



“ We help you reach for the star ”

VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 19 & 20 AUG-2025

- **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 Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22):

1. The Nagpur Session of Congress (1920) formally adopted the Non-Cooperation resolution, which included the boycott of councils, schools, and foreign cloth.
2. The movement was abruptly called off after the British passed the Rowlatt Act of 1919, which authorized detention without trial.

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 is **correct** – At the **Nagpur Session (1920)**, under Gandhi's leadership, the Congress officially adopted the Non-Cooperation resolution. It called for the boycott of legislative councils, law courts, government schools/colleges, foreign goods, and emphasized promotion of Swadeshi.
- Statement 2 is **incorrect** – The movement was not withdrawn due to the Rowlatt Act (1919). In fact, the **Rowlatt Act preceded the movement** and was one of the reasons for the rising discontent. Gandhi withdrew the movement after the **Chauri Chaura incident (1922)**, where police were killed by protesters.

Q2. With reference to 'Biosphere Reserves' in India, consider the following statements:

1. A Biosphere Reserve always contains one or more National Parks but not Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. The core area of a Biosphere Reserve is strictly protected and no human activity is permitted.
3. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was the first to be included under UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **incorrect** – A Biosphere Reserve may include **both National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries**. For example, the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve has Bandipur NP, Mudumalai WLS, etc.
- Statement 2 is **correct** – The **core zone** of a Biosphere Reserve is fully protected and free from human interference. Research and monitoring may be allowed but no exploitation.



- Statement 3 is **correct** – The **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986)** was the first from India to be included in UNESCO's World Network in 2000.

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'Balance of Payments (BoP)' of a country:

1. A persistent Current Account Deficit (CAD) is always inflationary.
2. Capital Account transactions include both debt-creating and non-debt-creating inflows.
3. If BoP shows surplus, it necessarily implies that foreign exchange reserves of the country will rise.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **incorrect** – CAD means more imports than exports, but it is not “always” inflationary. If financed by capital inflows (like FDI), it may not create inflation.
- Statement 2 is **correct** – Capital account includes **debt-creating inflows (loans, ECBs)** and **non-debt-creating inflows (FDI, portfolio investment)**.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect** – A BoP surplus does not *necessarily* increase reserves. If the surplus is sterilized by the central bank through market intervention, reserves may not rise.

Q4. With reference to the powers of the Governor under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor can reserve a bill for the consideration of the President, but the Constitution does not specify on what grounds.
2. The Governor is bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in all matters, including discretionary powers.
3. The Governor has the power to recommend the imposition of President's Rule under Article 356.
4. The Governor, as the constitutional head of the state, can dismiss a duly elected government if it loses majority in the Legislative Assembly.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:



- Statement 1 is **correct** – Article 200 allows the Governor to reserve a bill for the President's consideration, but the Constitution is silent on exact grounds.
- Statement 2 is **incorrect** – Governor acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers, **except in discretionary functions** (like reserving a bill, recommending President's Rule, etc.).
- Statement 3 is **correct** – Governor sends a report recommending President's Rule if constitutional machinery breaks down.
- Statement 4 is **correct** – In case a government loses majority, Governor can dismiss it, but this power must be exercised cautiously and subject to judicial review (e.g., **SR Bommai case 1994**).

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type –

Assertion (A): Western coastal plains of India have numerous lagoons and backwaters.

Reason (R): The Western coastal plains are narrow and emerged from the submergence of the coastline.

- (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:

- The **Western Coastal Plains** are narrow and formed due to **submergence of the coastline**. This created numerous **backwaters, estuaries, and lagoons** (notably in Kerala).
- Hence, both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the Mauryan Administration:

1. Kautilya's *Arthashastra* describes an elaborate espionage system under the Mauryas, which even included women as secret agents.
2. The *Ashokan edicts* provide direct evidence of revenue collection and land taxation practices of the Mauryan Empire.

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 is **correct** – The *Arthashastra* by Kautilya (Chanakya) details an advanced espionage system. It mentions spies disguised as monks, artisans, merchants, and even women as intelligence agents.



- Statement 2 is **incorrect** – Ashokan inscriptions focus mainly on **Dhamma, morality, and welfare measures**, but they do not provide evidence of revenue collection or land taxation. Knowledge of Mauryan taxation comes from *Arthashastra* and accounts of Megasthenes, not from Ashoka's edicts.

Q7. With reference to Mangrove ecosystems in India, consider the following statements:

1. Mangroves act as significant carbon sinks by storing more carbon per unit area than most tropical forests.
2. Unlike corals, mangroves require clear, sediment-free water for their survival.
3. In India, the largest continuous stretch of mangroves is found along the eastern coast.

Which of the above statements 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 is **correct** – Mangroves are highly efficient carbon sinks. They store “blue carbon” in roots and sediments, far more than most terrestrial tropical forests.
- Statement 2 is **incorrect** – Mangroves thrive in **muddy, saline, sediment-rich coastal areas** and brackish waters, unlike coral reefs that require clear, sediment-free waters.
- Statement 3 is **correct** – The **Sundarbans (West Bengal)** form the largest contiguous mangrove stretch in India, followed by smaller ones in Odisha and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Q8. Consider the following statements about the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003:

1. It legally binds the government to reduce fiscal deficit and revenue deficit targets in a phased manner.
2. The Act provides that government borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is permitted only under exceptional circumstances.
3. The N.K. Singh Committee (2017) recommended replacing fiscal deficit with primary deficit as the anchor for fiscal policy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:



- Statement 1 is **correct** – The FRBM Act (2003) set targets for reducing fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, and eliminating monetization of deficit financing.
- Statement 2 is **correct** – The Act restricts the government from borrowing directly from RBI except in cases like national security, natural calamity, or short-term mismatch in cash flows.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect** – The N.K. Singh Committee recommended using **fiscal deficit** as the main anchor, not primary deficit. It suggested a fiscal deficit target of 2.5% of GDP with an escape clause.

Q9. With reference to the powers and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in disputes between the Government of India and one or more states.
2. The Court's advisory jurisdiction under Article 143 is binding on both the Union and the States.
3. The Supreme Court's power of judicial review extends only to laws made by Parliament, not state legislatures.
4. The Supreme Court can transfer cases from one High Court to another if it involves substantial questions of law.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **correct** – Article 131 gives the SC **original jurisdiction** in disputes between Centre and states or between two or more states.
- Statement 2 is **incorrect** – The President's reference under Article 143 is **advisory**; the opinion of the SC is **not binding**.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect** – Judicial review applies to **both Parliamentary and State laws**. SC can strike down any law violating the Constitution.
- Statement 4 is **correct** – SC has power under Article 139A to transfer cases involving substantial questions of law to ensure uniform interpretation.

Q10. Assertion–Reason Type –

Assertion (A): Quantum computers are expected to break classical encryption systems like RSA.

Reason (R): Quantum computers use qubits, which can exist in multiple states simultaneously due to the principle of superposition.

- (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: (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A

Explanation:

- Assertion is **true** – Quantum computers could break classical cryptography (RSA, ECC) by efficiently factoring large prime numbers using **Shor's Algorithm**.
- Reason is **true** – Qubits exploit **superposition and entanglement**, giving them superior computing power.
- However, **R is not the correct explanation** of A. The breaking of encryption is due to **specific quantum algorithms (Shor's, Grover's)**, not merely because qubits exist in superposition.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. India's currently used polyvalent antivenom (ASV) often shows poor cross-neutralization against bites by **non-"Big Four"** vipers (e.g., *Hypnale hypnale*) and even some region-specific populations of the "Big Four."
2. Because venom load injected is largely independent of the victim's body size, the recommended **initial** ASV dose is **the same for adults and children**.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Indian polyvalent ASV underperforms for several medically important "non-Big Four" species (like *Hypnale hypnale*) and for regional venom variations of the "Big Four." Initial ASV dose depends on venom load, not body weight, so it is the same for adults and children.

Q2. GOSAT-GW (also called "IBUKI-GW"), launched in June 2025 to monitor greenhouse gases and the water cycle, flew on the final mission of which rocket?

- (a) H-2A
(b) H3
(c) Epsilon-S
(d) PSLV-XL



Answer: (a)

Explanation:

GOSAT-GW launched on the final flight of Japan's **H-2A** rocket. It carries instruments for monitoring greenhouse gases and water cycles.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sakura Science Programme is implemented by **Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)**, typically inviting participants **through host institutions** rather than individual self-applications.
2. It primarily funds **long-term degree scholarships (Master's/PhD)**.
3. Recent programme notices indicate expansion **beyond Asia** under certain courses to "all countries and regions."

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The programme is managed by JST, with invitations routed via host institutions. It supports short-term exchange and visits, not degree scholarships. Some tracks now include participants from all regions, expanding beyond its earlier Asia focus.

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. Researchers engineered living *E. coli* to convert the presence of **Hg²⁺** in water into a **direct electronic read-out**, enabling real-time monitoring.
2. Such living electronic sensors are typically interfaced with **electrodes**; the concept is consistent with microbial electrochemical biosensing.
3. Field deployment of engineered living sensors raises **biosafety/biocontainment** questions, often addressed via **genetic kill-switch** strategies.

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Engineered *E. coli* have been used to generate electrical outputs in response to mercury contamination. These function as microbial electrochemical biosensors, interfaced with electrodes. For real-world use, genetic containment tools like kill-switches are essential.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. Akash-NG employs a **canisterized** missile with a **dual-pulse solid rocket motor** and an **active RF seeker** for terminal guidance.
2. **High-altitude user trials in Ladakh in July 2025** were conducted with the **Akash Prime** variant of the



Akash family.

3. The stated engagement range of **Akash-NG (~70 km)** is substantially higher than the original **Akash Mk-1 (~25 km)**.

4. The Akash family relies **only** on passive homing and **does not** use fire-control radars like **Rajendra/MFCR**.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **1 — Correct.** Akash-NG is canisterized, uses a dual-pulse solid rocket motor, and has an active RF seeker.
- **2 — Correct.** The mid-July 2025 high-altitude Ladakh trials involved **Akash Prime** (an Akash family variant) under Army user evaluation.
- **3 — Correct.** Akash-NG's stated engagement range (~70 km) exceeds that of the original Akash Mk-1 (~25 km).
- **4 — Incorrect.** Legacy Akash uses **command guidance via Rajendra/MFCR fire-control radars**, not "passive-only" homing. Later variants (Akash-1S/Prime/NG) add RF seekers for terminal guidance while still operating within a radar-guided system.

Q6. Arrange the following Ghanaian coastal features from west to east:

1. **Ankobra River estuary (near Axim)**
2. **Cape Three Points**
3. **Cape Coast**
4. **Keta Lagoon Complex**

- (a) 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
- (b) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- (c) 1 – 3 – 2 – 4
- (d) 2 – 3 – 1 – 4

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

From west to east: Ankobra estuary (~2.27°W) → Cape Three Points (~2.09°W) → Cape Coast (~1.25°W) → Keta Lagoon (~0.99°E). Correct sequence is 1 → 2 → 3 → 4.

Q7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court Judge.
2. However, unlike the CEC, the Election Commissioners (ECs) can be removed by the President solely on the recommendation of the CEC.



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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The CEC enjoys security of tenure equal to that of a Supreme Court Judge and can be removed only through parliamentary impeachment. Election Commissioners, on the other hand, can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the CEC, but **not solely by the CEC**; the President's formal order is required. Thus statement 2 is incorrect.

Q8. Which recent innovation allows solar panels to be detached and reassembled without permanent civil foundations, making them suitable for disaster-hit and temporary locations?

- (a) Portable Solar Farm Kit
- (b) Floating Photovoltaic Array
- (c) Removable Solar Panel System
- (d) Rooftop Net-Metered System

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The **Removable Solar Panel System** is designed to be quickly installed and dismantled, aiding disaster relief camps, defense outposts, and temporary settlements.

Q9. Consider the following statements:

1. The Bill proposes to repeal the **Indian Ports Act, 1908**.
2. It centralizes port regulation entirely under the Union, reducing the role of State Maritime Boards.
3. It seeks to integrate sustainability, safety, and environmental standards in port operations.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Bill indeed repeals the colonial **1908 Act** and introduces sustainability and safety mandates. However, it does not completely centralize powers; it still allows for coordination with state maritime authorities, so statement 2 is incorrect.

Q10. Consider the following statements:

1. In Puducherry, the central government nominates members to the Legislative Assembly without the need for concurrence of the elected government.
2. The nominated members in Union Territories enjoy the same voting rights as elected members in the Assembly.
3. In Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor nominates members to the Assembly under Article 239AA(3).



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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has upheld the Centre's power to nominate members in **Puducherry** without state concurrence. Nominated members do enjoy voting rights in Assembly proceedings. But in **Delhi**, Article 239AA does not provide for nominated members in the Legislative Assembly; only a Legislative Council (if created by Parliament) could have them. Thus statement 3 is incorrect.

Q11. Consider the following statements:

1. UNHCR was created by the UN General Assembly in **1950** with an initial mandate of three years.
2. It administers both the **1951 Refugee Convention** and the **1967 Protocol**.
3. The High Commissioner is elected by the UN Security Council.
4. UNHCR also supports stateless persons under mandates given by the UN General Assembly.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

UNHCR was established in **1950** for an initial 3-year mandate, later extended. It is the custodian of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. The High Commissioner is **elected by the UN General Assembly** (not the Security Council). It also has responsibilities for stateless persons, making 1, 2 and 4 correct.

Q12. Arrange the following Himalayan peaks from west to east:

1. Nanga Parbat
2. Nanda Devi
3. Kanchenjunga
4. Namcha Barwa

- (a) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- (b) 1 – 3 – 2 – 4
- (c) 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
- (d) 1 – 2 – 4 – 3

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

From west to east:

- **Nanga Parbat** (Gilgit-Baltistan, westernmost 8,000er)
- **Nanda Devi** (Uttarakhand, India's second highest peak)



- **Kanchenjunga** (Sikkim-Nepal border)
- **Namcha Barwa** (Tibet, eastern syntaxis of Himalayas).
Hence the order is **1 → 2 → 3 → 4**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1:

Q1. Discuss the contribution of Raja Ram Mohan Roy to the social and intellectual awakening of 19th-century India.

Sample Answer -

Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1772–1833), often regarded as the “Father of Modern India,” played a pivotal role in India’s 19th-century social, religious, and intellectual awakening. His reformist zeal was rooted in rationalism, humanism, and an enlightened interpretation of Indian tradition.

One of his most enduring contributions was in the fight against **social evils**. Roy campaigned relentlessly against *sati* (the burning of widows on their husband’s pyre), culminating in its abolition in 1829 under Lord William Bentinck. He also advocated widow remarriage, women’s property rights, and opposed polygamy and child marriage, thus laying the foundation for gender reforms.

Intellectually, Roy sought a **synthesis of Eastern and Western thought**. Through his works like *Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhidin* and translations of Vedic texts, he highlighted the monotheistic essence of Hinduism, rejecting superstition, idolatry, and orthodoxy. At the same time, he embraced rationalist ideas from the West, defending freedom of thought, liberty, and equality.

Roy founded the **Brahmo Sabha (later Brahmo Samaj)** in 1828, which became a platform for reform in religion and society, rejecting priestly dominance and caste-based discrimination. His advocacy for the introduction of modern education—particularly science, mathematics, and English—was crucial in shaping India’s intellectual landscape. He argued that education should not be confined to classical learning but embrace rational sciences to uplift society.

Politically, he was among the earliest Indians to demand **press freedom and representation in governance**. His petitions to the British Parliament show his progressive vision of rule of law and civil liberties.

In essence, Roy’s reformist agenda was not a rejection of Indian tradition but a **reconstruction based on reason and universal human values**. His legacy influenced later reformers like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Dayananda Saraswati, and Swami Vivekananda.

Thus, Raja Ram Mohan Roy marked the dawn of the Indian Renaissance, bridging India’s spiritual heritage with modern rationalism, laying a firm foundation for socio-political reforms and the nationalist awakening that followed.



Q2. Discuss the impact of climate change on Himalayan ecosystems and its implications for downstream communities in India.

Sample Answer -

The Himalayas, often called the “Third Pole,” are highly sensitive to climate change. Rising global temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are severely impacting its fragile ecosystems, with profound consequences for downstream populations across northern and eastern India.

Impacts on Himalayan Ecosystems:

1. **Glacial retreat:** Himalayan glaciers are retreating at an alarming pace, threatening perennial rivers like the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus.
2. **Altered hydrology:** Glacial Lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and flash floods are becoming more frequent, exemplified by the Kedarnath disaster (2013) and Chamoli disaster (2021).
3. **Biodiversity loss:** Alpine flora and fauna are shifting to higher altitudes, threatening species like the snow leopard and red panda.
4. **Deforestation & land degradation:** Human-induced pressures combined with climate stress accelerate soil erosion and landslides.

Implications for Downstream Communities:

- **Water security:** Retreating glaciers reduce long-term water availability, affecting agriculture and livelihoods in the Indo-Gangetic plains.
- **Agricultural disruption:** Erratic rainfall and reduced snowmelt threaten food security.
- **Disaster vulnerability:** Increased landslides, floods, and avalanches disrupt human settlements and infrastructure.
- **Energy insecurity:** Hydropower projects face risks due to fluctuating river flows and sedimentation.
- **Health impacts:** Spread of vector-borne diseases to higher altitudes as temperatures rise.

Way Forward:

1. **Strengthening early warning systems** for floods and landslides through satellite monitoring.
2. **Sustainable infrastructure planning** avoiding over-construction in ecologically fragile zones.
3. **Promotion of eco-tourism and traditional livelihoods** to reduce environmental stress.
4. **Regional cooperation** among Himalayan states and neighboring countries for climate adaptation strategies.
5. **Community participation** in afforestation, watershed management, and disaster preparedness.

In conclusion, the Himalayas are both a natural barrier and a life-support system for millions. The cascading impacts of climate change here have national and transboundary significance. Thus, safeguarding the Himalayan ecosystem is central to India’s ecological security, water security, and disaster resilience.

GS-2:

Q3. Examine the role of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in ensuring free and fair elections. What reforms are necessary to strengthen its independence?

**Sample Answer -**

The Election Commission of India (ECI), established under **Article 324 of the Constitution**, is an autonomous constitutional body entrusted with the responsibility of administering elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President. Its primary mandate is to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections, which form the bedrock of Indian democracy.

Over the decades, the ECI has played a transformative role. It enforces the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)**, monitors election expenditure, and curbs malpractices like bribery and booth capturing. Technological innovations such as **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and VVPATs** have enhanced transparency and reduced fraud. The introduction of **eVIGIL app** and social media monitoring further demonstrate its adaptability to contemporary challenges.

The ECI also engages in **voter awareness campaigns** under the SVEEP programme, improving voter participation and inclusiveness. Its proactive steps, such as curbing muscle and money power, conducting staggered elections, and deploying central forces, have strengthened democratic integrity.

However, challenges remain. The appointment of Election Commissioners by the **executive alone** raises concerns about independence. Allegations of selective enforcement of the MCC, inadequate action against hate speech, and the influence of money power in elections have raised doubts about impartiality.

To strengthen the ECI, several reforms are suggested:

1. **Collegium-based appointment system** (involving the Prime Minister, CJI, and Leader of Opposition) to ensure neutrality, as recommended by the Supreme Court in 2023.
2. Granting **statutory protection** to Election Commissioners similar to the Chief Election Commissioner.
3. Strengthening regulatory powers over internal party democracy and transparency in political funding.
4. Enhanced use of technology such as blockchain-based voting systems and stricter monitoring of digital campaigning.
5. Independent budgetary control for ECI to reduce dependence on the executive.

In conclusion, while the ECI has significantly upheld the democratic ethos of India, its institutional independence requires further safeguards. Strengthening its autonomy through legal and structural reforms will ensure that it continues to be a robust guardian of electoral democracy in the 21st century.

Q4. Examine the significance of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in deepening grassroots democracy in India. What challenges remain in its effective implementation?**Sample Answer**

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, marked a watershed in Indian democracy by constitutionally recognizing **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** as the third tier of governance. It institutionalized local self-government, enhancing participatory democracy and decentralization.

Significance:

1. **Constitutional status:** PRIs became mandatory, ending dependence on state discretion.
2. **Democratic participation:** Regular elections every five years, with reservation for SCs, STs, and women (33%, extended to 50% in many states).



3. **Functional domain:** Eleventh Schedule empowered PRIs with 29 subjects including health, education, agriculture, and rural development.
4. **Fiscal devolution:** Provision of State Finance Commissions for fund allocation.
5. **Inclusive governance:** Women's participation has transformed decision-making and empowered marginalized groups.

Challenges:

- **Incomplete devolution:** Many states hesitate to transfer real powers and funds, reducing PRIs to implementing agencies.
- **Fiscal dependence:** PRIs often lack independent revenue sources.
- **Capacity constraints:** Low administrative and technical expertise hampers effective planning.
- **Elite capture & corruption:** Local elites sometimes dominate decision-making.
- **Accountability deficit:** Social audits and Gram Sabhas are often ineffective.

Way Forward:

1. **True fiscal federalism:** Direct transfer of funds to PRIs with financial autonomy.
2. **Capacity building:** Training local representatives in digital governance, planning, and budgeting.
3. **Strengthening Gram Sabhas:** Ensuring transparency through mandatory social audits.
4. **Technology-driven governance:** Using e-Panchayats and digital platforms for service delivery.
5. **Legal safeguards:** Statutory protection against arbitrary dissolution of PRIs by state governments.

In conclusion, while the 73rd Amendment deepened the roots of democracy in rural India, the “**3Fs**” – **Functions, Funds, and Functionaries** – remain inadequately devolved. Effective implementation requires political will, administrative reform, and active citizen participation to transform Panchayats into engines of inclusive development.

GS-3:

Q5. Discuss the causes and consequences of India's urban flooding problem. Suggest sustainable solutions.

Sample Answer -

Urban flooding has emerged as one of the gravest environmental challenges for Indian cities. Recent instances—Chennai (2015), Mumbai (2005, 2017, 2023), Bengaluru (2022)—demonstrate how climate variability, rapid urbanization, and poor planning exacerbate the problem.

Causes:

1. **Unplanned urbanization:** Encroachment on wetlands, lakes, and natural drainage channels has reduced absorption capacity. Bengaluru lost over 75% of its lakes in the last century.
2. **Inadequate drainage systems:** Outdated stormwater infrastructure cannot cope with intense rainfall events.



3. **Climate change:** Increasing frequency of extreme precipitation events due to global warming intensifies flooding.
4. **Solid waste mismanagement:** Blocked drains due to unsegregated waste aggravate waterlogging.
5. **Loss of green cover:** Paved surfaces prevent percolation, raising runoff.

Consequences:

- **Economic losses:** Crops, infrastructure, and businesses suffer damages running into billions.
- **Public health:** Waterlogging breeds vector-borne diseases like dengue, malaria, and cholera.
- **Social disruption:** Displacement, traffic paralysis, and breakdown of essential services reduce urban resilience.
- **Environmental degradation:** Aquifers fail to recharge, while pollution spreads into water bodies.

Sustainable Solutions:

1. **Integrated urban planning:** Cities must adopt *blue-green infrastructure*—restoring lakes, wetlands, and green belts as natural sponges.
2. **Stormwater management:** Investment in modern drainage systems, permeable pavements, and rainwater harvesting.
3. **Early warning systems:** Use of GIS, remote sensing, and AI for flood prediction and disaster preparedness.
4. **Community-based approaches:** Involving citizens in waste management and flood mitigation awareness.
5. **Strict enforcement of zoning regulations:** Preventing construction on floodplains and ecologically sensitive areas.
6. **Smart city planning:** Climate-resilient urban policies aligned with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities).

In conclusion, urban flooding is not merely a natural calamity but largely a result of poor governance and unsustainable development. Adopting a holistic, eco-centric, and technology-driven approach is critical for making Indian cities resilient to future climate shocks.

Q6. Discuss the opportunities and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption in India's healthcare sector.

Sample Answer -

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming healthcare globally, offering innovative solutions in diagnostics, drug discovery, and patient management. In India, with its large population and resource constraints, AI has immense potential to bridge gaps in accessibility and affordability.

Opportunities:

1. **Diagnostics & screening:** AI-enabled tools detect diseases like tuberculosis, cancer, and diabetic retinopathy with high accuracy.
2. **Telemedicine:** AI chatbots and remote monitoring reduce the urban-rural healthcare divide.
3. **Drug discovery & genomics:** AI accelerates research on personalized medicine and vaccines.



4. **Resource optimization:** Predictive analytics aids in hospital resource allocation and epidemic forecasting.
5. **Public health:** AI applications in epidemiology helped track COVID-19 spread and vaccine distribution.

Challenges:

- **Data privacy & ethics:** Lack of strong data protection laws makes patient data vulnerable.
- **Digital divide:** Rural India struggles with limited digital infrastructure and literacy.
- **Algorithmic bias:** AI trained on skewed datasets may give inaccurate results for diverse populations.
- **High costs & dependence:** Reliance on foreign tech companies may undermine Atmanirbhar Bharat goals.
- **Regulatory vacuum:** Absence of clear guidelines for AI in healthcare raises accountability concerns.

Way Forward:

1. **Strengthening digital health infrastructure** under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
2. **Robust data governance laws** ensuring privacy and consent.
3. **Capacity building:** Training doctors and health workers in AI tools.
4. **Public-private partnerships:** Leveraging startups and research institutions for affordable innovations.
5. **Ethical frameworks:** Developing India-specific standards for AI ethics, inclusivity, and transparency.

In conclusion, AI has the potential to revolutionize India's healthcare by making it **accessible, affordable, and efficient**. However, unchecked adoption without addressing ethical, infrastructural, and regulatory challenges may deepen inequities. A balanced approach combining innovation with regulation is essential to harness AI for health security.

GS 4:

Q7. How can civil servants strike a balance between political neutrality and responsiveness to the government in power? Illustrate with examples.

Sample Answer -

Civil servants occupy a unique position in democratic governance. They are expected to be politically neutral while simultaneously being responsive to the policies of the elected government. Striking this balance is essential for maintaining public trust and administrative efficiency.

Political Neutrality means that civil servants should not show allegiance to any political party or ideology. Their loyalty must lie with the Constitution and the rule of law. Neutrality ensures fairness, meritocracy, and continuity in administration despite changing governments.

At the same time, **responsiveness** requires civil servants to effectively implement the lawful policies of the government of the day. Since governments derive legitimacy from the electorate, civil servants must respect this democratic mandate.



The balance lies in adopting a “**principled neutrality**”—where officers implement government policies efficiently but resist illegal, partisan, or unethical instructions. For instance, an IAS officer implementing a welfare scheme like PM-KISAN must ensure inclusiveness and fairness without favoring the ruling party’s supporters.

Examples:

- **E. Sreedharan**, as head of Delhi Metro, worked under multiple political regimes but maintained apolitical professionalism.
- During disaster relief operations, officers must prioritize citizens’ welfare over political mileage.
- Conversely, refusal to obey unconstitutional orders (e.g., misuse of official machinery for elections) reflects ethical courage and neutrality.

Institutional safeguards also help: fixed tenure, civil service codes of conduct, protection under Article 311, and the role of independent institutions like UPSC.

Ultimately, the guiding principle should be the **oath of allegiance to the Constitution**, not to transient political masters. By practicing impartiality, transparency, and integrity, civil servants can serve both governance and democracy without compromising their ethical standards.

Thus, the art of balancing lies in being responsive administrators, yet guardians of constitutional morality.

Q8. You are a District Magistrate in a flood-prone area. Political leaders pressure you to distribute relief selectively among their supporters. How will you handle this situation?

Sample Answer (≈ 310 words)

As District Magistrate, my foremost duty is to uphold the principles of **justice, fairness, and impartiality** while safeguarding the lives of affected citizens. Relief distribution during floods is a matter of humanitarian concern and constitutional responsibility.

Ethical Dilemma:

- On one hand, political leaders demand selective relief distribution.
- On the other, my constitutional oath and professional ethics demand impartial service delivery.

Course of Action:

1. **Uphold neutrality:** Relief will be distributed strictly based on **need and vulnerability**, not political affiliation. Ignoring this would violate Article 14 (Right to Equality).
2. **Transparency:** Establish clear criteria for beneficiary selection (income, loss assessment, family size). Publicly display lists to avoid bias allegations.
3. **Community participation:** Involve local NGOs, panchayats, and volunteers in distribution to enhance credibility.
4. **Technology use:** Employ GIS mapping, drone surveys, and Aadhaar-linked relief disbursements to ensure efficiency and traceability.
5. **Communication with political leaders:** Firmly but respectfully explain that selective relief violates constitutional principles and may invite audit/ judicial scrutiny.
6. **Accountability:** Maintain detailed records and periodic social audits to prevent misuse of resources.



7. **Escalation if necessary:** If political pressure escalates, report the matter to higher authorities, while continuing unbiased relief work.

Ethical Values Involved:

- **Integrity:** Not succumbing to partisan pressure.
- **Compassion:** Ensuring help reaches the most vulnerable.
- **Objectivity:** Decisions based on evidence, not influence.
- **Courage of conviction:** Standing firm in adverse political conditions.

Conclusion:

By prioritizing constitutional morality over political expediency, I would ensure that relief distribution remains **fair, transparent, and inclusive**. Such conduct strengthens public trust in governance and upholds the ethos of ethical public administration.

Current Affairs:

Q9. “The path to ending global hunger runs through India.” Critically analyze this statement in light of India’s agricultural role, challenges, and global responsibilities.

Sample Answer -

The assertion that “*The path to ending global hunger runs through India*” highlights India’s pivotal role in global food security. With the **largest population in the world** and significant agricultural output, India’s policies have global implications.

India’s Role:

1. **Agricultural powerhouse:** India is the world’s largest producer of milk, pulses, spices, and the second-largest producer of rice, wheat, and fruits. Surpluses can support global food supplies.
2. **Global supply chains:** During the Russia-Ukraine war, India exported wheat and rice to several food-insecure nations, acting as a stabilizer.
3. **Leadership in South-South cooperation:** Through the *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)* and initiatives like “Vaccine Maitri,” India demonstrates solidarity with vulnerable populations.
4. **SDG Commitment:** India’s success in reducing hunger will directly influence the achievement of **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** at the global level.

Challenges:

- **Domestic hunger and malnutrition:** Despite economic growth, India still ranks poorly in the Global Hunger Index (111th in 2023). Child stunting and anemia remain high.
- **Climate vulnerability:** Agriculture is highly monsoon-dependent, with increasing risks from droughts, floods, and heatwaves.
- **Policy dilemmas:** Export bans on rice and wheat during domestic shortages undermine India’s reliability in global markets.



- **Productivity concerns:** Fragmented landholdings, low mechanization, and post-harvest losses limit India's potential.

The Way Forward:

1. **Strengthen domestic food security** through universal access to PDS, diversification into nutritious crops, and improved nutrition programs.
2. **Invest in climate-resilient agriculture:** promoting millets (declared International Year of Millets 2023), micro-irrigation, and agroforestry.
3. **Enhance global cooperation:** India can use G20 and BRICS platforms to push for a fair global food distribution system.
4. **Agri-technology adoption:** Precision farming, digital agriculture, and biotechnology can boost productivity and reduce wastage.

In conclusion, India stands at a **dual crossroads**: addressing its internal hunger challenge while acting as a reliable partner in global food security. Its success in balancing these goals will determine not just national progress but also the global fight against hunger.

Q10. "The revival of coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar is critical for India's marine ecology and coastal communities." Discuss.

Sample Answer -

The **Gulf of Mannar**, located between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka, hosts one of the richest marine biodiversity hotspots in South Asia, with over **4,000 species** including corals, sea grasses, and mangroves. However, extensive degradation due to climate change, destructive fishing, and industrial pollution has threatened its coral reefs. Recent initiatives to revive reefs hold both ecological and socio-economic significance.

Importance of Coral Reefs:

1. **Biodiversity hotspots:** Coral reefs provide breeding grounds for fish, crustaceans, and mollusks.
2. **Coastal protection:** Reefs act as natural barriers against tsunamis, cyclones, and coastal erosion.
3. **Livelihoods:** Over 200,000 people in Tamil Nadu's coastal districts depend on reef ecosystems for fishing, seaweed collection, and eco-tourism.
4. **Climate mitigation:** Corals support carbon sequestration and marine ecosystem balance.

Threats to Reefs:

- **Climate change:** Coral bleaching due to rising sea surface temperatures.
- **Overfishing & trawling:** Physical destruction of coral structures.
- **Pollution:** Untreated sewage, plastics, and chemical effluents.
- **Unsustainable harvesting:** Removal of sea cucumbers, chank shells, and ornamental corals.

Revival Efforts:

1. **Coral transplantation projects** by the Zoological Survey of India and Tamil Nadu Forest Department.



2. **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):** Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park safeguards 21 islands.
3. **Community-based conservation:** Training local fisherfolk in reef monitoring and sustainable fishing.
4. **Technology-driven restoration:** Artificial reef structures and biorock technology to promote coral regeneration.
5. **Policy initiatives:** Integration of coastal zone management and livelihood diversification (e.g., promoting seaweed farming).

Way Forward:

- Scaling up coral reef restoration through public-private partnerships.
- Integrating reef revival into India's **Blue Economy Strategy**.
- Enhancing regional cooperation with Sri Lanka for shared marine ecosystems.
- Strengthening awareness campaigns among coastal communities.

Conclusion:

Revival of coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar is not just an environmental imperative but a socio-economic necessity. Healthy reefs will enhance **climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood security**, making them a cornerstone of sustainable coastal development in India.