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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 09/08/2025 (SATURDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the *Nagara* style of temple architecture in India, consider the following statements:

1. In the *rekha-prasada* sub-type of Nagara temples, the shikhara is curvilinear and the vertical line drawn from the base to the apex remains equidistant from the curvilinear surface at all points.
2. The *bhadra* in Nagara temples refers to the projecting central part of the wall which often houses subsidiary shrines or niches for sculptures.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** The *rekha-prasada* type is the most common in Nagara temples, with a curvilinear shikhara. In this form, a vertical axis can be drawn from base to top, equidistant from the curving sides — this differentiates it from other spire forms like *phamsana*.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** *Bhadra* is an architectural term for the central projection on each side of the sanctum wall. Often, it contains sculptures of deities or subsidiary niches. It is a key element in plan layout, especially in North Indian temples.

Q2. With reference to the *Eutrophication* of water bodies, consider the following statements:

1. It is caused exclusively by natural nutrient enrichment over geological time scales.
2. Cultural eutrophication can occur due to untreated sewage, agricultural runoff, and detergents containing phosphates.
3. Eutrophication always leads to an increase in dissolved oxygen levels in the water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — Incorrect:** Natural eutrophication occurs, but *exclusively* is wrong — cultural (human-induced) eutrophication is common today.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** Human activities cause rapid eutrophication via nutrient-rich runoff, sewage, and phosphate-laden detergents.



- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** Eutrophication generally causes algal blooms → decomposition → oxygen depletion (hypoxia), harming aquatic life.

Q3. With reference to the *Balance of Payments (BoP)*, consider the following statements:

1. In India's BoP accounting, foreign direct investment (FDI) is recorded in the capital account, whereas external commercial borrowings (ECBs) are recorded in the financial account.
2. A current account surplus always results in an equivalent capital account deficit.
3. The errors and omissions entry in BoP represents statistical discrepancies that reconcile recorded inflows and outflows.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** In IMF-based classification, India records FDI, portfolio investment, ECBs, etc., under the financial account (earlier broadly termed capital account in older usage, but RBI aligns with IMF terminology).
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** A current account surplus *tends* to be offset by a capital/financial account deficit, but not *always* — reserves accumulation or changes in other items can alter this balance.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** Errors and omissions adjust for mismatches in recorded data.

Q4. With reference to the *Governor's powers in India*, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor can reserve certain bills passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President under Article 200 of the Constitution.
2. The Governor can recommend the imposition of President's Rule in the State under Article 356, but such recommendation is binding on the President.
3. The Governor is bound to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers in all matters, without exception.
4. The Governor has the power to pardon death sentences under Article 161.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** Article 200 allows Governor to reserve certain bills for President's consideration, especially if they contravene provisions like affecting High Court powers.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** The recommendation under Article 356 is *not binding* on the President.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** There are exceptions — discretionary powers in certain situations (e.g., reservation of bill, recommendation for President's Rule, special responsibilities in certain states).
- **Statement 4 — Correct:** Under Article 161, the Governor can pardon, remit, or commute sentences, including death sentences, but *not* in cases where the offence is against a Central law (in such cases, President acts under Article 72).

Q5. Assertion–Reason type

Assertion (A): Lithium-sulfur (Li-S) batteries have a higher theoretical energy density than lithium-ion batteries.

Reason (R): Sulfur is lighter and can store more electrons per unit mass compared to the metal oxides used in conventional lithium-ion cathodes.

- (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.

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

Explanation:

- **Assertion — True:** Li-S batteries can theoretically reach ~2600 Wh/kg, far higher than Li-ion (~250-300 Wh/kg).
- **Reason — True:** Sulfur is abundant, low-mass, and each atom can bind with two lithium atoms (Li_2S formation), enabling high electron storage per gram compared to heavy transition metal oxides.
- **UPSC Twist:** Many candidates confuse Li-S with Li-air batteries; the key here is cathode chemistry.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to PMUY and its later revisions, consider the following statements:

1. PMUY provides **deposit-free LPG connections** to adult women of poor households and Ujjwala 2.0 included a special facility for migrant households; the revised target under Ujjwala 2.0 was attained by December 2022.
2. The **targeted subsidy** of ₹200 per 14.2-kg cylinder for PMUY consumers (introduced in May 2022) is funded **entirely by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** without any budgetary/fiscal support or compensation from the Government of India.

Which of the 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 (twist & elimination):

- Statement 1 — **Correct.** PMUY was designed to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women of poor households and the Ujjwala 2.0 extension included special facilities for migrant households; the additional Ujjwala 2.0 target was achieved (target dates/reported achievement Dec 2022).
- Statement 2 — **Incorrect.** While a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per 14.2-kg cylinder for eligible PMUY consumers was announced (May 2022) to make refill use affordable, the claim that it is funded *entirely* by OMCs without government compensation is false — the scheme design and subsequent Cabinet decisions involve government policy on targeted subsidy and, where needed, budgetary relief/compensation measures for OMCs have been taken. In short: the subsidy provision is a Government policy measure and not a unilateral commercial burden on OMCs.

Q2. Which of the following correctly describes the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)?

- (a) Base period 2004–2006 = 100; it aggregates **three** commodity group indices.
- (b) Base period 2014–2016 = 100; it aggregates **five** commodity group indices weighted by average export shares of those groups.
- (c) Base period 2010 = 100; it aggregates **six** commodity groups and is published quarterly.
- (d) Base period 2014–2016 = 100; it aggregates **five** groups but the weights are equal (simple average).

Answer: (b)

Explanation (short & factual):

The FFPI uses **2014–2016 = 100** as the reference period and is constructed from **five** sub-indices (cereals, vegetable oils, dairy, meat, sugar) weighted by the **average export shares** of these groups during the base period. It is published monthly.

Note: The index uses export-share weights (not equal weights); base period 2014–16 replaced older bases in the recent methodological revision.



Q3. With reference to the ICMR S.H.I.N.E. (Science, Health & Innovation for Nextgen Explorers) outreach, consider:

1. It is a nationwide student-outreach programme organised by ICMR (and Department of Health Research) to ignite scientific curiosity among school students and expose them to biomedical research.
2. SHINE's primary policy instrument is to award long-term national research fellowships to **10,000** school students immediately for lab internships.
3. The outreach includes interactive lab visits, demonstrations at ICMR institutes across states and use of creative engagement (e.g., mascots) to make biomedical research accessible.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — True.** ICMR (with DHR) has organised a nationwide SHINE programme as a student outreach to stimulate interest in health research and scientific careers.
- **Statement 2 — False.** SHINE is primarily an outreach/engagement and exposure programme (lab visits, exhibits, quizzes, demonstrations); it is **not** primarily a mass fellowship award programme that immediately grants 10,000 long-term research fellowships to school students. That absolute number/fellowship assertion is not part of the outreach description.
- **Statement 3 — True.** Reports of SHINE events mention interactive lab tours, demonstrations and creative engagement (e.g., mascots) to popularise science among students.
- **Note:** Distinguish between *outreach/exposure* programmes and *fellowship/grant* programmes — the former aims at awareness and inspiration, not immediate mass funding.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the MERITE scheme recently in the news:

1. MERITE was approved by the Union Cabinet with a budgetary allocation of about **₹4,200 crore** to reform multidisciplinary technical education and research.
2. MERITE intends to abolish existing regulatory bodies (such as AICTE) and replace them with a single new statutory authority as its first step.
3. MERITE aims to tackle uneven quality across institutions through multidisciplinary programmes, research linkages and capacity-building — an estimated **~7.5 lakh students** are expected to benefit directly.

Which statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only



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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — True.** The Cabinet cleared MERITE with a headline allocation of roughly ₹4,200 crore to reform technical education, focusing on multidisciplinary learning and research improvement.
- **Statement 2 — False.** MERITE is a reform/scheme aiming at multidisciplinary strengthening and governance improvements, but **it does not** unambiguously state abolition of statutory regulators (like AICTE) as an immediate step — that is a speculative/overbroad claim.
- **Statement 3 — True.** Public reporting describes MERITE's goals as addressing uneven quality, improving multidisciplinary research and capacity, and indicates direct benefits projected for several lakh students (reports cite ~7.5 lakh).

Note: Watch for statements that over-claim structural/constitutional changes (e.g., “abolish regulator X”) — schemes usually work within existing statutory architecture unless a law is specifically enacted.

Q5. With reference to the borrowing powers of State Governments in India, consider:

1. Under Article 293 the executive power of a State extends to borrowing within India on the security of the Consolidated Fund of the State, subject to limits fixed by the State Legislature.
2. A State may **not** (without the consent of the Government of India) raise any loan if any part of a loan previously made to it by the Government of India is still outstanding (Article 293).
3. States are free to raise external commercial borrowings (i.e., borrow freely from foreign markets or multilateral/bilateral lenders) **without** any involvement or conditions set by the Government of India.
4. The Union Government may, in granting consent under Article 293(3), impose conditions; therefore the Centre effectively has a constitutionally backed role to restrict or condition state borrowings when prior central loans remain unpaid.

Which of the above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 3 and 4 only
(d) All of the above

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation (detailed legal/fiscal logic & twist):

- **Statement 1 — True.** Article 293(1) permits states to borrow within India subject to limits that may be fixed by the state legislature.
- **Statement 2 — True.** Article 293(3) provides that a State may not, without the consent of Government of India, raise any loan if there remains outstanding any part of a loan previously made by the Government of India. This is an express constitutional restriction.



- **Statement 3 — False.** The proposition that states can **freely** raise external commercial borrowings without central involvement is incorrect as a constitutional/legal generality. Historically and constitutionally, external debt has been an area where the Union plays the coordinating / guarantor role (Parliamentary answers stress that external debt is normally incurred by the Centre and external assistance flows are channelled through the Centre for State projects); even where state entities are later permitted to raise direct external finance (under tightly defined guidelines), these steps involve central policy/regulatory frameworks and guarantees — not unrestricted freedom. So “without any involvement/conditions” is wrong.
- **Statement 4 — True.** Article 293(4) allows consent under clause (3) to be granted subject to such conditions as the Government of India may think fit — i.e., the Centre can impose conditions when granting consent. This gives the Union a constitutionally backed role to impose restrictions/conditions in practice.

Note: Don't conflate selective liberalisation (e.g., recent policy allowing state entities to directly access certain external funding under conditions) with an unconditional constitutional right to external borrowing.

Q6. (Look at the map images at the top)



Identify the correct statement about **Diego Garcia**.

- (a) A coral atoll in the **Arabian Sea** off the western coast of India (Gujarat region).
- (b) The largest atoll of the **Chagos Archipelago** in the central Indian Ocean (British Indian Ocean Territory), located roughly south of the Maldives — site of a major military base.
- (c) An island in the **Bay of Bengal** east of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands used as a commercial port.
- (d) A small volcanic island off the west coast of Australia in the Indian Ocean.

Answer: (b)

Explanation (geography + strategic context):

- Diego Garcia is the largest atoll of the **Chagos Archipelago** (British Indian Ocean Territory — BIOT), situated in the **central Indian Ocean**, roughly **about 500 km south of the Maldives**. It is an atoll (coral formation) and hosts a long-standing strategic military facility leased to/used by the



United States (on UK territory). The other options misplace it (Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, off Australia) and are therefore incorrect.

UPSC twist to note: Diego Garcia often appears in strategic/current-affairs questions — chain together geography (Chagos/BIOT → south of Maldives → central Indian Ocean) with legal/political issues (sovereignty disputes, evicted Chagossian population, base leases) in the mains answer if asked.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. Question:

"Discuss the contribution of the Bhakti and Sufi movements in promoting religious harmony in medieval India. How did their approaches differ in achieving social cohesion?"

Sample Answer:

Introduction:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements emerged in medieval India as spiritual reform movements, advocating devotion to God and emphasising love, tolerance, and equality. In a period marked by political instability and communal divides, they acted as bridges between diverse communities.

Contribution to Religious Harmony:

- **Bhakti Movement:**

- Emphasised devotion (*bhakti*) over rituals, making religion accessible to all, irrespective of caste.
- Saints like Kabir, Guru Nanak, and Mirabai spread messages in vernacular languages, promoting inclusivity.
- Criticised orthodoxy and caste discrimination, enabling inter-caste and inter-faith dialogue.

- **Sufi Movement:**

- Stressed love for God (*Ishq-e-Haqiqi*), service to humanity, and spiritual equality.
- Chishti, Suhrawardi, and Qadiri orders welcomed people from all communities into their *khanqahs*.
- Advocated syncretic practices, incorporating local traditions, music (*qawwali*), and languages.



Differences in Approach:

- **Spiritual Path:**
 - Bhakti: Often personal devotion to a chosen deity (Saguna/Nirguna traditions).
 - Sufi: Mystical union with God through meditation, prayer, and ascetic practices.
- **Institutional Structure:**
 - Bhakti: Loosely organised, based around saint-followers network.
 - Sufi: Organised around *silsilas* (orders) with formal initiation (*bayat*).
- **Interaction with Politics:**
 - Bhakti saints mostly avoided royal patronage.
 - Many Sufi saints interacted with rulers but maintained spiritual independence.

Impact on Social Cohesion:

- Blended Hindu and Islamic cultural elements, influencing art, architecture, literature, and music.
- Reduced communal tensions by creating shared cultural spaces.
- Inspired movements like Sikhism, which embedded inter-faith harmony in its principles.

Conclusion:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements demonstrated that spiritual values of love, equality, and compassion could transcend religious barriers. Their legacies remain relevant today in addressing communalism, reminding India of its deep-rooted syncretic heritage.

GS Paper 2 (Governance) –

Q2. Question: "Critically examine the challenges and prospects of implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India in the light of constitutional provisions and societal diversity."

Sample Answer:

Introduction:

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) seeks to replace personal laws based on religion, customs, and traditions with a common set governing marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance. Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy envisions a UCC, but its implementation remains contentious.

Constitutional Basis:

- **Directive Principle:** Article 44 directs the State to secure a UCC for citizens.
- **Fundamental Rights:** Any UCC must harmonise with Articles 14 (equality), 15 (non-discrimination), and 25 (freedom of religion).
- **Judicial Observations:** SC in *Shah Bano* (1985) and *Sarla Mudgal* (1995) emphasised the desirability of a UCC.



Challenges:

1. **Cultural and Religious Diversity:** India's plural society has distinct personal laws deeply tied to religious identity.
2. **Minority Concerns:** Fear that UCC may erode religious freedom and minority rights.
3. **Political Polarisation:** UCC often perceived through a communal lens, reducing consensus.
4. **Lack of Clarity in Draft:** Absence of a widely accepted model draft hampers informed debate.

Prospects and Potential Benefits:

- **Gender Justice:** Uniform laws could eliminate discriminatory practices against women.
- **Legal Uniformity:** Simplifies legal processes and reduces ambiguity in personal law disputes.
- **National Integration:** Promotes the constitutional ideal of equality before law.
- **Global Practice:** Many secular democracies have common civil codes without undermining cultural diversity.

Way Forward:

- Begin with **optional UCC** or codification of personal laws ensuring gender equity.
- Build consensus through consultations with religious leaders, jurists, and civil society.
- Ensure that reforms are **culturally sensitive**, protecting legitimate religious practices.

Conclusion:

The UCC embodies the constitutional vision of equality and secularism but requires careful, consultative implementation to avoid alienating communities. A gradual, inclusive approach is key to reconciling unity with diversity.

GS Paper 3 (Economy / Environment) –

Q3. Question: "Discuss the role of the circular economy in achieving India's sustainable development goals. Highlight policy measures and challenges in its adoption."

Sample Answer:

Introduction:

A circular economy (CE) aims to minimise waste, maximise resource efficiency, and keep materials in use for as long as possible. For India, with growing resource demand and environmental concerns, CE is vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Role in SDGs:

- **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production):** CE reduces raw material extraction and promotes reuse/recycling.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Lower emissions through efficient resource cycles.
- **SDG 6 & 15 (Water & Land):** CE reduces water pollution and land degradation from waste.



- **SDG 8 (Decent Work):** CE creates green jobs in recycling, repair, and remanufacturing sectors.

Policy Measures in India:

1. **Swachh Bharat Mission & Solid Waste Management Rules:** Encourage segregation, recycling, composting.
2. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Mandates producers to take back end-of-life products (electronics, plastics).
3. **National Resource Efficiency Policy (Draft):** Framework for resource efficiency across sectors.
4. **Plastic Waste Management Rules:** Ban on certain single-use plastics, promotion of recycling.

Challenges in Adoption:

- **Informal Sector Integration:** Large unorganised recycling sector lacks formal support.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Insufficient facilities for large-scale recycling/reuse.
- **Consumer Behaviour:** Low awareness and participation in waste segregation.
- **Financial Viability:** CE businesses face high initial costs and low short-term returns.

Way Forward:

- Provide fiscal incentives and green financing for CE start-ups.
- Invest in waste-to-resource infrastructure in urban and rural areas.
- Mainstream CE education in skill development programs.
- Encourage public-private partnerships for technology adoption in recycling and remanufacturing.

Conclusion:

Circular economy practices are integral to India's sustainable development pathway. A robust policy push, backed by public participation and technological innovation, can transform resource challenges into economic opportunities while meeting environmental commitments.

GS Paper 4 (Ethics) –

Q4. Question: "Public service ethics demand that bureaucrats not only act legally but also morally. Discuss this statement with suitable examples."

Sample Answer:

Introduction:

Public service ethics refers to the moral principles guiding the conduct of public servants. While legality ensures adherence to laws, morality ensures alignment with values like justice, fairness, and compassion.

Why legality alone is insufficient:

- Laws can be outdated or silent on certain issues; morality fills the gap.
- Strict legal compliance without ethical consideration can lead to injustice (e.g., enforcing an unjust colonial-era law).



- Citizens expect bureaucrats to be custodians of public trust, not mere rule-followers.

Dimensions of Moral Action in Bureaucracy:

1. **Integrity:** Resisting corruption even when legal loopholes exist.
2. **Compassion:** Providing relief to vulnerable citizens beyond procedural rigidity (e.g., expedited aid during disasters).
3. **Objectivity:** Ensuring fairness in decision-making without bias.
4. **Accountability:** Being transparent and accepting responsibility for decisions.

Examples:

- **Positive:** During the 2018 Kerala floods, many officials used discretionary powers to mobilise resources quickly, prioritising human life over procedural delays.
- **Negative:** Blindly following eviction orders without rehabilitation, even when alternative humane options exist, reflects legality without morality.

Balancing legality and morality:

- Use of **ethical decision-making models** (e.g., utilitarianism, Kantian ethics) for guidance.
- Reference to **constitutional morality** — principles like liberty, equality, fraternity as per Dr. Ambedkar's vision.
- Training in ethics, empathy, and public engagement.

Conclusion:

Bureaucrats must operate within the law but interpret and implement it with an ethical lens. Laws provide the framework; morality ensures justice and humanity. Together, they uphold the spirit of democratic governance.

Current Affairs –

Q5. Question: "India's private space sector is poised for rapid growth, yet it faces a critical talent shortage. Analyse the causes, implications, and potential solutions."

Sample Answer:

Introduction:

The Indian private space sector, boosted by reforms like IN-SPACe and FDI liberalisation, has seen a surge in start-ups (e.g., Skyroot, Agnikul). However, a shortage of skilled professionals threatens its growth trajectory.

Causes of Talent Crisis:

1. **Brain Drain:** Skilled engineers and scientists migrate to global space companies due to better pay and infrastructure.
2. **Limited Academic Pipeline:** Few institutions offer specialised space technology programs; low industry-academia collaboration.



3. **Sector's Nascent Stage:** Private firms offer fewer long-term career assurances compared to ISRO or global majors.
4. **Competition from IT & Other Sectors:** High-paying tech jobs lure engineering talent away from aerospace.

Implications:

- **Growth Bottleneck:** Slower project timelines and inability to meet global launch demands.
- **Increased Costs:** Hiring foreign experts or training raw graduates adds to expenses.
- **Strategic Dependence:** Risk of relying on foreign expertise in critical technologies.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Potential loss of market share to nations with stronger talent pools.

Potential Solutions:

1. **Skill Development Programs:** Government–industry partnerships to establish specialised courses in propulsion, satellite design, space law.
2. **Incentives to Retain Talent:** Competitive salaries, ESOPs, and research opportunities in private firms.
3. **Public–Private Collaboration:** Leverage ISRO's expertise for training and mentorship of start-up engineers.
4. **International Collaborations:** Short-term foreign training with a requirement to return and serve Indian industry.
5. **STEM Promotion in Schools:** Inspire the next generation through competitions, internships, and mentorship.

Conclusion:

Addressing the private space talent crisis is critical for India's ambition to capture a larger share of the \$500+ billion global space economy. Strategic investments in education, retention incentives, and collaborative training models can ensure that India's human capital matches its technological potential in the space domain.