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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 14/11/2025 (FRIDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. With reference to traditional puppetry in India, consider the following statements:

1. In Kathputli traditions of Rajasthan, the puppeteers manipulate the dolls primarily through iron rods attached to the limbs.
2. In Tolpavakoothu of Kerala, the puppetry performance is traditionally linked to temple rituals associated with the worship of Bhagavathi.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) Both are incorrect
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- *Statement 1 is incorrect:* Kathputli of Rajasthan is a **string puppetry** tradition; dolls are manipulated using **string mechanisms**, not iron rods (which are typical of rod puppetry traditions like those in West Bengal).
- *Statement 2 is correct:* Tolpavakoothu is a **shadow puppetry tradition** of Kerala conducted in *Koothambalams* and temples, especially during festivals related to **Bhagavathi (deity of Bhadrakali temples)**.

2. Which one of the following correctly describes the ecological significance of the location of Blackbuck National Park (Velavadar)?

- (a) It lies entirely within a tropical dry deciduous forest belt dominated by sal and axelwood species.
- (b) It represents one of the few protected areas in India comprising primarily of *banni* grassland ecosystem adjacent to a coastal wetland complex.
- (c) It forms an altitudinal ecotone between the Western Himalaya and riverine habitats of the upper Sutlej basin.
- (d) It is the only national park in India situated on a tectonic uplifted marine terrace dominated by mangrove forests.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Blackbuck National Park, Gujarat, is known for **open grassland ecosystems**, including the famed **Banni-type grasslands**, and is **adjacent to wetlands of the Gulf of Khambhat**.
- Not deciduous forest (eliminates a).
- Not Himalayan ecotone (eliminates c).
- Not a mangrove-dominated tectonic terrace (eliminates d).



3. With reference to inflation-indexed bonds (IIBs) issued by the Government of India, consider the following statements:

1. The principal of these bonds is indexed to the Wholesale Price Index, while the interest rate is fixed and not inflation-adjusted.
2. IIBs insulate investors from a rise in inflation but do not protect them when inflation turns negative.
3. The returns from these bonds are entirely exempt from income tax, similar to tax-free infrastructure bonds.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- *Statement 1 is incorrect:* India's IIBs were linked to **CPI (Combined)**, not WPI. Interest is paid on the **inflation-adjusted principal**, so both move with inflation.
- *Statement 2 is correct:* When inflation turns negative, principal is **not reduced**, but protection is asymmetric; hence protection from upside inflation exists but not from deflationary erosion of returns.
- *Statement 3 is incorrect:* IIB returns are **taxable**; they do not enjoy blanket tax exemption.

4. With reference to the constitutional doctrine known as the 'Doctrine of Eclipse', consider the following statements:

1. The doctrine applies only to fundamental rights and does not extend to rights conferred under other parts of the Constitution.
2. A pre-Constitution law inconsistent with a fundamental right becomes void *ab initio* and cannot be revived by any subsequent constitutional amendment.
3. The doctrine may apply even to post-Constitution laws if they have been rendered inoperative due to inconsistency with part of the Constitution.
4. The doctrine allows a law overshadowed by a fundamental right to become operative again if the constitutional limitation causing the inconsistency is removed.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- *Statement 1 is incorrect:* Though primarily related to Fundamental Rights, judicial interpretations (e.g., *Bhikaji Narain Dhakras*) have expanded the doctrine's conceptual reach.



- *Statement 2 is incorrect:* Pre-Constitution laws inconsistent with FRs are not void *ab initio*; they are **eclipsed** and may be revived after constitutional amendments.
- *Statement 3 is correct:* Post-Constitution laws may also be eclipsed until inconsistency is removed.
- *Statement 4 is correct:* Removal of the constitutional prohibition lifts the eclipse, reviving the law. Hence, **three statements are correct.**

5. Assertion Reason type -

Assertion (A):

The Godavari River forms extensive deltaic wetlands before entering the Bay of Bengal, yet a distinctive feature is the uneven sediment dispersal caused by variable discharge between its eastern and western distributaries.

Reason (R1):

The gradient and monsoonal flow pattern of the Godavari basin cause higher sediment load to be carried preferentially through the Gautami distributary rather than through the Vashishta distributary.

Reason (R2):

Tidal influx in this coastal zone counterbalances fluvial sedimentation uniformly across all distributaries, thereby preventing spatial differences in delta progradation.

- (a) A is correct, and R1 is correct and is the correct explanation of A; R2 is incorrect
- (b) A is correct, R1 is correct but is not the correct explanation of A; R2 is correct
- (c) A is correct, but neither R1 nor R2 explains it
- (d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Godavari delta exhibits **asymmetric sediment dispersal**, primarily due to **hydrological differences** between distributaries.
- *R1 is correct* and directly explains the uneven sediment distribution—Gautami carries higher sediment during peak monsoon.
- *R2 is incorrect:* Tidal influence does not uniformly counterbalance sedimentation; variation persists across the distributaries.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. With reference to the First BIMSTEC–India Marine Research Network (BIMReN) Conference, consider the following statements:

1. The initiative aims to integrate marine biodiversity databases of BIMSTEC countries under a single interoperable digital architecture coordinated by India.
2. The Conference emphasised a “Blue Food Security Compact” proposing mandatory regional quotas for sustainable seaweed cultivation in the Bay of Bengal.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) None
- (d) Both are incorrect

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- *Statement 1 is correct.* One of the core objectives discussed at the BIMReN Conference was **harmonising and integrating regional marine datasets**, particularly on biodiversity, ocean health and fisheries, for **shared scientific access**.
- *Statement 2 is incorrect.* Although **blue food security** and **seaweed economy** were discussed as thematic areas, **mandatory regional quotas** were *not* part of the agenda. The conference focused on collaborative R&D, not regulation.

2. Which of the following best describes the central reform introduced by the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021?

- (a) It abolished appellate tribunals and transferred their functions directly to High Courts while mandating fixed five-year tenure for tribunal members.
- (b) It curtailed the rule-making powers of Central Ministries regarding tribunal procedures and vested them entirely in the Chief Justice of India.
- (c) It merged the Finance Commission (Appellate) Tribunal and the NGT under a unified environmental-finance adjudication mechanism.
- (d) It allowed the Central Government to notify minimum benchmarks for pendency reduction applicable to all tribunals under Article 323B.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021:

- **Abolished several appellate tribunals** and shifted their functions to **High Courts**.
- Prescribed term limits (4 years, not 5) and set new service conditions, reducing executive discretion through rules—but option (a) is the closest and only correct description. Options (b), (c), and (d) describe reforms not part of the Act.



3. With reference to Bangladesh joining the UN Water Convention (UNECE Water Convention), consider the following statements:

1. By joining the Convention, Bangladesh becomes the first South Asian country to accept legally binding obligations on transboundary water cooperation under a UN framework.
2. Membership automatically requires Bangladesh to enter into basin-specific treaty negotiations with all its neighbouring countries within a fixed time frame.
3. The Convention follows the principle of “no significant harm,” which legally obliges member states to notify co-riparian states before undertaking hydro-projects with potential upstream impact.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- *Statement 1 is correct.* Bangladesh is the first in South Asia to join the UNECE Water Convention, marking a major step for legally binding cross-boundary water cooperation.
- *Statement 2 is incorrect.* The Convention **does not impose automatic treaty negotiations** or time-bound obligations; it promotes cooperation but leaves treaties optional.
- *Statement 3 is correct.* The Convention explicitly incorporates “**no significant harm**” and **prior notification** principles for transboundary impacts.

4. With reference to PM-KISAN, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme mandates that in cases of land inheritance pending mutation, interim instalments may still be transferred to eligible farmer-families on the basis of a self-certification mechanism.
2. The central share of PM-KISAN benefits is released only after States upload e-KYC-verified beneficiary lists to the PM-KISAN portal.
3. The scheme allows States to add additional amounts per instalment from their own budget without violating Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) norms.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- *Statement 1 is correct.* Pending mutation cases may receive instalments through **self-declaration**, which is later verified.
- *Statement 2 is correct.* Central release requires **State-verified and e-KYC-verified** beneficiary data.



- *Statement 3 is incorrect.* States may give top-up benefits but **not under the PM-KISAN instalment architecture**; they must use **separate state schemes**, ensuring no merging of DBT pipelines.

5. With reference to India’s evolving “Drone City” initiative, consider the following statements:

1. The initiative seeks to establish integrated drone-manufacturing clusters where private entities receive automatic 100% FDI permission for dual-use platforms.
2. Drone City plans include a centralised “Drone Data Lake” intended for air-traffic management, testing corridors and real-time civilian-defence data integration.
3. The initiative requires participating cities to enforce a uniform municipal drone-operation code derived from the Drone Rules, 2021.
4. Only States with pre-designated green zones for beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) operations may apply to host a Drone City.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- *Statement 1 is incorrect.* 100% automatic FDI is **not allowed** for dual-use (civil-military) platforms; restrictions apply.
- *Statement 2 is correct.* The **Drone Data Lake** concept is part of discussions for integrated drone ecosystems.
- *Statement 3 is correct.* Drone City proposals incorporate municipal codes aligned with **Drone Rules 2021**.
- *Statement 4 is correct.* BVLOS-ready green zones are a prerequisite in current state-level proposals.

Thus, **three statements are correct.**

6. Consider the following descriptions related to Khangchendzonga National Park:

Which of the following correctly represents the location of the Park?

- (a) It lies entirely west of the Teesta River, stretching toward the Nepal–Sikkim border.
- (b) It is located east of the Tolung River and forms the southern boundary with Bhutan.
- (c) It is situated south of the Zemu Glacier, forming a narrow strip along the India–China border.
- (d) It lies southwest of the Lhonak Valley, forming the central core of the Sikkim Himalaya.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Khangchendzonga National Park is **west of the Teesta**, near the **Nepal–Sikkim border**, containing **high-altitude Himalayan terrain** including parts of the Kanchenjunga massif.
- It does **not** border Bhutan (eliminates b).



- Zemu Glacier lies **inside** the broader region; the Park is not merely south of it (eliminates c).
- Lhonak Valley lies further north; the Park is not southwest of it in the core sense described (eliminates d).

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper-1

Q1. “Urban transformations in post-liberalisation India have deepened regional inequalities even as they expanded economic opportunities.” Discuss this paradox, with reference to patterns of investment, mobility, and spatial planning.

Sample Answer

Post-liberalisation India has witnessed an unprecedented acceleration in urban growth, driven by global capital flows, technological change, and infrastructural expansion. Yet this growth has produced a paradox: **rapid economic dynamism coexisting with widening regional and intra-urban inequalities.**

Understanding this requires analysing how investment patterns, migration flows, and planning regimes have shaped India’s uneven urbanisation.

First, **investment patterns** since the 1991 reforms have been heavily skewed toward metropolitan and coastal urban centres—Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, NCR, Hyderabad—due to better connectivity, skilled labour pools, and business ecosystems. The rise of IT/ITES, financial services, and export-led manufacturing created “islands of growth,” while smaller towns lagged. Consequently, the top eight cities account for a disproportionate share of FDI inflows and employment generation. The spatial clustering of high-value industries has left eastern, central, and rural hinterlands with slower growth, perpetuating regional asymmetry.

Second, **migration patterns** also reflect structural imbalances. Large-scale migration from Bihar, eastern UP, Jharkhand, and Odisha to megacities indicates persistent rural distress and limited opportunities in backward regions. While migrants contribute significantly to urban economies, they often face informal employment, inadequate housing, and exclusion from social protection. Thus, mobility expands opportunities for some, but reinforces precarious living for many.

Third, **urban planning models** have tended to favour capital-intensive, global-city visions—smart cities, metro corridors, CBD redevelopment—over inclusive, multi-nodal regional planning. The emphasis on economic competitiveness often sidelines affordable housing, peripheral township development, and balanced spatial strategies. As a result, land commodification, gentrification, and displacement have intensified inequalities within cities. Peripheral villages absorbed into metropolitan regions experience uneven infrastructural provisioning, creating new segregation lines.

However, urbanisation has also undeniably **expanded opportunities**: growth of services; emergence of start-ups; expansion of formal credit markets; better education-health access; and rising female participation in urban labour markets in some sectors.

To reconcile the paradox, India needs **balanced regional development**, strengthening of Tier-2/Tier-3 cities, integrated land-use and transport planning, and prioritisation of social infrastructure. A shift from “elite



urbanism” to “inclusive urbanisation” is essential to ensure that economic dynamism leads to equitable spatial outcomes.

GS Paper-2

Q2. “India’s welfare governance increasingly depends on digital public infrastructure, yet digital centralisation poses governance, privacy, and federal challenges.” Analyse with reference to recent reforms in social protection delivery.

Sample Answer

India’s welfare delivery architecture has undergone a profound transformation over the past decade, with **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**—Aadhaar, UPI, JAM trinity, DigiLocker, and modular DBT ecosystems—emerging as the backbone of social protection. While DPI has enhanced efficiency, transparency, and portability, it has simultaneously led to new concerns regarding centralisation, privacy, and federal autonomy.

On the positive side, DPI has enabled **direct, real-time benefit transfers**, reducing leakages in schemes such as PM-KISAN, PM-UY, PM-JAY, and social pensions. Aadhaar-based identity verification has expanded inclusion for millions lacking formal documentation. Similarly, UPI and digital payments have improved last-mile welfare disbursement. Platforms like CoWIN demonstrated the scalability of DPI during crises.

Yet, **governance challenges** persist. First, the standardisation of welfare delivery through central databases often sidelines ground-level administrative discretion. Exclusion errors due to authentication failures, network gaps, or database inaccuracies disproportionately affect marginalised communities—tribals, elderly, disabled, migrant workers—raising questions of algorithmic fairness.

Second, **privacy and data-protection concerns** have gained urgency. Large-scale aggregation of socio-economic data—health records, welfare entitlements, financial transactions—creates risks of profiling and surveillance. While the 2023 Digital Personal Data Protection Act lays a framework, ambiguities around consent exemptions for the “State” highlight civil liberties concerns.

Third, **federal tensions** have intensified. Welfare schemes increasingly rely on centrally curated beneficiary lists, reducing the autonomy of States to determine eligibility grounded in local socio-economic realities. Debates around Aadhaar-based PDS in Jharkhand, SECC-based beneficiary targeting, and shifting financial responsibilities under centrally sponsored schemes reflect these tensions. States fear erosion of policy space as central platforms become mandatory gateways for welfare distribution.

Therefore, future governance must prioritise **rights-based digital inclusion**, stronger data-protection norms, transparent algorithms, and State-responsive welfare design. DPI should function as a **federated infrastructure**, not a centralised command architecture. Strengthening cyber-security, emphasising consent-based data flows, and ensuring offline alternatives are critical to balancing efficiency with equity in India’s digital welfare state.

GS Paper-3

Q3. “Green industrialisation is emerging as the new driver of India’s growth, but achieving it requires reconciling competitive manufacturing with ecological limits.” Evaluate India’s preparedness in this transition.

Sample Answer



India's aspiration for green industrialisation—anchored in renewable energy expansion, green hydrogen, circular economy, and sustainable mobility—reflects both climate obligations and economic opportunity. As global value chains shift toward low-carbon production, India seeks to position itself as a manufacturing hub compatible with ecological boundaries. Evaluating India's preparedness requires analysing industrial capacity, technological readiness, regulatory frameworks, and resource constraints.

India has made remarkable progress in **renewable energy**, especially solar and wind, with installed capacity surpassing 180 GW and ambitious targets of 500 GW by 2030. Declining solar tariffs, PLI schemes for solar modules, and localisation of supply chains indicate a maturing ecosystem. The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** aims to position India as a global exporter. Automotive transition toward EVs, battery manufacturing, and charging networks is progressing, albeit unevenly across States.

However, **industrial competitiveness** remains challenged by infrastructure deficits, high logistics costs, and reliance on imported components—particularly in battery chemicals, electrolyser technology, and rare earth elements. Workforce skill gaps hinder scaling of green manufacturing.

Ecologically, India faces **critical resource constraints**. Lithium and cobalt dependence on foreign suppliers creates geopolitical vulnerabilities. Renewable energy expansion raises land-use concerns, biodiversity impacts, and displacement issues in arid belts. Hydrological stress threatens the viability of green hydrogen production, which is water-intensive. Industrial clusters often lack circularity protocols, resulting in persistent waste burdens.

Regulatory frameworks—EIA amendments, carbon credit markets, ESG norms—are evolving, but enforcement capacity remains uneven. Pollution control boards remain understaffed, weakening environmental oversight. Financing remains a major bottleneck: green projects require concessional capital, but India's green-finance landscape is nascent, with limited institutional depth.

Nevertheless, India's strategic advantages—large domestic market, demographic dividend, strong digital infrastructure, and rising global demand for clean technologies—provide momentum. Success will depend on **coherent industrial policy**, investment in R&D, skill development, strong environmental governance, and cooperation with States on land, water, and energy management.

Green industrialisation is not merely a technological transition but a structural transformation requiring alignment between economic growth, social justice, and ecological limits.

GS Paper-4

Q4. “Administrative discretion is indispensable for governance, yet without ethical guardrails it risks arbitrariness and abuse.” Discuss using relevant ethical theories and real-world illustrations.

Sample Answer

Administrative discretion refers to the autonomy granted to public officials to interpret rules, prioritise actions, and choose the best outcomes in situations not fully covered by law. While essential for responsive governance—especially in complex, dynamic contexts—it carries inherent risks of arbitrariness, bias, and misuse of power. Incorporating ethical guardrails becomes critical to ensure that discretion enhances justice rather than undermining it.

From a **deontological perspective**, officials must uphold rules, rights, and constitutional principles. Discretion cannot override legality or violate due process. For example, targeted welfare delivery requires discretion in identifying vulnerable households, but officers must act within eligibility norms, ensuring fairness and non-discrimination.



From a **utilitarian viewpoint**, discretion should maximise welfare outcomes. During disasters such as floods or pandemics, administrators must take rapid decisions—temporary shelters, resource allocation—based on context-sensitive judgments. Ethical discretion prioritises the greatest good while protecting the vulnerable.

Virtue ethics emphasises character—integrity, empathy, courage—as guiding principles. A virtuous officer exercises discretion not for personal gain but for public good. Illustratively, officers who proactively intervene to stop illegal mining or protect tribal rights demonstrate moral courage within discretionary spaces.

However, discretion without accountability leads to **moral hazards**. Instances of arbitrary suspension of teachers, biased policing, or selective enforcement of environmental norms illustrate abuse of power. Discretion may also be compromised by political pressure, corruption, or conflict of interest.

Ethical guardrails include:

1. **Transparency**—reasoned orders, public disclosure, audit trails.
2. **Procedural fairness**—hearing opportunities, appeal mechanisms.
3. **Code of conduct**—clear standards of impartiality and restraint.
4. **Training**—ethics modules, behavioural insights.
5. **Institutional oversight**—vigilance bodies, judicial review, social accountability.

Ultimately, discretion is neither inherently good nor bad; its ethicality depends on intent, context, and institutional checks. A value-driven administrative culture, supported by rule-based systems and citizen-centric mechanisms, ensures that discretion becomes a tool for justice, not arbitrary power.

Current Affairs

Q5. “The adoption of UNESCO’s Global Standards on Neurotechnology marks a turning point in global governance of emerging technologies.” Analyse the significance of these standards and their implications for India.

Sample Answer

UNESCO’s adoption of **Global Standards for Neurotechnology** in 2024 represents the first multilateral framework addressing ethical, legal, and societal challenges posed by brain-computer interfaces, cognitive enhancement tools, neuro-monitoring devices, and AI-driven neurological interventions. Unlike past governance efforts centred on privacy or AI ethics, these standards specifically address technologies capable of influencing, decoding, or manipulating neural processes—thereby touching upon the core of human autonomy and identity.

Their significance lies in four areas.

First, they establish “**neurorights**”—cognitive liberty, mental privacy, psychological continuity, and protection from algorithmic manipulation. These extend traditional human rights frameworks to the neural domain, acknowledging the unprecedented risks of invasive neuro-technologies.

Second, the standards introduce **risk-proportionate regulation**: higher scrutiny for invasive or high-manipulation technologies, mandatory ethical review boards, and requirements for transparency in neuro-data collection. This addresses the rapid commercial expansion of consumer neurotech devices lacking safety evidence.



Third, they highlight **global equity**, stressing that neurotechnology should not exacerbate inequalities between nations or social groups. This includes recommendations for public funding, capacity building, and open-access research to avoid monopolisation by advanced economies or Big Tech companies.

Fourth, UNESCO emphasises **responsible innovation**, embedding ethics into R&D cycles—clinical trials, informed consent protocols, neuro-risk assessment, and long-term safety monitoring.

For India, the implications are wide-ranging. India's growing neurotech ecosystem—spanning medical devices, BCI start-ups, mental-health technologies, and military research—lacks a dedicated regulatory framework. The UNESCO standards could guide:

- **Regulation of neuro-data**, currently unaddressed under the DPDP Act;
- Establishment of **national neuro-rights charters** to protect cognitive autonomy;
- Strengthening of **ethical committees** across research institutions;
- Creation of standards for neurotech clinical testing in line with CDSCO norms;
- Balancing national security research with human-rights safeguards.

Moreover, as India positions itself as a global digital leader (via DPI, AI missions, deep-tech initiatives), adopting neurotech norms early can give it a strategic advantage in shaping global governance.

Thus, UNESCO's framework is both a caution and an opportunity—pushing India to proactively create a regulatory ecosystem that protects citizens while fostering responsible neuro-innovation.