



“ We help you reach for the star ”

VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 22/10/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

- **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. Regarding the administrative framework of the Mauryan Empire, consider the following statements:

1. *Kautilya's Arthashastra* portrays a highly centralized system of governance in which espionage played a vital role in supervising the economy and public conduct.
2. The edicts of Ashoka demonstrate that the Mauryan administration rejected regional customs in favor of a uniform imperial policy.

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 is correct:** *Arthashastra* outlines a tightly controlled bureaucratic system emphasizing regulation, surveillance, and taxation. The network of spies functioned as a key mechanism of state supervision over officials, commerce, and citizens.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ashokan inscriptions reflect administrative flexibility and accommodation of local practices — seen through the use of regional dialects and languages. This shows the empire respected cultural diversity rather than enforcing a rigid uniform code.

Q2. With reference to ecological succession, consider the following statements:

1. Primary succession can initiate on volcanic surfaces where soil formation has not yet occurred.
2. In secondary succession, the first colonizing species are typically lichens and mosses.
3. Climax communities remain completely unchanged over time unless affected by external disturbances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Primary succession begins on lifeless, soil-less areas such as newly cooled lava or retreating glaciers, where pioneer species gradually create soil.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Lichens and mosses start **primary**, not **secondary**, succession. In secondary succession, soil already exists, so species like grasses and small herbs appear first.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** A climax community is stable but not static; over long periods, environmental shifts or human actions can cause gradual changes.



Q3. Concerning Hudson Bay in North America, consider the following statements:

1. The bay experiences large tidal variations due to its funnel-shaped coastline and shallow continental shelf.
2. It originated during the last Ice Age as glaciers carved out the basin, followed by uplift from isostatic rebound.
3. The surrounding region supports extensive agriculture owing to fertile glacial soils and good rainfall.

Which of the statements given above 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 unique topography of Hudson Bay magnifies tidal movements, creating one of the world's highest tidal ranges (often 10–12 meters).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The bay was formed through glacial erosion during the Pleistocene, and its basin is still slowly rising because of post-glacial isostatic adjustment.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The surrounding terrain is mostly tundra and boreal forest with nutrient-poor, acidic soils, making large-scale agriculture unviable. The area's economy relies more on mineral and resource extraction.

Q4. Regarding the Office of the Speaker in the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker's ruling on disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is final and cannot be challenged in court.
2. The Speaker's office becomes vacant immediately after the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
3. The Speaker votes only in case of a tie.
4. The Speaker's powers remain suspended when a motion for their removal is under consideration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** As per the *Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu* (1992) judgment, the Speaker's decision under the anti-defection law can be judicially reviewed if found to be mala fide.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under Article 94, the Speaker continues in office until a new Lok Sabha elects a successor.



- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Speaker does not normally vote but exercises a casting vote in case of a tie.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** During discussions on a motion for their removal (Article 96), the Speaker cannot preside over proceedings; the Deputy Speaker or another member takes charge.

Q5. (Assertion–Reason Type)

Assertion (A): The human immune system depends on both innate and adaptive mechanisms to combat infections.

Reason (R): Innate immunity is highly specific and has memory, whereas adaptive immunity is general and lacks memory.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R does not correctly explain A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (c) A is true, but R is false

Explanation:

- **Assertion is true:** Human immunity involves two complementary systems — innate (immediate and non-specific) and adaptive (specific and memory-based).
- **Reason is false:** The characteristics are reversed. Innate immunity offers broad, non-specific protection without memory (e.g., barriers, phagocytes), while adaptive immunity is specific, slower to develop, and capable of long-term memory through lymphocytes like B-cells and T-cells — forming the basis for vaccination.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the *National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)*, consider the following statements:

1. The NSAB is a statutory institution functioning under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and is chaired by the Union Home Minister.
2. Its composition includes only members from the armed forces, with no participation from civilian experts.

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: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:



- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The NSAB is not a statutory body. It functions as a **non-statutory advisory body** under the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** and is **chaired by the National Security Advisor (NSA)**, not the Home Minister.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The NSAB comprises experts from diverse domains such as **foreign policy, defence, economics, technology, and media**, in addition to former officers from the armed forces and intelligence services. It is a **multi-disciplinary think tank** designed to provide broad-based strategic advice.

Q2. Under the framework of the National Medical Commission (NMC), what best describes the National Medical Register (NMR)?

- (a) A nationwide database of licensed medical practitioners in India with real-time digital authentication.
- (b) A central record of traditional medicine practitioners under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- (c) A registry of COVID-19 frontline workers eligible for the PMGKP insurance scheme.
- (d) A database of recognized medical colleges offering MBBS programs.

Answer: (a) A nationwide database of licensed medical practitioners in India with real-time digital authentication.

Explanation:

- The **National Medical Register (NMR)**, established under the **NMC Act, 2019**, is a **live digital platform** that maintains verified records of all doctors holding valid medical licenses across India.
- It integrates state medical council data, ensures **Aadhaar-linked verification**, and promotes transparency in medical credentials, reducing the risk of fraudulent registrations.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Inter-State Cheetah Conservation Corridor proposal:

1. The corridor aims to connect Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh with Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.
2. It seeks to facilitate a continuous wildlife pathway beneficial to both cheetahs and tigers.
3. The project is financially and technically supported by UNEP and CITES.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The proposed corridor intends to link **Kuno National Park (MP)** and **Mukundara Hills (Rajasthan)**, enabling natural dispersal and genetic exchange among cheetahs introduced under the reintroduction programme.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Although primarily designed for cheetahs, this corridor may also enhance ecological connectivity for other species like **leopards and tigers**.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The initiative is led by Indian agencies such as the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** and respective state forest departments, without direct involvement of **UNEP** or **CITES**.

Q4. Concerning the *Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)* for sugarcane in India, consider the following statements:

1. The FRP is fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
2. The FRP is legally binding on sugar mills, and state governments cannot prescribe a lower rate.
3. The FRP applies only to sugarcane used in sugar production and not to that used for ethanol or jaggery.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **CACP** recommends the FRP, which is officially notified by the **Central Government** under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Payment of FRP is **mandatory for sugar mills**; while states may announce a **State Advised Price (SAP)** above the FRP, they cannot set it below the central rate.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The FRP is calculated per tonne of sugarcane and applies **irrespective of its end use** — whether it goes into sugar, ethanol, or gur/jaggery production.

Q5. With reference to *Operation Hawk*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a border security operation launched along the India–Myanmar frontier.
2. The mission involves coordination between Assam Rifles, BSF, and local intelligence units to curb arms and drug trafficking.
3. It was initiated following a surge in insurgent activity near Zokhawthar and Moreh.
4. The operation is directly monitored by the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) under the National Internal Security Strategy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:



- **Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** *Operation Hawk* is a **joint inter-agency operation** undertaken along the **India–Myanmar border**, particularly across **Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland**, to suppress cross-border smuggling of narcotics, arms, and contraband.
- The initiative involves multiple agencies — **Assam Rifles, BSF, Customs, and local police forces** — and was intensified due to increased insurgent movements in **Moreh (Manipur)** and **Zokhawthar (Mizoram)**.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Operational oversight lies with the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and security agencies, not the PMO. The **National Internal Security Strategy** is a broader policy framework, not a direct command mechanism.

Q6. Regarding the *Rocky Mountain Range* and its associated geographical features, consider the following pairs:

Feature	Location
1. Columbia Icefield	Alberta, Canada
2. Continental Divide	Along the western crest of the Rockies
3. Yellowstone Caldera	South of the Rockies in Nevada
4. Great Plains	To the east of the Rockies

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correct:** The **Columbia Icefield** lies within the Canadian Rockies, straddling the provinces of **Alberta and British Columbia**.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** The **Continental Divide** follows the main crest of the Rockies, forming a natural watershed separating rivers flowing to the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.
- **Pair 3 is incorrect:** The **Yellowstone Caldera** lies in **Wyoming**, within the Rocky Mountain region itself, not in Nevada.
- **Pair 4 is correct:** The **Great Plains** stretch eastward from the Rockies, extending through central USA into southern Canada.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. Examine how caste dynamics intersect with urbanization in India. What challenges and opportunities does this intersection present for inclusive urban development?

Answer:

Urbanization is often portrayed as an equalizing force that weakens traditional hierarchies. Yet, in India, caste remains deeply embedded in urban life, shaping access to space, services, and opportunities in subtle and overt ways.

Caste in the Urban Context:

- Although cities are expected to be socially neutral, empirical research shows that caste-based discrimination continues to operate in **housing, employment, and education**.
- Residential segregation persists—many **Dalit and lower-caste families** are concentrated in underdeveloped neighborhoods or informal settlements with inadequate services.
- In urban labor markets, **dominant-caste networks** often control recruitment in private firms, marginalizing disadvantaged groups from high-paying or formal jobs.

Challenges to Inclusive Urban Growth:

- **Spatial Segregation:** Caste-based clustering reproduces inequality through unequal access to housing, sanitation, and infrastructure.
- **Occupational Hierarchies:** Many sanitation and waste-handling workers in cities still come from **Dalit communities**, perpetuating hereditary occupations.
- **Representation Gaps:** Urban policy frameworks and planning institutions rarely address caste explicitly, leaving marginalized groups underrepresented in decision-making.

Opportunities for Inclusion:

- **Policy Integration:** Schemes like **Smart Cities Mission** and **AMRUT** can incorporate caste-sensitive indicators while planning housing and infrastructure.
- **Economic Mobility:** Informal and service-sector jobs in cities can sometimes blur rigid caste boundaries, offering chances for new social identities.
- **Digital Platforms:** The rise of **gig and digital economies** creates merit-based opportunities for marginalized youth to access income and visibility beyond traditional networks.

Conclusion:

Urbanization, if steered consciously, can act as a catalyst for social mobility. However, inclusive urban development demands deliberate interventions—**equitable housing, social representation, and caste-aware planning**—so that Indian cities become spaces not only of economic growth but of genuine social justice.

GS Paper 2



Q2. Discuss the role of the Governor in Indian federalism. In light of recent controversies, critically examine the need for reform in the appointment and functioning of Governors.

Answer:

The Governor's office, envisioned as an impartial constitutional link between the Union and the States, has often become a **site of political friction** in India's federal system. Originally conceived as a neutral authority, the role has increasingly been politicized.

Constitutional Framework:

- **Articles 153–162** define the Governor as the state's executive head.
- **Article 163** grants discretionary powers, intended for exceptional situations but often invoked in political contexts.
- Governors also exercise **legislative functions** under **Article 200** and play a crucial role during **President's Rule (Article 356)**.

Recent Flashpoints:

- Delays in **assenting to bills** in states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have led to legislative standstills.
- In **Maharashtra (2019)**, gubernatorial discretion during government formation was criticized by the **Supreme Court**.
- Governors in **Kerala and Punjab** have publicly criticized state governments, raising questions about political neutrality.

Structural Challenges:

- **Politicization:** Appointments are often based on political loyalty rather than merit, undermining impartiality.
- **Lack of Accountability:** Under **Article 361**, Governors enjoy immunity, with limited mechanisms for review.
- **Appointment Process:** The Centre's unilateral control over appointments weakens the federal balance.

Reform Proposals:

- The **Sarkaria Commission (1988)** recommended that Governors be distinguished public figures, not active politicians.
- The **Punchhi Commission (2010)** suggested **fixed tenure**, consultation with the **Chief Minister**, and curbing arbitrary removals.
- Judicial pronouncements like **Nabam Rebia (2016)** emphasized **constitutional morality** and restraint in the use of discretionary powers.

Conclusion:

To strengthen cooperative federalism, India must depoliticize the gubernatorial office. Transparent appointments, limited discretionary authority, and adherence to constitutional conventions will help restore the Governor's role as a true **guardian of federal balance** rather than a partisan actor.



GS Paper 3

Q3. India's Green Hydrogen Mission aims to position the country as a global clean energy leader. Critically analyze its potential and the challenges it faces in achieving energy security and decarbonization goals.

Answer:

The **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, launched in 2023, seeks to produce **5 million metric tonnes (MMT)** of green hydrogen annually by 2030, aligning with India's **net-zero target (2070)** and its international climate commitments.

Potential Benefits:

- **Decarbonization:** Green hydrogen can replace fossil fuels in **hard-to-abate sectors** like steel, cement, and fertilizers, reducing carbon intensity.
- **Energy Independence:** By reducing reliance on imported crude oil and natural gas, it enhances **energy sovereignty**.
- **Export Competitiveness:** India's vast **renewable energy base** offers a cost advantage for exporting green hydrogen to markets such as Europe and Japan.
- **Economic Growth:** The sector can drive innovation, attract foreign investment, and create **high-skill employment opportunities**.

Challenges:

- **High Cost:** Green hydrogen currently costs **₹300–400/kg**, far higher than fossil-based (grey) hydrogen.
- **Infrastructure Deficit:** India lacks adequate **pipelines, storage, and transport systems** for hydrogen.
- **Technological Barriers:** Dependence on imported electrolyzers and limited R&D in storage technologies hinder scalability.
- **Policy Coordination:** Overlapping jurisdictions among energy, industry, and environment ministries cause **regulatory fragmentation**.

Government Efforts:

- Implementation of the **SIGHT scheme (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition)** for financial incentives.
- **Mandatory procurement** of green hydrogen by sectors like fertilizers and refineries.
- Development of **green hydrogen hubs and port-based infrastructure**.

Conclusion:

The Green Hydrogen Mission aligns India's economic and environmental goals but demands **technological innovation, global partnerships, and policy coherence**. Realizing its promise will require consistent fiscal support and a long-term roadmap integrating energy security with climate responsibility.

GS Paper 4



Q4. "Ethical leadership is not about popularity but about responsibility." In the context of public administration, explain the relevance of this statement with suitable examples.

Answer:

Ethical leadership emphasizes **moral responsibility over political expediency**. In governance, it signifies adherence to law, integrity, and fairness, even when such actions are unpopular or politically inconvenient.

Understanding the Principle:

- Ethical leaders act out of duty and moral conviction rather than seeking approval or populist validation.
- Decisions grounded in **public interest and legality** may attract criticism but ultimately reinforce institutional trust.

Relevance in Public Administration:

- **Policy Integrity:** A district magistrate removing unauthorized constructions despite protests exemplifies duty-based ethics.
- **Crisis Leadership:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, officers prioritizing health safety over public pressure demonstrated moral courage.
- **Accountability:** Civil servants like **Ashok Khemka** and **Durga Shakti Nagpal** upheld administrative ethics despite political resistance.
- **Transparency in Relief Efforts:** Ethical leaders ensure fairness and speed in disaster aid distribution without personal or political bias.

Core Ethical Values:

- **Integrity:** Acting consistently with moral and legal norms.
- **Courage:** Taking difficult but just decisions in the face of opposition.
- **Empathy:** Balancing efficiency with compassion for vulnerable groups.
- **Accountability:** Accepting responsibility for outcomes and decisions.

Conclusion:

Ethical leadership may not always yield immediate public approval but builds **institutional credibility and public trust**. In a democracy, responsible leaders safeguard the moral foundation of governance, ensuring justice and fairness over transient popularity.

Current Affairs

Q5. The India–U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations have raised concerns about India’s position on compulsory licensing under the TRIPS framework. Examine these concerns in light of public health and IPR sovereignty.

Answer:

The ongoing **India–U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** negotiations have sparked debate over the potential dilution of India’s flexibility under the **TRIPS Agreement**, especially regarding **compulsory licensing (CL)**—a vital tool for ensuring affordable medicines.

Understanding Compulsory Licensing:



- CL permits governments to authorize the production of patented drugs **without the patent holder's consent**, particularly during health crises.
- It is sanctioned under **Article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement** and codified in **Section 84 of the Indian Patents Act (1970)**.

Key Concerns in Negotiations:

- The U.K. seeks **TRIPS-plus provisions**, including **data exclusivity** and **patent term extensions**, which could limit India's freedom to issue CLs.
- Clauses requiring **non-discriminatory treatment** of patent holders may constrain India's ability to prioritize domestic public health.
- Proposals for **investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS)** mechanisms could allow pharmaceutical firms to challenge India's CL decisions.

Implications for Public Health:

- India's generic industry, known as the "**pharmacy of the Global South**", relies on TRIPS flexibilities to supply affordable drugs globally.
- Past cases like the **Natco–Bayer (Nexavar)** license ensured access to life-saving cancer drugs.
- Restricting CL could raise medicine prices and hinder India's role in global health equity.

Legal and Policy Context:

- The **Supreme Court in Novartis v. Union of India (2013)** upheld stringent patentability standards to protect public health.
- The **Doha Declaration (2001)** reaffirmed WTO members' rights to safeguard access to medicines.

Conclusion:

While trade liberalization under CETA promises economic benefits, India must preserve its **policy autonomy in public health**. Diluting compulsory licensing would not only compromise domestic health security but also erode India's international reputation as a defender of equitable access to medicines.