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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 11/09/2025 (THURSDAY)

- **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 Battles of Panipat:

1. The First Battle of Panipat marked the introduction of large-scale use of artillery in Indian warfare, establishing the Mughal Empire in India.
2. The Third Battle of Panipat ended with the Marathas securing decisive territorial control over the north, paving the way for their supremacy in the 18th century.

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 **First Battle of Panipat (1526)** was fought between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi. Babur's effective use of artillery and innovative tactics (Tulughma and Araba formation) marked a turning point in Indian warfare and established the foundation of the Mughal Empire. Statement 1 is correct.
- The **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)** was between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali. Despite their numbers, the Marathas suffered a catastrophic defeat. Instead of consolidating power, their influence in the north declined, creating a political vacuum exploited by the British. Statement 2 is incorrect.

Q2. In Buddhist philosophy, the term "**Pratītyasamutpāda**" refers to:

- (a) Doctrine of impermanence (Anitya)
- (b) Dependent origination of phenomena
- (c) Concept of "no-self" (Anātma)
- (d) Doctrine of the Middle Path

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pratītyasamutpāda (Dependent Origination)** means that all phenomena arise in dependence upon multiple causes and conditions. Nothing exists independently or permanently.
- (a) Impermanence is a related but separate doctrine.
- (c) No-self (Anātma) arises as an inference from dependent origination.
- (d) Middle Path is Buddha's ethical-philosophical principle, distinct from this.

Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to the Balance of Payments (BoP):

1. Remittances received from abroad by Indians are recorded under the capital account.



2. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows into India are recorded under the current account.
3. Imports of machinery from foreign countries are part of the current account.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Remittances** are unilateral transfers and recorded under **current account (invisibles)**, not capital account. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- **FDI inflows** are part of **capital account**, not current account. Statement 2 is incorrect.
- **Imports of machinery** are recorded under **current account (merchandise trade)**. Statement 3 is correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the office of the Governor in India:

1. The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President, but the Constitution prescribes a fixed term of five years.
2. The Governor is not answerable to the State Legislature, even when exercising legislative powers such as reserving a Bill for the President's consideration.
3. The Supreme Court has held that the Governor's discretion is not subject to judicial review under any circumstance.
4. A person can simultaneously act as Governor for two or more states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Though the Governor has a nominal five-year term, he/she holds office **during the pleasure of the President**, which overrides. So, the "fixed term" is not guaranteed. Incorrect.
- Statement 2: The Governor is **not responsible to the State Legislature**, hence correct.
- Statement 3: The Supreme Court in **Nabam Rebia case (2016)** held that Governor's discretionary powers are subject to judicial review. So, incorrect.
- Statement 4: The Constitution permits one person to be Governor of multiple states (e.g., the Governor of Goa was also Governor of Maharashtra at times). Correct.

**Q5. Assertion – Reason type -**

Assertion (A): Certain free-living amoebae, such as *Naegleria fowleri*, are referred to as “brain-eating” organisms.

Reason (R): They invade the human brain through the nasal cavity, causing Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), which is almost always fatal.

- (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:

- *Naegleria fowleri* is a thermophilic amoeba, often found in warm freshwater. It enters through the nasal passages during swimming or diving and migrates along the olfactory nerve to the brain.
- The resulting condition, **Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)**, has a very high fatality rate (>95%).
- Both assertion and reason are true, and R correctly explains A.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements about the recent mycological discoveries from the Western Ghats:

1. The two newly described taxa, *Aspergillus dhakephalkarii* and *Aspergillus patriciawiltshireae*, belong to **Aspergillus** section *Nigri* and were identified from soil samples collected in the Western Ghats.
2. Because both species lie in section *Nigri* (the “black aspergilli”), they are by definition high-yield citric-acid producers and can be immediately deployed in industrial citric-acid manufacture without further strain evaluation.

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:

Statement (1) is factually correct: Indian researchers described two new species—*A. dhakephalkarii* and *A. patriciawiltshireae*—from Western Ghats soil samples and placed them in section *Nigri*.

Statement (2) is a **false generalisation**. While many species in section *Nigri* (the “black aspergilli”) have



industrial importance (some strains are used for citric-acid and enzyme production), taxonomic placement alone does **not** guarantee industrial utility, thermostability, or high product yield; each isolate must undergo phenotypic, biochemical and process-scale screening and optimization before industrial deployment. The DST/PIB reporting of “industrial potential” notes possibilities, not immediate industrial readiness.

Q2. India’s first overseas Atal Innovation Centre inaugurated in September 2025 was launched at which of the following locations?

- (a) Abu Dhabi — IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi (IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi)
- (b) Dubai Internet City, UAE
- (c) London School of Economics (LSE), UK
- (d) Singapore — NUS campus

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Union Minister inaugurated India’s first overseas Atal Innovation Centre at the IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi campus during the official visit to the UAE in September 2025. The launch was reported by government and national media sources.

Q3. Consider the following statements about the recent SSLV technology-transfer arrangement:

1. The technology-transfer agreement for the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) was signed among ISRO, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), IN-SPACE and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on 10 September 2025.
2. The transfer was described in media reports as marking IN-SPACE’s 100th technology-transfer agreement.
3. The agreement enables HAL to manufacture SSLV for commercial launches and offer SSLV launch services to domestic and international customers, enabling greater private-sector participation in launch services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement (1) is supported by the official ISRO release announcing the SSLV technology-transfer agreement signed with NSIL/IN-SPACE and HAL.

Statement (2) is reported in multiple media dispatches which described the arrangement as marking IN-SPACE’s (or the newspace push’s) 100th agreement/technology-transfer milestone.

Statement (3) is consistent with the stated purpose of the transfer and earlier procurement/bid outcomes: HAL’s winning of commercial SSLV manufacture/launch work (announced earlier) and the tech-transfer are aimed at enabling domestic manufacture and commercial launch offerings, expanding private-sector/commercial capabilities in India’s launch ecosystem.



Q4. Consider the following statements about the government's plan to geo-tag buildings during the upcoming Census exercise:

1. Geotagging of buildings will be carried out as part of the Houselisting & Housing Operations (first phase) of the Census.
2. The programme will cover both residential and non-residential buildings and aims to improve accuracy of enumeration and the targeting/delivery of welfare schemes.
3. Implementation of geotagging means enumerators will be fully replaced by automated remote sensing and there will be no need for on-field verification.

Which of the statements given above is/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 — geotagging is to be done during houselisting/housing operations (HLO), the first phase of the Census operation.

Statement (2) is correct — official/explanatory write-ups emphasise that both residential and non-residential structures will be geotagged to improve spatial accuracy, planning and welfare delivery.

Statement (3) is incorrect. Geotagging supplements and enhances field enumeration (adds precise location coordinates and an audit trail), but it does **not** eliminate the need for enumerators or field verification; on-ground verification, survey enumerators and local checks remain essential to validate attributes that remote sensing cannot capture. The media/explainers stress augmentation and better targeting rather than wholesale automation.

Q5. Consider the following statements about Decentralised Finance (DeFi):

1. DeFi protocols typically run as smart contracts on permissionless public blockchains and enable peer-to-peer financial services without central intermediaries.
2. Because DeFi transactions execute on immutable smart contracts, victims of coding bugs or hacks enjoy the same legal and regulatory protections (consumer-protection, deposit insurance) as users of conventional banks.
3. The composability of DeFi (the ability to stack protocols — “money-legos”) can increase interdependence among protocols and amplify contagion or systemic risk when a major protocol fails.
4. Algorithmic stablecoins repeatedly prove to be robust substitutes for fiat for large-value settlement within DeFi ecosystems and thus eliminate the need for fiat-backed gateways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement (1) is a core definitional feature of DeFi — smart contracts on public blockchains underpin permissionless, peer-to-peer financial dApps.

Statement (2) is false: immutable smart-contract execution and the pseudonymous, borderless nature of many DeFi protocols mean conventional legal/regulatory protections (deposit insurance, easy reversals, regulated consumer redress) are often absent or hard to enforce; victims of hacks frequently face limited recourse. Regulators and central banks are actively studying how to apply existing frameworks to DeFi because protections are not equivalent today. Statement (3) is correct: academic and policy studies highlight composability as a key DeFi strength and also a major channel of systemic vulnerability — “money-lego” interactions can transmit shocks when a widely-used protocol or an on-chain peg collapses.

Statement (4) is false: algorithmic stablecoins (which rely on on-chain algorithms or crypto collateral to maintain pegs) have demonstrated fragility (e.g., past collapses) and are not yet proven as safe, large-value settlement substitutes for fiat; stablecoins backed by fiat reserves or high-quality collateral remain the preferred bridge for fiat on-/off-ramps.

Q6. On the map provided alongside (see image), Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal) is located approximately:

- (a) 220 km west of Luzon (Philippines) — inside the Philippines’ EEZ as commonly defined by Manila.
- (b) 50 km east of Hainan Island (China) — placing it within China’s Hainan coastal waters.
- (c) 300 km south of Taiwan’s main island and north of the Spratly Islands.
- (d) 1,200 km east of the Philippines and close to Palau.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Scarborough Shoal (Chinese name Huangyan Island; Philippine name Panatag Shoal) is a coral atoll/reef feature located in the South China Sea, about 200–250 km west of Luzon, and has been a focal point of China–Philippines maritime contention; multiple reporting and policy pieces describe it as roughly 220 km (\approx 120–140 nautical miles) west of Luzon and within the maritime area Manila regards as its traditional fishing grounds/EEZ. The location and geopolitics of the shoal are well documented in recent reporting.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS–1:

Q1. Discuss the socio-political significance of Bhakti and Sufi movements in medieval India. How did these movements challenge orthodoxy and contribute to social cohesion?

Sample Answer:

The **Bhakti and Sufi movements** of medieval India represented transformative socio-religious trends that transcended rigid orthodoxy and created avenues of cultural synthesis.



The **Bhakti movement**, rooted in devotional worship of a personal god, emphasized inner spirituality over ritualism. Saints like **Ramanuja, Kabir, Tulsidas, and Mirabai** rejected caste barriers, promoted equality of devotion, and often preached in vernacular languages. By using local idioms and folk traditions, Bhakti saints democratized access to spiritual knowledge, weakening Brahmanical monopoly.

Parallely, the **Sufi movement**, emerging from Islamic mysticism, advocated divine love, tolerance, and fraternity. Sufi saints such as **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti and Nizamuddin Auliya** opened khanqahs (hospices) that served as centers of spiritual learning and community service. They emphasized zikr (remembrance of God) and sama (music), thereby attracting followers beyond the Muslim community.

Both movements shared **core features**—rejection of ritualism, emphasis on love for God, compassion towards fellow humans, and inclusive practices. They undermined orthodox institutions: Bhakti questioned priestly dominance and caste exclusivity, while Sufi orders distanced themselves from rigid legalism of ulemas.

Their broader **socio-political impact** was profound. They provided a platform for dialogue across religions, softening communal boundaries. By emphasizing equality, they inspired early ideas of social justice. The vernacular literature they produced (bhajans, dohas, Sufi poetry) enriched Indian culture and became tools of mass mobilization. Politically, these movements created a milieu of religious harmony, which rulers like **Akbar** leveraged in policies such as *Sulh-i-Kul* (universal peace).

In conclusion, the Bhakti and Sufi movements were not mere religious revolts but **social reformist traditions** that fostered cohesion, democratized spiritual practices, and laid the foundation for India's composite culture. They remain significant in today's context of pluralism and communal harmony.

GS–2: Polity & Governance

Q2. Examine the constitutional position of the Governor in India in the light of recent controversies surrounding their role. Should reforms be introduced to redefine this office?

Sample Answer:

The **Governor**, as envisaged in the Indian Constitution (Articles 153–162), serves as the constitutional head of a state, acting as a vital link between the Centre and the State. While modeled partly on the British Crown, the office has acquired a contested role in Indian federalism.

The Governor is expected to function as a **neutral constitutional authority**. However, several controversies highlight deviations:

- **Delay in giving assent to Bills** (e.g., in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab) undermines the spirit of representative democracy.
- **Frequent invocation of discretionary powers**—such as recommending President's Rule under Article 356—has drawn judicial scrutiny.
- The Governor's **role in government formation** (as in Maharashtra, 2019) has raised questions about impartiality.

The Supreme Court, in **Nabam Rebia (2016)**, held that Governor's discretionary powers are not absolute and are subject to judicial review. Yet, the lack of a clear framework leaves space for political misuse. The **Punchhi Commission (2010)** and Sarkaria Commission earlier recommended limiting discretionary powers, making Governors' tenures more secure, and consulting Chief Ministers in appointments.

Reforms can strengthen the office:



1. **Fixed tenure and removal only by impeachment**—to reduce dependence on Centre’s “pleasure.”
2. **Codifying discretionary powers**—to avoid arbitrary action.
3. **Selection by a panel** comprising Prime Minister, Chief Justice, and Leader of Opposition, to ensure neutrality.
4. **Mandated time frame for assent to Bills**, preventing indefinite delays.

The Governor’s office was designed to act as a **bridge of cooperative federalism**, not a site of conflict. Without reforms, its credibility risks erosion, damaging Centre–State relations.

In conclusion, the **Governor must evolve from being a political appointee to a neutral constitutional arbiter**. Reforms to clarify role, ensure accountability, and restore impartiality are essential to uphold the constitutional ethos of federalism.

GS–3:

Q3. Critically analyze the challenges and opportunities that Decentralized Finance (DeFi) presents for India’s financial sector.

Sample Answer (≈320 words):

Decentralized Finance (DeFi) refers to blockchain-based financial systems that provide services like lending, trading, and insurance without traditional intermediaries such as banks. DeFi protocols operate through **smart contracts** on public blockchains, enabling peer-to-peer transactions.

Opportunities for India:

1. **Financial Inclusion:** With nearly 190 million unbanked adults, DeFi can provide access to credit, payments, and savings without physical banking infrastructure.
2. **Cost Efficiency:** By removing intermediaries, DeFi reduces transaction costs and enables real-time settlement.
3. **Innovation:** Indian startups can develop blockchain applications, aligning with the Digital India agenda and fintech growth.
4. **Cross-Border Transactions:** DeFi reduces reliance on SWIFT or correspondent banking, potentially lowering remittance costs (significant for India as the top remittance recipient).

Challenges:

1. **Regulatory Vacuum:** DeFi protocols operate anonymously, raising concerns of money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion.
2. **Consumer Protection Risks:** Hacks, coding bugs, and rug-pulls have led to billions in losses worldwide; Indian users lack deposit insurance or grievance redressal.
3. **Systemic Risk:** DeFi’s “composability” means the failure of one protocol (e.g., a stablecoin collapse) can trigger cascading effects.
4. **Monetary Policy Challenges:** Widespread use of crypto-based assets could weaken the RBI’s control over monetary policy.
5. **Energy Concerns:** Large-scale blockchain operations can have environmental implications, conflicting with India’s net-zero goals.



Way Forward:

- Develop a **regulatory sandbox** for DeFi pilots under RBI/SEBI supervision.
- Promote **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** as a safer digital alternative.
- Mandate **KYC/AML compliance** for DeFi platforms accessible in India.
- Encourage **public–private partnerships** in blockchain innovation, while safeguarding financial stability.

In conclusion, DeFi presents both disruptive potential and systemic risks. For India, the challenge is to balance **innovation with regulation**, ensuring financial inclusion and efficiency while protecting consumers and maintaining macroeconomic stability.

GS–4: Ethics

Q4. “Ethics is not just about personal virtue, but about institutional integrity.” Discuss with reference to public administration.

Sample Answer:

Ethics, traditionally understood as personal adherence to moral values, assumes greater significance in **public administration**, where decisions affect millions. While personal virtue—honesty, compassion, fairness—remains important, ethical governance demands **institutional integrity**.

Personal Virtue vs. Institutional Ethics:

- A personally honest officer may still function in a corrupt system if institutions lack transparency or accountability.
- Conversely, strong institutions can constrain individual misconduct, even if actors are weak.

Institutional Integrity encompasses:

1. **Rule of Law:** Ensuring decisions are bound by legal-constitutional frameworks.
2. **Transparency:** Mechanisms like RTI Act and e-governance reduce discretionary abuse.
3. **Accountability Systems:** Lokpal, vigilance commissions, audits, and parliamentary oversight institutionalize checks.
4. **Values in Code of Conduct:** Civil Services Conduct Rules, Citizen’s Charters, and ethics training promote shared values beyond personal conscience.

For example, the **Vigilance Commission** may prevent large-scale corruption irrespective of individual virtue, while the **Election Commission** ensures free and fair elections through institutional design. Conversely, lack of institutional safeguards has led to ethical failures—such as misuse of discretion in appointments, or opaque decision-making in public procurement.

The Gandhian idea of “Purity of Means” and Max Weber’s notion of **bureaucratic rationality** both highlight that ethics must be embedded in **systems**, not left solely to individual choice.

Thus, building ethical institutions ensures continuity of integrity beyond the tenure of any one officer. Mechanisms such as **whistleblower protection**, citizen oversight, and digital transparency ensure resilience against human failings.



In conclusion, while personal virtue initiates ethical behavior, **institutional integrity sustains it**. For a democracy like India, embedding ethics in laws, procedures, and organizational culture is vital to ensure public trust and effective governance.

Current Affairs:

Q5. Analyze the significance of the Iran–IAEA nuclear monitoring agreement of 2025. What are its implications for global non-proliferation and India’s strategic interests?

Sample Answer:

In 2025, Iran and the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** reached a new monitoring agreement, renewing inspections of Iran’s nuclear facilities after years of stalemate. This development is crucial in the backdrop of U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA (2018), Iran’s subsequent enrichment activities, and regional tensions in West Asia.

Significance for Non-Proliferation:

1. **Restoring Transparency:** The agreement allows IAEA access to declared sites, reinstating oversight and confidence-building measures.
2. **Preventing Escalation:** By freezing some enrichment levels, it reduces the risk of a nuclear breakout that could trigger an arms race in West Asia.
3. **Reviving Diplomacy:** The deal opens pathways for future negotiations on reviving or renegotiating the JCPOA.

Global Implications:

- The agreement eases concerns of Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Western powers regarding nuclear proliferation.
- It strengthens the credibility of the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** regime by reinforcing IAEA’s verification role.
- A cooperative Iran could stabilize global oil markets, reducing volatility linked to sanctions and conflict threats.

India’s Strategic Interests:

1. **Energy Security:** India, a major energy importer, has faced challenges due to U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil. Monitoring agreements could pave the way for resumption of trade, diversifying India’s energy basket.
2. **Chabahar Port:** A stable Iran enhances India’s connectivity ambitions through the Chabahar port and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
3. **Geopolitical Balancing:** India maintains ties with both the U.S. and Iran. The agreement reduces the dilemma of choosing sides and opens space for pragmatic diplomacy.
4. **Regional Stability:** Any reduction in tensions in the Persian Gulf aligns with India’s diaspora and maritime security interests.

In conclusion, the Iran–IAEA agreement is a step towards **restoring trust in multilateral nuclear governance**. For India, it presents opportunities in energy, connectivity, and strategic balancing, while globally, it bolsters the non-proliferation regime and reduces conflict risks in a volatile region.