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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 05/09/2026 (SATURDAY)

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



9972258970 & 9740702455

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the architectural and cultural synthesis during the Delhi Sultanate:

Statement-I: The use of the "true arch" and "dome" in India reached its structural perfection only after the introduction of the *double dome* technique during the Lodi period.

Statement-II: The *Indo-Islamic* style avoided the use of human and animal figures in ornamentation, instead relying heavily on calligraphy, arabesque, and *tessellation*.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement-I is correct as the double dome (seen in Humayun's Tomb later, but starting with the Lodi era) allowed for greater height and structural aesthetics. Statement-II is also correct as Islamic tenets forbade sentient figures, leading to the development of geometric (tessellation) and floral designs. However, the lack of figures is a religious/aesthetic choice and not the structural "explanation" for why the double dome was developed (which was an engineering solution for internal proportions).

Q2. In the context of "Organisms and Populations," which of the following best describes the phenomenon where a population's growth rate decreases as the population density increases, eventually reaching a plateau?

- (a) Geometric attenuation in r-selected species
- (b) Negative feedback of density-dependent regulation
- (c) Stochastic environmental stochasticity
- (d) Competitive exclusion principle of Gause

Answer: (b)

Explanation: This refers to the Logistic Growth model ($\frac{dN}{dt} = rN[(K-N)/K]$). As N approaches the carrying capacity (K), resources become limiting, leading to increased mortality or decreased natality. This is a classic example of density-dependent regulation acting as a negative feedback loop to stabilize the population at the carrying capacity.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the "Open Economy Macroeconomics" and the Balance of Payments:

1. A persistent deficit in the Current Account is always a sign of economic weakness, as it implies the country is a net debtor to the rest of the world.
2. The "Marshall-Lerner Condition" suggests that currency devaluation will improve the trade balance only if the sum of price elasticities of demand for exports and imports is greater than one.



3. Under a managed floating exchange rate system, the Central Bank intervenes in the foreign exchange market to strictly maintain a fixed parity with a basket of currencies.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: - Statement 1 is incorrect: A current account deficit can be a sign of strength if it is driven by high levels of investment (importing capital goods) that will boost future productivity.

- Statement 2 is correct: This is the fundamental condition for a successful devaluation to correct a trade deficit.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: In a "managed float," the Central Bank intervenes to reduce volatility, but there is no "strict fixed parity"; that would define a "Fixed Exchange Rate" system.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the "Challenges to and Restoration of the Congress System" in Indian Polity:

1. The "Syndicate" was an informal group of powerful Congress leaders from within the party who played a decisive role in the installation of Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi as Prime Ministers.
2. The 1967 General Elections are often described as a "Political Earthquake" because the Congress lost its majority in the Lok Sabha for the first time since Independence.
3. The abolition of "Privy Purses" was a key element of the "Ten Point Programme" adopted by Indira Gandhi to project a pro-poor, socialist image.
4. The Supreme Court upheld the government's decision to abolish Privy Purses in the famous *Maharaja Madhav Rao Scindia* case.

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 correct: Leaders like K. Kamraj and S.K. Patil formed the Syndicate.

- Statement 2 is incorrect: In 1967, Congress retained its majority in the Lok Sabha (though with a reduced margin), but lost power in nine states.
- Statement 3 is correct: It was part of her leftward shift to consolidate power against the Syndicate.



- Statement 4 is incorrect: The Supreme Court originally struck down the Presidential Order abolishing Privy Purses; the government then had to bring a Constitutional Amendment (26th Amendment, 1971) to override the court.

Q5. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the others as Reason (R1 and R2):

Assertion (A): The "Great Plains of India" are characterized by an extremely high density of population and intensive subsistence agriculture.

Reason (R1): The region consists of deep alluvial deposits which provide highly fertile soil and a perennial supply of water through Himalayan rivers.

Reason (R2): The flat terrain of the plains facilitates the development of a dense network of transport and urban industrial clusters.

In the context of the latest UPSC pattern, which of the following is correct?

- (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct and are independent reasons for A
- (b) Both R1 and R2 are correct, but only R1 is the primary reason for A
- (c) R1 is correct but R2 is incorrect
- (d) Assertion A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Both reasons contribute to the high population density. R1 explains the agricultural productivity (intensive subsistence), which supports a large rural population. R2 explains the socio-economic infrastructure (transport and cities), which supports urban density. Together, they explain the "human geography" of the Indo-Gangetic plains.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.1. With reference to Thiksey Monastery, consider the following statements:

1. Thiksey Monastery is associated with the **Gelugpa tradition of Tibetan Buddhism** and is noted for its multi-tiered architecture resembling the Potala Palace of Lhasa.
2. Its location on the right bank of the Indus River valley in Ladakh places it within the cultural landscape of the trans-Himalayan region, where Tibetan Buddhist traditions historically interacted with Central Asian and Himalayan cultural currents.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both statements
- (c) Neither statement
- (d) Statement 1 only



Answer: (b) Both statements

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Thiksey Gompa, located near Leh, is a prominent monastery of the **Gelugpa (Yellow Hat) school** of Tibetan Buddhism. Its distinctive, vertically tiered architecture has earned it the description “**Mini Potala**”, owing to its resemblance to the Potala Palace in Lhasa. It was founded in **1433 AD**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The monastery is situated on a hillock overlooking the **Indus River valley**, approximately 19 km east of Leh. Its location is significant not merely geographically but culturally, as Ladakh forms part of the wider trans-Himalayan cultural zone where Tibetan Buddhist traditions developed and interacted with neighbouring Himalayan and Central Asian influences.

The UPSC trap is to treat Thiksey merely as an architectural monument. Its importance lies at the intersection of **Ladakhi geography, Tibetan Buddhism, Himalayan cultural history and monastic architecture**.

Q.2. With reference to political clearance for foreign visits by Indian public functionaries, which one of the following is the most appropriate statement?

- (a) It is a constitutional clearance granted by the President of India before any elected representative undertakes a foreign visit.
- (b) It is an approval from the political angle processed by the Ministry of External Affairs, taking into account factors such as the purpose of the visit, proposed engagements and India's diplomatic interests.
- (c) It is a financial clearance issued by the Department of Economic Affairs and is concerned primarily with foreign-exchange expenditure.
- (d) It is a security clearance issued exclusively by the Ministry of Home Affairs for visits involving countries sharing a land boundary with India.

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Political clearance is essentially an approval from the **political/diplomatic angle** for specified foreign visits. The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** processes such proposals, taking into account factors such as the purpose and justification of the visit, proposed meetings and India's bilateral and diplomatic interests. The MEA's Parliament & Coordination Division specifically handles political clearance for official visits and conferences.

The process has an online **e-Political Clearance System**, through which applications can be submitted. The system is distinct from other clearances that may be required depending on the circumstances of a visit.

The important UPSC distinction is:

Political clearance → MEA → diplomatic/political angle

It should not be confused with:

Financial clearance → financial/expenditure considerations

or

Security-related clearance → concerned security authorities.



The recent controversy surrounding the cancellation of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's proposed US visit brought the concept into current affairs.

Q.3. With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its relationship with India, consider the following statements:

1. India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank and is among its largest shareholders.
2. The voting power of members in the ADB is entirely based on the principle of one country, one vote, irrespective of their capital subscription.
3. ADB's engagement with India includes both public-sector financing and an increasing emphasis on private-sector development and transformational investments.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** India is a **founding member of ADB** and is currently its **fourth-largest shareholder**, with a substantial shareholding and voting power.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** ADB does **not** operate on a pure one-country-one-vote system. Voting power reflects members' capital subscriptions along with basic votes. Therefore, larger shareholders possess greater voting weight.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** ADB's engagement with India extends beyond conventional sovereign project lending. Its current approach includes **multisector and transformational operations, private-sector development, infrastructure, skills, urban development and job creation**. ADB is also undertaking preparatory work for India's next country partnership strategy for **2028–2032**.

The conceptual trap is to confuse ADB with institutions operating under a strict **one-member-one-vote** principle. Like several multilateral development banks, ADB combines basic voting rights with **capital-based voting power**.

Q.4. With reference to the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme seeks not merely to expand handset production but also to deepen domestic value addition and strengthen India's position in global electronics value chains.
2. Incentives under the scheme are linked to eligible sales, with differentiated rates and additional support for domestic sourcing of key components and for Indian brands undertaking design and R&D.
3. The scheme was introduced as a direct replacement for the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing, with identical objectives, duration and incentive architecture.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **MPMS**, approved in July 2026 and subsequently notified by MeitY, has a budgetary outlay of **₹62,500 crore** and aims to scale up production, deepen domestic value addition, strengthen supply-chain resilience and enhance global competitiveness. It also seeks to encourage Indian brands, design and R&D capabilities.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The scheme provides incentives on eligible sales at differentiated rates ranging from **2.25% to 5%**. It also provides additional incentives of up to **1.5%** linked to domestic sourcing of key components/sub-assemblies and an additional **3%** for Indian brands linked to product design and R&D.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** MPMS should not be treated as simply the **same scheme under a new name**. The earlier **PLI-LSEM** scheme ended on 31 March 2026, whereas MPMS introduces a new five-year framework for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31 with differentiated incentives and additional components aimed at domestic sourcing, Indian brands, design and R&D.

The deeper policy shift is important:

Earlier focus → scale and manufacturing

Expanded MPMS focus → scale + domestic value addition + supply-chain resilience + Indian brands + design/R&D.

This reflects India's attempt to move beyond **assembly-led manufacturing** towards greater participation across the electronics value chain.

Q.5. With reference to Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0), consider the following statements:

1. It is organised by the Indian Army's Territorial Army in collaboration with CyberPeace and seeks to connect the Armed Forces with technical talent from academia, industry and research institutions.
2. Its objectives include developing indigenous cyber capabilities, identifying vulnerabilities and strengthening India's preparedness against cyber and information-domain threats.
3. Its Bug Hunting track begins with an online Capture-the-Flag qualification and culminates in a live, in-person sandbox environment.
4. The initiative is restricted to personnel already serving in the Armed Forces because access to cyber-security challenges involving defence systems is considered incompatible with civilian participation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two



(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: (c) Only three

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** TCQ 3.0 is the **third edition of Terrier Cyber Quest**, launched by the **Territorial Army of the Indian Army in collaboration with CyberPeace**. It seeks to bring together technical talent from academia, industry, research institutions, government organisations and the Armed Forces.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The initiative focuses on contemporary defence, cybersecurity and information-domain challenges, including **AI, cybersecurity, threat mitigation and digital awareness**, while encouraging indigenous solutions relevant to national security.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The **Bug Hunting** track begins with an online **Capture-the-Flag (CTF)** qualifier and culminates in an in-person live sandbox finale. The purpose is to identify and document vulnerabilities in simulated critical infrastructure.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** This is the deliberate trap. TCQ 3.0 is explicitly designed to bring together **civilian technical talent** from academia, industry and research institutions along with the Armed Forces. It is therefore an example of an **open-innovation model for national security**, rather than a closed military-only exercise.

Its strategic significance lies in recognising that contemporary cyber defence requires expertise extending beyond conventional military structures. **Ethical hackers, software developers, AI researchers and cybersecurity specialists** can contribute to identifying vulnerabilities and developing indigenous solutions.

Q.6. Consider the following statements regarding Lake Titicaca:

1. It lies in the Andes and is shared by **Peru and Bolivia**.
2. It is connected to the Atlantic drainage system through the **Desaguadero River**.
3. It is located at a high elevation and is widely recognised as one of the world's highest navigable lakes for large commercial vessels.
4. It lies entirely within Bolivia and therefore has no direct geographical relationship with Peru.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: (c) Only three

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Lake Titicaca lies in the **Andes**, on the border between **Peru and Bolivia**. It is one of the most prominent high-altitude lakes of South America.



- **Statement 2 is correct.** Lake Titicaca drains southward through the **Desaguadero River**, which connects it with **Lake Poopó** in the broader Altiplano drainage system. The hydrological system ultimately forms part of the broader **endorheic drainage** of the Altiplano rather than reaching the Atlantic Ocean directly.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** At an elevation of roughly **3,812 metres above sea level**, Lake Titicaca is among the world's highest large navigable lakes and is notable for navigation at such extreme elevation.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Lake Titicaca is **shared by Peru and Bolivia**. Its northern and western portions are associated with Peru, while its southeastern portion lies in Bolivia.

Map-based UPSC takeaway

The spatial chain should be remembered as:

Pacific Ocean → Andes → Lake Titicaca → Peru–Bolivia border → Altiplano

Important nearby geographical features include:

- **Peru** to the northwest;
- **Bolivia** to the southeast;
- **Andes Mountains** surrounding the lake;
- **Lake Poopó** farther south in Bolivia;
- **Desaguadero River** connecting the Titicaca and Poopó systems.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1: History

Q1. "The mid-first millennium BCE is often regarded as a turning point in world history." In light of this statement, discuss how the emergence of new religious traditions in India challenged the existing social and philosophical order.

Sample Answer: The mid-first millennium BCE was a period of intense intellectual ferment across the globe, seeing the rise of Socrates in Greece, Zarathustra in Iran, and Mahavira and Buddha in India. In the Indian context, this era witnessed a significant departure from the **Vedic sacrificial tradition** toward internal philosophical inquiry and social egalitarianism.

Challenging the Social Order: The primary challenge was directed at the **Varna system**. Brahmanical texts emphasized birth-based hierarchy. In contrast, Buddhist and Jaina traditions provided a "counter-culture" by:

- **Universal Membership:** Opening the doors of the *Sangha* to all, regardless of caste or gender.
- **Rejection of Ritual Superiority:** The Buddha argued that social status was a human construct rather than a divine mandate. He emphasized *metta* (loving-kindness) and *karuna* (compassion) over ritual purity.



Philosophical Shifts: Philosophically, the era moved from the "sacrificial cult" to the "quest for liberation":

1. **Individual Agency:** Unlike the Vedas, which focused on pleasing deities through priests, the new thinkers emphasized that liberation was a result of individual effort and ethical conduct (*Ashtanga Marga*).
2. **Fatalism vs. Karma:** While the Ajivikas preached fatalism (*Niyati*), Buddhism and Jainism stressed the law of *Karma*—that one's actions determine their destiny, thus empowering the individual.
3. **Nature of Reality:** The debates in the *Kutagarashalas* (pointed-roof huts) focused on whether the soul (*Atman*) was permanent or whether the world was in a constant state of flux (*Anicca*).

Conclusion: This period transformed the Indian landscape from a ritual-centric society to a knowledge-centric one. The architectural legacy of this shift, seen in the Stupas of Sanchi and Bharhut, stands as a testament to the enduring influence of these "heretical" schools on Indian civilization.

GS-2: Polity

Q2. Assess the effectiveness of regional organizations like the European Union (EU) and ASEAN as "alternative centres of power" in a multi-polar world. To what extent do they limit the hegemony of traditional superpowers?

Sample Answer: With the collapse of the bipolar Cold War structure, regional organizations have emerged as formidable "alternative centres of power." The European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) represent two distinct models of this phenomenon.

The European Union: A Supranational Power The EU has evolved from an economic community to a political entity with its own flag, anthem, and currency (Euro).

- **Economic Clout:** Its share of world trade is nearly equal to that of the US, giving it massive leverage in the WTO.
- **Diplomatic Weight:** Two of its former/current members hold permanent seats in the UNSC. Its "Soft Power" in terms of environmental standards (GDPR, Green Deal) dictates global norms.
- **Limitations:** The EU lacks a unified military policy (e.g., internal divisions over the Iraq War or Ukraine) and faces "Euro-skepticism" and nationalism (e.g., Brexit).

ASEAN: The "ASEAN Way" ASEAN represents a more informal, cooperative model focused on sovereignty and non-interference.

- **Economic Integration:** Through the ASEAN Economic Community and FTAs with major powers, it has become a vital hub for global value chains.
- **Security Architecture:** The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is one of the few platforms where superpowers like the US, China, and Russia engage in security dialogue.
- **Limitations:** Its consensus-based approach often leads to paralysis in the face of crises like the Myanmar military coup or South China Sea disputes.

Conclusion: While these organizations cannot match the raw military power of traditional superpowers, they significantly constrain hegemony through **Institutionalism**. By creating "Rules-Based Orders" in their



respective regions, they ensure that global power is not concentrated in a single capital, facilitating a more balanced, multi-polar world.

GS-3: Economy

Q3. Explain the concept of "Effective Demand" in Keynesian economics. How does an "unintended accumulation of inventories" act as a self-correcting mechanism in an economy facing a recessionary gap?

Sample Answer: In classical economics, supply was believed to create its own demand. However, the Great Depression proved this false, leading J.M. Keynes to propose the principle of **Effective Demand**—the level of aggregate demand that is actually "effective" in determining the level of output and employment in an economy.

The Principle of Effective Demand: Equilibrium in an economy is achieved when Ex-ante Aggregate Demand (\$AD\$) equals Ex-ante Aggregate Supply (\$AS\$).

$$AD = C + I + G + (X - M)$$

If AD is insufficient to buy the full-employment level of output, the economy settles at an "Under-employment Equilibrium."

The Role of Unintended Inventories: When \$AD\$ falls short of the planned output (\$AS > AD\$):

1. **Stock Accumulation:** Goods produced remain unsold. This is called "unintended accumulation of inventories."
2. **Signal to Producers:** To a firm, rising inventories are a signal that they have overproduced relative to market demand.
3. **Correction:** In the next production cycle, firms reduce their planned output and lay off workers to cut costs.
4. **New Equilibrium:** This process continues until output falls to a level where it matches the lower demand.

Critique: The Paradox of Thrift Keynes argued that if everyone tries to save more (increasing \$MPS\$) during a recession, AD will fall even further, leading to a deeper unintended inventory pile-up and an even lower equilibrium income. This "Paradox of Thrift" suggests that individual virtue (saving) can be a collective vice.

Conclusion: Understanding these dynamics is crucial for fiscal policy. When the "self-correction" through inventory reduction leads to mass unemployment, the government must intervene through **Autonomous Spending** to boost Effective Demand and lift the economy out of the recessionary trap.

GS-4: Ethics (Emotional Intelligence)

Q4. "Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you." Discuss the significance of EI for a civil servant in handling public grievances and maintaining communal harmony.

Sample Answer: Emotional Intelligence (EI), defined by Daniel Goleman through components like self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills, is often more critical for a public servant



than technical IQ. In the volatile environment of Indian administration, EI acts as a buffer between impulse and action.

Handling Public Grievances: A civil servant often meets citizens who are frustrated, angry, or desperate.

- **Empathy:** By practicing active listening and empathy, an officer validates the citizen's feelings, which often de-escalates anger before a technical solution is even provided.
- **Self-Regulation:** An officer with high EI will not take verbal abuse personally. Instead of reacting with authority-driven ego, they remain calm, ensuring that the grievance cell remains a space for resolution rather than conflict.

Maintaining Communal Harmony: Communal tensions are often fueled by "emotional contagion"—the rapid spread of fear and hatred.

- **Social Skills:** During a riot-like situation, a DM or SP must negotiate with religious leaders. High social skills allow the officer to build trust across community lines.
- **Perception Management:** An ethically grounded, emotionally intelligent leader can sense the "pulse" of the crowd. By using the right language and symbols, they can replace fear with a sense of security.

Conclusion: In administration, "Power" is the tool, but "EI" is the lubricant. While laws provide the framework for action, EI provides the "touch" required to implement those laws in a diverse and emotive society. It transforms a "bureaucrat" into a "leader."

[Image showing the 5 components of Emotional Intelligence]

Current Affairs: Space Governance

Q5. The rapid commercialization of outer space has outpaced the existing international legal framework. Evaluate the challenges posed by "Mega-Constellations" and "Space Debris" to the sustainability of the Space Commons.

Sample Answer: The "New Space" era is characterized by a shift from state-led exploration to private-sector dominance. While this has lowered the cost of access to space, it has created a "Tragedy of the Commons" in Earth's orbits, threatening the long-term sustainability of space activities.

Challenges to Space Governance:

1. **Mega-Constellations:** Companies like SpaceX (Starlink) and Amazon (Project Kuiper) are launching thousands of satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). This leads to **orbital crowding**, increasing the risk of collisions and interfering with ground-based astronomy.
2. **Space Debris and the Kessler Syndrome:** With over 30,000 trackable pieces of "space junk," the threat of a "Kessler Syndrome"—a chain reaction of collisions rendering certain orbits unusable—is no longer theoretical.
3. **Outdated Legal Framework:** The **Outer Space Treaty (1967)** and the **Liability Convention (1972)** were designed for a world where only a few nations had space capabilities. They lack clear rules on:
 - *Space Traffic Management (STM).*



- *Commercial mining of celestial bodies.*
- *Enforcement mechanisms for debris mitigation.*

Way Forward:

- **Space Situational Awareness (SSA):** Global cooperation in tracking and sharing data on space objects is mandatory. India's **Project NETRA** is a step in this direction.
- **Normative Evolution:** Transitioning from "voluntary guidelines" (like the UNCOPUOS guidelines) to a legally binding "International Space Traffic Code."
- **Active Debris Removal (ADR):** Incentivizing technologies that can "harpoon" or "net" dead satellites to clear the orbital paths.

Conclusion: Space is a "Global Commons." If the current "Gold Rush" mentality continues without robust governance, we risk closing the high frontier for future generations. A new "Space Treaty 2.0" that balances commercial innovation with environmental stewardship is the need of the hour.



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