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# **VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE**

## **DAILY MCQ'S**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 22/08/2025 (FRIDAY)**

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



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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

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

1. The Iqta holders were granted hereditary rights over their assigned land revenue.
2. The primary purpose of assigning Iqtas was to ensure revenue collection as well as to maintain troops for the Sultan.

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) 2 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** – Iqta grants were *not hereditary* during the early Delhi Sultanate; they were transferable assignments. Later, some Iqta-holders attempted to make them hereditary, but rulers resisted this trend to maintain control.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – Iqtas were administrative-cum-military assignments. The revenue was collected by Iqta-holders (Muqti), who maintained troops and met administrative expenses on behalf of the Sultan.
- This system prevented concentration of power by ensuring the Sultan could transfer Iqtas periodically.

**Q2.** Consider the following statements regarding **lithium mining and its environmental impact**:

1. Most lithium extraction today comes from hard rock mining rather than brine evaporation ponds.
2. Lithium extraction can lead to large-scale groundwater depletion and soil salinization.
3. Unlike rare-earth mining, lithium extraction does not involve toxic chemical by-products.

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** – Globally, *brine extraction* (from salt flats of Chile, Argentina, Bolivia) still dominates over hard rock mining, though Australia uses hard rock methods.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – Lithium brine extraction consumes large volumes of water in arid regions, causing groundwater depletion and altering local salinity levels, damaging soil and ecosystems.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – While less toxic than rare-earth mining, lithium mining *does* involve chemicals such as lime, hydrochloric acid, and may generate toxic residues impacting biodiversity.



**Q3.** Consider the following statements about **India's external sector dynamics**:

1. An increase in India's current account deficit automatically leads to currency depreciation.
2. Higher capital inflows in the financial account can offset a trade deficit in the balance of payments.
3. Foreign exchange reserves are shown as a liability in India's balance of payments accounts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) 2 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** – While a widening CAD *can exert pressure* on the rupee, currency depreciation is not automatic. RBI intervention, capital inflows, or global factors can neutralize depreciation.
- **Statement 2 is correct** – In BoP accounting, a deficit in the current account can be financed through surplus in the capital/financial account (e.g., FDI, FPI, ECB inflows), preventing an immediate currency crisis.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** – Forex reserves are recorded as *assets* in the BoP, not liabilities. They reflect accumulated foreign currency holdings of the central bank.

**Q4.** Consider the following statements regarding **the powers of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha**:

1. The Speaker's decision on disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is final and beyond judicial review.
2. The Speaker presides over a joint sitting of Parliament unless absent, in which case the Deputy Speaker presides.
3. The Speaker's certification of a Money Bill is binding on the Rajya Sabha.
4. The Speaker continues to hold office even after the Lok Sabha is dissolved, until a new Speaker is elected.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) 2, 3 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** – Although the Speaker decides disqualification under the Tenth Schedule, *judicial review is permitted* (Kihoto Hollohan case, 1992).
- **Statement 2 is correct** – Speaker presides over joint sitting; in absence, Deputy Speaker does.
- **Statement 3 is correct** – Speaker's Money Bill certification is *final and binding* (Article 110), even on Rajya Sabha.



- **Statement 4 is correct** – Speaker continues in office after dissolution of Lok Sabha until the next Speaker is elected.

**Q5. Assertion-Reason type –**

**Assertion (A):** *Vaccines provide long-term immunity even without repeated exposure to the pathogen.*

**Reason (R):** *Vaccines stimulate the innate immune system to produce memory cells specific to the pathogen.*

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

**Answer:** (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect

**Explanation:**

- **Assertion is correct** – Vaccines provide long-term immunity because they induce the *adaptive immune system* to generate memory B and T cells.
- **Reason is incorrect** – The *innate immune system* has no memory. It is the *adaptive immune response* that produces pathogen-specific memory cells. Hence, R misattributes the mechanism.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Q1.** Consider the following statements:

1. The extension of universal fortified rice supply till December 2028 has been approved as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with a 60:40 Centre–State cost-sharing pattern.
  2. The decision covers supply through **NFSA/TPDS, PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal) and ICDS/Anganwadi**, continuing the goal of universal fortification across government schemes.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer:** (b) 2 only

**Explanation:**

- The scheme is fully **Central Sector**, not a 60:40 cost-sharing pattern — hence Statement 1 is incorrect.
- It explicitly covers **NFSA/TPDS, PM POSHAN, and ICDS/Anganwadi**, ensuring universal fortification — hence Statement 2 is correct.



**Q2.** In August 2025, which of the following is **correct** regarding the Central Consumer Protection Authority's action against Rapido?

- (a) ₹5 lakh penalty; direction to cease “surge-pricing” claims only
- (b) **₹10 lakh penalty; direction to withdraw the “Guaranteed Auto in 5 mins or ₹50” ad and refund affected consumers**
- (c) ₹10 lakh penalty; suspension of services in NCT of Delhi for 30 days
- (d) ₹25 lakh penalty; only an advisory issued, no refund direction

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

The CCPA imposed a **₹10 lakh penalty** on Rapido for **misleading advertisements**, with directions to **withdraw the ad** and issue **refunds to affected customers**.

**Q3.** Consider the following statements regarding India's organ-donation governance:

- 1. **NOTTO** functions under the **DGHS, MoHFW**, is housed at **Safdarjung Hospital (New Delhi)**, and includes the **National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank)**.
- 2. **Green corridors** for organ transport are **directly notified and controlled by NOTTO**.
- 3. Under **THOA/THOTA and the 2014 Rules**, India operates a **three-tier NOTTO–ROTTOT–SOTTO** network for registry, coordination, and allocation support.

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

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

**Answer:** (c) 1 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct — NOTTO is the national apex body under DGHS/MoHFW and hosts the National Biomaterial Centre.
- Statement 2 is incorrect — green corridors are coordinated by local authorities and hospitals, not directly by NOTTO.
- Statement 3 is correct — India follows a NOTTO–ROTTOT–SOTTO structure for organ allocation as per THOA/THOTA.

**Q4.** Consider the following statements:

- 1. SEBI has proposed a **regulated pre-IPO trading venue** to curb the **unregulated grey market** and improve **price discovery**.
- 2. The proposal envisages **anonymous, no-KYC trading** to boost liquidity before listing.
- 3. One model under consideration is an **exchange-operated platform** allowing trading in the **window between allotment and listing (≈3 days)** to replace unofficial trades.

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only





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

**Answer:** (c) 1 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct — SEBI is exploring a regulated pre-listing venue to improve transparency.
- Statement 2 is incorrect — such a venue would require disclosures and KYC, not anonymous trading.
- Statement 3 is correct — SEBI is considering an exchange-operated platform for the allotment-to-listing period.

**Q5.** Consider the following statements regarding recent positions on **tiger corridors**:

1. In August 2025, NTCA's clarification effectively **narrowed corridor recognition** mainly to **2014 "least-cost pathways"**, excluding broader datasets earlier referenced.
2. The **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** explicitly defines a **"tiger corridor"** as a legally protected category akin to **Eco-Sensitive Zones**.
3. The narrowed definition could allow some **linear/mining projects** outside the 2014 pathways to **bypass corridor-specific scrutiny**, potentially benefiting certain projects in Maharashtra.
4. Regardless of definitional narrowing, diversions in wildlife habitats still require statutory scrutiny under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act** and **Forest (Conservation) Act**.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct — NTCA clarified corridor identification using only 2014 pathways.
- Statement 2 is incorrect — the WPA does not explicitly define "tiger corridor" as a statutory category like ESZ.
- Statement 3 is correct — narrowing may allow some projects to avoid corridor-based objections.
- Statement 4 is correct — any diversion still requires clearance under WLPA and FCA.

**Q6.** On an outline map, a small **uninhabited island in the Palk Strait** lies **northeast of Rameswaram (India)** and **southwest of Jaffna**, roughly **between Rameswaram and Neduntheevu/Delft (Sri Lanka)**. Identify the feature and the agreement determining its present sovereignty:

- (a) Adam's Bridge; **1976 India–Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreement**
- (b) Katchatheevu Island; **1974 Indo–Sri Lankan Maritime Boundary Agreement (Palk Strait & Palk Bay)**
- (c) Pigeon Island; **1974 "Kandy Accord"**
- (d) Minicoy Island; **1974 Indo–Lakshadweep Agreement**



**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Katchatheevu is a small uninhabited island between India and Sri Lanka. Under the **1974 Indo–Sri Lankan Maritime Boundary Agreement**, India recognised Sri Lankan sovereignty over the island; a **1976 agreement** regulated fishing and navigation rights.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS-1:

**Q1.** “Caste continues to influence Indian society, but its nature and forms are evolving.” Discuss with suitable examples.

**Sample Answer:**

**Introduction:**

The caste system has historically structured social and economic relations in India. While constitutional guarantees and modernization have eroded rigid hierarchies, caste remains relevant in multiple spheres, albeit in transformed ways.

**Body:**

- **Persistence in social life:**
  - *Marriage patterns:* Over 90% of marriages still occur within caste boundaries, especially in rural areas.
  - *Social networks:* Access to community support, education, and employment is often mediated by caste identity.
- **Changes in economic dimension:**
  - *Urbanization & mobility:* Caste-based occupational rigidity has weakened, with Dalits and OBCs entering diverse professions.
  - *Affirmative action:* Reservations in education and jobs have created a new Dalit-OBC middle class.
- **Caste and politics:**
  - *Electoral mobilization:* Caste identities are now used as instruments of political bargaining rather than just social dominance.
  - *Shift from oppression to assertion:* Backward classes, Dalits, and regional castes actively mobilize for representation (e.g., Mandal politics).
- **Changing forms of discrimination:**



- *From overt to subtle bias*: Direct untouchability has declined, but social exclusion manifests in housing discrimination or workplace barriers.
- *Digital spaces*: Caste identities are visible on matrimonial apps and social media, showing continuity even in modern spheres.

**Conclusion:**

Caste in India is neither vanishing nor static; it is transforming. From a rigid birth-based occupation hierarchy, it is now a flexible identity for representation and social mobility. The challenge lies in fostering true equality — ensuring caste identity is a matter of culture, not constraint.

**GS-2:**

**Q2.** “Judicial overreach versus judicial activism is a fine line in India’s constitutional democracy.” Critically examine.

**Sample Answer:**

**Introduction:**

Judicial activism refers to proactive interpretation of laws to advance justice, while judicial overreach implies courts encroaching upon the domain of the legislature or executive. In India, the judiciary has often been the guardian of rights — but the balance of powers is delicate.

**Body:**

• **Judicial activism — positive role:**

- *Expansion of Fundamental Rights*: In *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973), *Maneka Gandhi* (1978), and *Navtej Johar* (2018), courts protected constitutional values.
- *Public Interest Litigation (PIL)*: Landmark rulings on environment (MC Mehta cases) and bonded labour (Bandhua Mukti Morcha).
- *Check on arbitrariness*: Striking down unconstitutional actions (NJAC case, 2015).

• **Concerns of judicial overreach:**

- *Policy framing by judiciary*: Orders on police reforms, fireworks bans, and fuel-use directives sometimes bypass elected representatives.
- *Encroaching on fiscal space*: Directing budget allocations or administrative schemes may dilute accountability.
- *Unelected authority problem*: Courts lack democratic legitimacy for executive decision-making.

• **Fine line of separation:**

- *Constitutional design*: Articles 32, 142 empower judiciary to do “complete justice,” but not to legislate.
- *Need for restraint*: Judicial creativity must not undermine Parliament’s law-making or executive discretion.

**Conclusion:**

While judicial activism safeguards democracy when other organs fail, judicial overreach risks upsetting





checks and balances. The solution lies in **institutional dialogue, clearer constitutional boundaries, and self-restraint by the judiciary** — ensuring that the pursuit of justice does not weaken democratic accountability.

### **GS-3:**

**Q3.** “Green hydrogen is being hailed as the fuel of the future, but its economic viability and infrastructural readiness remain uncertain in India.” Analyse.

#### **Sample Answer:**

##### **Introduction:**

Green hydrogen, produced using renewable energy through electrolysis, is considered crucial for decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement, and heavy transport. India has launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023) to become a global hub.

##### **Body:**

- **Opportunities:**

- *Energy security:* Reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels (India imports >85% of crude).
- *Industrial decarbonization:* Replacing coking coal and natural gas with hydrogen.
- *Export potential:* India can become a hydrogen supplier to Europe and East Asia.

- **Challenges to viability:**

- *High production cost:* Green hydrogen currently costs \$4–6/kg compared to \$1–2/kg for grey hydrogen.
- *Infrastructure gaps:* Storage, transport pipelines, and refuelling stations are inadequate.
- *Technology dependence:* Electrolyser manufacturing is nascent in India; imports dominate.
- *Intermittency of renewables:* Solar/wind variability affects stable hydrogen output.

- **Government initiatives:**

- National Green Hydrogen Mission targets 5 MMT production by 2030.
- Incentives for electrolyser manufacturing, R&D, and pilot projects.
- Green ammonia corridors being developed in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu ports.

- **Global benchmarks:**

- EU and Japan are investing heavily, showing that **policy support + subsidies** are needed to achieve cost parity.
- India must similarly blend financial support with private investment.

##### **Conclusion:**

Green hydrogen is essential for India’s energy transition, but without **scaling up renewables, indigenizing technology, and creating hydrogen infrastructure**, cost competitiveness will remain distant. A phased strategy — starting with industrial clusters and export hubs — can help India bridge this gap and realise its green energy ambitions.



## GS-4:

**Q4.** “Ethical leadership is not about popularity, but about taking morally correct decisions even at personal or political cost.” Discuss with examples.

**Sample Answer (≈310 words:**

### **Introduction:**

Ethical leadership refers to decision-making guided by integrity, fairness, and moral courage, rather than expediency or populism. In public life, such leadership may invite short-term criticism but strengthens institutions in the long run.

### **Body:**

- **Key traits of ethical leadership:**
  - *Integrity:* Acting consistently with principles even under pressure.
  - *Transparency:* Decisions open to scrutiny.
  - *Courage:* Willingness to sacrifice personal or political gain for ethical values.
- **Examples:**
  - *Lal Bahadur Shastri:* Resigned as Railway Minister accepting moral responsibility after a train accident — rare in politics.
  - *Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam:* Refused to misuse public office for personal favours despite pressure.
  - *Civil service cases:* Officers who refused illegal orders (e.g., Ashok Khemka’s stance against land irregularities) faced transfers but upheld ethical conduct.
- **Challenges:**
  - *Short-term unpopularity:* Ethical decisions may seem harsh — e.g., strict enforcement of anti-corruption measures.
  - *Institutional resistance:* Ethical leaders face bureaucratic pushback.
  - *Media and political narratives:* Can distort perception of decisions, discouraging moral courage.
- **Benefits:**
  - Builds trust in governance and institutions.
  - Ensures long-term public welfare over populist gains.
  - Sets precedents inspiring others to act ethically.

### **Conclusion:**

Ethical leadership is not about applause but accountability. Leaders who prioritise principles over popularity may face adversity, but they create lasting impact and strengthen democratic ethos. In the words of Gandhi: “The right way is not always the easy way.”



## Current Affairs:

**Q5.** “Kerala’s declaration as India’s first fully digitally literate state is a milestone, but it raises deeper questions about inclusivity and meaningful digital empowerment.” Examine.

**Sample Answer:**

**Introduction:**

In August 2025, Kerala was declared **India’s first fully digitally literate state**, ensuring that every household possesses at least basic digital skills. This aligns with Digital India’s vision of bridging the digital divide.

**Body:**

- **Significance:**

- *Universal access:* Over 3.2 crore people trained in using smartphones, online services, and digital payments.
- *e-Governance boost:* Enhances delivery of welfare schemes, online health and education access.
- *Model for other states:* Shows success of community-led training via Kudumbashree, libraries, and schools.

- **Challenges beyond literacy:**

- *Digital divide in quality:* Knowing how to use apps ≠ understanding cyber safety, data privacy, or critical information literacy.
- *Infrastructure gaps:* Internet speed and connectivity remain uneven in tribal and hilly areas.
- *Elderly and vulnerable groups:* May still face barriers in using complex online services.
- *Risk of exclusion:* Schemes that go “digital only” may marginalize those lacking devices or assistance.

- **Need for meaningful empowerment:**

- *Digital literacy vs. digital empowerment:* True empowerment means being able to access entitlements, not just operating a smartphone.
- *Cyber awareness:* Citizens must understand phishing, frauds, and data consent.
- *Local language content:* Training must go beyond English/urban interfaces.

- **Way forward:**

- Continuous **capacity-building programmes**, not one-time certification.
- Combining digital literacy with **device affordability** and **broadband penetration**.
- Integrating **cyber hygiene and privacy awareness** into school curricula.

**Conclusion:**

Kerala’s milestone demonstrates what focused governance and social mobilization can achieve. However, **digital literacy must translate into digital empowerment** — where every citizen not only accesses online services but also safeguards their rights in the digital sphere. This requires sustained investment, infrastructure, and awareness beyond mere training.