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

# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 8/11/2025 (SATURDAY)**

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



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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements regarding the **Wahabi Movement** in colonial India:

1. It was initially a religious reform movement rooted in the reinterpretation of Islam, but later acquired an anti-colonial and political character.
2. The British associated the movement with socio-religious reform and therefore largely tolerated its spread in North India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer:** (a)

### **Explanation:**

The Wahabi movement, inspired by Shah Waliullah and led by Syed Ahmed Bareilvi, began as a puritanical reform movement seeking to purify Islam. However, by the mid-19th century, it evolved into a political movement opposing British rule and supporting Muslim revivalism. Statement 2 is incorrect because the British considered the Wahabis a major threat to colonial authority. They launched extensive surveillance and trials against Wahabi leaders (notably during the 1860s), viewing them as rebels rather than mere reformers.

2. The term “**Carbon Sink**” refers to which one of the following?

- (a) A natural or artificial reservoir that absorbs more carbon than it releases.
- (b) An area where carbon dioxide is stored only in mineral form.
- (c) A process by which carbon is chemically separated from atmospheric oxygen.
- (d) A geological formation where carbon naturally accumulates below the Earth’s crust.

**Answer:** (a)

### **Explanation:**

A carbon sink is any ecosystem, process, or reservoir (natural or artificial) that absorbs more carbon than it emits. Forests, oceans, and soil are the primary natural carbon sinks. The other options describe carbon sequestration mechanisms but not the definition of a carbon sink.

3. Consider the following statements regarding **the concept of 'Stagflation' in an economy**:

1. It refers to a situation where inflation and unemployment both increase simultaneously.
2. It is generally associated with high economic growth and increased consumer demand.
3. Supply-side shocks can be a major trigger for stagflation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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



**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct: Stagflation involves high inflation combined with high unemployment.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Stagflation occurs **despite** stagnant or declining growth, not high growth.

Statement 3 is correct: Supply shocks (e.g., sudden fuel price rise) can raise prices and reduce output, causing stagflation.

Hence, two statements are correct.

4. Consider the following statements regarding **the appointment and removal of Chairpersons and Members of Tribunals in India:**

1. The appointments are made by the President based on the recommendations of a Search-cum-Selection Committee.
2. The tenure and service conditions are determined solely through Parliamentary legislation without Executive involvement.
3. The Supreme Court has held that the Executive should not have dominant control over tribunal appointments.
4. The Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 reduced the term of office for members compared to earlier provisions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) All four

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct: Appointment is done by the President on the recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Executive significantly influences tenure and service conditions; Parliament does not act alone.

Statement 3 is correct: The Supreme Court (in cases like *Madras Bar Association*) emphasized limiting Executive dominance.

Statement 4 is correct: The 2021 Act reduced the tenure (typically to 4 years).

Hence, three statements are correct.

5. Assertion – Reason type -

**Assertion (A):** Deserts located on the western margins of continents are often associated with cold ocean currents.

**Reason 1 (R1):** Cold currents cause high evaporation rates leading to heavy rainfall along these coasts.

**Reason 2 (R2):** Cold currents stabilize the air above them, inhibiting upward convection and resulting in arid conditions.

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A.
- (b) A is correct, R1 is incorrect, and R2 is a correct explanation of A.



- (c) A is correct, R1 is correct, but R2 is incorrect.  
(d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Western margin deserts like the Atacama and Namib are linked to cold currents (e.g., Humboldt, Benguela). Cold currents **reduce evaporation**, cooling the air and preventing convection, leading to aridity. R1 is incorrect because cold currents **do not cause heavy rainfall**; they suppress it. R2 correctly explains the mechanism.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

### Q1. Assertion – Reason type -

**Assertion (A):**

Certain frog species found in the Western Ghats exhibit “cranial armouring” and “spine-like dermal projections,” which are considered rare defence adaptations among amphibians.

**Reason 1 (R1):**

These adaptations allow frogs to resist predation by small mammals and snakes that typically swallow prey whole.

**Reason 2 (R2):**

Such adaptations are widely present among amphibian species globally due to convergent evolution in tropical ecosystems.

Options:

- (a) A is correct, R1 is correct and R1 correctly explains A, but R2 is incorrect  
(b) A is correct, both R1 and R2 are correct, but only R1 explains A  
(c) A is correct, R1 is incorrect, R2 is correct  
(d) A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Indian researchers have documented rare defence traits in frogs, like cranial armouring and dermal spines in some Western Ghats species. R1 correctly explains the defensive role of these traits against predators that swallow prey. However, R2 is incorrect because such traits are *not* widely present globally; they are rare and localized, not a universal convergent evolution pattern.

### Q2. Which of the following institutions has been primarily associated with promoting the **Model Youth Gram Sabha Initiative** across Indian states?

- (a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports  
(b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj  
(c) NITI Aayog  
(d) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)



**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:**

The initiative is implemented through **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan**, focusing on youth-led participatory governance at the gram sabha level.

**Q3. Consider the following -**

1. India helped in refurbishing Ayni Air Base but does not currently operate any assets from there.
2. The base is located near Dushanbe and provides strategic access towards Afghanistan and China.
3. Russia maintains military presence in Tajikistan and has influence over operational decisions at the base.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

India funded upgrading Ayni but access remains politically sensitive. The strategic location is correct, and Russia indeed influences operational control.

**Q4. Consider the following -**

1. The waiver allows India to develop the Chabahar port specifically for civilian and commercial use but prohibits any Indian role in linked transportation networks.
2. The waiver aligns with the US objective of enabling Afghanistan's alternative trade routes that bypass Pakistan.
3. The waiver is periodic and requires renewal rather than being a permanent exemption.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is incorrect because the waiver **explicitly allows linked infrastructure**, including rail networks like Chabahar–Zahedan. Statements 2 and 3 are correct.

**Q5. Consider the following -**

1. The discovery was largely based on scanning electron microscopy and genetic barcoding.



2. These frogs belong mostly to the family Ranidae, which is the most widespread frog family globally.
3. Such adaptations may signify evolutionary pressures from niche predators in microhabitats.
4. The traits indicate a potential case of defensive evolution that is not commonly observed even among closely related species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

Statement 2 is incorrect; many such species belong to **Nyctibatrachidae** and other localized families, not Ranidae. The rest are valid based on recent herpetological research.

**Q6.** Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which of the following states?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Maharashtra

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

Nauradehi WLS lies in **Madhya Pradesh**, between the Ganga and Narmada river basins, known for cheetah and grassland species corridors.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1-

**Q1.** *“The Bhakti and Sufi movements in India played a transformative role in shaping social harmony, vernacular cultural expressions, and religious syncretism.” Critically examine.*

**Answer:**

The Bhakti and Sufi movements emerged between the 8th and 16th centuries as spiritual reform movements responding to ritualism, sectarian divisions, and rigid social hierarchies in Indian society. Both traditions emphasized internal devotion (bhakti/ishq-e-haqiqi), personal experience with the divine, and egalitarian ethics, thus fostering inclusive and syncretic socio-cultural spaces.



Bhakti saints like Basavanna, Kabir, Tukaram, Mirabai, and Chaitanya rejected caste-based discrimination and priestly dominance. Their emphasis on *nama-smarana*, love, and moral living broadened access to spirituality. Similarly, Sufi saints like Nizamuddin Auliya and Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti propagated values of *wahdat-ul-wujud* (unity of being), humility, service, and communal solidarity. Chishti khanqahs often served as social centres for food, discussion, and shelter across caste and religious boundaries.

Culturally, these movements encouraged the growth of vernacular literature and music. The development of *abhangs*, *dohas*, *kirtans*, and *qawwalis* created accessible modes of devotional expression. This democratization of language and culture significantly contributed to the evolution of regional identities and Bhakti-Sufi syncretism reflected in architectural styles, poetry, and festivals.

However, the transformative potential had limits. Hierarchical structures did not fully dissolve; caste stratification persisted in society. Some Bhakti orders institutionalized into sects with their own exclusions. Politically, rulers patronized Sufi saints for legitimacy, blurring purely spiritual intent.

Nevertheless, the movements produced lasting legacies: they softened religious polarization, strengthened cultural pluralism, and influenced subsequent reformers like Nanak, Ramakrishna, and Gandhi. In contemporary India, their message remains vital amid rising communal tensions. Thus, while not fully revolutionary in dismantling social inequities, the Bhakti and Sufi movements played a decisive role in shaping shared cultural life and interfaith harmony.

## GS Paper 2 –

**Q2.** “BRICS is undergoing both expansion and strategic reorientation in a shifting global order.” Discuss the changing role of BRICS and assess its relevance for India.

### Answer:

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, was envisioned as a platform for emerging economies to enhance multipolarity and reform global financial and governance structures. The recent expansion (including countries such as Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, Iran, etc.) signals a strategic reorientation from an economic-growth grouping toward a **geopolitical coalition of the Global South**.

The changing role of BRICS is visible in three dimensions. First, economic cooperation now includes mechanisms like the New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), which aim to reduce reliance on Western-dominated institutions such as the IMF and World Bank. Second, energy and digital cooperation, including discussions on alternative payment systems, reflects efforts to reduce the dominance of the US dollar. Third, expansion broadens demographic, geographic, and resource representation, amplifying BRICS’ voice in global governance debates.

For India, this evolution presents both opportunities and challenges. BRICS strengthens India’s diplomatic leverage in advocating for multipolarity, UN reforms, and a more equitable world trade order. It enhances India’s outreach to Africa, West Asia, and Eurasia. The NDB offers development financing aligned with India’s infrastructure goals.

However, China’s disproportionate economic and strategic weight remains a concern. The inclusion of countries aligned with China or Russia may risk BRICS becoming a China-centric bloc. India must balance its commitment to BRICS with parallel engagements such as Quad and G20 leadership.

Despite internal contradictions, BRICS remains relevant for India as a **platform for strategic bargaining**, **South-South cooperation**, and **reshaping global narratives**. India’s role will depend on its ability to shape agenda-setting, diversify partnerships, and nurture developmental diplomacy. BRICS is not merely a



counter-West bloc; it symbolizes emerging plural world orders in which India seeks a leading, balancing, and agenda-defining role.

### GS Paper 3 –

**Q3.** *WTO's agricultural negotiations continue to reflect deep structural inequalities between developed and developing nations. Analyze India's key concerns and negotiating priorities in this context.*

**Answer:**

Agriculture remains a contentious pillar within WTO negotiations because it touches upon food security, rural livelihoods, subsidy regimes, and global trade fairness. Developed economies (particularly the US and EU) maintain high domestic subsidies and export support that distort global agricultural prices, disadvantaging farmers in developing countries. India's position at the WTO is fundamentally shaped by its need to balance food security with fair agricultural trade.

India's primary concern is the **public stockholding (PSH) program**, particularly procurement under MSP for distribution through the Public Distribution System. Under WTO rules, subsidies are calculated using outdated 1986-88 reference prices, making India appear to breach subsidy limits. India advocates updating the reference price methodology and securing a permanent solution to PSH, arguing that food security is a sovereign, humanitarian concern, especially for large, vulnerable populations.

India also resists pressure to reduce tariffs on agricultural imports. High tariffs protect small and marginal farmers who lack scale advantages. India seeks meaningful reductions in **Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS)** subsidies provided by developed countries, which continue to distort global markets in favor of their agribusiness lobbies.

Additionally, India supports developing-country coalitions like **G-33**, pushing for **Special Safeguard Mechanisms (SSM)** that allow countries to temporarily raise tariffs during import surges to protect livelihoods. India's negotiating agenda also includes fair market access, technology transfer for climate-resilient agriculture, and recognition of agro-ecological diversity.

The challenge lies in the politicization of trade rules and a stalled WTO Appellate Body. Yet India's stance is rooted in development equity. For India, agriculture negotiations represent not just trade, but **food sovereignty, livelihood security, and social justice** in a global order marked by deep structural asymmetries.

### GS Paper 4 (Ethics)-

**Q4.** *"Moral courage is the backbone of public service, yet it is often the most difficult virtue to practice." Explain with suitable examples from public life.*

**Answer:**

Moral courage refers to the ability to take ethical decisions and act on them, even when such actions may result in personal loss, institutional pushback, or social criticism. In public service, it implies upholding constitutional values, resisting corruption, and safeguarding public interest against pressure, fear, or temptation.

Public servants frequently encounter dilemmas where rules, political pressures, and ethical responsibilities collide. Moral courage enables them to align decisions with the spirit of justice, fairness, and public welfare. For instance, IAS officer Ashok Khemka faced repeated transfers for exposing land corruption. His actions demonstrated moral courage because he prioritized integrity over career advancement. Similarly, IPS officer



Vikas Narain Rai resisted political pressure during riot investigations to protect the rule of law. These examples reflect commitment to institutional ethics despite adversity.

However, moral courage is demanding due to hierarchical governance, fear of victimization, ambiguity in rules, and public expectations. A bureaucrat may face pressure to bend procurement rules to appease political actors or overlook environmental violations to facilitate industry. Moral courage requires foresight to weigh long-term public welfare against immediate convenience.

Values such as empathy, transparency, and accountability strengthen moral courage. Training, ethical leadership, and whistleblower protection laws also create enabling environments. Civil society networks and media scrutiny support individuals who choose the ethical path.

Ultimately, moral courage in public service reflects loyalty to the Constitution over authority figures. It transforms governance from mere administration to ethical stewardship. In a democracy, institutions survive not merely through laws but through individuals willing to stand firm in their ethical convictions.

## Current Affairs –

**Q5.** *“Agriculture in the Age of Inequality: Discuss the structural and policy challenges that deepen agricultural inequality in India, and suggest a roadmap for inclusive agrarian transformation.”*

### **Answer:**

Agriculture in India operates within an environment of widening inequality shaped by land ownership patterns, credit access, technological gaps, fragmented supply chains, and vulnerabilities to climate shocks. While agriculture employs nearly 45 percent of India’s workforce, its share in GDP is just 15-18 percent, reflecting low productivity and unequal income distribution. Small and marginal farmers, who constitute 86 percent of landholders, often face low market bargaining power and poor access to institutional credit, forcing dependence on informal lenders and perpetuating cycles of indebtedness.

Structural inequities originate from historical land consolidation and slow land reforms. Unequal access to irrigation, storage, insurance, and extension services widen income differences between large and small farmers. Digitization, e-commerce, and agri-tech benefit farmers with connectivity and capital but leave the poorest excluded. Climate change further intensifies inequality: droughts and erratic rainfall disproportionately affect rain-fed farming regions.

Policy challenges include input subsidy misallocation, procurement concentrated in a few states, and limited diversification support. MSP benefits are skewed toward rice-wheat belts, while horticulture, pulses, and millets remain under-supported. Rural youth migration, declining public investment, and gender disparities deepen agrarian inequality.

Inclusive transformation requires multi-layered action. **First**, land leasing reforms and farmer producer organizations (FPOs) can enhance scale and market power. **Second**, expanding irrigation micro-systems, climate-smart seeds, and decentralized storage can stabilize yields. **Third**, targeted MSP for diverse crops, direct income support, and universal crop insurance can reduce vulnerability. **Fourth**, women’s land rights and digital agri-credit systems can enhance autonomy. Finally, agro-processing clusters and local value chains can generate non-farm rural employment.

Agriculture in the age of inequality demands shifting from input-heavy, regionally biased models to decentralized, climate-resilient, farmer-centric growth. The future of agrarian transformation lies in **equity, participation, and sustainability**.