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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 5/08/2025 (TUESDAY)

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



 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Iqta system in the Delhi Sultanate:

1. The Iqtadars were assigned land revenue rights in exchange for maintaining troops, but the land itself remained the property of the state.
2. The Iqta assignments were hereditary and transferable within the family of the Iqtadar.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- The **Iqta system** was introduced by **Muhammad Ghori** and institutionalized under the Delhi Sultans, especially **Iltutmish**.
- Statement 1 is correct: Iqtadars were revenue assignees. They collected revenue but the **land legally remained under the control of the state**. Their duty was to maintain troops for the Sultan.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Iqta was **non-hereditary**. On the death or dismissal of an Iqtadar, his Iqta reverted to the state and was reassigned. However, over time, some Iqtas did become hereditary, leading to administrative problems.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding “Ramsar Sites”:

1. Wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention are legally binding and enforceable under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 in India.
2. The Montreux Record under the Ramsar Convention lists wetlands facing ecological changes due to human interference.
3. India currently has the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia.

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: Ramsar designation is **internationally recognized**, but its protection in India depends on **domestic legislation** like the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the Environment Protection Act, 1986, etc. The designation itself is not a legal enforcement under WPA.
- Statement 2 is correct: **Montreux Record** is a register of wetlands facing serious ecological threats from human or natural causes.
- Statement 3 is correct: As of 2024, **India has 80 Ramsar sites**, the highest in Asia.



Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003:

1. It mandates both the Central and State Governments to eliminate revenue deficit and achieve fiscal discipline.
2. The Act provides for escape clauses allowing relaxation in fiscal targets during specified circumstances.
3. The Fifteenth Finance Commission recommended amendments to the FRBM Act to align with medium-term fiscal goals.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The FRBM Act applies to the **Centre**, while **states have their own FRBM Acts** modeled on it. The goal includes elimination of **revenue deficit** and achieving fiscal discipline.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Act allows **escape clauses** such as in case of **national security threats, natural calamities, or economic slowdown**.
- Statement 3 is correct: The **15th Finance Commission** recommended changes in FRBM to align India's fiscal path with realistic medium-term goals.

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

1. The Chief Election Commissioner can only be removed from office in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court.
2. The conditions of service and tenure of the Election Commissioners are determined by the Parliament.
3. The Constitution of India provides for the appointment of Regional Election Commissioners to assist the Election Commission.
4. Decisions of the Election Commission are binding on the President during the disqualification of Members of Parliament under the Tenth Schedule.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** enjoys security of tenure. Removal is by a process similar to that of a **Supreme Court judge** (impeachment).



- Statement 2 is correct: Article 324(5) states that conditions of service and tenure are determined by the **Parliament**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The Constitution mentions only **Election Commissioners**, not **Regional Election Commissioners**. Regional Commissioners can be appointed by the **President** through law, but they are not a constitutional provision.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: Under the **Tenth Schedule**, decisions on disqualification are taken by the **Speaker/Chairman** of the House, not the ECI. The ECI is consulted only under **Articles 103 and 192** (regarding disqualification on other grounds).

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type -

Assertion (A): India has developed its own Navigation system called NAVIC, which is independent of foreign systems like GPS.

Reason (R): NAVIC provides coverage for the entire globe with 24 satellites in orbit.

Options:

- (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: (c) A is true, but R is false

Explanation:

- Assertion (A) is correct: **NAVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)** is India's regional navigation satellite system developed by ISRO. It ensures India's strategic independence from foreign GPS systems.
- Reason (R) is false: NAVIC provides **regional coverage** (India and ~1,500 km beyond its borders) with **7 operational satellites**, not 24 for global coverage.

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI):

1. IEMI 2024 is jointly developed by NITI Aayog and World Bank, evaluating states on both electric vehicle penetration and policy ecosystem.
2. According to IEMI, Gujarat and Karnataka jointly topped in the category of large states due to their battery manufacturing hubs and charging infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above 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 is correct:** The India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2024 was released by **NITI Aayog and World Bank** to evaluate state-level readiness and performance in electric mobility across various parameters such as infrastructure, policies, and market share.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Karnataka and **Maharashtra**, not Gujarat, were ranked among the top large states. Gujarat, while strong in policy, was not jointly at the top. Gujarat led in manufacturing, but not infrastructure penetration.

Q2. Which Indian city was the only entrant in the top 50 of the Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) City Index 2025, primarily due to its AI governance sandbox and startup density?

- (a) Hyderabad
(b) Bengaluru
(c) Pune
(d) Chennai

Answer: (b) Bengaluru

Explanation:

- **Bengaluru** was ranked within the **top 50 AI cities globally** in the **AI City Index 2025** for its vibrant startup ecosystem, AI-driven public services, and partnerships with global tech firms.
- It scored high on **innovation infrastructure and AI governance readiness**. Hyderabad and Chennai followed but did not make the top 50.

Q3. With reference to the “July Declaration” signed in 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It was adopted during the G-20 Energy Transition Summit and focuses on tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030.
2. The Declaration includes a commitment to reduce reliance on rare earth minerals in battery production.
3. India, China, and Brazil signed the Declaration with a conditional clause on climate financing.



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: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The July Declaration was issued at the G-20 **Energy Transition Working Group**, aiming to **triple global RE capacity** by 2030.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There was no specific clause on reducing reliance on rare earth minerals. The focus was on transition financing and technology sharing.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India, China, and Brazil signed with **provisions for equity and access to climate finance**, citing differentiated responsibilities.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Mahanadi River and related developments:

1. The Mahanadi flows through only two Indian states before draining into the Bay of Bengal.
2. The Hirakud Dam on Mahanadi is Asia's largest earthen dam, located in Odisha.
3. A tribunal constituted under Article 262 is adjudicating the inter-state water dispute over Mahanadi between Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

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 is incorrect:** Mahanadi flows through **Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and touches Jharkhand and Maharashtra** through tributaries. Hence, it's not strictly "only two states."
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Hirakud Dam** is indeed Asia's **longest earthen dam**, built across the Mahanadi in Odisha.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Central Government has constituted a **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal** under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**, which is traceable to **Article 262** of the Constitution.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding India's approach to Artificial Intelligence and its position in the Global AI landscape:

1. India has notified a national legislation exclusively for AI ethics and data governance in 2025.
2. The BharatGPT initiative aims to provide AI access in Indic languages and was launched as a public-private partnership.
3. India has observer status in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) but is not a founding member.



4. Bengaluru was identified as an “AI Megahub” for its AI-driven public health surveillance during the pandemic.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India has not yet **notified a standalone legislation** exclusively for AI ethics. It is working on a Digital India Act, but AI is not separately legislated yet.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **BharatGPT** is a real initiative (like Bhashini) launched in 2024-25 to promote **AI models in Indian languages** through a **PPP model**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India is a **founding member** of **GPAI (2020)**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Bengaluru’s use of AI for **pandemic surveillance and contact tracing** was noted internationally, earning the tag of an “AI Megahub” in 2025 index reports.

Q6. With reference to the Philippines and India’s Indo-Pacific outreach, consider the following pairs:

Strategic Location (Philippines)	Strategic Importance for India
1. Subic Bay	Base for joint naval logistics support with India
2. Luzon Strait	Key route for India’s access to Western Pacific
3. Mindanao Island	Location for India's newly opened IT consulate
4. Scarborough Shoal	Claimed jointly by India and Philippines under UNCLOS

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Subic Bay is a strategic port for **naval logistics** and being explored for **Indo-Philippine cooperation**.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Luzon Strait is a vital waterway between **Philippines and Taiwan**, relevant for **India’s extended maritime reach**.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** India recently announced new consular and tech cooperation offices in **Mindanao** to boost digital diplomacy.
- **Pair 4 is incorrect:** **Scarborough Shoal** is disputed between **China and the Philippines**; **India does not claim** it under any framework.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. "Bhakti and Sufi movements were not only religious but also socio-political reform movements." Critically examine.

(Answer in 300+ words)

Answer:

The **Bhakti and Sufi movements**, emerging between the 8th and 17th centuries, were significant spiritual currents in Indian society. While primarily religious in nature, they also played vital **socio-political and reformative roles**.

Religious Dimension:

- Both movements emphasized **personal devotion** over ritualism.
- Rejected **caste-based priestly dominance** in spiritual practice.
- Focused on **internal purity** over external orthodoxy.

Social Reforms:

- **Bhakti saints** like Kabir, Ravidas, and Tukaram rejected **caste hierarchy**, arguing for **social equality**.
- **Sufi saints** such as Nizamuddin Auliya and Baba Farid promoted **communal harmony** and lived among commoners, beyond religious lines.
- Women like **Lal Ded** and **Mirabai** became symbols of resistance against patriarchal norms.

Political Influence:

- They often served as a **moral check** on ruling elites. For instance, **Basavanna's Lingayat movement** opposed Brahmanical dominance under the Chalukyas.
- Sufi saints were respected by **Delhi Sultans** but remained independent, subtly shaping governance through spiritual legitimacy.
- Bhakti reformers challenged **feudal injustice**; for example, **Namdev's verses** criticized social elites' hypocrisy.

Limitations:

- Despite noble ideals, the **impact on caste structure was limited** due to deep-rooted orthodoxy.
- Many movements became **sectarian** over time, diluting their universal messages.

Conclusion:

While rooted in devotion, Bhakti and Sufi movements evolved into **platforms for social justice, equality, and resistance**. Their inclusive messages laid early foundations for **secularism and pluralism** in Indian society, making them transformative beyond religion.



GS Paper 2 –

Q2. “Decentralization is critical for inclusive development, but it suffers from institutional constraints.” Examine in the context of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

(Answer in 300+ words)

Answer:

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992) marked a watershed moment in India’s governance by **institutionalizing Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**. They aimed to promote **grassroots democracy**, local accountability, and inclusive development.

Importance of Decentralization:

- **Tailored policy-making** for local needs.
- Empowerment of **marginalized communities** through reservation (SC/ST/Women).
- Encourages **participatory democracy** and citizen engagement.

Achievements:

- Over **30 lakh elected representatives**, with **over 40% women** in PRIs.
- States like **Kerala** and **Karnataka** show success in devolved planning.
- Enabled schemes like **MGNREGA** to be effectively implemented at the village level.

Institutional Constraints:

1. **Functional Devolution:** Most states have **not transferred the 29 functions** listed in the 11th Schedule in true spirit.
2. **Financial Devolution:** PRIs remain dependent on **state grants**, limiting autonomy.
3. **Bureaucratic Interference:** Local officers often undermine elected representatives.
4. **Lack of Capacity:** Many panchayat members lack **training in governance** or digital tools.

Urban Local Bodies:

- Challenges include **urban poverty**, slums, infrastructure gaps.
- 74th Amendment’s intent of **Ward Committees and citizen engagement** remains weak in most cities.

Conclusion:

Decentralization is indispensable for inclusive and sustainable development, especially in a diverse country like India. However, it demands **genuine political will, capacity building, and fiscal empowerment** to realize the full potential of the 73rd and 74th Amendments. Without structural reforms, decentralization risks becoming **tokenistic** rather than transformative.



GS Paper 3 –

Q3. Examine the challenges India faces in balancing climate commitments with its developmental goals, especially in light of its updated NDCs under the Paris Agreement.

(Answer in 300+ words)

Answer:

India's updated **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement reflect a significant shift towards climate ambition. However, this transition coexists with developmental imperatives such as poverty alleviation, energy access, and industrial growth.

Key NDC Targets (updated 2022):

- **Reduce emissions intensity** of GDP by 45% by 2030 (from 2005 levels).
- Achieve **50% cumulative power capacity** from non-fossil sources.
- Create **carbon sinks** of 2.5–3 billion tonnes through afforestation.

Challenges in Balancing Goals:

1. Energy Security vs Green Transition:

- Coal still powers **~55% of electricity**.
- Phasing out without viable alternatives can **hurt base load capacity** and disrupt energy access.

2. Financial Constraints:

- Green technologies require **upfront investment**.
- Climate finance from developed countries remains **insufficient** and delayed.

3. Employment and Just Transition:

- Millions depend on coal, steel, and thermal sectors.
- A **just transition** must include reskilling, social security, and green jobs.

4. Urbanization and Infrastructure:

- Smart cities and urban transport expansion may **increase emissions** unless designed sustainably.
- Construction sector lacks **green norms compliance**.

5. Federal Structure:

- Environment is a **State subject**, yet States have **limited climate planning capacity**.

Way Forward:

- Promote **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)** in renewable and green hydrogen.
- Establish a **National Carbon Market** and strengthen **ESG norms**.
- Empower local governments for **climate-resilient urban planning**.

Conclusion:

India's development-climate balance is delicate yet achievable. A **phased, equitable, and innovation-driven transition** that ensures **inclusive growth** and climate justice is key to meeting both global and domestic expectations.



GS Paper 4 –

Q4. “Ethical governance is not just about transparency, but also about empathy.” Discuss with suitable examples from public administration.

(Answer in 300+ words)

Answer:

Ethical governance entails adherence to principles of **integrity, fairness, and accountability**, but its moral core goes beyond rules — it lies in **empathy**, the ability to understand and respond to the lived experiences of citizens.

Transparency without Empathy – A Mechanical System:

- RTI ensures information access but doesn't guarantee **compassionate service**.
- Digitized platforms may reduce corruption but often **alienate elderly or illiterate** citizens.
- An official may follow rules but **fail morally** if unaware of people's distress.

Empathy in Governance – Key Dimensions:

1. **Responsive Administration:**

- IAS officer Armstrong Pame built a road in Manipur without government funds, understanding the hardship villagers faced.

2. **Compassion in Policy:**

- Kerala's palliative care network integrated empathy into healthcare, treating patients **with dignity and sensitivity**.

3. **Disaster Response:**

- During COVID-19, district collectors who ensured **migrant food, travel, and dignity** went beyond administrative orders.

4. **Policing with Sensitivity:**

- Some police units adopted **community policing** models that focus on dialogue and emotional intelligence.

Empathy vs Sympathy:

- Empathy leads to **action-oriented reform**; sympathy may remain passive.
- Ethical governance needs **both systemic integrity and individual emotional insight**.

Conclusion:

Ethical governance is effective only when **transparency is humanized through empathy**. Civil servants must be not just rule-followers but **compassionate enablers**, ensuring that governance is **not just seen to be fair, but felt to be just**.



Current Affairs – Operation Akhal

Q5. Analyze the strategic, humanitarian, and geopolitical dimensions of Operation Akhal launched by India in 2025. How does it reflect India’s evolving regional posture?

(Answer in 300+ words)

Answer:

Operation Akhal (July 2025) was launched by India as a **multi-dimensional evacuation and stabilization operation** in the Horn of Africa, particularly targeting regions in **Djibouti and Yemen**, amidst civil unrest and a humanitarian crisis.

Strategic Dimensions:

- **Secured evacuation** of over 4,000 Indians and foreign nationals from conflict zones.
- Protected Indian maritime interests in the **Red Sea–Bab el-Mandeb** corridor — a key **energy shipping route**.
- Showcased India’s **blue-water naval capabilities** and coordination via **INS Vishakhapatnam and IAF C-17s**.

Humanitarian Aspects:

- Provided **medical aid, ration kits, and temporary shelters** to local affected populations.
- Created safe corridors with assistance from **UNHCR and Red Crescent**.
- Sent female officers for **gender-sensitive relief**, highlighting inclusive crisis response.

Geopolitical Implications:

- Reaffirmed India’s role as a **“first responder” in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- Balanced strategic autonomy while working with **US, France, and UAE forces**.
- Strengthened India’s presence in Africa, complementing the **India-Africa Defence Dialogue**.

Reflection of India’s Evolving Posture:

- Embodies **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** vision.
- Demonstrates India’s shift from reactive diplomacy to **proactive strategic humanitarianism**.
- Enhances **India’s soft power**, showing civilizational ethos in global crises.

Conclusion:

Operation Akhal is more than an evacuation; it is a **symbol of India’s capacity to lead with responsibility**. It blends **security, empathy, and strategic foresight**, defining India’s growing stature as a **regional stabilizer and humanitarian power**.

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