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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY  
&  
STUDY CENTRE**


# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 17/07/2025 (THURSDAY)**

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



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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Poona Pact of 1932:**

1. The Pact resulted in the substitution of separate electorates for Depressed Classes with joint electorates with reserved seats.
2. The Poona Pact was signed between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin after the failure of the Second Round Table Conference.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a) 1 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The **Poona Pact (1932)** was an agreement between **Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, not Lord Irwin. It replaced the idea of **separate electorates for the Depressed Classes** with **joint electorates and reserved seats**, to ensure representation without isolating them from the mainstream.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The pact was **not** signed between Gandhi and Lord Irwin but between **Gandhi and Ambedkar**, following Gandhi's **fast unto death** in the Yerwada Jail after the Communal Award (1932). The failure of the Second Round Table Conference had already occurred earlier that year.

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding climate geoengineering:**

1. Stratospheric aerosol injection aims to reflect incoming solar radiation to cool the Earth's surface.
2. Ocean iron fertilization is intended to increase phytoplankton growth to sequester atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.
3. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has formally endorsed geoengineering as a climate mitigation strategy.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**



- **Statement 1: Correct.** Stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI) involves dispersing particles like sulphates in the upper atmosphere to **reflect sunlight**, thereby reducing global warming.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Ocean iron fertilization promotes **phytoplankton growth**, which draws CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and sequesters it via the biological pump.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** While the IPCC discusses **geoengineering** options, it has **not endorsed** them due to **ethical, environmental, and governance concerns**.

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding India's External Debt:**

1. Most of India's external debt is short-term in nature and owed by the government sector.
2. External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) form a major part of India's long-term external debt.
3. The debt-service ratio indicates the ratio of external debt stock to GDP.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (c) 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The **majority** of India's **external debt is long-term** and is **primarily owed by the private sector**, not the government. **Short-term debt** forms a **smaller component**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** are a **significant component** of India's **long-term external debt**, raised by Indian corporations from global markets.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The **debt-service ratio** is the **ratio of debt repayments (principal + interest)** to **export earnings**, not to GDP.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI):**

1. The Constitution provides for the term of office of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners.
2. The recommendations of the ECI are binding on the President in matters related to disqualification of MPs under the Tenth Schedule.
3. The CEC can be removed by the President only on the recommendation of the Supreme Court.
4. A newly passed law provides for a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister for appointment of Election Commissioners.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two



- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Article 324 does **not prescribe the tenure** of the CEC or ECs. Their conditions of service are governed by the **Election Commission Act and rules made by the President.**
- **Statement 2: Correct.** In cases under the **Tenth Schedule**, the **President is bound by the opinion of the Election Commission** while deciding disqualification matters.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The CEC can be removed **only by Parliament** in the same manner as a **Supreme Court judge**, **not** by the President on SC's recommendation.
- **Statement 4: Correct.** The **Chief Election Commissioner and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act, 2023** provides for a **three-member selection committee: PM, LoP, and a Cabinet Minister nominated by PM.**

#### **Q5. Assertion-Reason Type**

**Assertion (A):** The western coast of India receives more rainfall than the eastern coast during the southwest monsoon.

**Reason (R):** The Western Ghats act as an orographic barrier and are located close to the western coastline.

**Codes:**

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

**Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A**

**Explanation:**

- **Assertion: True.** The western coast (especially Kerala, Karnataka, Konkan) receives very heavy rainfall due to the SW monsoon winds.
- **Reason: True and explanatory.** The **Western Ghats**, running parallel and close to the western coast, **force the moisture-laden winds to rise**, causing **orographic rainfall**. The eastern coast, having **no such barrier**, remains relatively drier.



## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the “Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Samridhhi Yojana”:**

1. The scheme aims to promote evidence-based agricultural planning using satellite imagery, AI, and geospatial tools.
2. It subsumes the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and is entirely funded by the central government without any state component.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a) 1 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Correct.** PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana emphasizes the use of **digital technologies** such as **AI, remote sensing, GIS and satellite data** for precise agriculture planning and monitoring.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The scheme **does not subsume RKVY** and is implemented on a **50:50 cost-sharing basis** between Centre and States, not fully funded by the Centre.

**Q2. In which year was the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) granted autonomous status under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education?**

- (a) 1965
- (b) 1974
- (c) 1985
- (d) 1992

**Answer: (b) 1974**

**Explanation:**

- **ICAR was granted autonomy in 1974**, functioning under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)**, Ministry of Agriculture.
- It is the apex body for **coordinating agricultural education and research**, with over **100 institutes and 70 agricultural universities** under its fold.

**Q3. Consider the following statements about NLC India Limited (NLCIL):**

1. NLCIL is a ‘Miniratna Category-I’ company under the Ministry of Power.



2. It is engaged in lignite mining and also has a growing renewable energy portfolio.
3. It recently signed an agreement with the Geological Survey of India (GSI) for offshore rare earth mineral exploration.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Correct.** NLCIL is a **Miniratna-I PSU** and operates under the **Ministry of Power**, involved in **power generation and mining**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** It has diversified into **solar and wind energy**, with significant **renewable capacity** added in Tamil Nadu and other states.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** No such agreement with **GSI for rare earth exploration** has been signed. Its mining activities remain focused on **lignite and coal**.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Splashdown Landings in space missions:**

1. Splashdown is used primarily by American and Russian space agencies for capsule re-entry missions.
2. It allows spacecraft to slow descent using heat shields and parachutes before landing in water bodies.
3. Unlike powered landings, splashdowns eliminate the need for onboard retrorocket systems for safe return.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** While the **USA (NASA)** still uses splashdowns (e.g., SpaceX Dragon capsules), **Russia primarily uses land landings** in Kazakhstan using parachutes.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Splashdowns involve **atmospheric braking** using **heat shields** and **parachutes**, followed by a descent into oceans.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** They **do not need retrorockets** like in **powered landings** (e.g., **Blue Origin**); instead, water impact absorbs kinetic energy.



**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding India's First Tribal Genome Sequencing Project launched in Gujarat:**

1. The project aims to build a reference genome database for tribal communities to aid in predictive healthcare.
2. It is the first such initiative in India to be implemented with active participation from indigenous tribal councils.
3. The project will also map the prevalence of hereditary disorders among endogamous tribal groups.
4. It is entirely funded and operated by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

**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: Correct.** The project aims to create a **reference genome** specific to tribal populations to enhance **genomic medicine**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Gujarat's project is the **first with tribal stakeholder engagement**, including **community outreach and consent frameworks**.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** It also **focuses on genetic disorders** common in **closed tribal gene pools**, especially due to **endogamy**.
- **Statement 4: Incorrect.** The project is **state-led**, with **support from Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC)**, not solely ICMR.

**Q6. With reference to the map of the South China Sea, which of the following island groups are claimed by multiple countries including China, the Philippines, and Vietnam?**

- (a) Kuril Islands
- (b) Paracel Islands
- (c) Spratly Islands
- (d) Natuna Islands

**Answer: (c) Spratly Islands**

**Explanation:**

- **Spratly Islands** are a **highly contested group** of islands and reefs in the **South China Sea**, claimed by **China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan**.
- **Paracel Islands** are disputed primarily between **China and Vietnam**, not multiple Southeast Asian nations.





- **Kuril Islands** are contested between **Russia and Japan**, and lie in the **North Pacific**.
- **Natuna Islands** belong to **Indonesia** and have limited dispute compared to the Spratlys.

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## SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1:

**Q1.** “Caste has not disappeared from urban India; it has simply reappeared in new forms.” Discuss the persistence and transformation of caste in contemporary urban Indian society.

#### Sample Answer:

Caste, often associated with rural India and traditional hierarchies, has neither disappeared in urban India nor become irrelevant. Instead, it has undergone **transformation**, adapting to urban economic, social, and political realities.

#### Persistence of Caste in Urban Settings:

- **Residential segregation:** Urban housing patterns often mirror caste lines. Gated societies and informal settlements reflect implicit caste exclusion.
- **Marriage patterns:** Urban Indians overwhelmingly prefer **endogamous marriages**. Matrimonial advertisements, apps, and family choices reinforce caste boundaries.
- **Workplace dynamics:** While urban workplaces claim meritocracy, subtle forms of **discrimination and tokenism** persist for Dalits and Adivasis.
- **Caste-based networks:** Political mobilization and welfare access through **caste associations** (Jat Mahasabha, Maratha Kranti Morcha, etc.) continue in cities.

#### Transformation in Urban Spaces:

- **Emergence of Dalit middle class:** Urban education and affirmative action have enabled some Dalits to rise economically, but social acceptance still lags.
- **Professional casteism:** Instead of overt discrimination, caste now operates in coded language—cultural ‘fit’, language, and ‘merit’ debates.
- **Digital casteism:** Social media spaces witness caste-based abuse, reinforcing identity assertion and polarization.

#### Conclusion:

While **modernity and urbanization** were expected to dilute caste structures, they have instead led to **new caste expressions**, often camouflaged in the garb of class or culture. Addressing this requires **social awareness, institutional safeguards, and a wider democratization of urban spaces**.





## GS Paper 2:

**Q2.** *Analyze the effectiveness of parliamentary committees in enhancing legislative oversight and accountability. Suggest reforms for their better functioning.*

### Sample Answer:

Parliamentary Committees are essential instruments of **legislative scrutiny** and **executive accountability** in India's parliamentary democracy. They perform critical tasks outside the glare of political theatrics.

### Effectiveness of Parliamentary Committees:

- **Legislative scrutiny:** Over 60% of bills between 2004–2014 were referred to committees. They improve the quality of legislation through expert inputs.
- **Departmental Standing Committees (DSCs):** These review ministry budgets, policies, and performance, ensuring **detailed examination** beyond Parliament's floor.
- **PAC and CAG synergy:** The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) works closely with CAG reports to **unearth financial irregularities**.
- **Bipartisanship:** Committees usually function in a **non-partisan, consensus-based** manner, enhancing credibility.

### Challenges:

- **Low referral rate:** Post-2019, fewer bills are being referred to committees, reducing scrutiny.
- **Lack of binding power:** Committee recommendations are **advisory**, not mandatory.
- **Low attendance:** Many MPs fail to actively participate.
- **Opaque functioning:** Most committee proceedings are **not open to the public**.

### Suggested Reforms:

- **Mandatory referral:** Important bills should **mandatorily** go to committees.
- **Time-bound reviews:** Enforce a 3-month window for report submission.
- **Professional staff support:** Enhance **research capacity** with domain experts.
- **Transparency:** Allow **live streaming** or release **summary minutes** for public accountability.

### Conclusion:

Parliamentary Committees are the **backbone of parliamentary democracy**. With institutional reforms, they can emerge as **more effective watchdogs**, ensuring that Parliament doesn't merely pass laws but also **deliberates and improves them**.

## GS Paper 3:

**Q3.** *Cybersecurity threats are evolving faster than the state's ability to respond. In this context, critically evaluate India's cybersecurity architecture and suggest a robust response strategy.*



### Sample Answer:

The rise of digital infrastructure and data dependence has made India increasingly vulnerable to **cyber threats**. From ransomware attacks on AIIMS to phishing scams, **cybersecurity** has become a critical aspect of **national security**.

#### ♦ India's Cybersecurity Architecture:

- **Policy Framework:**
  - **National Cyber Security Policy, 2013** – outdated and under revision.
  - **CERT-In** – India's nodal response agency for cybersecurity incidents.
  - **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIIPC)** – tasked with protecting critical sectors like power, banking, telecom.
- **Legal Provisions:**
  - **IT Act, 2000** – primary law governing cybercrime.
  - **Data Protection Bill (2023)** – governs personal data protection and breach notification.

#### Challenges:

- **Fragmented response:** Overlapping agencies with **poor coordination**.
- **Outdated laws:** IT Act doesn't cover **AI threats, deepfakes, or cyberterrorism**.
- **Skilled manpower shortage:** India lacks trained **ethical hackers and cyber forensics teams**.
- **Lack of public-private synergy:** Most infrastructure is private, but there's **no common cyber security protocol**.

#### Way Forward:

- **Cyber Command:** Establish a dedicated **Cyber Defense Command** under Ministry of Defence.
- **Updated legislation:** Introduce a **Comprehensive Cybersecurity Law** with stringent breach penalties.
- **Capacity building:** Create **national cyber institutes** for skill development and research.
- **International cooperation:** Build **cyber treaties** with Quad, ASEAN, and UN-based frameworks.

#### Conclusion:

India needs a **multi-dimensional strategy** to combat cyber threats—technological, legislative, and diplomatic. Cybersecurity must be treated as a **critical infrastructure** priority akin to physical borders.

### GS Paper 4: Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude

**Q4.** *“Ethical leadership is not about being liked; it is about being right.” Discuss this statement with examples from public administration.*



### Sample Answer:

**Ethical leadership** entails making decisions rooted in values like **honesty, fairness, integrity, and justice**—even if they are unpopular.

### Understanding the Statement:

The quote implies that a **leader guided by ethics** may not always **appease popular sentiment**, but must stand firm on **what is morally right**.

### Examples in Public Administration:

- **E. Sreedharan (“Metro Man”)** exemplified ethical leadership by maintaining **professional integrity** in public infrastructure without yielding to political pressures.
- **T.N. Seshan**, former Chief Election Commissioner, enforced electoral reforms **despite fierce political opposition**, prioritizing constitutional morality over popularity.
- **Whistleblowers** like **Ashok Khemka**, despite transfers and isolation, have upheld rule-based governance.

### Ethical Dilemmas Faced:

- Choosing between **efficiency vs. empathy** (e.g., evicting slums).
- Standing against **corruption** in one's own department.
- Enforcing **unpopular but necessary laws** like demonetization compliance, lockdown enforcement during COVID, etc.

### Core Qualities of Ethical Leadership:

- **Moral courage** to act rightly under pressure.
- **Accountability** and transparency.
- Ability to inspire a **values-based administrative culture**.

### Conclusion:

Ethical leadership may not bring instant popularity but builds **long-term trust and institutional strength**. The **moral compass** must guide civil servants, even when the path is difficult.

### Current Affairs

**Q5.** *Despite legal reforms, India’s child adoption ecosystem remains dysfunctional and exclusionary. Critically examine the systemic challenges and suggest reforms for inclusive adoption in India.*

### Sample Answer:

India faces a paradox: **millions of orphaned or abandoned children**, yet only **a few thousand adoptions per year**. Despite legislative changes under the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**, the **adoption ecosystem remains riddled with inefficiencies**.



### Systemic Challenges:

- **Long waiting periods:** Prospective parents wait **up to 3 years**, even when children are available in Child Care Institutions (CCIs).
- **Bureaucratic red tape:** Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is understaffed, and processes are opaque.
- **Preference biases:** Couples prefer **infants, fair-skinned, and healthy children**, ignoring older or disabled children.
- **Religious restrictions:** Under **personal laws**, Muslims, Christians, and Parsis can only become **guardians**, not adopt legally.
- **Lack of awareness:** Many parents prefer **informal adoptions** to bypass procedures, leading to **trafficking risks**.

### Recent Developments:

- 2021 amendment brought **District Magistrates** into the adoption process to improve timelines.
- Discussion around **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** includes **universal adoption rights**.

### Suggested Reforms:

- **Unified adoption law:** Bring all citizens under a **secular adoption framework**.
- **Fast-track processes:** Digitize and decentralize CARA's functioning.
- **Community sensitization:** Campaigns to normalize adoption of **older and differently-abled children**.
- **NGO-CARA partnerships:** Strengthen **post-adoption support** and **psychosocial counseling**.

### Conclusion:

Adoption is not merely a legal process—it's a **humanitarian commitment**. India needs a **compassionate, inclusive, and transparent adoption framework**, ensuring every child finds a family.

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