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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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- **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 architectural developments in the Indian subcontinent during the emergence of Islamic and Indo-Islamic architectural styles:

1. The use of *true arch and true dome* construction techniques became widespread in India primarily after the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate, replacing the earlier *trabeate* style seen in pre-Islamic structures.
2. The decorative emphasis on *calligraphy and geometric patterns* in mosque complexes emerged as a result of religious aniconism, which discouraged the depiction of human and animal forms in sacred Islamic architecture.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined from the given statements

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Before Islamic rule, Indian temple architecture largely used the *trabeate* system (post-and-lintel). Delhi Sultanate introduced the *true arch* and *true dome* based on voussoir and keystone techniques, which gradually spread across India—thus Statement 1 is correct.
- Islamic art traditionally avoids anthropomorphic forms in religious settings, leading to the development of intricate calligraphy, vegetal and geometric ornamentation—hence Statement 2 is also correct.

Q2. The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** is specifically concerned with:

- (a) Ensuring global mechanisms for sharing genetic resources for pharmaceutical research
- (b) Regulating the transboundary movement of *living modified organisms (LMOs)* that may have adverse effects on biodiversity
- (c) Prohibiting all forms of genetically modified crops across signatory nations
- (d) Establishing uniform labeling standards for commercial gene-edited products worldwide

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Cartagena Protocol (2000) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) deals specifically with biosafety issues associated with *living modified organisms (LMOs)* and their transboundary movement. It does **not prohibit GMOs entirely**, nor does it mandate global labeling standards.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding **Capital Indexed Bonds (CIBs)** issued in India:

1. These bonds are structured such that both the principal and interest payments are indexed to an inflation measure.
2. They are primarily introduced to provide a risk-free instrument for investors seeking protection against erosion of real returns due to inflation.
3. In India, the Reserve Bank has historically faced challenges in sustaining the market for such bonds due to concerns over accurate and timely inflation measurement.



How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Capital Indexed Bonds index both principal and sometimes interest to inflation—so Statement 1 is correct.
- Their purpose is to provide inflation-protected returns—Statement 2 is correct.
- In India, they were introduced (1997, later variants as Inflation Indexed Bonds), but data reliability and weak investor appetite limited market depth—Statement 3 is also correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India**:

1. The CAG can audit the accounts of government-owned corporations as well as government-controlled corporations, even if their ownership share is below 51%.
2. The reports of the CAG are submitted directly to the President or Governor, who then places them before the concerned legislature.
3. The CAG is not eligible for reappointment after completing the tenure as prescribed by the Constitution.
4. The Constitution explicitly mandates the CAG's audit of both the Consolidated Fund and the Contingency Fund of India and the States.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) All four
- (d) Only one

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- CAG can audit *government-controlled* corporations, not necessarily only those with majority shareholding. However, audit scope varies based on statute—Statement 1 is correct.
- Reports go to President/Governor, who lays them before Parliament/State Legislature—Statement 2 is correct.
- CAG has a one-time fixed term and is not eligible for reappointment—Statement 3 is correct.
- The Constitution explicitly provides for the audit of the **Consolidated Fund** but not the **Contingency Fund**, which is governed by law and executive rules—Statement 4 is incorrect.

Therefore, 3 statements are correct → Option (b).

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): CRISPR-Cas based gene editing systems are increasingly preferred in biomedical research due to their ability to target specific DNA sequences with high precision.

Reason (R1): The Cas enzymes in these systems are programmable using RNA molecules that guide them to exact genome locations.



Reason (R2): Unlike earlier genome editing tools such as TALENs and ZFNs, CRISPR systems do not require any protein engineering to recognize target sequences.

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 correctly explain A
- (b) A is correct, and only R1 correctly explains A
- (c) A is correct, but neither R1 nor R2 is correct
- (d) A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Assertion is correct—CRISPR allows precise gene editing.
- R1 is correct and provides the correct explanation: CRISPR uses *guide RNA* to direct Cas to target DNA.
- R2 is partially incorrect—while CRISPR avoids protein re-engineering, TALENs and ZFNs required it; however, CRISPR may still require enzyme selection and modifications. Thus only R1 correctly explains A.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding **Bharat Taxi – India’s First Cooperative Cab Service**:

1. The initiative has been launched under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, allowing driver-members to collectively own vehicle fleets and receive profit dividends.
2. The platform operates on a *zero-commission* model, wherein the service fee is fixed and not dependent on surge-based dynamic pricing mechanisms.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Bharat Taxi is structured as a cooperative-based mobility platform where drivers become *stakeholders*, not just service providers, and thus profit-sharing is included → Statement 1 is correct.
- A defining feature is its *zero-commission* approach (unlike private aggregators like Uber/Ola), where fares are transparent and *not* surge-driven, aiming to ensure income stability → Statement 2 is correct.

Q2. The **Special Intensive Revision Programme (2025)** recently implemented in India primarily concerns:

- (a) Review of outdated central welfare schemes to streamline social sector expenditure
- (b) Enhanced monitoring and learning support to students to improve foundational literacy and numeracy outcomes
- (c) Rapid modernization of defence training manuals and tactical field doctrines
- (d) Revision and updating of district-level disaster management plans under NDMA guidelines



Answer: (b)

Explanation:

This programme is linked to the Ministry of Education and is aimed at improving *early-grade learning outcomes*, classroom performance, and remedial support, especially in government schools. It is *not* linked to defence or disaster governance.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the **KOYLA SHAKTI Dashboard**:

1. It is an integrated coal sector data platform designed to provide real-time visibility of coal supply chains, logistical bottlenecks, and operational performance across coal mines.
2. The portal also includes analytics for demand forecasting and allows inter-ministerial coordination for prioritizing coal allocation to critical sectors.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- KOYLA SHAKTI Dashboard facilitates end-to-end visibility across mining, rail logistics, and stock distribution → Statement 1 is correct.
- It also integrates coal linkage, predictive analytics, and coordination among Coal, Railway, and Power ministries to ensure uninterrupted supply to essential sectors → Statement 2 is correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the **first-ever air shipment of GI-tagged Indi and Puliyanankudi Limes**:

1. The limes were exported from Tamil Nadu to European markets under the government's support scheme for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
2. These varieties are known for higher citric acid concentration and longer shelf-life, making them suitable for long-distance export supply chains.
3. The export aligns with India's "One District One Product (ODOP)" initiative aimed at promoting region-specific agricultural specialties.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Both Indi and Puliyanankudi limes are GI-tagged products from *Tamil Nadu*, exported with APEDA and FPO support → Statement 1 is correct.



- Their *high acidity and strong rind* enhance storage life → Statement 2 is correct.
- These commodities are included under ODOP to boost rural export value chains → Statement 3 is correct.

Q5. Consider the following statements about the **Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary**:

1. It is located in the Western Ghats and is widely known as the “Land of Seven Hundred Hills”.
2. The sanctuary is ecologically significant due to its dense Sal forests and supports species like elephants and hill mynas.
3. Recent conservation concerns include mining activities affecting biodiversity corridors and water quality.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Jharkhand**, not in the Western Ghats, though the name means ‘Seven Hundred Hills’ → Statement 1 is incorrect (wrong region).
- The sanctuary is dominated by *dense Sal forests* and is a vital elephant habitat → Statement 2 is correct.
- Iron-ore mining in and around Saranda has caused fragmentation of corridors → Statement 3 is correct.

Q6. *Lake Victoria* is bordered by which of the following countries?

- (a) Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
- (b) Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda
- (c) Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania
- (d) Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, is bordered by **Kenya (east), Tanzania (south and west), and Uganda (north)**. Rwanda and Burundi are part of the Nile Basin but do **not** border the lake.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1:

Q1. “Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) today faces a crisis of relevance in a multipolar world, yet it retains significant diplomatic value.” Discuss.

Answer:

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), established in 1961 under the leadership of Nehru, Tito, and Nasser, emerged as a collective assertion of newly decolonized nations to avoid alignment with Cold War power blocs. It emphasized principles of *sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, anti-imperialism, and equitable global order*. However, in the post-Cold War era, the geopolitical context has drastically changed, raising questions about NAM’s contemporary relevance.

The **end of bipolarity** removed the principal rationale behind NAM—non-alignment between the two superpowers. Today’s world is **multipolar**, involving the USA, China, Russia, the EU, and emerging powers like India. Unlike earlier times, nations now align based on *issue-specific interests* rather than fixed ideological blocs. This has resulted in NAM lacking cohesive strategic focus, reducing the frequency and diplomatic weight of its summits.

Despite these challenges, NAM retains **substantial normative and diplomatic value**. First, it continues to represent **120 developing nations**, giving it numerical strength in global forums like the UN General Assembly. NAM has consistently advocated for **fair global governance, disarmament, climate justice, and reform of multilateral financial institutions**. Its position remains crucial for **Global South solidarity**, especially against neo-colonial economic structures.

For India, NAM still matters strategically. It enables India to pursue **strategic autonomy**, rather than security dependence on any major power bloc. India’s balanced stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its role in shaping Global South agendas (e.g., Voice of Global South Summit, G20 Presidency) show continuity of **non-alignment principles**, albeit in a neo-modern context.

Conclusion: While NAM’s classical role has diminished, its **core philosophy of independent foreign policy, peaceful multilateralism, and South-South cooperation remains relevant**. The challenge is not to revive NAM as it was, but to **modernize it into a platform for collective bargaining on global digital order, climate finance, and trade equity**.

GS-2:

Q2. “Persistent poverty in India is not merely an economic issue but a multi-dimensional developmental challenge.” Analyze, and evaluate recent government measures to reduce poverty.

Answer:

Poverty in India is a complex and multi-dimensional issue involving **income deprivation, unemployment, malnutrition, poor education, social exclusion, and limited access to health and sanitation services**. Traditional poverty estimation relied on a **monetary threshold** (Tendulkar Method; Rangarajan Committee), but recent approaches emphasize a **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, reflecting multiple deprivations experienced simultaneously.

The causes of poverty in India are structural. **Low agricultural productivity, informal workforce dependence, unequal land distribution, inadequate female workforce participation, inter-generational**



deprivation, and inadequate social protections all contribute. Historical marginalization of women, Dalits, Adivasis, and rural poor intensifies inequalities.

Government schemes have made notable interventions.

- **MGNREGA** ensures wage employment security in rural areas.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** provides subsidized food grains to nearly 800 million people.
- **PM Awas Yojana, Har Ghar Jal, Ujjwala, and Saubhagya** schemes improved **housing, clean energy, and basic services**, reducing multi-dimensional poverty.
- The **Aspirational Districts Programme** brought targeted intervention to historically underdeveloped regions.
- The **PM Jan Dhan–Aadhar–Mobile (JAM) trinity** expanded financial inclusion and streamlined benefit transfer through DBT.

Yet challenges persist. Nearly **90% of workers** remain in the unorganized sector with unstable incomes. Climate risks and agrarian distress continue to deepen vulnerability. The COVID-19 pandemic reversed poverty reduction gains, increasing inequality.

Reforms needed:

- Strengthened social security for informal workers
- Investment in **quality education and skill development**
- Promotion of **labour-intensive manufacturing**
- Gender-inclusive labour policies
- Expansion of nutritional interventions and universal healthcare

Conclusion: Poverty reduction requires **holistic development**, not just monetary support. India's progress shows improvement, but sustainable poverty alleviation demands **long-term structural transformation** in employment, education, and social equity.

GS–3:

Q3. “Subsidy reforms in India must balance fiscal prudence with welfare objectives.” Critically examine.

Answer:

Subsidies in India are extended in sectors such as **food, fertilizers, fuel, electricity, education, agriculture, and healthcare**. They aim to support vulnerable groups and promote developmental priorities. However, subsidies also impose a **significant fiscal burden**, often leading to inefficiencies and distortions.

A major concern is **leakage and mis-targeting**. The Public Distribution System (PDS), fertilizer subsidy, and power subsidies for agriculture have faced corruption, overuse, and diversion. For instance, **cheap electricity and urea** have contributed to **groundwater depletion and soil nutrient imbalance**. Similarly, subsidies on LPG previously suffered from **multiple/ghost beneficiaries**.

Reforms have focused on **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, leveraging Aadhar and digital systems. Examples include:

- **PAHAL (LPG subsidy)** directly transfers subsidy to consumer accounts.
- **JAM trinity** minimizes leakages in welfare transfers.
- **Smart metering and tariff rationalization** efforts seek electricity subsidy reforms.

However, subsidy withdrawal must consider **social equity**. For example, reducing food subsidy may disproportionately harm the poor when wages and market prices do not adjust adequately. Similarly, abrupt withdrawal of farm subsidies without alternative income support could deepen rural distress.

**The balancing framework requires:**

1. **Better targeting** using SECC data and Aadhaar authentication
2. **Shift from product-based subsidies to income support** (e.g., PM-KISAN model)
3. **Time-bound subsidies linked with capacity building** (e.g., drip irrigation subsidies to reduce water use)
4. **Transparent fiscal reporting of off-budget subsidies**

Conclusion: Subsidy reforms must be **calibrated** rather than abrupt. The goal is to ensure **fiscal sustainability**, but without compromising **food security, employment stability, and welfare protection** for vulnerable sections. Sustainable subsidy policy must therefore integrate **efficiency, equity, and environmental responsibility**.

GS-4:

Q4. “Ethical public administration requires balancing professional duty with compassion and justice.” Explain with examples.

Answer:

Ethical public administration requires civil servants to maintain **objectivity, integrity, accountability, and impartiality**, while also being responsive to **citizens’ needs**. The challenge lies in balancing **professional duty** (adherence to rules, laws, and procedures) with **compassion and justice** (ensuring humane and fair outcomes).

Professional duty ensures **predictability and fairness** in governance. Yet rigid application of rules without sensitivity may produce **unjust outcomes**. For example, strictly implementing eviction orders without rehabilitation may legally be correct but ethically harmful. Thus, ethics requires the administrator to interpret rules with **empathy and public welfare in mind**.

Compassion allows officers to understand **ground realities**, especially for vulnerable populations—elderly, women, persons with disabilities, migrants, and marginalized communities. During COVID-19 lockdowns, several district administrators coordinated **community kitchens, migrant transport assistance, and telemedicine**—actions rooted in compassion beyond formal duty.

However, compassion must not devolve into **favoritism or bias**. Ethical conduct requires that decisions remain **just**—upholding fairness, merit, due procedure, and transparency. For instance, providing disability-friendly infrastructure is compassionate, but allocating resources or benefits based on personal sympathy instead of eligibility violates justice.

Tools that help balance both include:

- **Code of Conduct** for civil servants
- **Citizen charters** to define service standards
- **Social audits** and grievance redressal mechanisms
- Ethical decision-making models emphasizing **consequences and rights**

The teachings of Gandhi, Vivekananda, and Kautilya reinforce that governance must be **people-centric, compassionate, and morally grounded**. Gandhian trusteeship emphasizes *service and responsibility*, while Kautilya advises that *the happiness of the people is the happiness of the ruler*.



Conclusion: Ethical public administration is not rule-bound nor sentiment-driven. It is a **balanced approach** where rules ensure justice, and compassion ensures dignity. A morally mature civil servant demonstrates *competence, humanity, and fairness together*.

Current Affairs:

Q5. Discuss the significance of the JAI (Japan–America–India) Trilateral Strategy in shaping Indo-Pacific security architecture.

Answer:

The JAI strategy is a trilateral cooperative framework involving **Japan, the United States, and India**, aimed at promoting a **free, open, rules-based, and secure Indo-Pacific region**. The grouping has gained importance amid **shifting power dynamics, China’s assertiveness, and the need for resilient economic and security networks**.

The United States provides **technological power, defense capabilities, and global strategic presence**. Japan contributes **advanced manufacturing, investment capacity, and experience in maritime security**. India brings **strategic geography, naval strength in the Indian Ocean, and leadership of the Global South**. Together, the three nations coordinate policies on **supply chain resilience, critical technologies, maritime security, regional infrastructure, and counter-terror cooperation**.

The JAI framework complements broader Indo-Pacific architectures such as **Quad, IPEF, Malabar Naval Exercises, and India–Japan connectivity initiatives**. It strengthens **sea lane protection**, crucial for global energy and trade flows. It also promotes **infrastructure transparency** as an alternative to China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

Economically, the JAI strategy supports **semiconductor cooperation, cybersecurity frameworks, digital public infrastructure partnerships, and renewable technology innovation**. It also works towards diversifying global supply chains away from single-source dependence.

For India, JAI enhances strategic autonomy—not alliance dependence—helping balance relations with China while maintaining independent decision-making. It also supports India’s role as a **net security provider in the Indian Ocean**.

Conclusion: JAI is a strategic force multiplier in shaping a **stable, open, and multipolar Indo-Pacific**. It advances maritime security, economic resilience, and diplomatic coordination. As geopolitical rivalries intensify, JAI will remain essential for **regional stability and collective security leadership**.