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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **JULY 31, 2026**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the **Later Vedic sacrificial tradition**, consider the following statements:

1. The increasing complexity of royal sacrifices such as the *Rajasuya* and *Ashvamedha* reflected the growing political authority of territorial kingdoms rather than merely religious practices.
2. The *Shatapatha Brahmana* consistently rejected symbolic interpretation of sacrifices and confined itself exclusively to ritual procedures.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** During the Later Vedic period, elaborate sacrifices such as the *Rajasuya*, *Vajapeya*, and *Ashvamedha* became instruments for legitimising royal authority and expanding political influence. They reflected the emergence of larger territorial polities.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** The *Shatapatha Brahmana* is not merely a manual of rituals. It provides elaborate symbolic and philosophical interpretations of sacrifices, many of which later influenced Upanishadic thought.

Hence, **only Statement 1 is correct.**

Q2. Which one of the following ecological concepts best explains why the removal of a top predator may lead to widespread changes across multiple trophic levels, even without any direct alteration in primary productivity?

- (a) Ecological succession
- (b) Trophic cascade
- (c) Competitive exclusion principle
- (d) Bergmann's rule

Answer: (b) Trophic cascade

Explanation:

A **trophic cascade** occurs when changes at the highest trophic level trigger indirect effects throughout lower trophic levels. Removal of apex predators often increases herbivore populations, leading to excessive grazing and alteration of ecosystem structure. The phenomenon is independent of changes in primary productivity and is a classic example of top-down ecological regulation.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding **human capital formation and economic development**:

1. Investment in education necessarily results in immediate increases in labour productivity irrespective of labour market conditions.

2. Human capital formation contributes to economic growth by improving innovation, adaptability and technological absorption.
3. Public expenditure on preventive healthcare may enhance long-term productivity even if it does not immediately increase GDP.

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 Incorrect.** Education does not automatically or immediately translate into productivity gains. The benefits depend upon employment opportunities, quality of education, complementary infrastructure and labour market efficiency.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** Human capital enhances innovation, skill formation and the ability to adopt new technologies, thereby promoting long-term growth.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Preventive healthcare improves workforce efficiency and reduces productivity losses due to illness, producing long-term economic gains even when short-term GDP effects are limited.

Thus, **Statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the **constitutional framework governing the relationship between the Union and the States:**

1. Parliament may legislate on a State List subject during a National Emergency without obtaining prior consent of the States.
2. A law made by Parliament on a State List under the Rajya Sabha Resolution mechanism continues to remain in force permanently even after the Resolution ceases to operate.
3. Parliament may legislate on matters in the State List to implement certain international treaties or agreements even without a National Emergency.
4. During President's Rule in a State, Parliament may assume the legislative powers of the State Legislature.

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.** Under **Article 250**, Parliament can legislate on State List subjects during a National Emergency.

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** Laws made under **Article 249** do not remain permanently effective in their special status. They continue for a limited period after the Rajya Sabha Resolution ceases, unless otherwise repealed or modified under constitutional provisions.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Under **Article 253**, Parliament may legislate on any subject, including those in the State List, to implement international treaties or agreements.
- **Statement 4 is Correct.** During **President's Rule (Article 356)**, Parliament assumes the legislative functions of the State Legislature.

Therefore, **Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct.**

Q5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): River capture can significantly alter the drainage pattern of a region over geological time.

Reason I: Headward erosion by one river system may intercept the upper reaches of a neighbouring river basin.

Reason II: River capture can occur only in tectonically active regions experiencing recent mountain building.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Assertion is correct, Reason I is correct, Reason II is correct, and both Reasons explain the Assertion.
- (b) Assertion is correct, Reason I is correct, but Reason II is incorrect.
- (c) Assertion is incorrect, but Reason I is correct.
- (d) Assertion is correct, but both Reasons are incorrect.

Answer: (b) Assertion is correct, Reason I is correct, but Reason II is incorrect.

Explanation:

- **Assertion is Correct.** River capture (stream piracy) changes drainage networks by diverting the flow of one river into another basin over geological time.
- **Reason I is Correct.** Headward erosion is one of the principal mechanisms responsible for river capture and directly explains the Assertion.
- **Reason II is Incorrect.** Although tectonic activity may facilitate river capture, it is **not a necessary condition**. River capture may also result from differential erosion, changes in base level, or glacial processes.

Hence, **Option (b)** is the correct answer.

Q1. With reference to the **E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI)**, consider the following statements:

1. The E-Commerce Council of India is intended to function as an industry-led institutional platform to facilitate coordination among stakeholders in India's digital commerce ecosystem.
2. The ECCI has been established through a constitutional amendment and derives statutory powers to regulate all e-commerce entities operating in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** The ECCI has been conceived as an industry-led collaborative platform aimed at strengthening India's e-commerce ecosystem through stakeholder coordination, policy dialogue and sectoral cooperation.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** The ECCI is **not** a constitutional or statutory regulator. It does not derive regulatory authority through a constitutional amendment. Regulatory functions continue to rest with the concerned ministries and statutory authorities.

Q2. Mission Aagaman: Vikram-1 is associated with:

- (a) India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle intended for commercial satellite launches
- (b) ISRO's reusable launch vehicle demonstration programme
- (c) India's indigenous human spaceflight recovery module
- (d) A lunar rover designed for Chandrayaan-4

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Mission **Aagaman** represents the maiden orbital mission of **Vikram-1**, developed by **Skyroot Aerospace**. Vikram-1 is designed as a **private orbital launch vehicle** capable of placing small satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), marking a significant milestone in India's private space sector.

Q3. With reference to **Manasbal Lake**, consider the following statements:

1. It is regarded as one of the deepest freshwater lakes in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. The lake is designated as a Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention.
3. Floating vegetation and extensive lotus growth constitute important ecological characteristics of the lake.

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.** Manasbal Lake is among the deepest freshwater lakes in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** Manasbal Lake has **not** been designated as a Ramsar Site.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** The lake is well known for its lotus beds and rich aquatic biodiversity.

Hence, **Statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

Q4. With reference to the **World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO)**, consider the following statements:

1. WAICO seeks to promote international cooperation on responsible development and governance of Artificial Intelligence.
2. Membership of WAICO is restricted exclusively to sovereign States.
3. One of its objectives is to facilitate cross-border collaboration involving governments, industries and research institutions.

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.** WAICO has been proposed to encourage international cooperation on AI governance and responsible AI development.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** Its collaborative framework is intended to involve multiple stakeholders and is not confined exclusively to sovereign governments.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Cross-border cooperation among governments, academia, industry and research organisations is one of its major objectives.

Therefore, **Statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

Q5. With reference to the **Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)** and **Lestes paloti**, consider the following statements:

1. The Investment Friendliness Index seeks to evaluate States and Union Territories on parameters influencing the investment climate.
2. The Index is intended to encourage competitive federalism by promoting reforms favourable to investment.
3. *Lestes paloti* belongs to the dragonfly group (Anisoptera).
4. *Lestes paloti* is a newly described species of damselfly endemic to India.

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.** IFI assesses factors influencing investment attractiveness across States/UTs.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** It aims to promote healthy competition among States for improving the business environment.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect.** *Lestes paloti* is a **damselfly**, not a dragonfly.
- **Statement 4 is Correct.** It is a newly described damselfly species reported from India.

Hence, **Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.**

Q6. Consider the following places:

1. Thessaloniki
2. Mount Olympus
3. Larissa
4. Aegean Sea

The **Mount Olympus**, frequently seen in news, is situated between which of the following?

- (a) Thessaloniki and Larissa
- (b) Athens and Patras
- (c) Tirana and Skopje
- (d) Sofia and Plovdiv

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in **Greece**, lies on the boundary of the regions of **Thessaly and Central Macedonia**, between the cities of **Thessaloniki** (to the north) and **Larissa** (to the south). It

overlooks the Gulf of Thermaikos, an arm of the Aegean Sea, and is famous in Greek mythology as the abode of the Olympian gods.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS Paper I – Indian Society)

Q.1 "India's demographic dividend presents both an unprecedented opportunity and a formidable governance challenge." Discuss in the context of changing demographic trends in India. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

India is home to one of the world's youngest populations. Around two-thirds of its population belongs to the working-age group, providing a significant **demographic dividend**. However, this dividend is not automatic; it depends upon the productive employment of the young population through investments in education, healthcare and skill development.

Demographic Trends in India

- Declining fertility rates across most States.
- Rising life expectancy due to improved healthcare.
- Increasing urbanisation.
- Migration from rural to urban centres.
- Regional disparities in population growth.
- Growing elderly population requiring social security.

Opportunities

1. Economic Growth

A larger workforce can increase productivity and GDP.

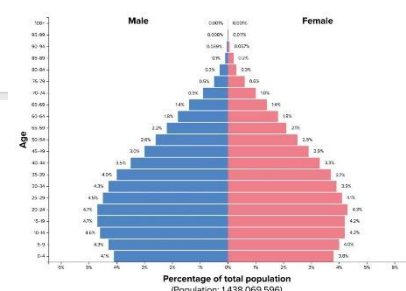
2. Innovation

Young populations tend to adopt technology rapidly and promote entrepreneurship.

3. Savings and Investments

Working-age populations generally increase household savings, supporting capital formation.

Population Pyramid of India 2023



4. Global Workforce

India can become a major supplier of skilled manpower.

Challenges

Skill Gap

A significant proportion of graduates lack employable skills.

Unemployment

Job creation has not kept pace with labour force growth.

Regional Imbalance

Southern States are ageing faster, while northern States continue to witness higher fertility.

Health Concerns

Malnutrition and poor healthcare reduce labour productivity.

Gender Inequality

Female labour force participation remains comparatively low.

Government Initiatives

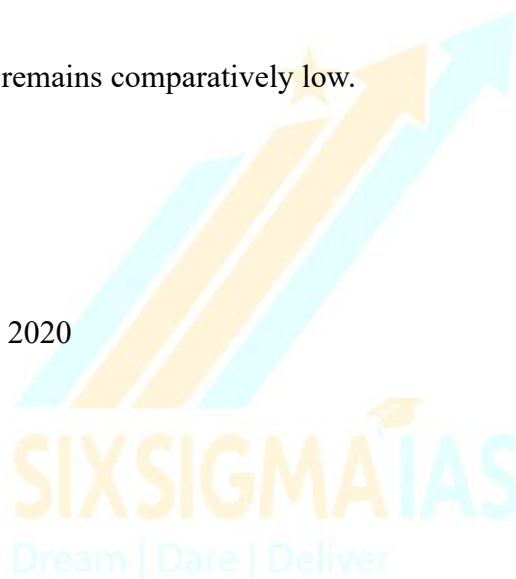
- Skill India Mission
- PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- National Education Policy 2020
- Startup India
- Digital India
- Ayushman Bharat

Way Forward

- Improve quality education.
- Promote manufacturing and labour-intensive industries.
- Increase female workforce participation.
- Invest in healthcare and nutrition.
- Strengthen vocational education.
- Encourage innovation-driven employment.

Conclusion

India's demographic dividend is a time-bound opportunity. Countries such as Japan and several European nations now face ageing populations. India must convert its demographic advantage into economic strength through inclusive development, quality education, employment generation and human capital investment.



(GS Paper II – Governance)

Q.2 Discuss how India's foreign policy has evolved from Non-Alignment to Multi-Alignment. Examine its significance in the emerging multipolar world order. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

India's foreign policy has undergone significant transformation since Independence. While the principles of strategic autonomy remain intact, India's approach has evolved from **Non-Alignment** during the Cold War to **Multi-Alignment** in the contemporary geopolitical environment.

Evolution**Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

- Avoidance of military blocs.
- Strategic independence.
- Peaceful coexistence.

Post-Cold War Changes

- Economic liberalisation.
- Rise of China.
- Globalisation.
- Energy security concerns.

Features of Multi-Alignment

- Simultaneous engagement with the United States, Russia, Europe and Japan.
- Participation in QUAD.
- Membership of BRICS and SCO.
- Leadership in Global South initiatives.
- Indo-Pacific cooperation.
- Climate diplomacy.

Significance**Strategic Autonomy**

India maintains independent decision-making.

Economic Interests

Diversified trade and investment partnerships.

Energy Security

Balanced relations with Gulf countries and Russia.

Technology Cooperation

Semiconductors, AI, digital public infrastructure.

Defence Cooperation

Multiple defence partnerships reduce strategic dependence.

Challenges

- US-China rivalry.
- Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- Maritime security.
- Supply chain disruptions.
- Climate negotiations.

Way Forward

- Strengthen neighbourhood diplomacy.
- Expand economic partnerships.
- Enhance maritime capabilities.
- Promote Global South leadership.
- Invest in technological self-reliance.

Conclusion

India's foreign policy today represents continuity with adaptation. Strategic autonomy remains the guiding principle, while multi-alignment enables India to maximise national interests in a rapidly evolving multipolar international order.

(GS Paper III – Economy)

Q.3 Critically analyse the role of fiscal policy in promoting inclusive growth while maintaining macroeconomic stability in India. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Fiscal policy refers to the government's use of taxation, expenditure and borrowing to achieve economic objectives. In a developing economy like India, fiscal policy serves not only stabilisation but also redistribution and development functions.

Objectives

- Economic growth
- Employment generation
- Poverty reduction
- Infrastructure development
- Macroeconomic stability

Role in Inclusive Growth**Public Investment**

Infrastructure improves connectivity and productivity.

Social Sector Spending

Education and healthcare enhance human capital.

Rural Development

Schemes like MGNREGA strengthen rural demand.

Targeted Subsidies

DBT improves efficiency and reduces leakages.

Capital Expenditure

Creates multiplier effects.

Challenges

- High fiscal deficit.
- Rising public debt.
- Revenue constraints.
- Subsidy burden.
- Inflationary pressures.

Fiscal Responsibility

The Fiscal Responsibility framework encourages prudent borrowing and sustainable finances while allowing flexibility during crises.

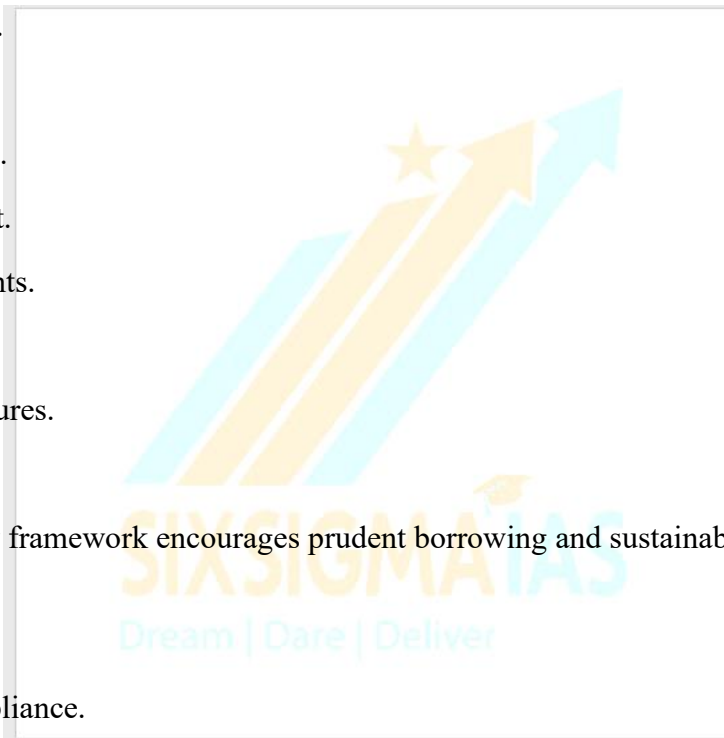
Way Forward

- Increase tax compliance.
- Rationalise subsidies.
- Expand productive capital expenditure.
- Improve expenditure efficiency.
- Strengthen cooperative fiscal federalism.

Conclusion

A well-designed fiscal policy balances growth with stability. Productive public expenditure, combined with fiscal discipline, is essential for sustaining inclusive development in India.

(GS Paper IV – Ethics)



Q.4 "Ethical governance requires not only integrity in public life but also institutional accountability." Explain with suitable examples. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Ethical governance refers to decision-making based on integrity, transparency, accountability and public welfare. While personal integrity is essential, institutions must also possess mechanisms that ensure ethical conduct irrespective of individual behaviour.

Importance of Integrity

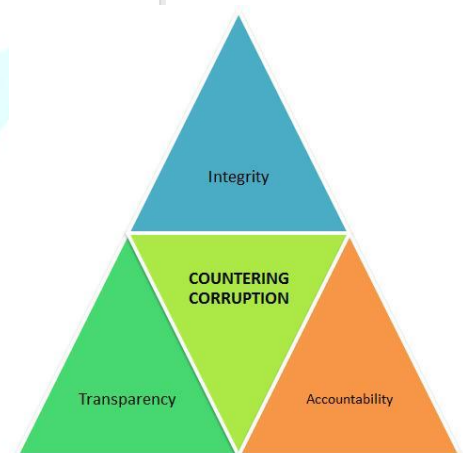
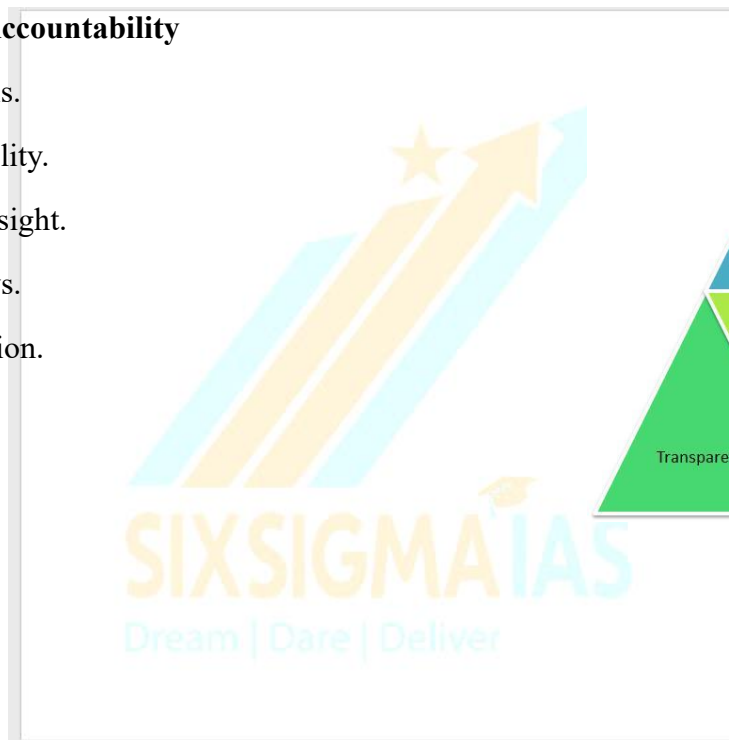
- Builds public trust.
- Prevents corruption.
- Promotes impartiality.
- Ensures fairness.

Need for Institutional Accountability

- Audit mechanisms.
- Social accountability.
- Independent oversight.
- Transparency laws.
- Citizen participation.

Ethical Principles

- Objectivity
- Compassion
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Rule of Law
- Transparency



Examples

- Digital governance reducing discretion.
- RTI promoting transparency.
- Social audits improving welfare implementation.
- E-procurement reducing corruption.

Challenges

- Conflict of interest.
- Political interference.

- Weak enforcement.
- Delayed accountability.

Way Forward

- Ethics training.
- Strong vigilance mechanisms.
- Technology-enabled governance.
- Protection for whistle-blowers.
- Citizen-centric administration.

Conclusion

Ethical governance emerges when integrity is supported by transparent institutions, robust accountability mechanisms and a culture of public service. Sustainable good governance requires both ethical individuals and ethical institutions.

(Current Affairs)

Q.5 Artificial Intelligence is increasingly becoming a strategic resource comparable to energy and critical minerals. Discuss India's preparedness to emerge as a global AI leader while ensuring responsible and ethical AI governance. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a transformative technology influencing governance, healthcare, defence, education, manufacturing and financial services. Nations increasingly view AI as a strategic asset with implications for economic competitiveness and national security.

India's Strengths

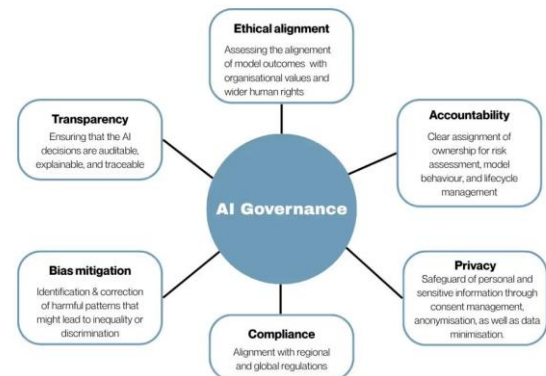
- Large digital public infrastructure.
- Expanding startup ecosystem.
- Strong IT services industry.
- Skilled technology workforce.
- Growing semiconductor ecosystem.
- Government initiatives supporting AI innovation.

Opportunities

Economic Growth

AI can significantly enhance productivity.

Agriculture



Precision farming and crop forecasting.

Healthcare

Disease diagnosis and telemedicine.

Education

Personalised learning.

Governance

Smart service delivery and predictive policymaking.

Challenges

- Data privacy concerns.
- Algorithmic bias.
- Cybersecurity risks.
- Shortage of advanced AI researchers.
- Digital divide.
- Ethical concerns.

Measures Required

- Comprehensive AI governance framework.
- Responsible AI standards.
- Investment in research.
- Skilling and reskilling programmes.
- International cooperation.
- Indigenous AI ecosystem.

Conclusion

India possesses strong foundational advantages to become a leading AI power. However, technological leadership must be accompanied by ethical governance, robust regulation, innovation-friendly policies and inclusive digital development. Balancing innovation with accountability will determine India's long-term success in the global AI ecosystem.

