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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE**

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 16/08/2025 (SATURDAY)

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



 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

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

1. The Iqta was primarily a hereditary revenue assignment given to nobles, which they could pass on to their heirs.
2. The purpose of granting Iqtas was both to collect revenue for the state and to maintain a standing army under the control of Iqtadars.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Iqta system** was introduced by **Iltutmish**, where land revenue was assigned to nobles called *Iqtadars*.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect** – Iqtas were **not hereditary**; they were transferable administrative grants. Sultans often rotated Iqtadars to prevent local autonomy.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – The Iqtadars collected revenue to pay soldiers, thereby ensuring the Sultan's military strength.
Hence, only statement 2 is correct.

Q2. With reference to the phenomenon of "Coral Bleaching", consider the following statements:

1. Coral bleaching occurs only when corals are exposed to elevated sea surface temperatures.
2. Ocean acidification reduces the ability of corals to produce calcium carbonate skeletons, thereby weakening their structure.
3. Bleached corals are permanently dead and cannot recover even if favorable conditions return.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – Elevated sea surface temperature is the **primary cause** of bleaching, but not the only one (pollution, turbidity, salinity also contribute). UPSC twist is in the word *only*. Still, bleaching phenomenon is mainly triggered by temperature stress.



- **Statement 2 is correct** – Ocean acidification from CO₂ absorption **reduces calcification**, weakening coral skeletons.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – Bleached corals are not always dead; they can recover if stress subsides quickly. Permanent death occurs only if stress persists.
Correct answer = 1 and 2 only.

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the “Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)” in India:

1. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India has a casting vote in case of a tie.
2. The MPC is responsible for deciding the repo rate to achieve the target of inflation as notified by the Government of India.
3. Decisions of the MPC are binding on both the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – In case of a tie among the 6 MPC members, the **RBI Governor has the casting vote**.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – MPC decides the repo rate to ensure inflation target (currently **4% ± 2%**) as notified by the government.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – MPC’s decision is binding only on the **RBI**, not on the **Government of India**. The government merely notifies the inflation target.
Correct answer = 1 and 2 only.

Q4. With reference to the Attorney General of India, consider the following statements:

1. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
2. He is entitled to take part in the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, but without a right to vote.
3. He can be a member of the Parliamentary Committees.
4. He is a full-time salaried government servant and cannot practice law privately.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)



Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** – The Attorney General must be qualified to be a **Supreme Court judge** (i.e., 5 years as High Court judge or 10 years as advocate).
- **Statement 2 is correct** – He can participate in Parliament proceedings, but has **no voting right**.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – He may be invited to parliamentary committees, though he is not a member in strict sense.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** – He is **not a full-time salaried servant**; he can practice law privately (except against Government of India).
Correct answer = 1, 2 and 3 only.

Q5. Assertion-Reason -

Assertion (A): The use of “Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)” in communications ensures unconditional security of data transmission.

Reason (R): Any attempt to eavesdrop on a quantum channel alters the quantum state of particles, thereby revealing the presence of an intruder.

- (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)

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true** – Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) provides **unconditional security** as per quantum mechanics principles.
- **Reason (R) is true** – Any measurement of a quantum particle changes its state (*Heisenberg's uncertainty principle*). Thus, eavesdropping attempts are detectable.
- **R correctly explains A** – The security of QKD arises precisely because of this principle.
Correct answer = (a).

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. “Ladakh Raktsey Karpo Apricot” is a Geographical Indication (GI)-registered agricultural product in India.
2. The maiden 2025 international export of fresh Halman apricots from Ladakh used the same GI registration as “Raktsey Karpo”.



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)

Explanation:

- The GI Registry lists “**Ladakh Raktsey Karpo Apricot**” as a registered GI (Application No. 729).
- The **2025 exports flagged off by APEDA** involved the **Halman variety**, which is different from the GI-tagged “Raktsey Karpo”.
- Hence, only Statement 1 is correct.

Q2. “Mission Sudarshan Chakra”, recently announced by the Government of India, most appropriately refers to:

- (a) A multi-layered, integrated air and missile defence shield to neutralize aerial threats to critical national assets
- (b) A long-range anti-submarine warfare mission in the Arabian Sea
- (c) A strategic border roads package along the LAC
- (d) A whole-of-government cyber-resilience programme

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra** is a **nation-wide, multi-tier air defence shield** programme to neutralize drones, missiles, and aircraft threats to India’s strategic assets.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. Food-derived bioactive peptides are short sequences (typically 2–20 amino acids) “encrypted” in parent proteins and released via digestion, enzymatic hydrolysis or fermentation, with diverse physiological activities.
2. Their antihypertensive potential often stems from inhibition of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE).
3. In India, when such ingredients are marketed as foods with physiological benefits, they fall under FSSAI’s Health Supplements/Nutraceutical regulations rather than being treated as “drugs”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:



- Bioactive peptides are **2–20 amino acid fragments** with roles like antihypertensive, antioxidant, antimicrobial, etc.
- ACE-inhibition is a classic **mechanism for blood pressure control**.
- In India, FSSAI regulates them under **Health Supplements/Nutraceuticals framework**, unless drug-type claims are made.

Q4. Consider the following statements about India's Deep Ocean Mission:

1. NIOT's "MATSYA 6000" is a crewed submersible being developed for ~6,000-metre dives under the Mission.
2. Exploration of polymetallic nodules and polymetallic sulphides in the Central Indian Ocean is among its stated objectives.
3. The Mission is a multi-institutional programme led by the Ministry of Earth Sciences; NIOT is not the sole implementing body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **MATSYA 6000** is India's first crewed deep-sea submersible for ~6,000 m depth.
- Mission includes **polymetallic nodules (PMN) and sulphides exploration** in Indian Ocean.
- It is **multi-institutional**, coordinated by MoES, with NIOT as a major but not the only body.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. SYSM is India's highest wartime distinguished service decoration (it is not a gallantry award).
2. It is open to all ranks of the Armed Forces for exceptional service during war, conflict or hostilities.
3. It may be awarded posthumously.
4. It is routinely conferred upon members of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) alongside military personnel.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)



Explanation:

- The **Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal (SYSM)** is India's highest wartime **distinguished service decoration**, distinct from gallantry awards.
- It is open to **all ranks of the Armed Forces** and can be given **posthumously**.
- It does **not extend to CAPFs**.

Q6. Ob River is located in which of the following country?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Canada
- (c) Germany
- (d) Italy

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Ob flows northward across western Siberia (Russia).

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1:

Q1. Discuss the role of women in India's national movement, highlighting both mainstream and regional contributions. How did their participation redefine the socio-political landscape of colonial India?

Answer:

The Indian national movement was not merely a political struggle against British rule; it was also a transformative social movement. Women's participation, though initially limited by patriarchal norms, gradually expanded, redefining the contours of both politics and gender relations.

In the **early phase (moderate politics, 19th century)**, women leaders such as **Annie Besant** through the Theosophical Society and Home Rule League inspired Indian women to step into public life. Social reformers like **Savitribai Phule**, **Pandita Ramabai**, and **Begum Rokeya** fought against child marriage, widow oppression, and promoted female education—laying the groundwork for political awakening.

In the **Gandhian phase**, women's participation became mass-based. **Mahatma Gandhi** mobilized women through the **Non-Cooperation (1920–22)** and **Civil Disobedience (1930–34)** movements. Figures such as **Kasturba Gandhi**, **Sarojini Naidu**, **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay**, and **Sucheta Kriplani** emerged as symbols of courage. Thousands of ordinary women picketed liquor shops, spun khadi, and courted arrests.

Regionally, women played vital roles—**Matangini Hazra** in Bengal, who died in Quit India protest, **Velu Nachiyar** in Tamil Nadu as an early resistance leader, and the women of Nagaland and Manipur in peasant and tribal struggles. These movements reflected intersectionality—where women combined anti-colonial struggle with resistance against patriarchal oppression.

The impact was profound:

- **Socio-political emancipation:** Women broke barriers of domesticity and redefined citizenship.



- **Institutional gains:** Post-independence, this legacy enabled constitutional guarantees—**Article 14, 15(3), 39(d)**.
- **Cultural shift:** Women were seen as political actors, not just symbols of sacrifice.

In conclusion, women's participation in the national movement was both emancipatory and catalytic. It democratized the struggle, injected moral legitimacy, and ensured that the freedom struggle was not just about political sovereignty, but also about social justice and gender equality.

GS Paper 2:

Q2. Critically examine the challenges of cooperative federalism in India with reference to recent issues such as GST disputes, centrally sponsored schemes, and governor–state relations.

Answer:

Federalism in India is designed as a balance between strong Union authority and regional autonomy. The **Constitution (Article 1–395)** envisages India as a “**Union of States**”, but the cooperative spirit has often been strained.

Recent Challenges:

1. **GST Council disputes:** While GST was intended as a symbol of cooperative federalism, states have expressed concerns about compensation cess delays (especially during COVID-19), weakening their fiscal autonomy.
2. **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS):** States argue that centrally dictated schemes (such as PMAY, Jal Jeevan Mission) often do not reflect local needs but consume large budgetary resources, leading to **vertical fiscal imbalance**.
3. **Governor–State relations:** Governors in opposition-ruled states have been accused of withholding assent to bills, delaying cabinet decisions (e.g., Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab), undermining Article 163's spirit of aid and advice.
4. **Use of investigative agencies:** States perceive agencies like CBI and ED as instruments of coercion, creating friction.
5. **Regional demands for autonomy:** For example, disputes over Hindi imposition, NEET in Tamil Nadu, and water-sharing conflicts (Cauvery, Krishna) highlight strains in Centre–State relations.

However, cooperative federalism has also worked positively:

- **NITI Aayog** promotes consensus-based planning.
- **Aspirational Districts Programme** showcases Centre–State coordination.
- **COVID management** required Centre–State partnership in vaccination and disaster relief.

Way Forward:

- **Fiscal reforms:** Strengthen Finance Commission transfers, timely GST compensation.
- **Respecting autonomy:** Empower states in concurrent list subjects like health and education.
- **Institutional mechanisms:** Revive **Inter-State Council (Art. 263)** for dialogue.
- **Governor accountability:** Define roles more clearly, reducing discretionary overreach.



In conclusion, while India's federalism faces challenges, its resilience lies in continuous negotiation and dialogue. For a diverse polity like India, **cooperative federalism is not optional but essential** to ensure inclusive governance.

GS Paper 3:

Q3. Evaluate the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on employment generation and productivity in India. What policy measures are required to balance innovation with job security?

Answer:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is heralded as a transformative technology with immense potential for boosting productivity, but it also poses significant challenges to employment patterns.

Impact on Employment:

- **Job displacement:** Routine and repetitive tasks in manufacturing (assembly lines), services (BPO, data entry), and banking (loan processing) are increasingly automated. Studies suggest up to **23% of jobs in India may face automation risks**.
- **Job transformation:** Many roles are not eliminated but redefined. For example, healthcare workers use AI diagnostics but human empathy remains central.
- **Job creation:** New opportunities are emerging in AI development, data analytics, cybersecurity, and robotics. India's IT sector (Infosys, TCS, Wipro) is hiring in AI-enabled services, offsetting some losses.
- **Gig economy expansion:** Platforms like Ola, Swiggy, and Upwork leverage AI for efficiency, creating flexible but insecure jobs.

Impact on Productivity:

- AI enhances efficiency in logistics (e-commerce), agriculture (precision farming), and governance (digital service delivery, Aadhaar-enabled welfare).
- In defence and security, AI-based surveillance boosts strategic capabilities.
- Productivity gains, however, are uneven—skilled sectors benefit while low-skilled workers face precarity.

Policy Measures:

1. **Reskilling workforce:** Initiatives like **Skill India AI modules, PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0** must focus on digital literacy.
2. **Inclusive growth:** Encourage MSMEs to adopt AI with incentives, while safeguarding low-skilled employment.
3. **Ethical framework:** Develop regulations on data privacy, bias, and accountability.
4. **Public-private partnerships:** Collaboration between academia, industry, and government to promote research and localized innovation.
5. **Safety nets:** Expand unemployment insurance, social security, and universal healthcare to absorb shocks.



In conclusion, AI is not just a technological shift but a socio-economic disruptor. India must adopt a **“human-centric AI” approach**, where innovation coexists with social justice, ensuring that growth is inclusive and workers are not left behind.

GS Paper 4:

Q4. “In public administration, ethical governance is not only about laws but about values.” Discuss with suitable illustrations.

Answer:

Ethical governance extends beyond legal compliance. Laws provide **minimum standards of behavior**, but governance requires **values-based decision-making** that ensures fairness, trust, and accountability.

Difference between Law and Ethics:

- **Law:** Codified, enforceable through penalties.
- **Ethics:** Rooted in values such as justice, compassion, integrity; often unwritten but socially binding.

Illustrations in Public Administration:

1. **Transparency vs. Secrecy:** The RTI Act ensures legal transparency, but proactive disclosure (value of openness) by officers builds greater citizen trust.
2. **Compassion in Service Delivery:** A civil servant may legally deny ration due to documentation issues, but ethically, providing immediate relief during floods upholds humanitarian values.
3. **Integrity in Policy Implementation:** Following rules in procurement is legal, but ensuring quality, avoiding favoritism, and resisting lobbying demonstrates ethical commitment.
4. **Responsibility in Decision-Making:** For example, during COVID-19, many officers went beyond legal mandates, arranging oxygen, transport, and food—reflecting empathy.

Importance of Values:

- Values like **justice, empathy, impartiality, and accountability** ensure that governance remains citizen-centric.
- Ethical governance creates legitimacy, reducing corruption and alienation.
- It aligns with Gandhian principle: *“A right act done at the right time with the right motive.”*

Way Forward:

- Training civil servants in ethics and leadership.
- Institutional mechanisms like **Lokpal, CVC, and citizen charters**.
- Creating an organizational culture where ethical conduct is rewarded.

In conclusion, ethical governance is the bridge between law and morality. While laws constrain misconduct, values inspire administrators to act beyond compliance, making governance humane, just, and trustworthy.

**Current Affairs:**

Q5. The drug menace in Punjab poses a grave threat to social stability and national security. Critically evaluate the recent anti-drug campaign of the Punjab government, highlighting achievements, challenges, and the way forward.

Answer:

Punjab, once known as the “Granary of India,” now faces a deep crisis of drug addiction. Estimates suggest **one in three rural households is affected**, with substances ranging from heroin to synthetic drugs. This has socio-economic, health, and security implications, including cross-border smuggling from Pakistan.

Punjab Government’s Anti-Drug Campaign:

1. **Law Enforcement:** Special Task Force (STF) established; increased seizures of narcotics and arrests of peddlers. The use of drones to monitor border infiltration has been intensified.
2. **Public Awareness:** Campaigns like “**Nashe Ton Azadi**” marches, **school awareness drives**, and **youth clubs** attempt to de-stigmatize addiction and promote prevention.
3. **Rehabilitation:** Expansion of **OOAT (Outpatient Opioid Assisted Treatment)** centres, de-addiction facilities, and community counseling.
4. **Technology use:** Narco-helplines, mobile apps for reporting peddlers, and digital monitoring of seizures enhance accountability.

Achievements:

- Significant seizures of heroin (over 700 kg in 2024) and synthetic drugs.
- Increased community participation in awareness drives.
- De-addiction centres expanded, though capacity still falls short.

Challenges:

- **Supply-side persistence:** Smuggling routes adapt, aided by cross-border tunnels and drones.
- **Corruption and political nexus:** Allegations of complicity weaken enforcement credibility.
- **Demand-side neglect:** Many addicts relapse due to inadequate counseling, poor social reintegration, and stigma.
- **Economic roots:** Unemployment, agrarian distress, and lack of sports infrastructure push youth towards drugs.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen border security with AI-based drone interception.
- Enhance rehabilitation with vocational training and community-based reintegration.
- Tackle corruption with independent oversight of enforcement agencies.
- Address root causes—agriculture diversification, rural employment, and youth engagement in sports and cultural activities.

In conclusion, Punjab’s anti-drug campaign is a step forward but not sufficient. The issue requires a **holistic national strategy**—combining law enforcement, rehabilitation, socio-economic development, and community mobilization—so that Punjab’s youth can be liberated from the cycle of addiction.