(b) Providing direct income support to rural artisans engaged in traditional handicrafts
(c) Establishing semiconductor fabrication clusters to promote electronics manufacturing
(d) Creating a national carbon trading platform linked to industrial emissions

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
The **SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) Scheme** is a **World Bank–assisted programme** implemented by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.

Its main objectives include:

• Strengthening **institutional mechanisms for skill development**
• Improving **quality and market relevance of skill training programmes**
• Promoting **district-level skill planning**
• Enhancing **monitoring and evaluation frameworks**

The scheme supports the broader **Skill India Mission** by focusing on **systemic reforms in skill development institutions** rather than direct subsidies or sector-specific industrial initiatives.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Pax Silica initiative:

1. The initiative focuses on transforming rice husk ash into high-purity silica for industrial applications such as rubber and green materials.

2. It aims to reduce agricultural waste burning while promoting circular economy practices in the materials sector.

3. The initiative is implemented exclusively under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare as a subsidy programme for rice farmers.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. The **Pax Silica initiative** aims to extract **high-grade silica from rice husk ash**, which is otherwise an agricultural waste product. Silica derived from this process can be used in **rubber manufacturing, green cement, electronics, and specialty materials**.

Statement 2 is **correct**. By utilising **rice husk ash**, the initiative contributes to **waste-to-wealth conversion** and helps reduce **stubble burning and agro-waste pollution**, aligning with **circular economy principles**.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. The initiative is **not a subsidy programme for farmers nor exclusively run by the Agriculture Ministry**. It involves **technology, sustainability, and industrial innovation stakeholders**, often linked with climate and materials innovation ecosystems.

Hence, **two statements are correct**.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Operation Chivalrous Knight 3:

1. It refers to an international humanitarian airlift mission undertaken by India to evacuate civilians from a conflict zone in West Asia.

2. The operation involved coordinated deployment of aircraft from the Indian Air Force and civilian airlines for evacuation.

3. Such operations are usually coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with defence and civil aviation authorities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. **Operation Chivalrous Knight 3** refers to a **large-scale evacuation and humanitarian assistance mission** associated with crises in **West Asia**, aimed at assisting civilians and facilitating evacuation operations.

Statement 2 is **correct**. India typically deploys **Indian Air Force aircraft along with civilian aviation assets**, allowing rapid evacuation and logistical support.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Such overseas evacuation missions are generally coordinated by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, working with the **Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force, and civil aviation authorities**.

These operations reflect India's growing capacity for **humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR)** missions abroad.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding INS Krishna:

1. INS Krishna was originally commissioned as a frigate in the Indian Navy before being converted into a training ship.

2. The ship has played a role in training naval cadets and officers in seamanship and navigation.

3. INS Krishna was indigenously designed and constructed entirely in India under the Atmanirbhar Bharat programme.

4. The vessel is associated with India's naval heritage and has been used in ceremonial and training capacities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. **INS Krishna** was initially commissioned as a **Type-14 Blackwood class frigate** in the Indian Navy.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Later, the ship was **converted into a training vessel**, used for **training naval cadets in navigation, seamanship, and operational procedures**.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. INS Krishna was **not indigenously designed under Atmanirbhar Bharat**. It was **originally built in the United Kingdom** before being inducted into the Indian Navy.

Statement 4 is **correct**. The ship has served an important role in **naval training and ceremonial functions**, contributing to India's naval heritage.

Therefore, **three statements are correct**.

Q6. With reference to the following location in West Asia, identify the country marked on the map.

The country:

• Shares land borders with **Saudi Arabia** and the **United Arab Emirates**.
• Hosts one of the world's largest **liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporters**.
• Lies on a peninsula projecting into the **Persian Gulf**.

Which one of the following countries is being described?

(a) Kuwait
(b) Bahrain
(c) Qatar
(d) Oman

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The described location corresponds to **Qatar**.

Key geographical features:

• Located on a **peninsula in the Persian Gulf**
• Shares its **only land border with Saudi Arabia**
• Lies close to the **United Arab Emirates and Bahrain** across the Gulf
• One of the **world's largest exporters of liquefied natural gas (LNG)**

Qatar is strategically significant in **global energy markets** and **West Asian geopolitics**, hosting major international air bases and playing an important diplomatic role in regional negotiations.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS–1 (Indian Society / Geography)

Q1. Urbanisation in India has created both opportunities and structural challenges. Examine the socio-economic and environmental consequences of rapid urbanisation in India.

Sample Answer

Urbanisation refers to the increasing concentration of population in urban areas along with the transformation of economic, social, and spatial structures. India's urban population has grown from about **17% in 1951 to over 35% today**, and is projected to cross **40% by 2035**. While urbanisation drives economic growth, it also generates complex socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Positive Impacts

1. Economic Growth and Productivity
Cities act as **engines of economic growth**, contributing nearly **two-thirds of India's GDP**. Urban agglomerations promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and industrial diversification.

2. Employment Opportunities
Urban areas attract migrants from rural regions by offering jobs in **manufacturing, services, and the informal sector**.

3. Social Transformation
Urbanisation encourages **greater social mobility, gender participation in the workforce, and cultural exchange**.

Socio-Economic Challenges

1. Informal Settlements and Housing Crisis
Rapid migration has resulted in the growth of **slums and informal settlements**, where basic services like sanitation, water supply, and healthcare remain inadequate.

2. Urban Inequality
Cities often display stark contrasts between **high-income gated communities and deprived urban poor settlements**, intensifying socio-economic disparities.

3. Pressure on Infrastructure
Transport congestion, inadequate public transport, and overloaded civic services strain urban governance.

Environmental Challenges

1. Air and Water Pollution
Urban industrialisation and vehicular emissions have significantly increased **air pollution levels** in cities like Delhi and Mumbai.

2. Urban Heat Island Effect

Concrete infrastructure and loss of green cover raise temperatures within cities compared to surrounding rural areas.

3. Waste Management Crisis

Solid waste generation has increased dramatically, while disposal and recycling systems remain inadequate.
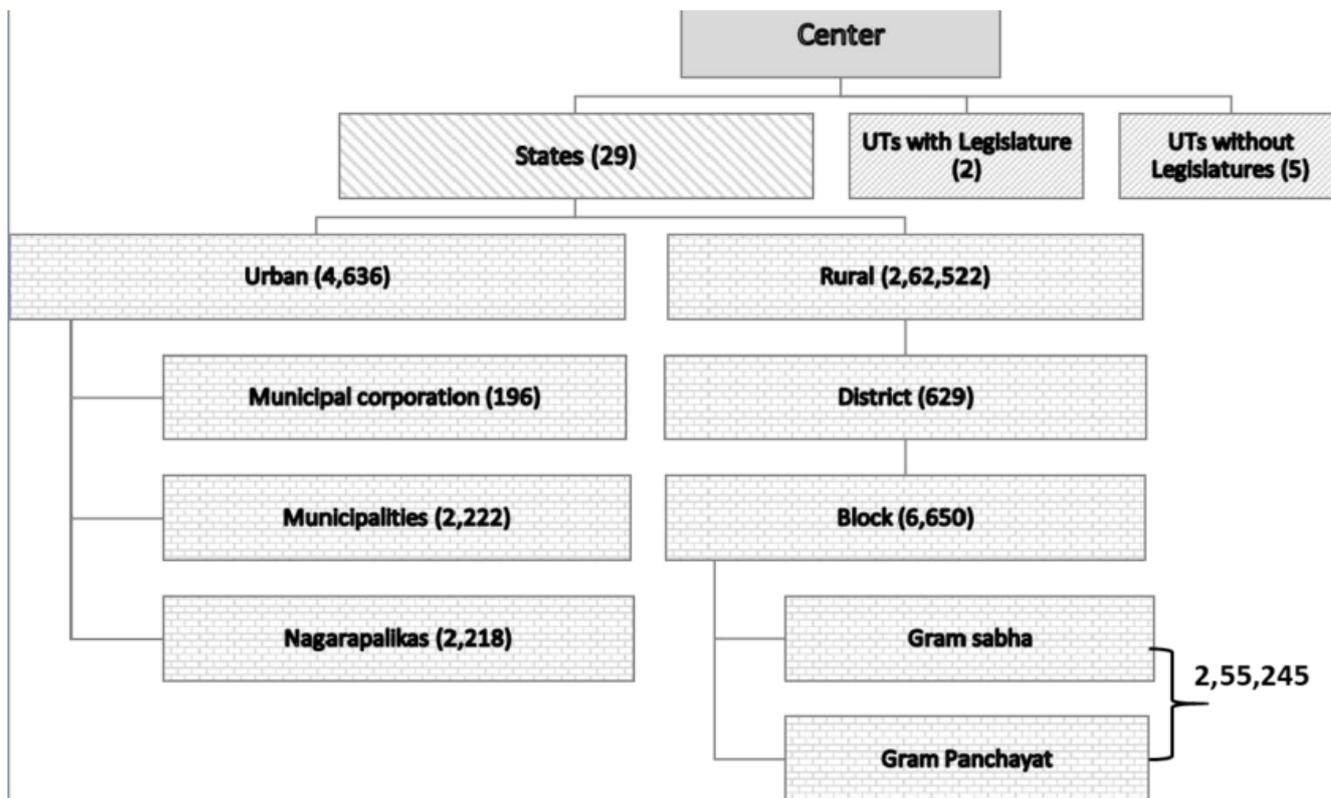
Way Forward

To ensure **sustainable urbanisation**, India must strengthen urban planning through initiatives such as **smart cities, transit-oriented development, affordable housing programmes, and urban green infrastructure**. Empowering **urban local bodies and adopting climate-resilient planning** will be crucial.

Thus, urbanisation must shift from **unplanned expansion to sustainable and inclusive urban development**.

GS–2 (Polity / Governance)

Q2. Discuss the significance of cooperative federalism in India's governance framework. How has it evolved in recent years?

Sample Answer

India's Constitution establishes a **federal structure with a strong unitary bias**, where powers are distributed between the **Union and the States**. However, effective governance in a diverse country requires collaboration rather than rigid division of authority. This idea is embodied in the concept of **cooperative federalism**.

Meaning of Cooperative Federalism

Cooperative federalism refers to a system where **both levels of government work together to achieve shared national goals**, while respecting the autonomy of states.

The Indian Constitution promotes such cooperation through mechanisms like:

- **Inter-State Council**
- **Finance Commission**
- **All India Services**
- **Zonal Councils**

Evolution in Recent Years

1. Role of NITI Aayog
The establishment of **NITI Aayog** in 2015 replaced the Planning Commission and emphasised **bottom-up planning**, giving states a greater role in policy formulation.

2. GST Council as a Federal Institution
The **GST Council** represents a major example of cooperative federalism where the Union and states jointly decide tax policies through consensus.

3. Centrally Sponsored Schemes Reforms
States are increasingly involved in designing and implementing welfare schemes.

4. Competitive Federalism
Alongside cooperation, states compete in improving **ease of doing business, innovation, and investment attractiveness**, fostering healthy development competition.

Challenges

Despite progress, cooperative federalism faces several challenges:

- **Fiscal imbalances between centre and states**
- **Centralisation of decision-making**
- **Disputes over resource allocation**
- **Regional disparities**

Way Forward

Strengthening cooperative federalism requires:

- Greater **financial autonomy for states**
- Institutionalised dialogue between Union and states
- Strengthening **local governments**
- Transparent fiscal transfers

Thus, cooperative federalism remains essential for **balancing national unity with regional diversity**, ensuring inclusive and participatory governance.

Q3. Green growth has emerged as a central strategy for sustainable development in India. Discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with transitioning to a green economy.

Sample Answer

Green growth refers to **economic development that ensures environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, and climate resilience**. As one of the fastest-growing economies, India faces the dual challenge of **accelerating development while reducing environmental degradation**.

Opportunities

1. Renewable Energy Expansion
India has rapidly expanded solar and wind capacity and aims to achieve **500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030**.

2. Green Employment
The transition to renewable energy, electric mobility, and sustainable agriculture can generate **millions of green jobs**.

3. Energy Security
Reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels enhances **strategic energy independence**.

4. Technological Innovation
Emerging sectors such as **green hydrogen, battery storage, and carbon capture technologies** present new opportunities for industrial leadership.

Challenges

1. Financing the Transition
Green infrastructure requires **massive capital investment**, often beyond the capacity of developing economies.

2. Technological Gaps
Advanced technologies for storage and hydrogen production remain expensive.

3. Transition Costs for Traditional Sectors
Industries reliant on fossil fuels face **economic and employment disruptions**.

4. Policy Coordination
Green growth requires coordination across **energy, industry, transport, and urban planning sectors**.

Way Forward

India must pursue a balanced approach by:

- Expanding **green finance mechanisms**
- Promoting **domestic clean technology innovation**
- Supporting workers affected by the transition

- Strengthening **climate governance frameworks**

Green growth is therefore not merely an environmental necessity but a **strategic pathway to sustainable economic prosperity**.

GS–4 (Ethics)

Q4. Integrity and accountability are central to ethical governance. Explain their importance in public administration with suitable examples.

Sample Answer

Ethical governance requires public officials to perform their duties with **integrity, transparency, and accountability**. These values ensure that power is exercised **in the public interest rather than for personal gain**.

Integrity in Public Administration

Integrity refers to **consistency between ethical principles and actions**. A civil servant with integrity:

- Resists corruption and undue influence

- Upholds constitutional values

- Acts impartially and fairly

Integrity enhances **public trust in government institutions**.

Accountability

Accountability means that public officials are **answerable for their decisions and actions**. Mechanisms of accountability include:

- **Parliamentary oversight**

- **Judicial review**

- **Audits by institutions like the CAG**

- **Transparency laws such as the RTI Act**

Importance

1. Prevention of Corruption
Integrity reduces misuse of public resources.

2. Public Trust
Citizens are more likely to cooperate with government initiatives when governance is transparent.

3. Effective Policy Implementation
Accountable administration ensures that programmes reach intended beneficiaries.

Illustrative Example

A district magistrate overseeing a welfare programme must ensure **transparent beneficiary selection and fair distribution of resources**. If irregularities occur, accountability mechanisms such as audits and grievance redressal ensure corrective action.

Conclusion

Ethical governance requires **institutional mechanisms as well as personal moral commitment** from public servants. Integrity and accountability together create a governance system that is **transparent, just, and citizen-centric**.

Current Affairs

Q5. The "One Plant Per Day" resolution has been proposed as a citizen-led environmental initiative. Discuss its potential role in climate mitigation and ecological restoration.

Sample Answer

Environmental degradation and climate change have intensified the need for **collective environmental action**. The **"One Plant Per Day" resolution** encourages individuals and communities to plant trees regularly as a simple yet impactful climate action.

Significance

1. Carbon Sequestration
Trees absorb carbon dioxide during photosynthesis, helping reduce atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

2. Biodiversity Conservation
Tree plantations create habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife, enhancing local biodiversity.

3. Urban Ecological Benefits
Urban trees reduce the **urban heat island effect**, improve air quality, and enhance aesthetic value.

4. Public Awareness and Participation
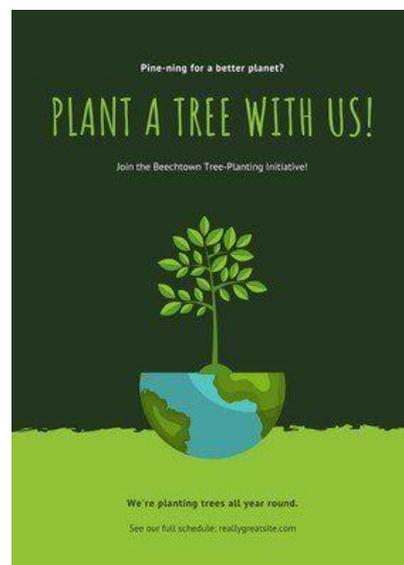Citizen-led initiatives foster **environmental consciousness and behavioural change**.

Potential Impact

If widely adopted, such initiatives can significantly expand **urban green cover and community forests**. Large-scale participation could complement government programmes like **national afforestation missions and climate commitments under the Paris Agreement**.

Challenges

However, tree-planting campaigns must address several issues:

- **Species selection** (native vs exotic species)
- **Long-term maintenance and survival of saplings**

- **Availability of suitable land for plantations**

Without proper planning, plantation drives may result in **low survival rates** or ecological imbalance.

Way Forward

Effective implementation requires:

- Use of **native and climate-appropriate species**

- Community monitoring of planted trees

- Integration with **urban planning and rural afforestation programmes**

Conclusion

The "One Plant Per Day" resolution demonstrates how **individual actions can collectively contribute to environmental sustainability**. When supported by scientific planning and community participation, such initiatives can play a meaningful role in **climate mitigation and ecological restoration**.