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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 10/10/2025 (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 Satavahana dynasty:

1. The Satavahanas were among the earliest Indian rulers to issue coins bearing the ruler's portrait on one side and regional symbols on the other.
2. The Nashik and Karle inscriptions suggest that Satavahana queens held administrative powers independently of the king's authority.

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)

Explanation:

The Satavahanas, who ruled the Deccan region roughly between the 1st century BCE and 3rd century CE, indeed issued coins bearing the ruler's portrait—making them among the earliest to adopt Hellenistic numismatic traditions in India. Their reverse sides often depicted regional symbols such as ships, elephants, or chaityas, signifying local cultural integration. Inscriptions at Nashik and Karle mention queens like Naganika and Gautami Balashri making independent donations, implying they exercised certain administrative and financial authority—indicative of autonomy within royal governance.

Q2. Which of the following national parks is **correctly matched with the unique species or ecological feature found there?**

- (a) Valmiki National Park – Bengal Florican grassland ecosystem
- (b) Silent Valley National Park – Tropical wet evergreen forest with lion-tailed macaques
- (c) Desert National Park – Mangrove ecosystem supporting saltwater crocodiles
- (d) Khangchendzonga National Park – Dry deciduous forest dominated by sal and teak

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Silent Valley National Park in Kerala represents one of the last undisturbed tracts of tropical wet evergreen forests in India and is home to the endangered *lion-tailed macaque*.

Valmiki NP supports terai forest ecosystems, not primarily grasslands for Bengal Florican.

Desert NP (Rajasthan) is arid and supports species like the Great Indian Bustard, not mangroves.

Khangchendzonga NP in Sikkim features alpine meadows and temperate forests, not sal–teak deciduous forests.

Q3. Consider the following statements about Public–Private Partnership (PPP) models in India:

1. In the BOT (Build–Operate–Transfer) model, ownership of the asset remains with the private partner throughout the concession period and beyond.
2. In the HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model), the government bears 40% of project cost as upfront support, while the private partner bears the rest and recovers it through fixed annuities.



3. The VGF (Viability Gap Funding) mechanism is applicable only to projects where user charges alone are sufficient to ensure commercial viability.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

In BOT, the private entity builds, operates for a concession period, and **transfers ownership back** to the government—so statement 1 is incorrect.

In HAM, indeed 40% of project cost is borne by the government during construction and 60% by the private player, who receives fixed semi-annual annuity payments; hence statement 2 is correct.

VGF is provided for projects that are **not financially viable through user charges alone**, so statement 3 is incorrect.

Q4. Consider the following statements about Citizen Charters in India:

1. The concept of Citizen Charters in India originated from the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC).
2. A Citizen Charter must necessarily include a grievance redress mechanism for service delivery.
3. There is no statutory framework in India mandating government departments to publish Citizen Charters.
4. Citizen Charters are enforceable in a court of law if the promised timelines or services are not met.

Which of the statements given above are **correct**?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Citizen Charters in India draw inspiration from the **UK model (1991)** and were first introduced in 1997 through the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), not from the 2nd ARC. Hence statement 1 is wrong.

A Citizen Charter must include a **grievance redress** component—statement 2 correct.

There is no binding law mandating every department to publish it—statement 3 correct.

However, these Charters are **non-justiciable** (not legally enforceable)—statement 4 incorrect.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): India's National Innovation Policy emphasizes the creation of a robust intellectual property ecosystem and startup incubation networks across academic institutions.



Reason (R): This approach is primarily intended to ensure that India’s innovation ecosystem remains protected from foreign collaborations and external technology transfers.

- (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: (c)

Explanation:

India’s National Innovation Policy (and frameworks like the National IPR Policy 2016 and Startup India Initiative) indeed stress strengthening IP creation, incubation, and academic–industry linkages to enhance domestic innovation capacity—so **Assertion is true**.

However, the intent is **not to isolate India** from foreign collaborations or technology transfers but to promote a balanced, globally competitive innovation ecosystem. Hence, **Reason is false**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Stable Coins and Presumptive Taxation:

1. A “stable coin” may lose its parity with its pegged fiat currency if the reserve assets backing it include volatile or illiquid instruments.
2. Under India’s presumptive taxation provisions, income is presumed to be a fixed percentage of turnover for small taxpayers, even if actual profits are lower or higher.

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)

Explanation:

- **Stable Coins:** Although designed to maintain a 1:1 peg (e.g. to the USD or INR), many are only partially backed. If reserve holdings include risky assets or algorithmic stabilizers, the peg can collapse during panic withdrawals (e.g. TerraUSD case). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Presumptive Taxation:** Sections 44AD/44ADA/44AE of the Income-Tax Act deem income as a fixed % of turnover for small businesses and professionals. No detailed expense verification is needed—hence, even if actual profits differ, that fixed rate applies. Statement 2 is correct.

Q2. Which of the following best describes the **objective of the Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme** launched by the Government of India in 2025?



- (a) To promote import of critical minerals through public–private consortia.
- (b) To encourage domestic recovery of strategic minerals from electronic and battery waste.
- (c) To set up state-owned mining corporations for exploration of critical ores abroad.
- (d) To create a sovereign mineral reserve fund for global price stabilization.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The scheme aims to **reduce import dependence** by incentivising domestic industries to extract key minerals—such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earths—from **secondary sources** like e-waste, battery scrap and catalysts. It builds circular-economy capacity rather than relying on mining or imports.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Blizzard events and disaster management:

1. A blizzard is characterized by strong winds, heavy snowfall and sharply reduced visibility for prolonged periods.
2. Blizzard conditions are monitored by the India Meteorological Department under the same classification as cold waves.
3. Under the Disaster Management Act 2005, NDRF can be deployed for blizzard-like emergencies though they are not separately listed.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – True:** Blizzard definition includes sustained wind ≥ 35 mph (~ 56 km/h), heavy snow, visibility < 400 m for several hours.
- **Statement 2 – False:** IMD classifies extreme cold and snowfall events under **cold-wave** or **heavy-snowfall** warnings but not as a distinct “blizzard” category.
- **Statement 3 – True:** The NDRF’s mandate covers *any* notified natural disaster under the DM Act; separate listing is not required.

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules:

1. Schedule M prescribes the framework of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for pharmaceutical units.
2. It mandates that each manufacturing unit maintain separate air-handling systems for sterile and non-sterile products.
3. Failure to comply with Schedule M may lead to suspension or cancellation of manufacturing licence by authorities.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?



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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct — Schedule M sets GMP standards relating to design, equipment, sanitation and documentation.
- **Statement 2:** Correct — To avoid cross-contamination, distinct air-handling and filtration systems are mandated for sterile vs non-sterile manufacturing areas.
- **Statement 3:** Correct — Licensing authorities may suspend or cancel licences for gross non-compliance under Rule 85 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

Q5. Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the regulatory stance of the Reserve Bank of India on Stable Coins (as of 2025)?

- (a) Stable coins are recognized as legal tender equivalent to the Digital Rupee.
- (b) Issuance or trading of stable coins pegged to foreign currencies is discouraged pending a final framework.
- (c) RBI has authorised all Payment System Operators to issue rupee-pegged stable coins under sandbox regulations.
- (d) Stable coins are regulated exclusively by SEBI as digital securities.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

RBI and the Ministry of Finance have **not** yet recognised any stable coin as legal tender. Current policy discussions highlight risks of capital outflow, AML concerns and monetary-policy dilution. Hence, foreign-currency-pegged stable coins are **discouraged** until a formal framework under the Digital India Currency Bill / RBI Act amendments emerges.

Q6. On a map of Northeast India, the Namchik–Namphuk Coal Block is located nearest to which of the following?

- (a) Tinsukia district of Assam
- (b) Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya
- (d) Mon district of Nagaland

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The **Namchik–Namphuk coalfield** lies in **Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh**, close to the Indo-Myanmar border. It is one of India's easternmost coal mining zones, transferred to the PSU Assam Mining Corporation Ltd. for commercial exploitation under the 2023-24 auction round.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. “Buddhism’s influence on Indian society transcended religion — it reshaped ethics, governance, and art.” Discuss.

Answer:

Buddhism, emerging in the 6th century BCE, was not merely a spiritual doctrine but a transformative social and cultural force that deeply influenced the Indian subcontinent. Its impact extended far beyond the realm of religion into ethics, polity, art, and social reform.

Ethical and Social Transformation:

At its core, Buddhism propagated the *Middle Path*, emphasizing moral conduct, compassion (*karuṇā*), and non-violence (*ahiṃsā*). This emphasis diluted the rigid ritualism of Vedic religion and democratized spiritual access. The Buddha’s rejection of caste hierarchies and his acceptance of women into the *Sangha* were radical steps towards social equality. Buddhist ethics contributed to the development of universal moral consciousness and influenced later Hindu reform movements and Bhakti traditions.

Impact on Governance and Political Thought:

Buddhist philosophy significantly shaped the conception of the righteous ruler (*Dhamma-raja*). Emperor Ashoka epitomized this ideal by adopting *Dhamma-vijaya* over conquest, institutionalizing welfare policies, animal protection, and moral instruction through his edicts. Concepts like *Sarvodaya* and welfare-state principles in modern India trace their roots to this Buddhist ethical governance.

Influence on Art and Architecture:

The Buddhist aesthetic legacy remains unparalleled. The *stupas* of Sanchi, *chaitya-grihas* of Karle, and *vihāras* of Ajanta illustrate the evolution of stone architecture from wood prototypes. Gandhara and Mathura schools of sculpture reflect syncretic cultural exchange, introducing human depictions of the Buddha that influenced pan-Asian art.

Philosophical and Global Influence:

Through the efforts of Ashoka and later Kushan rulers, Buddhism became India’s greatest cultural export — spreading to Sri Lanka, China, and Southeast Asia, where it continues to shape civilizations.

Conclusion:

Buddhism transformed Indian civilization by humanizing ethics, tempering state power with morality, and fostering a universalistic cultural ethos. Its enduring legacy lies in India’s pluralism, compassion-driven politics, and aesthetic sensibility — the cornerstones of its civilizational identity.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. “BRICS has evolved from an economic coalition to a strategic balancing mechanism in global politics.” Examine.

Answer:

The BRICS grouping — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa — was conceptualized initially (in 2006) as an economic coalition of emerging powers. However, over the years, it has expanded its ambit into a political and strategic platform, challenging aspects of Western-dominated global governance.

**From Economic Cooperation to Strategic Engagement:**

The early BRICS agenda revolved around trade, investment, and reform of financial institutions. Initiatives like the *New Development Bank (NDB)* and *Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)* were intended to provide alternatives to Bretton Woods institutions. Gradually, BRICS began addressing geopolitical issues — cyber governance, terrorism, and regional stability — reflecting its strategic evolution.

Strategic Balancing Role:

BRICS provides emerging economies a collective voice to demand reform in global governance, particularly the UN, IMF, and World Bank. It also offers a non-Western narrative of development, emphasizing sovereignty and South-South cooperation. The grouping increasingly serves as a counterbalance to G7 and Western alliances, especially amid US-China strategic competition.

India's Perspective:

For India, BRICS enhances strategic autonomy. While India has tensions with China, the platform allows it to engage major powers like Russia and Brazil multilaterally, and influence agenda-setting on global health, digital governance, and climate finance.

Recent Expansion and Challenges:

The inclusion of new members (e.g., Egypt, Iran, UAE, etc., in 2024) signifies BRICS's expanding influence but also introduces complexity — divergent political systems, economic disparities, and internal rifts (e.g., Sino-Indian tensions). Institutional coherence remains a major test.

Conclusion:

BRICS today represents both aspiration and ambiguity — a coalition seeking multipolarity in a world of fractured unipolarity. Its evolution from economic pragmatism to strategic assertion reflects the global South's demand for equity in decision-making. Whether BRICS can transform rhetoric into coordinated global governance reform will determine its enduring relevance.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. "India's experience with WTO negotiations on agriculture reflects the tension between food security and trade liberalization." Discuss.

Answer:

India's stance in the World Trade Organization (WTO) on agriculture is emblematic of the classic dilemma between ensuring domestic food security and complying with global trade rules. The agricultural sector, employing nearly half of India's workforce, is both politically sensitive and economically vulnerable.

Background:

The WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) seeks to reduce market-distorting subsidies, tariffs, and export barriers. India's public procurement and Minimum Support Price (MSP) system have repeatedly come under scrutiny for allegedly breaching subsidy limits (10% of production value).

Food Security vs. Trade Commitments:

For India, procurement and food stockholding are not trade-distorting subsidies but instruments of national food security. The *Public Stockholding (PSH)* program feeds over 800 million beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act. However, developed nations view it as market-distorting, demanding stricter subsidy notifications.

Negotiation Strategy and Challenges:

At the Bali (2013) and Nairobi (2015) Ministerial Conferences, India pushed for a permanent peace clause



exempting PSH from dispute action until a final solution is reached. While temporary relief was secured, a permanent solution remains elusive. India's coalition-building with G-33 developing nations demonstrates its strategic diplomacy within WTO frameworks.

Recent Shifts:

With global food crises post-COVID and Ukraine war, India's call for re-evaluating subsidy limits and food export restrictions has gained legitimacy. However, balancing farmers' income support with trade discipline remains complex, especially under global pressure for subsidy transparency.

Conclusion:

India's agricultural negotiations at the WTO illustrate its effort to defend livelihood-based policies within a liberalized regime. The challenge lies not in rejecting global rules but in reshaping them to accommodate developmental realities — ensuring that trade serves people, not merely markets.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. “Ethical governance is not merely about rules and institutions, but about moral imagination.” Elaborate.

Answer:

Ethical governance is the bedrock of a just and responsive state. While laws and institutions provide structure, true ethical governance transcends compliance — it is rooted in moral imagination, empathy, and the ability to foresee the ethical implications of decisions.

Beyond Rule-Compliance:

Rules ensure accountability, but ethics demands reflection. For instance, a bureaucrat may legally follow procedure yet cause injustice if decisions ignore social realities. Moral imagination helps bridge legality and legitimacy — envisioning outcomes that preserve both fairness and humanity.

Role of Moral Imagination:

Moral imagination allows public servants to perceive unseen stakeholders — the poor, the voiceless, and future generations. Mahatma Gandhi's *talisman* embodies this ethos: before any action, recall the face of the weakest person affected. This transforms governance from transactional to transformational.

Institutional and Personal Dimensions:

Institutions like Lokpal, RTI Act, and Citizen Charters enforce ethical conduct externally. But without internalized integrity, these mechanisms fail. Officers like E. Sreedharan or T.N. Seshan exemplify moral imagination — acting within law yet guided by moral foresight.

Practical Application:

Ethical dilemmas in administration — balancing confidentiality with transparency, or efficiency with empathy — require imaginative moral reasoning. Codes of conduct provide direction, but the capacity to anticipate ethical consequences differentiates mechanical obedience from moral leadership.

Conclusion:

Ethical governance thrives when institutions and individuals are guided not only by what *is legal* but by what *is right*. Moral imagination humanizes administration, harmonizing procedure with purpose — creating governance that inspires trust, not just compliance.



Current Affairs –

Q5. “India’s disaster management approach is transitioning from relief-centric to resilience-oriented. Critically evaluate this shift.”

Answer:

Disasters in India, from floods and cyclones to heatwaves, underscore the need for a paradigm shift from reactive relief to proactive resilience. The country’s evolving policy framework and institutional capacity now reflect this transformation.

From Relief to Resilience — The Transition:

Historically, disaster management in India was post-event and bureaucratic — focusing on compensation and rehabilitation. The *Disaster Management Act, 2005* marked the turning point, establishing NDMA, NDRF, and state-level agencies for coordinated action. The subsequent *National Disaster Management Plan (2016)* introduced a preventive and risk-reduction focus, aligning with the *Sendai Framework (2015–2030)*.

Resilience-Oriented Measures:

1. **Risk Mapping and Early Warning:** IMD’s real-time cyclone and flood forecasting has drastically reduced casualties (e.g., Cyclone Fani, 2019).
2. **Infrastructure Resilience:** The *Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)*, spearheaded by India, globalizes resilience discourse — focusing on resilient urban design, transport, and power systems.
3. **Community-Based Preparedness:** Initiatives like the *Aapda Mitra* volunteers and inclusion of local governance in DM planning empower bottom-up resilience.
4. **Fiscal Reforms:** The *National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)* and *State Disaster Mitigation Funds* institutionalize pre-disaster investment.

Challenges Persist:

Fragmented implementation, low state-level capacity, and poor inter-sectoral coordination still hinder resilience mainstreaming. Urban floods and unregulated construction in hill states expose planning gaps. Climate change-induced extremes demand stronger integration of DM with climate adaptation policies.

Conclusion:

India’s direction is unmistakably toward resilience — embedding preparedness, sustainability, and community participation into policy. Yet resilience must go beyond infrastructure — it must encompass social equity, adaptive governance, and long-term risk reduction. A resilient India is one that not only survives disasters but transforms them into opportunities for sustainable renewal.