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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **AUGUST 3, 2026**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q.1 With reference to the Indian classical dance tradition, consider the following statements:

1. Every Indian classical dance form recognized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi necessarily traces its theoretical foundation exclusively to the *Natya Shastra*.
2. The *Margam* format, consisting of a structured sequence of performance items, is traditionally associated with Bharatanatyam rather than with all classical dance forms.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. Although the *Natya Shastra* provides the foundational framework for Indian performing arts, not every classical dance tradition derives exclusively from it. Dance traditions such as Mohiniyattam and Kathak also draw significantly from texts like the *Abhinaya Darpana*, regional temple traditions, court traditions, and later treatises.

Statement 2 is **correct**. The *Margam* system—typically beginning with Alarippu and culminating in Tillana—constitutes the traditional repertoire of Bharatanatyam. Other classical dance forms possess distinct performance structures.

Value Addition:

- Theoretical sources include *Natya Shastra*, *Abhinaya Darpana*, *Sangita Ratnakara*, and regional traditions.
- UPSC often tests the distinction between textual foundations and performance traditions.

Q.2 Which one of the following National Parks is situated in the cold desert ecosystem of the Trans-Himalayan region?

- (a) Simlipal National Park
- (b) Hemis National Park
- (c) Sultanpur National Park
- (d) Indravati National Park

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Hemis National Park is located in Ladakh and is India's largest notified National Park. It represents the Trans-Himalayan cold desert ecosystem and is globally known for the Snow Leopard, Tibetan Wolf, Blue Sheep (Bharal), and high-altitude biodiversity.

The remaining parks belong to entirely different ecological regions:

- Simlipal – Eastern Ghats moist deciduous forests.

- Sultanpur – Wetland ecosystem.
- Indravati – Central Indian tropical forests.

Value Addition:

- Hemis National Park is one of the world's most important habitats of the Snow Leopard.
- It lies in the Indus River basin.

Q.3 With reference to Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), consider the following statements:

1. TReDS permits multiple financiers to bid competitively for financing accepted trade receivables.
2. Once an invoice is financed through TReDS, the payment obligation shifts from the MSME seller to the buyer on the due date.
3. Only public sector banks are permitted to participate as financiers on TReDS platforms.

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**. TReDS enables financiers to bid competitively, ensuring better financing terms for MSMEs.

Statement 2 is **correct**. After financing, the buyer is responsible for making payment to the financier on the due date, thereby improving liquidity for MSMEs.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. Besides banks, NBFCs and other RBI-permitted financial institutions may also participate as financiers.

Value Addition:

- TReDS improves working capital availability.
- It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
- It primarily benefits MSMEs by reducing receivable cycles.

Q.4 With reference to the Attorney General of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Attorney General holds office during the pleasure of the President.
2. The Constitution prescribes a fixed tenure of three years for the Attorney General.
3. The Attorney General has the right to participate in proceedings of both Houses of Parliament and their committees, but has no right to vote.
4. The Attorney General is prohibited from engaging in private legal practice while holding office.

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**. The Attorney General holds office during the pleasure of the President.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. The Constitution does not prescribe any fixed tenure.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Under Article 88, the Attorney General may participate in parliamentary proceedings and committees but cannot vote.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**. Unlike full-time government servants, the Attorney General may undertake private practice subject to restrictions and conflict-of-interest conditions.

Value Addition:

- Constitutional Provision: Article 76.
- Qualifications are the same as those required for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- Highest Law Officer of the Union Government.

Q.5 Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Cotton cultivation is generally concentrated in regions having a long frost-free period.

Reason I: Cotton requires an extended growing season with warm temperatures for vegetative growth, flowering and boll development.

Reason II: Frost during the growing period can damage cotton plants and adversely affect yield and fibre quality.

Which one of the following is correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The **Assertion is correct**. Cotton is a tropical and subtropical crop requiring approximately 180–200 frost-free days depending on the variety.

Reason I is correct. Warm temperatures throughout the crop cycle are essential for proper vegetative growth, flowering and boll maturation.

Reason II is also correct. Frost damages leaves, flowers and developing bolls, significantly reducing both productivity and lint quality.

Together, both reasons comprehensively explain why cotton cultivation is concentrated in regions with long frost-free growing seasons.

Value Addition:

- Ideal temperature: about **21°C–30°C**.
- Rainfall requirement: roughly **50–100 cm**, preferably followed by bright sunshine during boll opening.
- Deep black (regur) soils with good moisture-retaining capacity are highly suitable for cotton cultivation.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.1 With reference to **Borophene**, consider the following statements:

1. Borophene exhibits anisotropic electrical conductivity because of its atomically thin corrugated lattice, unlike graphene which generally exhibits nearly isotropic in-plane conductivity.
2. Unlike graphene, free-standing borophene cannot be obtained from naturally occurring layered boron minerals through mechanical exfoliation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Both statements are **correct**.

- **Statement 1:** Borophene possesses a highly anisotropic crystal structure with ridges and vacancies, resulting in direction-dependent (anisotropic) electrical and mechanical properties. This distinguishes it from graphene, whose in-plane electrical properties are comparatively isotropic.
- **Statement 2:** Unlike graphite, boron does not naturally occur in a layered structure suitable for mechanical exfoliation. Therefore, borophene is generally synthesized epitaxially on metallic substrates under ultra-high vacuum conditions.

Value Addition:

- Borophene is a two-dimensional allotrope of boron.

- It has exceptional flexibility, metallic conductivity and high theoretical capacity for energy storage.
- It is being explored for nanoelectronics, sensors and hydrogen storage.

Q.2 Which one of the following best explains the primary objective behind the **PM-YASASVI (Prime Minister Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India)**?

- (a) Providing interest-free education loans to all economically weaker students pursuing higher education abroad.
- (b) Providing merit-based scholarships to OBC, EBC and DNT students studying in identified top-performing schools.
- (c) Funding research fellowships exclusively for Scheduled Tribe scholars in Central Universities.
- (d) Providing unconditional financial assistance to all students belonging to minority communities.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

PM-YASASVI is a Central Sector Scheme intended to provide **merit-based scholarships** to students belonging primarily to **Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), and Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/NT/SNT)**.

The scheme aims to reduce educational inequality by supporting deserving students studying in identified schools.

Why others are incorrect:

- (a) It is not an education loan scheme.
- (c) It is not limited to Scheduled Tribe research scholars.
- (d) It is not a universal minority scholarship scheme.

Q.3 With reference to the **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)**, consider the following statements:

1. It serves as a collaborative platform bringing together industry, academia, start-ups and research institutions for developing India's 6G ecosystem.
2. One of its objectives is to facilitate intellectual property creation and global standardisation efforts in next-generation telecommunications.
3. The Bharat 6G Alliance is a statutory regulatory authority established through an Act of Parliament to allocate 6G spectrum.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:**Statement 1 – Correct.**

The Bharat 6G Alliance functions as a collaborative platform involving telecom companies, research organisations, academia, start-ups and other stakeholders.

Statement 2 – Correct.

Its objectives include indigenous technology development, global standards participation, intellectual property generation and international collaboration.

Statement 3 – Incorrect.

B6GA is **not** a statutory regulator. Spectrum management continues under the Government and relevant regulatory institutions. The Alliance is an industry-led collaborative body.

Value Addition:

- Linked with **Bharat 6G Vision**.
- Seeks India's leadership in future telecom technologies by 2030.
- Encourages indigenous patents and standard essential patents (SEPs).

Q.4 With reference to **Sodium-Ion Batteries**, consider the following statements:

1. Sodium-ion batteries generally rely on more abundant raw materials than conventional lithium-ion batteries.
2. Commercial sodium-ion batteries currently possess higher gravimetric energy density than the best-performing lithium-ion batteries.
3. Sodium-ion batteries are considered particularly promising for stationary energy storage because cost and resource availability often outweigh the need for maximum energy density.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:**Statement 1 – Correct.**

Sodium is widely available and inexpensive compared to lithium.

Statement 2 – Incorrect.

Presently, sodium-ion batteries generally have **lower** energy density than advanced lithium-ion batteries.

Statement 3 – Correct.

Grid-scale energy storage prioritises affordability, safety and raw material availability over very high energy density.

Value Addition:

- Better supply-chain security.
- Lower dependence on critical minerals.
- Emerging technology for renewable energy integration.

Q.5 With reference to **Mission Golden Spice**, consider the following statements:

1. The initiative seeks to strengthen India's position in the global spice value chain through improvements in quality, traceability and exports.
2. The mission encourages adoption of modern processing, residue monitoring and value addition in the spice sector.
3. The mission is implemented exclusively by State Governments without any role of the Spices Board of India.
4. Enhancing global competitiveness of Indian spices is among its major objectives.

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 – Correct.

Mission Golden Spice aims to improve India's competitiveness in spice exports.

Statement 2 – Correct.

Quality assurance, processing infrastructure, traceability and value addition are important focus areas.

Statement 3 – Incorrect.

The **Spices Board of India** plays an important role in implementation and promotion.

Statement 4 – Correct.

Improving export competitiveness and international market access is a key objective.

Value Addition:

- India is among the world's largest producer and exporter of spices.
- Increasing compliance with global food safety standards is a major priority.

Q.6 With reference to the **Bab el-Mandeb Strait**, consider the following statements:

1. It connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.
2. It separates the Arabian Peninsula from the Horn of Africa.
3. A vessel travelling from the Suez Canal to the Indian Ocean must necessarily pass through this strait.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

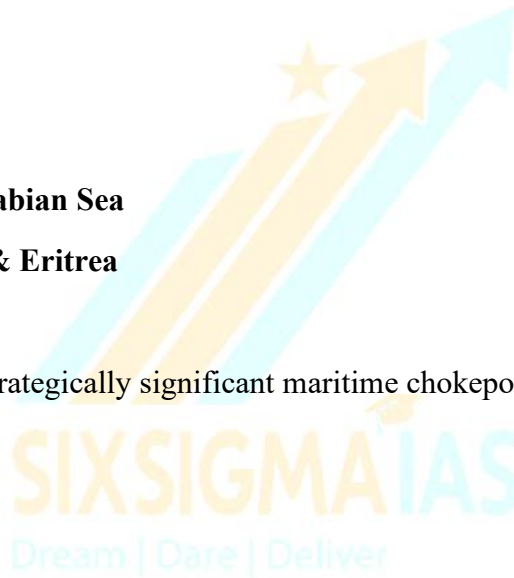
Explanation:

All three statements are **correct**.

- The **Bab el-Mandeb Strait** forms the southern entrance to the Red Sea.
- It lies between **Yemen** on the Arabian Peninsula and **Djibouti and Eritrea** in the Horn of Africa.
- It is an indispensable maritime chokepoint connecting the **Mediterranean Sea (via the Suez Canal)** with the **Indian Ocean**.

UPSC Value Addition (Map):

- North: **Red Sea**
- South: **Gulf of Aden**
- Beyond Gulf of Aden: **Arabian Sea**
- Western Coast: **Djibouti & Eritrea**
- Eastern Coast: **Yemen**
- One of the world's most strategically significant maritime chokepoints for global energy and container trade.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS Paper I – Indian Society & Social Change)

Q.1 "Discuss the changing nature of urbanisation in India. Examine its impact on social structure, migration patterns and regional development. Suggest measures for making urbanisation more inclusive and sustainable." (250 Marks Style)

Sample Answer

Urbanisation refers to the increasing proportion of population residing in urban areas due to natural population growth, migration and economic transformation. NCERT Class XII *India: People and Economy* highlights urbanisation as both a consequence and a driver of economic development. India is witnessing rapid urban expansion driven by industrialisation, the service sector and improved connectivity.

Urbanisation has significantly altered India's social structure. Traditional joint family systems are increasingly giving way to nuclear families owing to employment mobility and changing lifestyles. Occupational diversification has weakened rigid caste-based occupations, although social inequalities continue to persist. Urban centres provide greater educational opportunities, women's workforce participation and exposure to diverse cultures, thereby promoting social mobility.

Migration has become a defining feature of Indian urbanisation. Rural-to-urban migration is driven by employment opportunities, educational institutions and better healthcare facilities. However, unplanned migration has resulted in the growth of informal settlements, congestion, pressure on civic amenities and inadequate affordable housing.

Regional development has become uneven. Metropolitan cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi and Mumbai attract disproportionate investments, whereas many small and medium towns remain underdeveloped. This imbalance contributes to regional disparities and excessive concentration of economic activities.

Urbanisation also creates environmental challenges including air pollution, groundwater depletion, solid waste accumulation, urban flooding and loss of green spaces. Climate change further aggravates these vulnerabilities.

Making urbanisation inclusive requires strengthening urban local bodies through financial and administrative decentralisation, promoting transit-oriented development, encouraging affordable housing, improving public transport, adopting smart technologies, protecting urban ecosystems and strengthening metropolitan planning institutions. Balanced regional development through industrial corridors and growth of Tier-II and Tier-III cities can reduce migration pressure on megacities.

Thus, urbanisation should not merely increase the size of cities but improve the quality of urban life through sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience.

(GS Paper II – Governance & Social Justice)

Q.2 "Evaluate the role of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in improving governance in India. Discuss the opportunities as well as the challenges associated with its expansion."

Sample Answer

Governance today increasingly relies upon digital technologies for efficient public service delivery. India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), comprising platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker and CoWIN, has emerged as a globally recognised governance innovation.

The foremost contribution of DPI lies in enhancing transparency and efficiency. Aadhaar-enabled authentication has reduced duplication of beneficiaries in welfare schemes. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has minimised leakages by transferring subsidies directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. UPI has transformed digital payments by enabling secure, real-time financial transactions at minimal cost.

DPI has strengthened financial inclusion by integrating Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar and mobile connectivity. It has enabled millions of previously unbanked citizens to access formal financial services. Digital platforms have also improved tax administration, public procurement and citizen grievance redressal.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the utility of DPI through CoWIN for vaccination management and DigiLocker for digital certificates. Such platforms have enhanced administrative responsiveness and interoperability across departments.

Despite these achievements, several challenges remain. The digital divide limits access for rural populations, women and economically weaker sections. Data privacy concerns, cybersecurity threats and potential misuse of personal information require robust legal safeguards. Dependence on digital systems may exclude citizens lacking digital literacy or reliable internet connectivity.

Institutional capacity is another challenge. Government officials require continuous training for effective digital governance. Interoperability across multiple databases must also be accompanied by strong accountability mechanisms.

Way forward includes strengthening digital literacy, expanding broadband connectivity, enacting comprehensive data protection frameworks, enhancing cybersecurity infrastructure and ensuring accessibility for differently-abled citizens. Public-private collaboration and open digital standards should continue while preserving citizens' rights.

India's DPI represents an important governance model combining technological innovation with public welfare. Its long-term success depends upon balancing efficiency with privacy, inclusiveness and constitutional values.

(GS Paper III – Economy)

Q.3 "Discuss the significance of logistics infrastructure in enhancing India's global competitiveness. Analyse the role of multimodal connectivity in achieving sustainable economic growth."

Sample Answer

Efficient logistics infrastructure is fundamental to economic competitiveness. It determines the cost, speed and reliability of movement of goods across domestic and international markets. NCERT Class XII *Macroeconomics* emphasises infrastructure as a critical driver of economic development.

E-Governance & Digital India



Aadhaar

- Unique identity number
- Utilized for biometric and demographic
- Linked to Direct Benefit Transfer



UPI

- Real-time mobile payments
- Using payment address (UPI ID, BHIM, Google Pay, PhonePe)



Digital Payments

- AePS
- Internet Banking
- Mobile Wallets
- Card Payments



E-Governance Portals

- Online platforms
- DigiLocker, UMANG, e-NAM

India's logistics costs have historically remained higher than many developed economies, affecting export competitiveness. Improving highways, railways, inland waterways, ports, airports and warehousing infrastructure reduces transportation costs and enhances supply chain efficiency.

Multimodal connectivity integrates different modes of transport into a seamless logistics network. Initiatives such as Dedicated Freight Corridors, PM Gati Shakti, Bharatmala and Sagarmala aim to improve freight movement by reducing delays and improving coordination among transport modes.

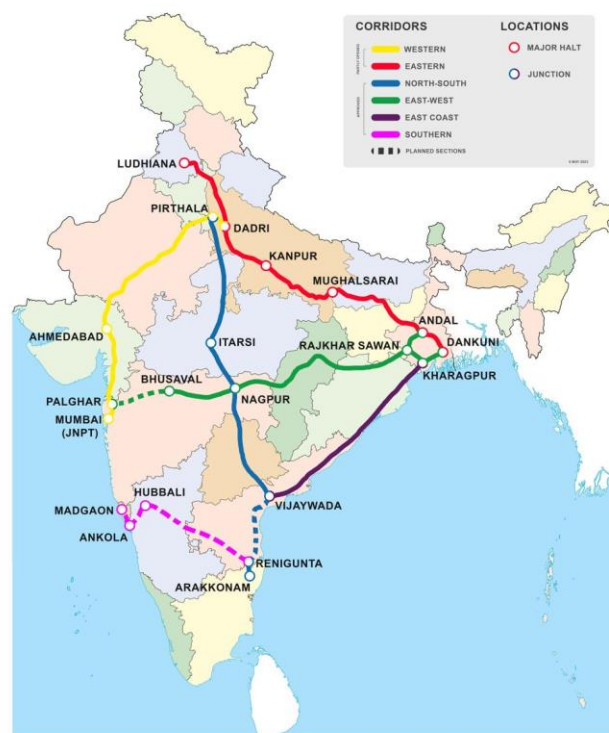
Improved logistics directly benefits agriculture by reducing post-harvest losses and facilitating market access. Manufacturing industries benefit through timely availability of raw materials and reduced inventory costs. Service sectors such as e-commerce also depend upon efficient logistics systems.

Environmentally, multimodal transport encourages greater use of railways and waterways, which are relatively energy-efficient compared to road transport. This contributes to lower carbon emissions and supports India's climate commitments.

Challenges include fragmented planning, inadequate warehousing, poor last-mile connectivity, land acquisition delays and limited adoption of advanced logistics technologies.

Policy priorities include expanding multimodal logistics parks, strengthening digital logistics platforms, promoting green logistics, encouraging private investment, simplifying regulatory procedures and improving customs efficiency. Capacity building in cold chain infrastructure is equally important.

Efficient logistics not only enhances exports and industrial productivity but also promotes balanced regional development and employment generation. Therefore, infrastructure development should remain a central pillar of India's growth strategy.



DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDORS OF INDIA

(GS Paper IV – Ethics)

Q.4 "Integrity in public life is tested not during ordinary administration but during crises.' Discuss with suitable examples."

Sample Answer

Integrity refers to unwavering adherence to ethical principles, honesty and commitment to public welfare irrespective of personal consequences. In public administration, crises often expose the true ethical character of institutions and civil servants.

During emergencies such as pandemics, floods, earthquakes or communal disturbances, administrators encounter conflicting priorities involving scarce resources, public expectations and political pressures. Ethical decision-making becomes essential in balancing legality, equity and compassion.

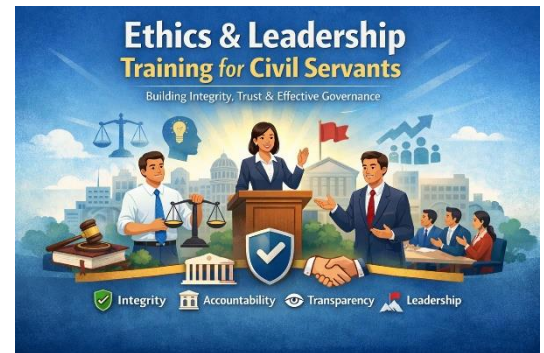
Integrity requires transparency in procurement, impartial distribution of relief materials and accountability in utilisation of public funds. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated both exemplary and deficient instances of public administration. Several officers ensured uninterrupted oxygen supply, transparent hospital management and effective vaccination campaigns despite immense pressure.

Ethical leadership also demands courage. Officials may face pressure to manipulate records or favour influential individuals. Integrity requires resisting such pressures while upholding constitutional values and the rule of law.

Compassion complements integrity. Public servants must communicate honestly with citizens, provide timely information and prioritise vulnerable populations including children, elderly persons and differently-abled individuals.

Institutionally, ethical governance requires strong vigilance mechanisms, whistleblower protection, transparent procurement systems and citizen participation. Continuous ethics training and organisational culture promoting accountability further strengthen integrity.

Integrity ultimately creates public trust, which becomes the most valuable administrative resource during crises. Therefore, ethical conduct should not be viewed merely as personal virtue but as an institutional necessity for democratic governance.



(Current Affairs)

Q.5 "The Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace reflects renewed global commitment towards disarmament. Discuss its significance in the contemporary geopolitical context. Examine the challenges in achieving meaningful global disarmament."

Sample Answer

The **Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace** reiterates the importance of reducing global arms competition and strengthening international cooperation for sustainable peace. At a time marked by geopolitical rivalries, regional conflicts and rapid military technological advancements, the declaration renews attention towards dialogue, diplomacy and collective security.

Its foremost significance lies in reaffirming that sustainable peace cannot rest solely upon military deterrence but must be supported by trust-building, conflict prevention and adherence to international law. The declaration encourages multilateral engagement for reducing the risks posed by conventional and strategic weapons.

The contemporary security environment is characterised by increasing military expenditure, modernisation of nuclear arsenals, cyber warfare, autonomous weapon systems and space militarisation. These developments complicate traditional arms control frameworks. The declaration therefore highlights the urgency of strengthening global institutions and confidence-building measures.



For countries like India, the declaration aligns with the broader objective of promoting international peace while recognising legitimate national security concerns. India has consistently advocated universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament alongside responsible use of emerging technologies.

However, achieving meaningful disarmament remains difficult. Strategic mistrust among major powers, regional conflicts, unequal security perceptions and technological innovations create incentives for continued military modernisation. Verification of compliance and enforcement mechanisms remain persistent challenges.

The way forward involves revitalising multilateral disarmament negotiations, strengthening international treaties, promoting transparency in defence policies, enhancing confidence-building measures and encouraging peaceful settlement of disputes through diplomacy. Emerging domains such as artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities and autonomous weapons also require internationally accepted regulatory frameworks.

The Rome Declaration serves as an important normative reminder that lasting international security ultimately depends upon cooperation rather than perpetual arms competition. While implementation remains challenging, sustained political commitment and effective multilateralism are indispensable for advancing the global goal of durable peace.

