



# [MISSION 2024] SECURE: DAILY UPSC MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE



**23 FEBRUARY 2024**



## GENERAL STUDIES - 1

**Topic: G.S-I: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.**

**1. Question: What is glacial retreat? Examine the causes of glacial retreat and its consequences on Earth's cryosphere. (250 words)**

**Difficulty level: Moderate**

**Reference:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/africa/east-africa-is-losing-its-glaciers-at-a-stunning-speed-all-on-kilimanjaro-retreating-94616>

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2023/12/11/glacier-melting-and-its-impacts/>

**Why the question:** Analysis of high-resolution satellite images for the years 2021-2022 found that Africa's ice is disappearing, and the continent may lose its white peaks by the middle of the century.

## GENERAL STUDIES - 2

**Topic: G.S-II: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.**

**2. Question: Indian federalism is characterized by a delicate balance between centralization and decentralization, with an emphasis on cooperation and coordination. Elucidate. (250 words)**

**Difficulty level: Easy**

**Reference:** <https://www.insightsonindia.com/polity/functions-and-responsibilities-of-the-union-and-the-states-issues-and-challenges-pertaining-to-the-federal-structure-devolution-of-powers-and-finances-up-to-local-levels-and-challenges-therein/issues-and-challenges-pertaining-to-the-federal-structure/federal-system-of-india-federalism-with-tilt-towards-centre/>

**Why the question:** The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 2 and mentioned as part of Mission-2024 Secure timetable.

## GENERAL STUDIES - 2

**Topic: G.S-II: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.**

**3. Question: The Inter-State Council in India plays a significant role in facilitating coordination and cooperation between the centre and the states, but it faces several challenges that affect its efficiency and effectiveness. Discuss. (250 words)**

**Difficulty level:** Moderate

**Reference:** <https://www.insightsonindia.com/polity/functions-and-responsibilities-of-the-union-and-the-states-issues-and-challenges-pertaining-to-the-federal-structure-devolution-of-powers-and-finances-up-to-local-levels-and-challenges-therein/issues-and-challenges-pertaining-to-the-federal-structure/inter-state-relations/inter-state-councils/>

**Why the question:** The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 2 and mentioned as part of Mission-2024 Secure timetable.

## GENERAL STUDIES - 3

**Topic: G.S-III: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.**

**4. Question: India has shown remarkable commitment to becoming a major player in the global space arena. Continued investments in research, technology development, and governmental support are needed to reinforce India's position as a growing space power. Analyse. (250 words)**

**Difficulty level:** Moderate

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-next-frontier-on-indias-space-sector/article67874992.ece>

**Why the question:** The article discusses the evolving landscape of the space sector, emphasizing the shift from a purely national agency-driven exploration to increased private sector involvement. Conclude by writing a way forward.

## GENERAL STUDIES - 3

**Topic:** G.S-III: Disaster and disaster management.

**5. Question:** What is an avalanche? Examine the natural and anthropogenic causes of an avalanche. (150 words)

**Difficulty level:** Moderate

**Reference:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/one-foreigner-dead-multiple-missing-after-avalanche-hits-jammu-and-kashmirs-gulmarg-11708595368068.html>  
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/11/27/rstv-in-depth-avalanche/>

**Why the question:** At least one Russian is dead while multiple are missing after an avalanche hit Jammu and Kashmir's Gulmarg area.

## GENERAL STUDIES - 3

**Topic:** G.S-III: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

**6. Question:** Critically analyze the Agnipath scheme, which aims to reform defence policy by changing the way young men and women are recruited into the Indian armed forces. (250 words)

**Difficulty level:** Moderate

**Reference:** <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/it-is-the-conditioning-of-the-agniveer-that-merits-attention/article67875729.ece>  
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2022/06/15/what-is-the-agnipath-scheme/>

**Why the question:** The Agnipath scheme, as it is known, was announced on June 14, 2022, and is in force with the initial batch of Agniveers, as these young men and women are called, already inducted in armed forces units after completion of their recruit training.

## GENERAL STUDIES - 4

### Topic: G.S-IV: Case Study

#### 7. Question:

In the Crestwood High School, Jim, an otherwise diligent and unassuming student, found themselves thrust into an unexpected role as the Returning Officer for the mock elections. The school was buzzing with anticipation as the candidates, Jon and Jack, competed for the coveted position of Student Council President.

As the mock elections progressed, Jim diligently oversaw the voting process, ensuring fairness and transparency. One evening, as Jim was counting the votes in the dimly lit school office, Principal Johnson made an unexpected visit. Shockingly, Principal Johnson caught Jim red-handed, tampering with the votes in favor of Jon and against Jack.

Principal Johnson, demanded an explanation. Jim revealed the truth – Jon had threatened them with dire consequences if he did not manipulate the results in his favour. The weight of fear and the pressure to comply had led Jim down a regrettable path.

**A. What are the ethical issues involved in the above case?**

**B. What course of action should principal take in the above case?**

**C. If you were in Jim's place, what would you have done when Jon threatened you?  
(250 words)**

# CONSISTENT PRACTICE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS



An amount of fear helps in pushing us towards hard work.

Fear and self-doubts are like fire—if in excess will burn and destroy the individual. If one is carefree one can become over-confident about one's capabilities. If anxieties, fears are kept under control it brings best out of an individual.

So,

Believe in yourself, anything is possible for a willing heart;  
Aim high, Never give up, in fact, in every adversity lies an opportunity.



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