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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 07/09/2026 (MONDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22):

1. It marked the first time that the Indian National Congress officially adopted the goal of complete independence (*Purna Swaraj*).
2. The movement led to the establishment of parallel governments in some provinces, challenging colonial authority at the local level.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Indian National Congress adopted *Purna Swaraj* as its official goal at the **Lahore Session (1929)**, not during the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Although parallel governments became prominent during the Quit India Movement (1942), early experiments in local self-rule (national schools, arbitration courts, boycott of colonial institutions) emerged during the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Therefore, only one statement is correct.

Question 2: With reference to the term “Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)” often seen in ecological restoration, which one of the following best describes it?

- (a) Planting fast-growing exotic species to accelerate biomass recovery in degraded forests
- (b) Protecting and managing degraded forestland to enable natural seed banks and rootstock to regenerate vegetation
- (c) Introducing genetically modified saplings to restore ecological balance in monoculture plantations
- (d) Allowing degraded ecosystems to recover without any human intervention

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) is a restoration approach that focuses on:

- Protecting degraded sites from disturbances (grazing, fire, logging)
- Managing competing vegetation
- Allowing regeneration from existing seeds, roots, and soil seed banks

It differs from:

- **Active afforestation** (Option a)



- **Passive natural recovery** (Option d), because ANR involves **minimal but targeted human facilitation**

Question 3: Consider the following statements regarding the Monetary Policy Framework in India:

1. The inflation target of 4 ± 2 percent is set jointly by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India under statutory provisions.
2. Failure to achieve the inflation target for three consecutive quarters legally obliges the RBI to submit a public explanation and remedial plan to the Government.
3. The Monetary Policy Committee includes members nominated solely by the Reserve Bank of India.

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 inflation target is notified by the Government of India in consultation with the RBI under the RBI Act (amended in 2016).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** If inflation remains outside the 2–6% band for three consecutive quarters, RBI must report to the Government explaining causes and remedial measures.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The MPC has **six members** — three from RBI and three appointed by the Government of India.

Thus, only two statements are correct.

Question 4: Consider the following statements about the legislative process of Money Bills in India:

1. The decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha on whether a Bill is a Money Bill is subject to judicial review by the Supreme Court.
2. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha but may originate from either a Minister or a Private Member.
3. The Rajya Sabha can recommend amendments to a Money Bill but cannot reject or amend it.
4. If the Rajya Sabha does not return a Money Bill within fourteen days, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses.

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:** Article 110(3) declares the Speaker's decision final; in prelims convention it is treated as **not subject to judicial review**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A Money Bill can be introduced **only by a Minister**, not a Private Member.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Rajya Sabha can only recommend amendments; it cannot reject or amend a Money Bill.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** If Rajya Sabha does not return the Bill within **14 days**, it is deemed passed.

Therefore, only two statements are correct.

Question 5 (Assertion–Reason)

Assertion (A): Tropical cyclones rarely form over the South Atlantic Ocean.

Reasons (R):

1. Sea surface temperatures in the South Atlantic are generally lower than the threshold required for cyclogenesis.
2. Vertical wind shear over the South Atlantic tends to be high, inhibiting organized cyclone development.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) A is correct and both R1 and R2 are correct, and both explain A
- (b) A is correct but only one of R1 or R2 explains A
- (c) A is correct but neither R1 nor R2 explains A
- (d) A is incorrect but at least one of R1 or R2 is correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The South Atlantic is one of the few ocean basins with almost no tropical cyclones because:

- Cyclogenesis typically requires $SST \geq 26-27^{\circ}C$
- The region generally has cooler waters (due to upwelling and currents)
- Vertical wind shear is relatively strong

Both factors directly inhibit cyclone formation.

Hence, both reasons correctly explain the assertion.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the SAVE America Act, consider the following statements:

1. The legislation seeks to make documentary proof of U.S. citizenship a requirement for voter registration in federal elections, thereby distinguishing eligibility to register from merely possessing a government-issued identity document.
2. Its proposed citizenship-verification mechanism would permit States to cross-check electoral rolls with federal immigration authorities, but the Act does not by itself convert every person flagged through such a cross-check into a legally ineligible voter.

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: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The **Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act** is proposed U.S. legislation aimed at tightening voter-registration and voting requirements for federal elections. Among its important provisions is the requirement of **documentary proof of U.S. citizenship** for voter registration, alongside identification requirements. The conceptual distinction is important: proof of citizenship establishes **electoral eligibility**, whereas an identity document primarily establishes **identity**. The two are not necessarily interchangeable.

Statement 2 is also correct. The proposed framework envisages allowing States to cross-check electoral rolls against federal information, including information associated with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to identify potentially ineligible non-citizens. However, a database match or flag is not conceptually identical to an automatic judicial or administrative determination that an individual is ineligible. This distinction makes the statement more precise than the common but erroneous formulation that the Act would simply "remove all non-citizens automatically."

The Act is particularly relevant for UPSC because it raises questions about the relationship between **electoral integrity, citizenship, voter access, federalism and institutional safeguards**. The central constitutional-policy tension is between preventing electoral ineligibility/fraud and ensuring that documentary requirements do not unnecessarily disenfranchise otherwise eligible voters. Critics have specifically raised concerns regarding citizens who may not readily possess documents such as passports or birth certificates.

UPSC Trap: Do not equate **identity verification** with **citizenship verification**. A government-issued photo ID can establish who a person is without necessarily establishing that the person is a citizen.



Q2. Which one of the following best captures the distinctive ecological logic underlying regenerative agriculture?

- (a) Maximising agricultural output through intensive use of external inputs while compensating for ecological damage through post-harvest restoration
- (b) Maintaining agricultural land in its existing ecological condition primarily by eliminating all forms of mechanical intervention
- (c) Restoring and improving soil biological processes, nutrient cycling, water retention and biodiversity through practices such as reduced soil disturbance, continuous soil cover and farm-level diversification
- (d) Replacing crop-based agriculture with integrated livestock production so that nutrient cycling becomes independent of external agricultural inputs

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Regenerative agriculture is not merely another expression for **organic farming**, nor does it mean simply eliminating all synthetic inputs. Its distinctive emphasis is on **restoration and improvement of ecological functions**, especially soil health and biodiversity.

Practices can include:

- reduced/minimised tillage;
- continuous soil cover;
- cover crops;
- mulching;
- green manuring;
- crop-livestock integration;
- agroforestry;
- diversified farming;
- biological inputs;
- efficient water management.

The objective is therefore not merely to **sustain the existing state** of an agro-ecosystem but to improve soil fertility, water retention, biological activity and ecosystem resilience over time.

Option (a) is contrary to the philosophy because regenerative agriculture seeks to reduce dependence on external chemical inputs rather than intensify them.

Option (b) is too absolute. Regenerative agriculture does not imply that **all mechanical intervention** must disappear; rather, it generally seeks to minimise unnecessary soil disturbance.

Option (d) incorrectly reduces regenerative agriculture to livestock integration. Livestock may form one component, but regenerative agriculture can encompass crops, livestock, agroforestry, horticulture, fisheries and pollinator-supporting systems.



Key conceptual distinction:

Sustainable agriculture → maintain ecological productivity;

Regenerative agriculture → actively restore and enhance ecological functions.

Q3. With reference to Exercise Udara Shakti 2026, consider the following statements:

1. It is a bilateral exercise between India and Malaysia and is designed primarily around tactical air-combat cooperation rather than constituting a multilateral ASEAN military exercise.
2. The participation of aircraft of different origins provides an opportunity for dissimilar air-combat training, thereby exposing participating forces to operational characteristics beyond a single aircraft ecosystem.
3. India's participation in the exercise followed Exercise Pitch Black in Australia, and the movement of Indian fighter assets towards Southeast Asia without returning to their home base demonstrated an element of expeditionary operational reach.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

All three statements are correct.

Statement 1: Exercise Udara Shakti is a **biennial bilateral tactical air-combat exercise** between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). Malaysia is the host country. Therefore, although the exercise has wider strategic significance for India's engagement with Southeast Asia, it should not be described as an ASEAN-wide military exercise.

Statement 2: A particularly important feature is **Dissimilar Aircraft Combat Training (DACT)**. The exercise involved Indian Rafale fighters and Malaysian aircraft including the Su-30MKM and F/A-18D Hornet. This creates a more demanding training environment because pilots have to understand and respond to aircraft possessing different aerodynamic, sensor, weapons and operational characteristics.

Statement 3: The exercise followed India's deployment in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia**. The subsequent movement of frontline aircraft towards Southeast Asia without returning to their home base demonstrated logistical and operational flexibility. Thus, the exercise was not merely about tactical flying; it also had an element of **expeditionary operational reach and logistical interoperability**.

The exercise also involved specialist exchanges concerning operational planning, flight safety, electronic-warfare countermeasures and maintenance procedures.

UPSC Trap: The phrase "**bilateral exercise**" does not mean that its strategic consequences are bilateral only. India can use bilateral exercises to strengthen broader regional interoperability and strategic engagement.



Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Nationwide Cloud and AI Skilling Initiative:

1. It adopts a tiered model in which a substantially larger group receives foundational digital/cloud exposure, while a smaller selected group receives intensive, cohort-based technical training.
2. The initiative is designed exclusively for metropolitan technology hubs because its principal objective is to increase the supply of specialised AI professionals to already-established technology clusters.
3. The programme combines technical training with certification and employment-oriented mechanisms, thereby linking skilling with the transition from learning to labour-market participation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statements 1 and 3 are correct, while Statement 2 is incorrect.

Statement 1 is correct. The initiative has a **two-tier architecture**. The foundational layer is intended to equip **150,000 learners** with self-paced digital literacy, cloud concepts and AI fundamentals. A smaller group of **10,000 qualified participants** is then selected for the intensive AWS re/Start programme involving instructor-led, job-oriented training.

This is an important policy-design distinction. The programme is not structured as a single homogeneous training course. Instead, it creates a **broad base plus selective intensive training pipeline**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The initiative is specifically intended to bridge the technical divide in **non-metropolitan regions**, with particular attention to underserved youth in Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns. Therefore, saying that it is designed exclusively for metropolitan technology hubs reverses its stated geographical orientation.

Statement 3 is correct. The programme does not stop at classroom or online learning. Its architecture includes technical coursework, practical scenario-based learning, capstone assignments, AWS certification support, a national hackathon and interview/placement opportunities.

The initiative is therefore an example of a **skills-to-employment pipeline**, rather than merely a digital-literacy campaign.

UPSC Trap: The words "**100% online**" describe the delivery mode, not the geographical concentration of beneficiaries. Online delivery can, in fact, be used precisely to overcome geographical concentration.

Q5. With reference to INS Mangrol, recently associated with India's naval capability, consider the following statements:

1. Mangrol belongs to the Mahe class of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft and is intended primarily to address subsurface threats in littoral and shallow-water environments.



2. Its propulsion system uses waterjets, which contributes to manoeuvrability in shallow waters and can also help reduce underwater acoustic signatures.
3. The vessel is designed solely for anti-submarine warfare and therefore does not have relevance for mine warfare or other low-intensity maritime operations.
4. Mangrol was built by Cochin Shipyard Limited under a contract involving eight vessels and incorporates more than 80 per cent indigenous systems and components.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Statement 3 is incorrect.

Statement 1 is correct. Mangrol is the **third vessel of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**. Such vessels are designed for operations in shallow coastal/littoral waters where larger warships can face manoeuvrability and operational constraints. Their role includes detection and engagement of subsurface threats.

Statement 2 is correct. Mangrol uses **three marine diesel engines coupled with waterjets rather than conventional screw propellers**. Waterjet propulsion can provide high manoeuvrability and rapid acceleration in shallow water. The configuration also contributes to lower underwater acoustic noise, which is particularly valuable for an anti-submarine platform where acoustic detectability matters.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The vessel is not restricted to a single-purpose anti-submarine role. Its stated capabilities include **subsurface surveillance, mine warfare and Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)** in addition to coastal anti-submarine operations. Thus, "solely" makes the statement incorrect.

Statement 4 is correct. Mangrol was constructed by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi**, under an eight-ship contract with the Ministry of Defence. It incorporates **more than 80% indigenous systems and components**.

The vessel is approximately 78 metres long, has a displacement in the range of roughly 896–1,100 tonnes, can attain speeds up to about 25 knots and has a stated range of around 1,800 nautical miles.

UPSC Trap: The expression "**Anti-Submarine Warfare**" does not imply "**single-purpose vessel**." Modern naval platforms can combine their principal mission with surveillance, mine warfare and low-intensity maritime roles.

Q6. Consider the following geographical characteristics:

1. It is a warm ocean current of the North Atlantic Ocean.
2. It originates as an extension of the North Atlantic Drift system associated with the Gulf of Mexico–Caribbean region and flows generally northeastward.



3. It exerts a significant moderating influence on the climate of western and northwestern Europe.

Which one of the following ocean currents is being described?

- (a) Canary Current
- (b) Labrador Current
- (c) Gulf Stream
- (d) Benguela Current

Answer: (c) Gulf Stream

Explanation:

The **Gulf Stream** is a powerful warm ocean current of the North Atlantic Ocean. It forms part of the broader North Atlantic circulation and carries warm tropical/subtropical water north-eastward.

A crucial geographical consequence of the Gulf Stream and its continuation into the North Atlantic circulation is the transfer of substantial heat towards higher latitudes. This contributes to the relatively mild climate of parts of **Western Europe**, particularly when combined with prevailing westerlies and the broader North Atlantic circulation.

The other options are cold currents:

- **Canary Current** — cold current flowing southward along the northwest coast of Africa.
- **Labrador Current** — cold current flowing southward from the Arctic along the Labrador and Newfoundland region.
- **Benguela Current** — cold current flowing northward along the southwest coast of Africa.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(c) Gulf Stream**.

Map-based UPSC Trap: Do not confuse the **Gulf Stream (warm)** with the **Labrador Current (cold)**. Their interaction near Newfoundland is associated with major oceanographic and climatic phenomena, including productive fishing grounds and frequent fog.



SOURCE: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration STAFF GRAPHIC | JAKE LAWS

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 (Geography)

Q1. Discuss the factors responsible for the uneven distribution of monsoon rainfall in India. How does this variability affect agriculture and regional development?

Answer

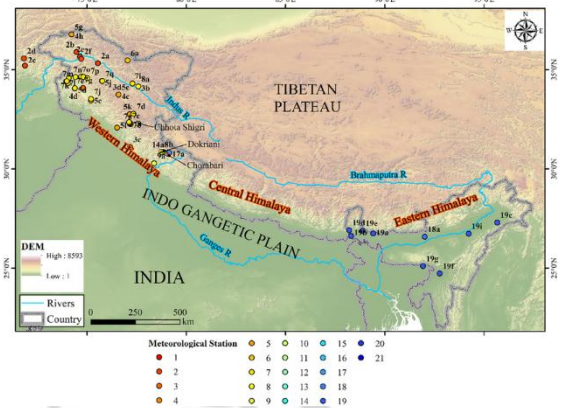
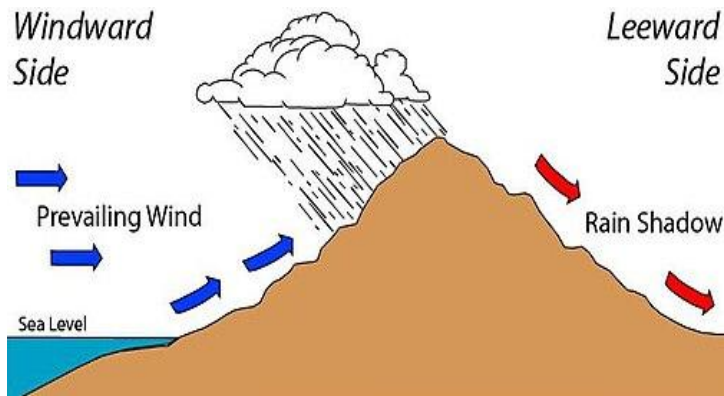
India's monsoon rainfall exhibits marked spatial and temporal unevenness due to a complex interplay of geographical and atmospheric factors.



Factors Responsible

1. Relief and Orography

The Western Ghats and the Himalayas play a decisive role. The windward side of the Western Ghats receives heavy rainfall, while the leeward Deccan Plateau falls in the rain shadow region. Similarly, the Himalayas block the monsoon winds, causing heavy precipitation in the northeastern states.



2. Distance from the Sea (Continentality)

Coastal areas like Kerala and Konkan receive abundant rainfall, whereas interior regions such as Rajasthan receive scanty rainfall.

3. Monsoon Trough Position

The shifting of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and monsoon trough causes year-to-year variability.

4. Cyclonic Disturbances and Depressions

Bay of Bengal depressions significantly influence rainfall over eastern and central India.

5. Climate Change and ENSO

El Niño events often weaken the monsoon, leading to droughts.

Impact on Agriculture

- Rainfed agriculture (about 50% of net sown area) becomes highly vulnerable.
- Uneven rainfall causes crop failures in drought-prone regions like Bundelkhand and Marathwada.
- Flood-prone areas (Assam, Bihar) suffer crop damage and soil erosion.
- Cropping patterns and sowing cycles become uncertain.

Impact on Regional Development

- Reinforces regional inequality.
- Water scarcity affects industry and urban growth in dry regions.
- Migration increases from drought-prone areas.
- Hydropower generation fluctuates.



Conclusion

Addressing monsoon variability requires micro-irrigation, watershed management, climate-resilient crops, and improved forecasting. Long-term resilience lies in integrated water resource management and climate-adaptive planning.

GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance)

Q2. Examine the significance of cooperative federalism in India. Evaluate the role of the GST Council in strengthening fiscal federalism.

Answer

Cooperative federalism refers to a collaborative relationship between the Union and the States aimed at achieving common national goals. In India's quasi-federal structure, it has gained prominence in the post-1991 reform era.

Significance of Cooperative Federalism

1. Constitutional Basis

The Constitution distributes powers through Union, State, and Concurrent Lists while encouraging coordination through institutions like the Inter-State Council.

2. Policy Implementation

Many flagship schemes (e.g., health, education, agriculture) require Centre-State cooperation.

3. Competitive yet Cooperative Model

Institutions like NITI Aayog promote both competition and collaboration among states.

Role of GST Council

The GST Council, established under Article 279A, is often cited as the most successful example of fiscal federalism.

Key Contributions

- **Joint decision-making:** Union and States jointly decide tax rates.
- **Subsumed multiple taxes:** Created a unified national market.
- **Consensus-based functioning:** Most decisions taken unanimously.
- **Revenue sharing:** Compensation mechanism protected states initially.



Challenges

- Compensation cess disputes.
- Voting structure still gives the Union significant weight.
- States' fiscal autonomy concerns.



- Rate rationalization disagreements.

Way Forward

- Strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Ensure timely compensation and trust-building.
- Increase transparency in rate-setting.
- Move toward GST 2.0 with fewer slabs.

Conclusion

The GST Council has deepened cooperative fiscal federalism, but sustaining trust between Centre and States is crucial for its long-term success.

GS Paper 3 (Economy/Environment)

Q3. India's energy transition is crucial for achieving its climate commitments. Discuss the challenges in scaling up renewable energy and suggest policy measures.

Answer

India has committed to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and net-zero by 2070. Renewable energy is central to this transition, yet significant hurdles remain.

Major Challenges

1. Intermittency and Grid Stability

Solar and wind are variable, creating balancing challenges for the grid.

2. Land Acquisition Issues

Large solar parks face land conflicts and ecological concerns.

3. Financial Stress of DISCOMs

Delayed payments discourage private investment.

4. Storage Constraints

Battery storage remains expensive.

5. Import Dependence

Heavy reliance on imported solar modules and critical minerals.

Policy Measures

- Strengthen Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Promote domestic manufacturing (PLI schemes).
- Invest in battery storage and pumped hydro.
- Reform DISCOM finances (RDSS scheme).
- Develop smart grids and forecasting tools.





- **Encourage rooftop solar and decentralized energy.**

Strategic Importance

Energy transition reduces import bills, improves air quality, and enhances energy security.

Conclusion

India's renewable push must be supported by grid modernization, storage expansion, and financial reforms. A balanced transition ensuring affordability, reliability, and sustainability is essential.

GS Paper 4 (Ethics)

Q4.. A district magistrate faces pressure from influential groups to dilute environmental norms for a large investment project that promises employment. Discuss the ethical issues involved and suggest a course of action.

Answer

This case reflects a classic dilemma between development and environmental ethics, testing the integrity and moral courage of a civil servant.

Ethical Issues Involved

1. Conflict between Development and Sustainability

While the project promises jobs, environmental dilution may cause long-term ecological harm.

2. Integrity vs External Pressure

Yielding to influential groups would violate the principles of impartiality and rule of law.

3. Public Interest vs Short-Term Gains

Environmental degradation disproportionately affects vulnerable communities.

4. Constitutional Morality

The magistrate must uphold Article 21 (right to life) which includes environmental protection.

Course of Action

Step 1: Follow Due Process

Ensure Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) norms are strictly followed.

Step 2: Evidence-Based Decision

Seek expert appraisal and public consultation.

Step 3: Transparency

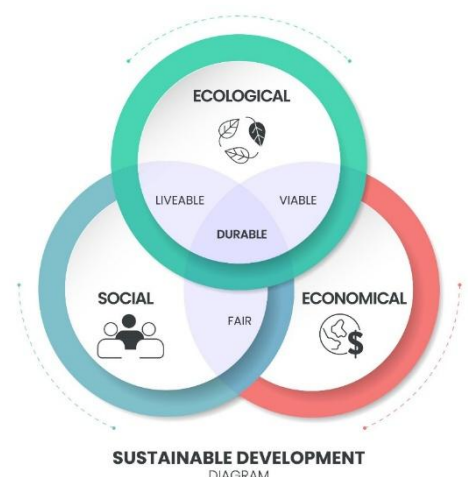
Document all communications to maintain accountability.

Step 4: Explore Middle Path

Encourage green compliance, mitigation measures, or project redesign.

Step 5: Moral Courage

If violations persist, refuse clearance despite pressure.





Values to be Upheld

- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Commitment to sustainable development
- Courage of conviction

Conclusion

Ethical governance requires balancing growth with ecological responsibility. A principled, transparent, and law-bound approach best serves long-term public interest.

Current Affairs

Q5. Wetlands are increasingly being viewed as a national public good in India. Examine their ecological and economic significance and suggest measures for their effective conservation.

Answer

Wetlands—marshes, lakes, mangroves, and floodplains—provide ecosystem services that are non-excludable and non-rivalrous, justifying their treatment as a national public good.

Ecological Significance

1. Biodiversity Hotspots

Wetlands support migratory birds, fish, and endemic species.

2. Flood Regulation

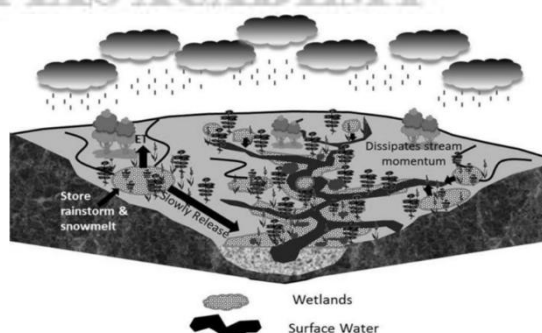
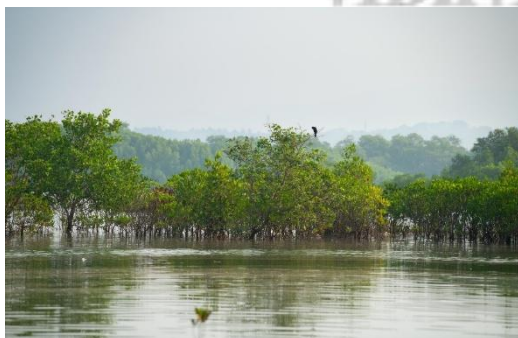
They act as natural sponges, reducing flood peaks.

3. Carbon Sequestration

Coastal wetlands like mangroves are major blue carbon sinks.

4. Groundwater Recharge

They maintain hydrological balance.



Economic Significance

- Support fisheries and livelihoods.
- Promote eco-tourism (e.g., bird sanctuaries).



- Provide water purification services.
- Reduce disaster management costs.

Major Threats

- Urban encroachment
- Pollution and eutrophication
- Invasive species
- Climate change and sea-level rise
- Weak enforcement of Wetlands Rules, 2017

Policy Measures

1. Strengthen Wetland Inventory and Mapping

Use remote sensing and GIS.

2. Community-Based Management

Involve local stakeholders and Panchayats.

3. Integrate Wetlands in Urban Planning

Adopt sponge city concepts.

4. Enhance Ramsar Site Protection

Provide dedicated funding.

5. Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

Incentivize conservation.

Conclusion

Recognizing wetlands as national public goods shifts policy from exploitation to stewardship. A science-based, community-driven conservation strategy is essential for India's ecological security and climate resilience.