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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 06/03/2026 (FRIDAY)

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

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the evolution of early Indian temple architecture, consider the following statements:

1. The earliest surviving structural temples in India are generally attributed to the Gupta period, though earlier religious structures existed in perishable materials.
2. The earliest phase of Nagara temple architecture developed primarily under the Pallavas of South India before spreading northwards.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:
Statement 1 is **correct**. The Gupta period (4th–6th century CE) marks the beginning of surviving **structural stone temples** in India such as **Deogarh Vishnu Temple** and **Tigawa Temple**. Prior to this period, many religious structures were made of wood, brick, or other perishable materials, which is why archaeological evidence is limited.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. The **Nagara style** of temple architecture developed in **North India**. The **Pallavas** were associated with the development of the **Dravida style** in South India, especially through monuments like the **Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram**. Hence, Nagara architecture did not originate under Pallava patronage.

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

Q2. Which one of the following ecological mechanisms most directly explains why certain ecosystems can maintain high biodiversity despite limited nutrient availability?

(a) Competitive exclusion through dominance of a single species
(b) Niche differentiation allowing species to exploit different micro-resources
(c) Trophic cascades eliminating intermediate consumers
(d) Uniform resource distribution across trophic levels

Answer: (b) Niche differentiation allowing species to exploit different micro-resources

Explanation:
Ecosystems such as **tropical rainforests or coral reefs** often exhibit **high biodiversity despite low nutrient availability** in soil or water. This paradox is explained primarily by **niche differentiation**.

In niche differentiation, species coexist because they **use resources in slightly different ways or occupy different microhabitats**. This reduces direct competition and allows many species to survive within the same ecosystem.

Other options are incorrect because:

- **Competitive exclusion** reduces biodiversity.
- **Trophic cascades** affect population balance but do not directly explain high diversity in nutrient-poor ecosystems.
- **Uniform resource distribution** would actually increase competition rather than enable coexistence.

Thus, **niche differentiation** is the correct explanation.

Q3. With reference to inflation dynamics in an emerging economy like India, consider the following statements:

1. Cost-push inflation can occur even when aggregate demand in the economy remains weak.
2. Headline inflation always excludes volatile food and fuel components to better reflect underlying price trends.
3. Monetary tightening by a central bank may reduce inflationary expectations even before it significantly reduces aggregate demand.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:
Statement 1 is **correct**. **Cost-push inflation** arises due to rising costs of production such as higher wages, energy prices, or supply disruptions. It can occur **even when demand is weak**, because producers pass on higher costs to consumers.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. **Headline inflation includes all components**, including food and fuel. The measure that **excludes volatile food and fuel** is called **core inflation**.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Monetary policy operates not only through demand reduction but also through **inflation expectations**. If the central bank signals strong commitment (for example, through interest rate hikes), firms and consumers may **adjust expectations**, helping moderate inflation even before demand actually falls.

Thus, **two statements are correct**.

Q4. With reference to the doctrine of separation of powers and constitutional governance in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India explicitly codifies a strict separation of powers between the legislature, executive, and judiciary.
2. Judicial review in India derives its authority partly from Articles 13, 32, and 226 of the Constitution.

3. The executive in India is constitutionally responsible to the legislature under the parliamentary system.
4. The Supreme Court has held that the doctrine of separation of powers forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

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:
Statement 1 is **incorrect**. The Indian Constitution does **not provide a strict separation of powers** like in the United States. Instead, it establishes a **functional separation with checks and balances**.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Judicial review is grounded in **Article 13** (laws inconsistent with fundamental rights are void), **Article 32** (right to constitutional remedies), and **Article 226** (High Courts' power to issue writs).

Statement 3 is **correct**. India follows a **parliamentary system**, where the **executive is collectively responsible to the legislature**, particularly the Lok Sabha.

Statement 4 is **correct**. In several judgments, including **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**, the Supreme Court held that the **separation of powers is part of the basic structure**, meaning Parliament cannot destroy it through constitutional amendments.

Thus, **three statements are correct**.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A):
Quantum computing has the potential to outperform classical computers in certain cryptographic and optimization problems.

Reason (R1):
Quantum bits (qubits) can exist in superposition, allowing them to represent multiple states simultaneously.

Reason (R2):
Quantum entanglement enables correlated operations between qubits that cannot be efficiently simulated by classical bits.

Which one of the following is correct?

(a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct, and both R1 and R2 explain A
(b) A is correct, R1 is correct but R2 is incorrect
(c) A is correct, R2 is correct but R1 is incorrect
(d) A is incorrect but both R1 and R2 are correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
The **Assertion is correct**. Quantum computers can theoretically solve certain problems much faster than classical computers. For example, **Shor's algorithm** can factor large integers exponentially faster than classical algorithms, posing implications for modern cryptography.

Reason 1 is correct.
Superposition allows a qubit to exist in **a combination of |0⟩ and |1⟩ states simultaneously**, enabling quantum systems to process many possibilities at once.

Reason 2 is also correct.
Entanglement allows qubits to be **correlated in ways impossible for classical bits**, enabling complex multi-qubit computations and interference patterns that give quantum algorithms their power.

Together, **superposition and entanglement form the fundamental computational advantage** of quantum computing, which explains the assertion.

Therefore, **both reasons are correct and both explain the assertion**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the legal and regulatory framework governing the use of satellite phones in India, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Indian Telegraph Act and related rules, possession of a satellite phone without prior authorisation from the Government of India may attract penal provisions even if the device is not actively used.
2. Satellite phones operating through networks such as Inmarsat are permitted in India without special approval because their communication is routed through foreign satellites rather than domestic telecom infrastructure.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:
Statement 1 is **correct**. In India, satellite phones are tightly regulated under the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885** and related licensing conditions issued by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**. Possession of an unauthorised satellite phone itself can attract legal action, particularly because such devices can bypass terrestrial telecom monitoring systems. This is why satellite phones are often confiscated from travellers entering India without permission.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. Satellite phones using networks like **Inmarsat or Thuraya are not automatically permitted**. In fact, only certain approved services (mainly **Inmarsat with government permission**) may be allowed in limited circumstances. Devices operating on networks such as **Thuraya have often been explicitly banned** because they cannot be easily monitored by Indian security agencies.

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

Q2. The Linear No-Threshold (LNT) model, frequently discussed in radiation safety regulations, is primarily based on which one of the following assumptions?

(a) There exists a threshold radiation dose below which biological damage does not occur
(b) The probability of radiation-induced health effects increases linearly with dose, even at very low exposure levels
(c) Radiation exposure becomes harmful only when it exceeds background natural radiation levels
(d) Low doses of radiation invariably produce beneficial biological effects

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
The **Linear No-Threshold (LNT) model** assumes that **any amount of ionizing radiation carries some risk**, and the **risk increases linearly with dose**. This means there is **no safe threshold** below which radiation exposure is considered completely harmless.

This model is widely used by regulatory bodies such as the **International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)** for setting radiation safety standards.

- Option (a) represents the **threshold model**, which the LNT model rejects.
- Option (c) is incorrect because even radiation below background levels could theoretically pose risk under the LNT assumption.
- Option (d) reflects the **radiation hormesis hypothesis**, which remains controversial.

Thus, the correct answer is **(b)**.

Q3. With reference to the International Energy Agency (IEA), consider the following statements:

1. The International Energy Agency was originally established within the framework of the OECD in response to disruptions in global oil supply during the 1970s energy crisis.
2. India is currently a full member of the International Energy Agency with voting rights equal to OECD members.
3. The IEA's mandate has expanded from oil security to include issues such as energy transition, clean energy technologies, and global energy data analysis.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:
Statement 1 is **correct**. The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** was established in **1974 within the OECD framework** in response to the **1973 oil crisis**, which exposed vulnerabilities in oil supply security.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. **India is not a full member** of the IEA. Membership is generally limited to **OECD countries**. India currently holds the status of an **Association country**, which allows cooperation and participation but **not full voting rights**.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Over time, the IEA's mandate has broadened significantly. Today it addresses **energy efficiency, renewable energy transitions, climate goals, and global energy statistics**, making it a central actor in global energy governance.

Thus, **two statements are correct**.

Q4. With reference to the New Delhi Declaration adopted at the AI Impact Summit 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The declaration emphasises the development of globally interoperable frameworks for responsible AI governance rather than a single binding international treaty.
2. It calls for enhanced cooperation between governments, industry, and academia to address risks associated with advanced AI systems, including misinformation and algorithmic bias.
3. The declaration establishes a legally binding global regulatory authority for artificial intelligence under the United Nations framework.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:
Statement 1 is **correct**. The **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact (2026)** emphasises **interoperable governance frameworks** rather than a single global treaty. The goal is to harmonise national regulations while maintaining flexibility.

Statement 2 is **correct**. The declaration highlights the importance of **multi-stakeholder collaboration**, involving governments, industry, academia, and civil society to manage risks such as **deepfakes, algorithmic discrimination, and misuse of AI systems**.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. The declaration does **not create a binding international regulatory authority**. Instead, it promotes **cooperative governance mechanisms and voluntary commitments**.

Thus, **two statements are correct**.

Q5. With reference to the reintroduction of the Galápagos giant tortoise, consider the following statements:

1. The reintroduction programme aims to restore ecological functions such as seed dispersal and vegetation regulation that were historically performed by large herbivores.
2. The Galápagos giant tortoise is considered a "keystone species" because its ecological influence is disproportionately large relative to its population size.
3. Reintroduction efforts often involve translocating genetically similar tortoise populations to islands where closely related species went extinct due to human activities.
4. The programme is carried out exclusively by the government of Ecuador without involvement of international conservation organisations.

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:
Statement 1 is **correct**. Giant tortoises play a crucial ecological role in the **Galápagos Islands** by dispersing seeds, shaping vegetation, and maintaining ecosystem structure.

Statement 2 is **correct**. They are often considered a **keystone or ecosystem engineer species**, meaning their ecological impact is disproportionately large relative to their numbers.

Statement 3 is **correct**. In some cases, conservationists have introduced **closely related tortoise lineages** to islands where native populations were wiped out by hunting or invasive species. This helps restore lost ecological functions.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**. The programme involves collaboration between the **Ecuadorian government, the Galápagos National Park Directorate, and international conservation organisations** such as the **Galápagos Conservancy**.

Thus, **three statements are correct**.

(Map-based)
Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the Takeshima / Dokdo Islands dispute:

1. The islands are located in the Sea of Japan (East Sea) between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese archipelago.
2. Japan currently exercises effective administrative control over these islands, while South Korea claims sovereignty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:
The **Takeshima (Japan) / Dokdo (South Korea) islands** are a group of small rocky islets located in the **Sea of Japan (East Sea)**.

Statement 1 is **correct**.

Statement 2 is **incorrect** because **South Korea currently exercises effective administrative control** over the islands. Japan claims sovereignty and refers to them as **Takeshima**, while South Korea calls them **Dokdo**.

The dispute remains a sensitive diplomatic issue between **Japan and South Korea**, rooted in historical and territorial claims dating back to the early 20th century.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. (GS–1: Indian Society / Geography)

Question:
Urban flooding has emerged as a recurring disaster in many Indian cities. Examine the causes of increasing urban floods in India and discuss sustainable solutions to address this challenge.



Answer:

Urban flooding refers to the inundation of land or property in built-up areas due to heavy rainfall, inadequate drainage, or poor urban planning. In recent decades, Indian cities such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad have witnessed frequent flood events, making urban flooding a major socio-economic challenge.

Causes of Urban Flooding

1. Unplanned Urbanization
Rapid urban growth has led to the conversion of permeable land surfaces into concrete structures. This reduces groundwater infiltration and increases surface runoff.

2. Encroachment of Natural Water Bodies
Lakes, wetlands, and floodplains historically acted as natural buffers. Their encroachment for real estate and infrastructure projects reduces the natural capacity to absorb excess water.

3. Inadequate Drainage Infrastructure
Most Indian cities rely on outdated stormwater drainage systems designed decades ago for smaller populations and lower rainfall intensity.

4. Climate Change and Extreme Rainfall
Climate change is increasing the frequency of extreme rainfall events, overwhelming urban drainage systems.

5. Solid Waste Mismanagement
Plastic waste and debris clog drainage channels and rivers, worsening waterlogging during heavy rains.

Impacts

Urban flooding leads to **economic losses, infrastructure damage, traffic disruptions, and public health risks** such as water-borne diseases. Informal settlements are particularly vulnerable.

Sustainable Solutions

1. Integrated Urban Water Management
Cities must adopt watershed-based planning to integrate rivers, lakes, and drainage networks.

2. Protection of Urban Wetlands
Wetlands should be restored and protected as ecological buffers.

3. Sponge City Concept
Urban planning can incorporate permeable pavements, green roofs, rain gardens, and parks to absorb rainwater.

4. Smart Drainage Systems
Cities should modernize stormwater systems using GIS mapping and real-time monitoring.

5. Strengthening Urban Governance
Urban local bodies require technical capacity, funding, and better enforcement of land-use regulations.

Conclusion

Urban flooding reflects the broader crisis of unsustainable urban development. A combination of **ecological restoration, resilient infrastructure, and improved governance** is essential to ensure climate-resilient cities in India.

(GS–2: Governance / International Relations)

Q2. Question:
India's foreign policy increasingly reflects the principle of "strategic autonomy". Analyse how this principle shapes India's engagement with major global powers in the evolving geopolitical order.

Answer:

Strategic autonomy refers to India's ability to pursue its national interests independently without aligning rigidly with any single power bloc. Historically rooted in the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**, the concept has evolved in the 21st century into a flexible diplomatic strategy that balances relations with multiple global actors.

Historical Context

During the Cold War, India followed **non-alignment**, avoiding formal alliances with either the United States or the Soviet Union. However, in the post-Cold War era, India has adopted a more pragmatic approach, engaging with multiple powers simultaneously.

Strategic Autonomy in Practice

1. Relations with the United States
India has deepened strategic cooperation with the US through initiatives like the **Quad (India-US-Japan-Australia)** and defence agreements such as **LEMOA and COMCASA**. These partnerships address Indo-Pacific security and technological collaboration.

2. Continued Engagement with Russia
Despite closer ties with Western countries, India maintains strong relations with Russia, particularly in defence cooperation and energy supplies.

3. Expanding Partnerships with Europe and Indo-Pacific Countries
India has strengthened ties with France, the European Union, ASEAN countries, and Japan to diversify diplomatic and economic partnerships.

4. Role in Global South Leadership
India positions itself as a voice for developing countries, evident during its **G20 presidency**, where issues like climate finance and development were emphasised.

Advantages of Strategic Autonomy

- Enhances diplomatic flexibility
- Reduces dependence on a single power bloc
- Strengthens India's bargaining power in global negotiations

Challenges

Maintaining balanced relations among competing powers is increasingly complex amid geopolitical rivalries, particularly between the US and China.

Conclusion

Strategic autonomy allows India to pursue a **multi-alignment strategy**, safeguarding its sovereignty while leveraging partnerships for economic growth, technological advancement, and regional security.

(GS–3: Environment / Biodiversity)

Q3. Question:
Biodiversity conservation is increasingly linked with ecosystem services and climate resilience. Discuss the importance of biodiversity conservation in India and examine the challenges faced in its implementation.

Answer:

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life forms across genes, species, and ecosystems. India is recognized as a **megadiverse country**, hosting around **8% of global biodiversity** despite occupying only 2.4% of the world's land area.

Importance of Biodiversity Conservation

1. Ecosystem Services
Healthy ecosystems provide essential services such as pollination, soil fertility, water purification, and climate regulation.

2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Forests, mangroves, and wetlands act as carbon sinks and protect communities from extreme climate events like cyclones and floods.

3. Livelihood Security
Millions of rural and tribal communities depend on forests, fisheries, and biodiversity-based resources for livelihood.

4. Cultural and Scientific Value
Biodiversity supports traditional knowledge systems and contributes to scientific research, including medicine and biotechnology.

Institutional Framework in India

India has adopted several measures such as:

- **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**
- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**
- Protected areas including national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Challenges

1. Habitat Loss and Fragmentation
Urbanization, mining, and infrastructure development are major drivers of biodiversity loss.

2. Human–Wildlife Conflict
Increasing interaction between wildlife and human settlements leads to conflicts.

3. Invasive Species
Species such as **Lantana camara** disrupt native ecosystems.

4. Climate Change
Changing temperature and rainfall patterns affect species distribution and ecosystems.

Way Forward

- Community-based conservation approaches
- Landscape-level planning rather than isolated protected areas
- Integration of biodiversity concerns in development planning.

Conclusion

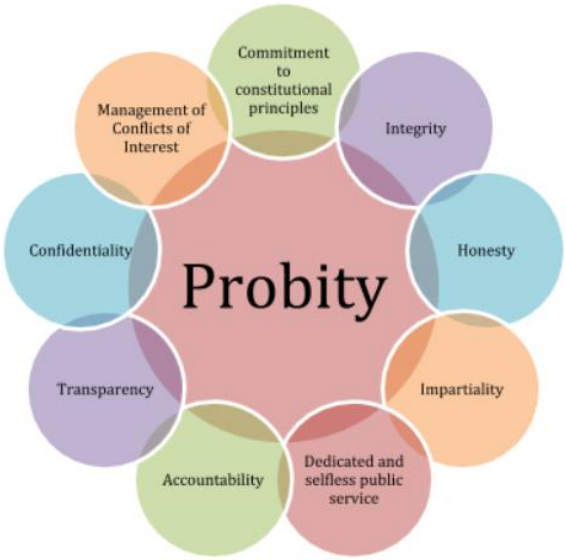
Biodiversity conservation is essential not only for environmental sustainability but also for **economic resilience and human well-being**, making it a crucial component of India's sustainable development strategy.

(GS–4: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Q4. Question:
Public administration often involves ethical dilemmas where legal rules may conflict with moral considerations. Discuss the role of ethical values in ensuring integrity and accountability in governance.

Answer:

Ethics in public administration refers to the moral principles guiding the conduct of public officials while performing their duties. It ensures that governance remains aligned with public interest rather than personal gain.



Importance of Ethics in Governance

1. Promoting Public Trust
Ethical conduct strengthens citizens' confidence in government institutions.

2. Preventing Corruption
Values such as integrity and honesty help prevent misuse of public power.

3. Ensuring Fairness and Justice
Ethical decision-making ensures that policies are implemented without discrimination.

Key Ethical Values in Public Administration

Integrity:
Civil servants must maintain consistency between their values and actions.

Accountability:
Officials should be answerable for their decisions and actions.

Transparency:
Open decision-making reduces opportunities for corruption.

Empathy and Compassion:
Policies should be sensitive to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Ethical Dilemmas in Governance

Officials often face situations where rules may conflict with moral judgment. For example, strict adherence to procedure might delay urgent relief during disasters.

In such cases, administrators must balance **legal compliance with humanitarian considerations**.

Institutional Mechanisms

India has established mechanisms such as:

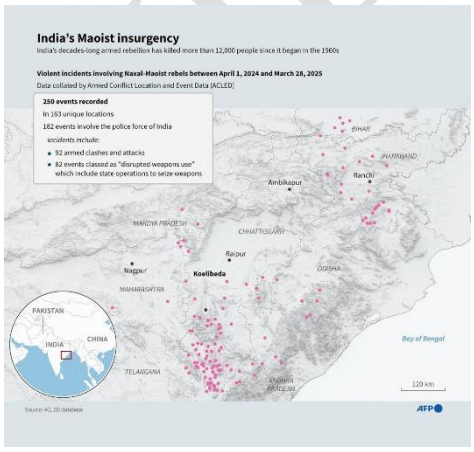
- **Central Vigilance Commission**
- **Lokpal and Lokayuktas**
- Codes of conduct for civil servants.

Conclusion

Ethical governance requires both **institutional safeguards and strong moral character among public officials**. Cultivating ethical leadership is essential for ensuring accountable and citizen-centric administration.

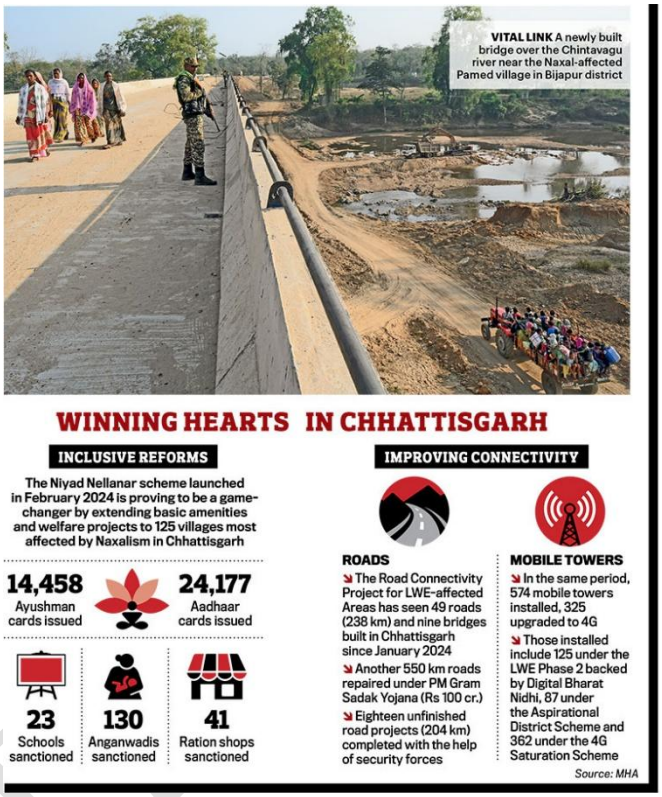
(Current Affairs: Internal Security)

Q5. Question:
The decline of Naxalism in India in recent years reflects both security measures and developmental interventions. Analyse the factors responsible for the weakening of Left Wing Extremism and discuss the remaining challenges.



Answer:

Left Wing Extremism (LWE), commonly referred to as Naxalism, has been one of India's most significant internal security challenges for decades. However, in recent years the geographical spread and intensity of Naxal violence have declined considerably.



Factors Behind the Decline

1. Strengthened Security Operations
Improved coordination among security forces, including **CRPF and state police**, has disrupted Maoist leadership and supply networks.

2. Infrastructure Development
Expansion of **roads, mobile connectivity, and banking services** in tribal regions has reduced the isolation that extremist groups once exploited.

3. Governance and Welfare Schemes
Government initiatives such as **Aspirational Districts Programme, tribal welfare schemes, and rural employment programmes** have addressed developmental gaps.

4. Surrender and Rehabilitation Policies
Many cadres have surrendered due to rehabilitation incentives and declining ideological appeal.

5. Reduced Support Base
Improved local governance and participation in democratic processes have weakened Maoist influence among tribal communities.

Remaining Challenges

Despite progress, challenges remain:

- Some forested regions still provide safe havens for insurgents.
- Socio-economic grievances related to land rights and displacement persist.
- Intelligence and coordination gaps occasionally lead to security lapses.

Way Forward

A sustainable solution requires a **balanced approach combining security operations with socio-economic development and political inclusion**.

Conclusion

The decline of Naxalism demonstrates that **internal security challenges cannot be solved solely through force**. Long-term peace depends on inclusive development, effective governance, and addressing the legitimate concerns of marginalized communities.