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

## **DAILY MCQ'S**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 04/10/2025 (SATURDAY)**

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



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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

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

1. In the rekha-prasada subtype of Nagara temples, the shikhara is curvilinear, and a vertical line drawn from the base to the apex remains equidistant from the surface of the curving spire.
2. The bhadra in Nagara temples is the central projection of the sanctum wall, which often contains smaller shrines or niches for sculptures.

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:** (c) Both 1 and 2

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** The rekha-prasada is the most common Nagara temple type, characterized by a curvilinear shikhara. A vertical axis from base to top remains equidistant from the curving sides, distinguishing it from other spire forms like phamsana.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** Bhadra refers to the central wall projection of the sanctum, frequently housing subsidiary deities or sculptural niches, playing a significant role in the temple's plan layout.

**Q2. Regarding the eutrophication of water bodies, consider the following statements:**

1. Eutrophication is caused solely by natural nutrient enrichment over long geological periods.
2. Cultural eutrophication occurs due to human activities such as untreated sewage discharge, agricultural runoff, and phosphate-rich detergents.
3. Eutrophication invariably increases dissolved oxygen in water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a) 2 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — Incorrect:** Natural eutrophication occurs slowly, but human-induced (cultural) eutrophication is a major contributor today.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** Human activities accelerate eutrophication through nutrient-laden wastewater, agricultural runoff, and phosphate detergents.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** Eutrophication typically leads to algal blooms, which upon decomposition consume oxygen, causing hypoxia rather than increasing dissolved oxygen.



**Q3. Regarding the Balance of Payments (BoP) of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is recorded under the capital account, while External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) are shown in the financial account.
2. A current account surplus always corresponds to an equal deficit in the capital account.
3. The “errors and omissions” entry adjusts for statistical discrepancies in the BoP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** According to IMF-based accounting, FDI, ECBs, and portfolio investments are recorded in the financial account. Older terminology called this broadly the capital account.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** While a current account surplus often offsets capital account deficits, the relationship is not always exact due to reserve movements and other financial flows.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** “Errors and omissions” account for mismatches in reported inflows and outflows to reconcile the BoP data.

**Q4. Regarding the powers of the Governor in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Governor may reserve certain bills passed by the State Legislature for the President’s consideration under Article 200.
2. The Governor’s recommendation for imposing President’s Rule under Article 356 is binding on the President.
3. The Governor must always act on the advice of the Council of Ministers, without exception.
4. The Governor can grant pardons, reprieves, or commutations for death sentences under Article 161.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a) 1 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** Article 200 permits the Governor to reserve bills for the President, particularly if they affect constitutional provisions or High Court powers.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** The President may consider but is not bound by the Governor’s recommendation under Article 356.



- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** The Governor has discretionary powers in certain situations, including reserving bills and recommending President's Rule.
- **Statement 4 — Correct:** Under Article 161, the Governor may pardon, remit, or commute sentences, including death sentences, except for offenses under central laws (covered by Article 72).

**Q5. (Assertion–Reason Type)**

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

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

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

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

**Explanation:**

- **Assertion — True:** Li-S batteries have a theoretical energy density of around 2600 Wh/kg, significantly higher than conventional Li-ion batteries (~250–300 Wh/kg).
- **Reason — True:** Sulfur is lightweight and each atom can combine with two lithium atoms to form  $\text{Li}_2\text{S}$ , enabling more electron storage per unit mass than heavier transition metal oxides.
- **Clarification:** Li-S should not be confused with Li-air batteries; the distinction lies in the cathode chemistry.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. PMUY offers deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from economically weaker households, and Ujjwala 2.0 introduced special provisions for migrant households; the revised target under Ujjwala 2.0 was reportedly achieved by December 2022.
2. The ₹200 subsidy per 14.2-kg cylinder announced in May 2022 for PMUY beneficiaries is fully borne by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) without any compensation or fiscal support from the Government of India.

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) 1 only



**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** PMUY provides deposit-free LPG connections to women of poor households. Ujjwala 2.0 added special facilities for migrant families, and the additional targets were reported achieved by December 2022.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** The ₹200 targeted subsidy announced in May 2022 is part of a government policy; while OMCs implement it, the fiscal and budgetary provisions involve government compensation/support as needed. It is not solely a commercial burden on OMCs.

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

- (a) Base period 2004–2006 = 100; aggregates three commodity groups.
- (b) Base period 2014–2016 = 100; aggregates five commodity group indices weighted by average export shares.
- (c) Base period 2010 = 100; aggregates six commodity groups; published quarterly.
- (d) Base period 2014–2016 = 100; aggregates five groups with equal weights.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

The FFPI uses 2014–2016 as the reference period. It combines five commodity sub-indices — cereals, vegetable oils, dairy, meat, and sugar — weighted according to their average export shares during the base period. The index is published monthly. Export-share weighting distinguishes it from a simple average approach.

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

1. It is a nationwide student outreach program by ICMR and the Department of Health Research aimed at sparking scientific interest among school students and exposing them to biomedical research.
2. Its main policy instrument is to immediately award 10,000 long-term national research fellowships for lab internships.
3. The programme includes interactive lab visits, demonstrations, and creative engagement such as mascots to make biomedical research approachable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — True:** SHINE is a nationwide initiative to foster interest in health research and careers in science among students.
- **Statement 2 — False:** SHINE is primarily an outreach and engagement program; it does not grant 10,000 long-term research fellowships immediately.





- **Statement 3 — True:** SHINE includes lab tours, interactive demonstrations, and creative methods like mascots to make science accessible and engaging for students.

**Q4. Regarding the MERITE scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. MERITE was approved by the Union Cabinet with a budget allocation of approximately ₹4,200 crore to enhance multidisciplinary technical education and research.
2. MERITE plans to abolish regulatory bodies like AICTE and replace them with a single statutory authority.
3. The scheme aims to address uneven quality across institutions through multidisciplinary programs, research collaborations, and capacity-building, benefiting around 7.5 lakh students directly.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — True:** MERITE was approved with a ₹4,200 crore allocation for multidisciplinary education reforms and research enhancement.
- **Statement 2 — False:** The scheme aims at institutional strengthening and research improvement; it does not explicitly abolish statutory regulators like AICTE.
- **Statement 3 — True:** MERITE focuses on improving institutional quality, promoting multidisciplinary research, and capacity-building, with estimated direct benefits for about 7.5 lakh students.

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

1. Under Article 293, a State can borrow within India on the security of its Consolidated Fund, subject to limits set by the State Legislature.
2. A State cannot raise a new loan without the consent of the Government of India if any part of an earlier central loan remains unpaid.
3. States can freely raise external commercial borrowings without any involvement or conditions from the Government of India.
4. The Union Government may impose conditions when granting consent under Article 293(3), giving the Centre a constitutional role in regulating state borrowings.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) 1, 2 and 4 only



**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 — True:** Article 293(1) allows states to borrow within India subject to limits fixed by the state legislature.
- **Statement 2 — True:** Article 293(3) requires central consent for new borrowings if prior central loans remain unpaid.
- **Statement 3 — False:** External commercial borrowings generally require central oversight, policy frameworks, or guarantees; states do not have unrestricted freedom.
- **Statement 4 — True:** Article 293(4) empowers the Centre to impose conditions when granting consent, giving it constitutional control over state borrowings.

**Q6. Identify the correct statement about Diego Garcia:**

- (a) Coral atoll in the Arabian Sea off Gujarat.
- (b) Largest atoll of the Chagos Archipelago in the central Indian Ocean (British Indian Ocean Territory), located south of the Maldives; hosts a major military base.
- (c) Island in the Bay of Bengal east of Andaman & Nicobar Islands used as a commercial port.
- (d) Small volcanic island off western Australia in the Indian Ocean.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Diego Garcia is the largest atoll in the Chagos Archipelago (BIOT), situated approximately 500 km south of the Maldives. It is a coral atoll that hosts a strategic military facility operated by the United States on UK territory. Other options are geographically incorrect.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1 –

**Q1. Discuss the contribution of the Bhakti and Sufi movements in promoting religious harmony in medieval India. How did their approaches differ in achieving social cohesion?**

**Answer:**

**Introduction:**

The Bhakti and Sufi movements emerged during medieval India as spiritual reform movements emphasizing devotion, love, and social equality. Amid political turmoil and religious divisions, they fostered communal understanding and bridged diverse communities.

**Contribution to Religious Harmony:**

- **Bhakti Movement:**
  - Focused on personal devotion over ritualistic practices, making spirituality accessible to all, regardless of caste.



- Saints like Kabir, Mirabai, and Guru Nanak used vernacular languages to communicate inclusive messages.
- Critiqued caste hierarchies and rigid orthodoxy, promoting interfaith dialogue.
- **Sufi Movement:**
  - Emphasized divine love (Ishq-e-Haqiqi), humanitarian service, and spiritual equality.
  - Orders such as Chishti, Qadiri, and Suhrawardi welcomed people from all faiths into their khanqahs.
  - Embraced syncretic practices, blending local traditions, music (qawwali), and languages.

#### Differences in Approach:

- **Spiritual Path:** Bhakti centered on devotion to a chosen deity (Saguna/Nirguna), while Sufism emphasized mystical union with God through meditation, prayer, and asceticism.
- **Organizational Structure:** Bhakti was loosely structured around saint-followers networks; Sufi orders (silsilas) had formal initiation processes (bayat).
- **Political Interaction:** Bhakti saints often avoided royal patronage, whereas many Sufi saints maintained spiritual independence while interacting with rulers.

#### Impact on Social Cohesion:

- Influenced arts, literature, architecture, and music by integrating Hindu and Islamic elements.
- Reduced communal tensions by creating shared cultural spaces.
- Inspired movements like Sikhism, embedding interfaith harmony as a core principle.

#### Conclusion:

Both movements demonstrated that values like love, compassion, and equality could transcend religious divides. Their legacy continues to provide lessons for maintaining social harmony in contemporary India.

## GS Paper 2 –

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

**Answer:**

#### Introduction:

The UCC aims to replace religion-based personal laws with a uniform set governing marriage, inheritance, divorce, and adoption. Article 44 of the Directive Principles envisions a UCC, but its adoption remains contentious due to India's diverse society.

#### Constitutional Basis:

- **Directive Principle:** Article 44 urges the State to implement a UCC.
- **Fundamental Rights:** Must align with Articles 14 (equality), 15 (non-discrimination), and 25 (freedom of religion).
- **Judicial Observations:** Supreme Court rulings in *Shah Bano* (1985) and *Sarla Mudgal* (1995) highlighted the desirability of a UCC.





### Challenges:

1. Cultural and religious diversity with distinct personal laws tied to community identity.
2. Minority apprehensions regarding erosion of religious freedom.
3. Political polarisation that frames UCC as a communal issue.
4. Lack of consensus and absence of an accepted draft code.

### Prospects and Benefits:

- Promotes gender equality by removing discriminatory practices.
- Simplifies legal processes and reduces ambiguities in personal law cases.
- Enhances national integration through uniform application of law.
- Aligns with global practices where secular democracies have common civil codes.

### Way Forward:

- Introduce optional UCC or codify personal laws with gender equity.
- Build consensus via consultations with religious leaders, jurists, and civil society.
- Ensure reforms respect cultural and religious sensitivities.

### Conclusion:

The UCC reflects constitutional ideals of equality and secularism. A gradual, inclusive, and consultative approach is necessary to balance unity and diversity.

## GS Paper 3 –

**Q3. Discuss the role of the circular economy in achieving India's sustainable development goals.**

**Highlight policy measures and challenges.**

### Answer:

#### Introduction:

A circular economy (CE) focuses on reducing waste, extending resource use, and promoting recycling and reuse. In India, CE is vital for sustainable development amid increasing resource demand and environmental pressures.

#### Role in SDGs:

- **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production):** Promotes resource efficiency and waste minimization.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Reduces emissions through efficient material cycles.
- **SDG 6 & 15 (Water & Land):** Prevents water contamination and land degradation.
- **SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth):** Creates green jobs in recycling, repair, and remanufacturing.

#### Policy Measures in India:

1. Swachh Bharat Mission & Solid Waste Management Rules: Segregation, recycling, composting.



2. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Mandates producer accountability for end-of-life products.
3. Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy: Provides sector-wise resource efficiency frameworks.
4. Plastic Waste Management Rules: Ban on certain single-use plastics and promotion of recycling.

**Challenges:**

- Informal sector lacks integration into formal recycling frameworks.
- Limited infrastructure for large-scale reuse and recycling.
- Low public awareness and participation in waste segregation.
- High initial costs and uncertain returns for circular economy ventures.

**Way Forward:**

- Offer fiscal incentives and green financing for circular economy start-ups.
- Expand waste-to-resource infrastructure.
- Include circular economy principles in vocational and skill development programs.
- Foster public-private partnerships for technological adoption in recycling and remanufacturing.

**Conclusion:**

Circular economy strategies are crucial for sustainable development in India. Effective policies, combined with public engagement and technological innovation, can turn resource constraints into economic opportunities.

## GS Paper 4 – Ethics

**Q4. Public service ethics demand that bureaucrats act not only legally but also morally. Discuss with examples.**

**Answer:**

**Introduction:**

Public service ethics involves moral principles guiding bureaucrats' conduct. Legal compliance ensures rule adherence, while morality ensures decisions uphold justice, fairness, and empathy.

**Why legality alone is insufficient:**

- Laws may be outdated or silent on emerging issues.
- Strict legal compliance may perpetuate injustice.
- Citizens expect officials to protect public interest, not merely enforce rules.

**Dimensions of Moral Action:**

1. Integrity: Resist corruption despite legal loopholes.
2. Compassion: Prioritize citizens' welfare beyond procedural rigidity.
3. Objectivity: Make unbiased, fair decisions.
4. Accountability: Be transparent and accept responsibility.



### Examples:

- **Positive:** Kerala officials in 2018 floods used discretion to mobilize relief quickly.
- **Negative:** Blind enforcement of eviction orders without rehabilitation reflects legality without morality.

### Balancing Legality and Morality:

- Use ethical frameworks like utilitarianism or Kantian principles.
- Align decisions with constitutional morality — liberty, equality, fraternity.
- Provide ethics training emphasizing empathy and public engagement.

### Conclusion:

Bureaucrats must combine legal compliance with ethical judgment. Laws provide structure, while morality ensures justice, fairness, and humanity in governance.

## Current Affairs –

**Q5. India's private space sector faces rapid growth but a critical talent shortage. Analyse causes, implications, and solutions.**

### Answer:

#### Introduction:

India's private space sector, boosted by reforms like IN-SPACe and FDI liberalization, has seen rapid start-up growth (e.g., Skyroot, Agnikul). Yet, a shortage of skilled professionals threatens its expansion.

#### Causes of Talent Shortage:

1. Brain drain to global space firms with better pay and infrastructure.
2. Limited academic programs and low industry-academia collaboration.
3. Private sector's nascent stage offers fewer career assurances.
4. Competition from IT and other high-paying sectors.

#### Implications:

- Slower project timelines and unmet global demand.
- Increased costs for training or hiring foreign experts.
- Dependence on foreign expertise for strategic technologies.
- Potential loss of global competitiveness.

#### Potential Solutions:

1. Skill development programs through government-industry collaboration.
2. Retention incentives: competitive pay, ESOPs, research opportunities.
3. Public-private partnerships leveraging ISRO mentorship.
4. International collaborations for short-term training with return obligations.



5. Promote STEM education to inspire future talent.

**Conclusion:**

Addressing the talent gap is critical for India's private space sector. Investments in education, retention strategies, and collaborative training can ensure India's human resources match its technological ambitions.

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