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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **JULY 27, 2026**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the development of temple architecture during the early medieval period in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Vesara style emerged as a purely indigenous architectural tradition of the Deccan without incorporating features of either the Nagara or the Dravida styles.
2. In the mature Nagara style, the *amalaka* is generally placed above the *shikhara* and below the *kalasha*.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined from the available evidence

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. The Vesara style is generally regarded as a **fusion** of Nagara and Dravida architectural traditions, particularly visible under the Chalukyas and Hoysalas. Though historians debate its exact evolution, it is not considered an entirely independent architectural tradition.

Statement 2 is **correct**. In a mature Nagara temple, the **amalaka**, a ribbed circular stone, is positioned above the **shikhara**, while the **kalasha** crowns the structure above the amalaka.

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

Q2. Which one of the following ecological processes primarily determines the upper limit of sustainable biomass that can be supported within a terrestrial ecosystem over a long period?

- (a) Gross Primary Productivity (GPP)
- (b) Net Primary Productivity (NPP)
- (c) Ecological succession
- (d) Nutrient mineralization

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Net Primary Productivity (NPP) represents the amount of organic matter remaining after plants meet their own respiratory requirements. It is the energy actually available to herbivores and higher trophic levels, thereby determining the long-term carrying capacity of an ecosystem.

- GPP includes energy used in plant respiration.
- Ecological succession changes community composition but does not directly determine available biomass.
- Nutrient mineralization supports productivity but is not itself the measure of biomass available to consumers.

Hence, **option (b) is correct.**

Q3. With reference to inflation and monetary policy in India, consider the following statements:

1. Core inflation excludes food and fuel because their prices are relatively volatile and often influenced by seasonal or external factors.
2. A persistent increase in core inflation generally indicates that inflationary pressures have become broad-based in the economy.
3. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is legally mandated to target core inflation instead of headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation.

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**. Core inflation excludes food and fuel owing to their high volatility.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Persistent core inflation reflects sustained underlying demand-side or structural inflationary pressures.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. Under the inflation-targeting framework, the RBI targets **headline CPI inflation**, not core inflation. Core inflation is only an analytical indicator used for policy assessment.

Therefore, **only two statements are correct.**

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Constitutional governance in India:

1. Every Money Bill is necessarily a Financial Bill, but every Financial Bill is not necessarily a Money Bill.
2. The Speaker's certification that a Bill is a Money Bill has been held by the Supreme Court to be completely immune from judicial review.
3. A Constitutional Amendment Bill can never be introduced as a Money Bill.
4. The Rajya Sabha may recommend amendments to a Money Bill, but the Lok Sabha is free to accept or reject all such recommendations.

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**. A Money Bill is a specific category under Article 110, whereas Financial Bills cover a broader class of legislation.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. Although the Speaker's decision carries great authority, the Supreme Court has indicated that certification is **not absolutely beyond judicial review**, particularly in cases involving constitutional violations.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Constitutional Amendment Bills are governed by **Article 368** and cannot be introduced as Money Bills.

Statement 4 is **correct**. The Rajya Sabha can only recommend amendments to a Money Bill, and the Lok Sabha may accept or reject them.

Hence, **three statements are correct**.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A):

The annual range of temperature over continental interiors is generally much greater than over adjacent oceanic regions situated at similar latitudes.

Reason 1 (R1):

Land surfaces heat up and cool down much faster than water bodies because of their comparatively lower specific heat capacity.

Reason 2 (R2):

Ocean currents and vertical mixing help redistribute heat over large areas of the oceans, moderating seasonal temperature variations.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Assertion (A) is correct, and both Reason 1 (R1) and Reason 2 (R2) are correct, and both R1 and R2 correctly explain A.
- (b) Assertion (A) is correct, Reason 1 (R1) is correct but Reason 2 (R2) is incorrect.
- (c) Assertion (A) is incorrect, but both Reason 1 (R1) and Reason 2 (R2) are correct.
- (d) Assertion (A) is correct, but neither Reason 1 (R1) nor Reason 2 (R2) correctly explains A.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The **Assertion is correct**. Continental interiors experience a much larger annual temperature range because land responds rapidly to seasonal changes in solar heating, whereas oceans moderate temperature fluctuations.

Reason 1 is correct. Land has a much lower specific heat than water and therefore heats and cools more rapidly.

Reason 2 is also correct. Ocean currents, turbulence, and vertical mixing redistribute absorbed heat over deeper layers and across vast regions, reducing seasonal temperature contrasts.

Both reasons complement each other and collectively explain why maritime climates exhibit lower annual temperature ranges than continental climates.

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

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to INS Mahendragiri (F38), consider the following statements:

1. INS Mahendragiri is the final stealth frigate constructed under **Project 17A**, incorporating modular integrated construction techniques.
2. INS Mahendragiri is equipped with an Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS) and is designed to operate indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile systems.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined from the available information

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. INS Mahendragiri is the **seventh and final frigate** under Project 17A. It incorporates advanced modular construction methods, reducing construction time while improving precision.

Statement 2 is **correct**. The ship features an Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), advanced stealth technologies, indigenous sensors, and is capable of deploying long-range surface-to-air missile systems along with BrahMos missiles.

Therefore, **both statements are correct.**

Q2. The recently reported Vepdegestrant, frequently seen in the news, is best associated with:

- (a) A selective estrogen receptor degrader (SERD) used in breast cancer therapy
- (b) A next-generation mRNA vaccine against Nipah virus
- (c) A CRISPR-based therapy for sickle cell anaemia
- (d) An AI-assisted molecular diagnostic platform for tuberculosis

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Vepdegestrant is an **oral Selective Estrogen Receptor Degradar (SERD)** developed for treating **ER-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer**, particularly among patients showing ESR1 mutations responsible for endocrine resistance.

The remaining options relate to unrelated biomedical technologies.

Q3. With reference to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, consider the following statements:

1. He served as the first Minister for Industry and Supply in independent India's first Union Cabinet.
2. He resigned from the Union Cabinet primarily in protest against the Nehru–Liaquat Pact.
3. He founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1952 after serving as the President of the Hindu Mahasabha.

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**. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee became the first Minister for Industry and Supply in independent India's first Cabinet.

Statement 2 is **correct**. He resigned in 1950, opposing the Nehru–Liaquat Pact and expressing concerns regarding the protection of minorities in East Pakistan.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. He founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in **1951**, not 1952. Although he had earlier been associated with the Hindu Mahasabha, the year mentioned makes the statement incorrect.

Hence, **only two statements are correct**.

Q4. With reference to the Himalayan Pangolin, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only pangolin species naturally found in the Trans-Himalayan cold desert ecosystem.
2. It is listed under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. It is included in **Appendix I of CITES**, prohibiting international commercial trade in wild specimens.

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 **incorrect**. The Himalayan Pangolin inhabits Himalayan foothills and temperate forests but is **not confined to nor the only pangolin of the Trans-Himalayan cold desert ecosystem**.

Statement 2 is **correct**. It enjoys the highest level of legal protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

Statement 3 is **correct**. All pangolin species are included in **Appendix I of CITES**, effectively banning international commercial trade.

Therefore, **only two statements are correct**.

Q5. With reference to the Prambanan Temple, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia and is dedicated primarily to the Trimurti.
2. The temple complex was constructed during the Sailendra Dynasty, which was predominantly associated with Mahayana Buddhism.
3. The temple has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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**. Prambanan is Indonesia's largest Hindu temple complex dedicated to **Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma**.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. It was primarily constructed under the **Sanjaya (Mataram) rulers**, not the Buddhist Sailendra Dynasty.

Statement 3 is **correct**. It is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Hence, **only two statements are correct**.

Q6. With reference to INS Mahendragiri, consider the following statements:

1. It has been built under Project 17A.
2. It incorporates stealth features intended to reduce radar cross-section.
3. It is designed to operate multi-role helicopters for anti-submarine warfare.
4. It was built entirely without the use of any imported technology or components.

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 Mahendragiri belongs to Project 17A.

Statement 2 is **correct**. The frigate incorporates advanced stealth characteristics.

Statement 3 is **correct**. It can embark multi-role helicopters for anti-submarine and maritime operations.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**. Although the indigenous content is very high, the ship is **not built entirely without imported technology or components**.

Therefore, **three statements are correct**.

Q7. (Map Based)

Consider the following rivers:

1. Rangit
2. Great Rangit
3. Chel
4. Jaldhaka

Which of the above are **right-bank tributaries** of the **Teesta River**?

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

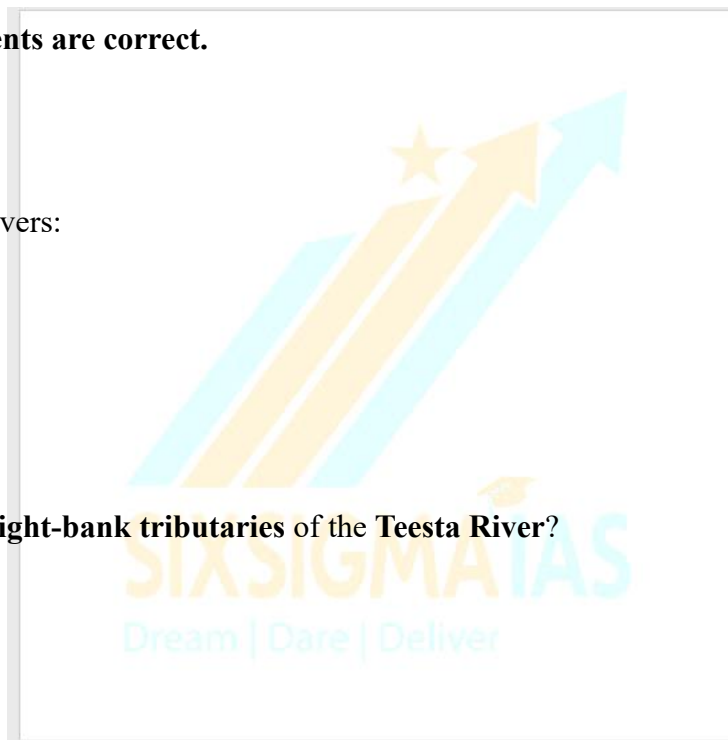
Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The **Teesta River** originates from the eastern Himalayas and flows through Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.

- **Rangit (Great Rangit)** joins the Teesta from the **right bank** in Sikkim. (Statements 1 and 2 refer to the same river by common and alternate names.)
- **Chel** is a **left-bank tributary**.
- **Jaldhaka** is an **independent transboundary river** flowing into Bangladesh and is **not a tributary of the Teesta**.

Thus, only **1 and 2** satisfy the question.



Value Added Fact (UPSC):**Important Tributaries of the Teesta****Left-bank tributaries:**

- Lachung Chu
- Lachen Chu
- Chel
- Neora

Right-bank tributaries:

- Great Rangit (Rangit)
- Rangpo Chu
- Relli Khola

UPSC Trap: Candidates often confuse **Jaldhaka** with the Teesta basin because both originate in the Eastern Himalayas and flow into Bangladesh, but **Jaldhaka is not a tributary of the Teesta**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS Paper I – Indian Society & Geography)

Q1. "Urbanisation in India is increasingly characterised by spatial expansion rather than planned development." Examine the changing pattern of urbanisation in India and discuss the major socio-economic and environmental challenges associated with it. Suggest suitable measures for sustainable urban growth. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Urbanisation refers to the increasing concentration of population in urban areas accompanied by structural transformation of the economy. India is experiencing one of the fastest rates of urban expansion globally, driven by industrialisation, migration, and the growth of the service sector. However, much of this growth has been unplanned, resulting in significant developmental challenges.

The pattern of urbanisation in India has shifted from the growth of metropolitan cities to the emergence of peri-urban regions and urban corridors. Large cities continue to attract migrants due to employment opportunities, while smaller towns are gradually transforming into urban centres. Nevertheless, this expansion often occurs without adequate infrastructure or land-use planning, leading to urban sprawl. Encroachment on wetlands, agricultural land, and forest areas has increased environmental vulnerability.

Rapid urbanisation has produced multiple socio-economic challenges. Affordable housing remains inadequate, resulting in the proliferation of slums and informal settlements. Pressure on civic infrastructure has led to traffic congestion, poor sanitation, water scarcity, and inefficient waste management. Economic inequality is reflected in the coexistence of high-income residential enclaves alongside deprived informal settlements. Informal employment dominates the urban labour market, often without social security or adequate wages.

Environmental concerns have also intensified. Air pollution, heat island effects, declining groundwater levels, and frequent urban flooding are increasingly common due to unscientific construction and loss of natural drainage systems. Climate change further aggravates these risks.

Sustainable urban growth requires integrated planning. Master plans should incorporate climate resilience, mixed land use, affordable housing, and efficient public transport. Transit-oriented development, green infrastructure, rainwater harvesting, and urban forestry can improve environmental sustainability. Strengthening urban local bodies through fiscal decentralisation and better governance is equally important. Programmes such as the Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT should focus not merely on technological solutions but also on inclusiveness and environmental sustainability.

India's demographic transition presents an opportunity to transform cities into engines of economic growth. Planned urbanisation supported by strong institutions, citizen participation, and ecological considerations can ensure that cities become centres of prosperity while remaining sustainable and resilient.

(GS Paper II – Polity & Governance)

Q2. *"Regional aspirations are not a threat to Indian unity but a reflection of democratic federalism."* Critically examine this statement in the context of India's cooperative federal structure.* (15 Marks | 250 Words)

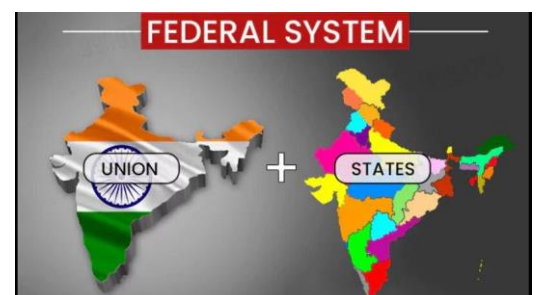
Sample Answer

India's federal system accommodates enormous diversity in language, culture, ethnicity, geography, and economic development. Regional aspirations have emerged as demands for greater autonomy, equitable development, linguistic recognition, or cultural identity. Rather than weakening the Union, these aspirations often strengthen democratic participation when addressed constitutionally.

The reorganisation of states on linguistic lines after the recommendations of the States Reorganisation Commission demonstrated India's willingness to accommodate diversity through constitutional means. Subsequent creation of states such as Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, and Jharkhand reflected democratic responses to regional demands. Such accommodation reduced alienation and improved governance.

Regional aspirations also promote decentralised development by enabling policies tailored to local needs. State governments are often better positioned to address issues relating to agriculture, education, health, and local infrastructure. Competitive and cooperative federalism encourages innovation and policy experimentation among states.

However, unresolved regional grievances can sometimes generate separatist tendencies, identity politics, or demands for excessive autonomy. Inter-state disputes relating to river waters, language, boundaries, and



resource sharing occasionally create political tensions. Fiscal disparities among states have also generated debates regarding revenue sharing and cooperative federalism.

The Constitution provides multiple institutional mechanisms to manage such challenges. The Finance Commission, Inter-State Council, GST Council, and Zonal Councils facilitate dialogue and consensus-building. Judicial intervention has also helped resolve constitutional disputes between the Centre and the States.

Strengthening cooperative federalism requires regular institutional consultation, greater fiscal autonomy, transparent devolution of resources, and respect for the constitutional distribution of powers. Aspirational districts, regional development programmes, and decentralised planning can reduce regional inequalities.

India's experience demonstrates that accommodating regional aspirations within constitutional limits reinforces national integration. Unity in India has been sustained not through uniformity but through democratic accommodation of diversity. Cooperative federalism therefore remains the cornerstone of India's political stability and inclusive development.

(GS Paper III – Economy)

Q3. "Fiscal prudence and developmental expenditure are not mutually exclusive." Discuss the role of government budgeting in achieving inclusive economic growth in India.* (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

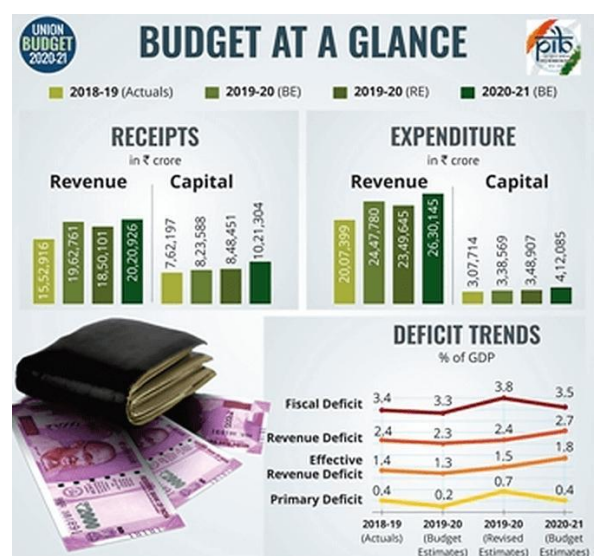
The government budget is a comprehensive statement of estimated receipts and expenditure for a financial year. It serves not only as a financial document but also as an instrument of economic policy aimed at promoting growth, equity, and macroeconomic stability.

A well-designed budget stimulates economic development through public investment in infrastructure, education, healthcare, agriculture, and social welfare. Capital expenditure creates productive assets that generate long-term economic returns and crowd in private investment. Welfare expenditure enhances human capital, reduces poverty, and promotes social inclusion.

At the same time, governments must maintain fiscal discipline to prevent unsustainable debt accumulation. Persistent fiscal deficits may increase inflationary pressures, raise borrowing costs, and reduce fiscal space for future development. Therefore, fiscal prudence requires efficient expenditure rather than indiscriminate spending cuts.

India has increasingly focused on improving the quality of expenditure by prioritising capital investment while rationalising subsidies through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Digital governance has enhanced transparency and reduced leakages. Fiscal rules under the FRBM framework seek to balance developmental objectives with macroeconomic stability.

Government budgeting also promotes inclusive growth by addressing regional disparities through transfers to states, supporting employment generation through rural development programmes, and expanding financial



inclusion. Investments in renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and logistics improve long-term competitiveness.

However, challenges remain. Tax buoyancy fluctuates with economic conditions, while rising welfare commitments place pressure on public finances. Climate adaptation, urban infrastructure, and demographic changes require sustained public investment.

A balanced fiscal strategy should emphasise efficient tax administration, expenditure prioritisation, improved public asset management, and outcome-based budgeting. Greater coordination between the Union and States is essential for effective resource utilisation.

Ultimately, fiscal prudence should not be viewed as an obstacle to development. Rather, responsible budgeting ensures that scarce public resources generate maximum economic and social returns while preserving macroeconomic stability for future generations.

(GS Paper IV – Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Q4. *"Integrity is demonstrated not only by resisting corruption but also by consistently acting in the public interest." Discuss with suitable examples.* (15 Marks | 250 Words)*

Sample Answer

Integrity is the unwavering adherence to moral and ethical principles in both personal and professional life. In public administration, integrity extends beyond merely avoiding corruption; it requires consistent commitment to constitutional values, fairness, accountability, and public welfare.

A civil servant possessing integrity performs duties objectively even when faced with political pressure or personal inconvenience. Such an individual ensures that public resources are utilised efficiently and decisions are guided solely by the larger public interest. Integrity therefore creates public trust in institutions and strengthens democratic governance.

Integrity manifests through several dimensions. Moral courage enables officials to resist illegal orders. Transparency promotes accountability by making administrative processes open to scrutiny. Impartiality ensures equal treatment of all citizens irrespective of caste, religion, or political affiliation. Compassion allows administrators to understand the needs of vulnerable communities while remaining within the framework of law.

Several examples demonstrate integrity in action. Election officials conducting free and fair elections despite difficult circumstances uphold democratic values. District administrators ensuring transparent relief distribution during disasters exemplify ethical public service. Whistle-blowers exposing corruption despite personal risks also reflect integrity.

Integrity differs from mere honesty. An honest individual may refrain from accepting bribes, whereas an administrator with integrity actively seeks efficient service delivery, prevents misuse of public funds, and remains accountable for outcomes. Ethical leadership further inspires organisational culture by setting high standards of conduct.



Institutional mechanisms such as social audits, e-governance, citizen charters, vigilance systems, and transparent procurement reinforce integrity within governance structures. Ethical education and regular training also strengthen value-based administration.

In a democratic society, integrity remains the foundation of good governance. Public confidence in institutions depends not only on legal compliance but also on the ethical commitment of public officials to serve citizens with fairness, responsibility, and compassion.

(Current Affairs – Bridge Man of India: Girish Bharadwaj)

Q5. *"The work of Girish Bharadwaj demonstrates how appropriate technology can promote inclusive and sustainable rural development."* Discuss.* (10 Marks | 150 Words)

Sample Answer

Girish Bharadwaj, popularly known as the "**Bridge Man of India**," pioneered the construction of low-cost suspended footbridges in remote and inaccessible regions of the country. His engineering innovations significantly improved connectivity in hilly and tribal areas where conventional bridge construction was financially or technically difficult.

His work reflects the principle of **appropriate technology**, which emphasises affordable, locally adaptable, environmentally sustainable, and community-oriented engineering solutions. Instead of relying on expensive infrastructure, Bharadwaj developed lightweight suspension bridges that could be built quickly using locally available materials and labour. These bridges reduced travel time, improved access to schools, healthcare facilities, and markets, and strengthened disaster resilience.

The initiative also illustrates the importance of community participation. Local residents often contributed labour during construction, creating a sense of ownership and ensuring long-term maintenance. The bridges promoted economic opportunities by facilitating movement of agricultural produce and enhancing rural livelihoods.

From the perspective of sustainable development, Bharadwaj's approach minimised environmental disturbance while maximising social benefits. His work aligns with the objectives of inclusive growth, rural connectivity, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable infrastructure under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The success of Girish Bharadwaj demonstrates that innovation need not always involve high technology. Context-specific engineering, driven by social commitment and community participation, can transform lives and bridge developmental gaps in some of India's most remote regions.