



“ We help you reach for the star ”

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

## **DAILY MCQ'S**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 04/12/2025 (THURSDAY)**

- **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. Consider the following statements regarding Jainism:

1. The earliest Jain texts describe *Anuvratas* as binding on both householders and monks, with no distinction in their scope or severity.
2. The doctrine of *Anekantavada* originally emerged as an ethical principle, and only later evolved into an epistemological doctrine within the Jain tradition.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) None
- (d) Both

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- *Statement 1 is incorrect.* Jainism clearly distinguishes between *Anuvratas* (small vows) for householders and *Mahavratas* (great vows) for monks. The early canonical texts such as the *Acharanga Sutra* maintain this gradation, emphasising the stricter discipline for ascetics.
  - *Statement 2 is correct.* *Anekantavada*—the doctrine of multiplicity of viewpoints—first arose as a moral principle of tolerance and non-absolutism, linked to *ahimsa* in intellectual discourse. Its systematic development into a formal epistemological doctrine occurred later through scholars like Kundakunda, Haribhadra, and Yasovijaya.
- Hence, only one statement is correct.

### Q2. With reference to phytoplankton in marine and freshwater ecosystems, which of the following best explains a counter-intuitive trend observed in recent oceanographic studies?

A decline in phytoplankton biomass has occurred in certain nutrient-rich upwelling zones despite no measurable reduction in nutrient concentration. This is primarily due to:

- (a) Intensification of thermal stratification preventing micronutrient mixing
- (b) Increased grazing pressure from mesozooplankton altering trophic cascades
- (c) Weakening of ocean alkalinity reducing photosynthetic efficiency
- (d) Expansion of hypoxic zones decreasing light-use capability

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Recent high-resolution observational studies reveal that some productive upwelling zones have shown falling phytoplankton biomass despite stable macronutrient levels. The most consistent explanation is altered trophic dynamics—especially increased grazing by mesozooplankton—triggering top-down controls on phytoplankton. Stratification and light constraints affect other regions, but they do not account for unchanged nutrient levels along with declining primary producers. Thus, option (b) best explains the paradox.



**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding conditional grants in India's fiscal framework:**

1. Conditional grants from the Union to the States can be recommended only by the Finance Commission and not by any other constitutional or statutory body.
2. Conditional grants are often used to influence State expenditure priorities even in subjects falling within the State List.
3. Conditionality attached to such grants has no bearing on fiscal federalism as long as the States are free to reject them.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- *Statement 1 is incorrect.* The Finance Commission may recommend grants-in-aid, including conditional grants, but conditional grants also arise through Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), which are designed by the Union government and approved by Parliament—no Finance Commission recommendation is required for them.
  - *Statement 2 is correct.* Conditional grants are frequently used to steer State-level expenditure—e.g., health, education, agriculture—even in State List sectors, thereby shaping policy orientation.
  - *Statement 3 is incorrect.* Even if States can formally reject such grants, the asymmetry in fiscal capacity, political economy considerations, and competitive pressures often compel acceptance, affecting fiscal autonomy and the nature of cooperative federalism.
- Hence, only one statement is correct.

**Q4. With reference to Parliamentary Standing Committees, consider the following statements:**

1. A Department-related Standing Committee (DRSC) can examine Bills referred to it by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
2. DRSCs have the power to suo motu examine any subject pertaining to the ministries under their purview, even without a reference from the presiding officers.
3. Recommendations of DRSCs become binding on the government once officially tabled in Parliament.
4. Members of DRSCs continue in office only until the House that nominated them is dissolved; they cannot continue after dissolution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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



**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- *Statement 1 is correct.* Bills may be referred by the Speaker/Chairman to the appropriate DRSC for detailed examination.
  - *Statement 2 is correct.* DRSCs can independently select subjects connected to the ministries allotted to them and examine them without requiring formal references.
  - *Statement 3 is incorrect.* Recommendations are advisory and not binding. Government may accept, modify, or reject them.
  - *Statement 4 is incorrect.* DRSCs are joint committees. Their tenure is one year, and members continue until reconstituted, not strictly until the dissolution of Lok Sabha.
- Thus, two statements are correct.

**Q5. Assertion (A):**

Savanna regions, despite receiving moderate annual rainfall, often display extensive stretches of bare ground and stunted vegetation during the dry season.

**Reason (R1):**

High evapotranspiration rates in savanna climates deplete soil moisture faster than rainfall can replenish it.

**Reason (R2):**

The dominance of C4 grasses in savannas leads to rapid nutrient uptake, preventing the establishment of deep-rooted woody vegetation.

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A
- (b) A is correct, and only R1 is a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is correct, but neither R1 nor R2 is a correct explanation of A
- (d) A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The savanna climate is characterised by pronounced wet and dry seasons.

- *R1 is correct and is the true explanation of A.* High temperature and evapotranspiration remove moisture rapidly, causing soils to dry out severely, leading to seasonal barrenness.
  - *R2 is partially correct in describing C4 grasses but is not an explanation for the sparse vegetation. Savannas allow co-existence of grasses and scattered trees primarily due to fire regimes, rainfall seasonality, and soil moisture—not because C4 grasses inhibit woody vegetation via nutrient uptake.*
- Thus, assertion is correct, R1 correctly explains it, and R2 does not.



## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Geological Survey of India (GSI):**

1. The Geological Survey of India is mandated under the Geological Survey Act, 2006, which grants it statutory authority to notify geo-hazard zones across India.
2. GSI's recent initiatives under the National Geo-heritage Mission include provisions that allow the organisation to declare any privately-owned land as a National Geo-heritage Site without requiring State government concurrence.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) None
- (d) Both

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- *Statement 1 is incorrect.* The Geological Survey of India does **not** operate under any “Geological Survey Act, 2006.” GSI was created in 1851 and continues as an **attached office of the Ministry of Mines**, functioning through executive mandate, not statutory authority. No such Act exists that empowers it to notify geo-hazard zones.
  - *Statement 2 is incorrect.* Under the proposed *Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill*, any notification over private land requires a **process involving State governments** and landholder procedures. GSI alone cannot make unilateral declarations.
- Hence, **none** of the statements is correct.

**Q2. Which of the following best explains the Supreme Court's recent clarification regarding the Governor's powers to assent to Bills?**

- (a) The Governor must return a Bill only after consulting the President regarding its constitutional validity.
- (b) The Governor cannot indefinitely withhold a Bill and is constitutionally obliged to act “as soon as possible,” with inaction amounting to a violation of Article 200.
- (c) The Governor enjoys absolute discretion in reserving Bills for the President, irrespective of the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- (d) The Governor may declare a Bill lapsed automatically if the Assembly is prorogued before assent is given.

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Supreme Court recently reiterated that **withholding assent indefinitely violates Article 200**, as the Governor must act “*as soon as possible*.”

Options (a) and (d) have **no constitutional basis**, and the Governor cannot independently declare lapsing. Option (c) is incorrect because **reservation of Bills for the President cannot be an arbitrary discretionary act**; it must align with constitutional obligations and aid-and-advice principles.



**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Second Regional Open Digital Health Summit (RODHS) 2025:**

1. The Summit primarily focused on enabling interoperable digital health systems across South Asia by adopting a unified regional Health Data Fiduciary Protocol.
2. RODHS 2025 showcased India's plan to integrate the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with regional health information networks for cross-border health portability.
3. The Summit formally endorsed a binding charter requiring member countries to share anonymised epidemiological datasets under a common digital public infrastructure (DPI) framework.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- *Statement 1 is incorrect.* RODHS 2025 emphasized **interoperability**, but no unified regional “Health Data Fiduciary Protocol” was adopted; discussions were exploratory, not final.
- *Statement 2 is correct.* A key agenda was facilitating **cross-border digital health portability**, using India's **ABDM as a reference architecture** for scalable regional DPIs.
- *Statement 3 is incorrect.* The Summit issued *non-binding* collaborative outcomes. No compulsory charter mandating data sharing was adopted.

Thus, **only one statement is correct.**

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Eight Core Industries:**

1. The Index of Eight Core Industries forms part of the broader Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and contributes more than 60 percent to its total weight.
2. Electricity, steel, and refinery products together constitute more than half of the total weight of the core industries basket.
3. The index is compiled by the National Statistical Office (NSO), while the Ministry of Commerce and Industry supervises the methodology and base-year revisions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- *Statement 1 is incorrect.* The Eight Core Industries contribute **around 40%** to IIP, not more than 60%.
- *Statement 2 is correct.* Electricity + Steel + Refinery Products together hold a **substantial combined weight**, exceeding half of the core basket's total weight.
- *Statement 3 is incorrect.* The index is **compiled and released by the Office of the Economic Adviser**



(OEA) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, not NSO.

Thus, **only one statement is correct.**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the coastal security exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’:**

1. The exercise is jointly conducted by the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and State Marine Police, involving real-time intruder simulation drills along designated coastal sectors.
2. It specifically integrates inputs from the Coastal Radar Chain but does not include any participation from fishing communities due to operational secrecy requirements.
3. Sagar Kavach is mandated by the National Committee on Coastal and Maritime Security (NCCMS) and is carried out twice every year across all coastal States and UTs.

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.* Sagar Kavach is a **multi-agency coastal security drill** involving Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police, CISF, Customs, and others, with **intruder infiltration simulations**.
- *Statement 2 is incorrect.* Fishing communities are often **strategic participants**, especially for reporting suspicious vessels; secrecy does not exclude them.
- *Statement 3 is correct.* Sagar Kavach is a **biannual exercise**, guided by the NCCMS framework, though its frequency may slightly vary by region.

Thus, **two statements are correct.**

**Q6. Which of the following correctly identifies the location of Sarnath on a map of India?**

- (a) North-east of Varanasi, near the confluence of the Ganga and Gomti rivers
- (b) South-west of Varanasi, located on the Grand Trunk Route towards Prayagraj
- (c) North of Varanasi, between the Varuna and Ganga rivers
- (d) East of Varanasi, situated along the Karamnasa river valley

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

Sarnath is located **north-east of Varanasi**, close to the **Ganga–Gomti** region (though not exactly at the confluence). It is one of the four major Buddhist pilgrimage sites where Buddha delivered his first sermon (*Dhammachakkappavattana Sutta*).

Options (b), (c), and (d) are inconsistent with its actual geographical position.



## SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

### GS-1

**Q1. “Urban spaces in India increasingly reflect a paradox of cultural homogenisation and identity assertion.” Examine this paradox in the context of internal migration, digital media, and evolving urban aesthetics.**

**Sample Answer:**

India’s urban spaces today embody a striking paradox: while cities appear more culturally homogenised due to migration, digitisation, and market-driven consumption, they simultaneously witness strong assertions of linguistic, ethnic, and regional identities. This duality emerges from socio-economic, political, and cultural currents interacting in complex ways.

Internal migration has contributed significantly to this phenomenon. Large inflows of people seeking employment in metropolitan regions foster a common urban lifestyle—malls, multiplexes, platform-based work, and shared mobility systems—creating a perception of uniformity in everyday experience. Migrants often adopt certain behavioural attributes and consumption patterns associated with globalised urban culture. Yet, paradoxically, migration also fuels identity assertion. Host communities, fearing demographic dilution or economic competition, may emphasise linguistic or regional markers. Migrants too create cultural enclaves that preserve festivals, food, and dialects, reinforcing identity consciousness within homogenised cityscapes.

Digital media accelerates both tendencies. On one hand, global content, online marketplaces, and influencer culture propagate standardised aesthetics—from fashion to food habits—eroding local distinctiveness. On the other hand, the same platforms amplify micro-identities through community-specific digital spaces, memory narratives, and political mobilisation. The rise of hyperlocal digital activism, including demands for language preservation or recognition of cultural heritage, illustrates this counterforce.

Urban aesthetics further deepen this paradox. Redevelopment projects create uniform architectural forms—glass façades, gated communities, transit corridors—projecting a homogenised urban imaginary. Simultaneously, city spaces host vibrant street art, vernacular architecture pockets, and informal cultural zones asserting unique identities. The growth of heritage walks, local food circuits, and regional cultural festivals exemplifies a re-rooting impulse within modern urbanity.

Thus, homogenisation and identity assertion coexist because modern urbanisation does not replace cultural identities; it reshapes them. Indian cities thereby become hybrid arenas where global symbols merge with local cultural expressions. This dynamic reflects the broader sociological transformation of India, where integration and differentiation evolve in tandem.

### GS-2

**Q2. “Institutional accountability in India remains constrained by overlapping jurisdictions and fragmented coordination among regulatory bodies.” Discuss with reference to recent governance challenges and suggest systemic reforms.**

**Sample Answer:**



Institutional accountability forms the backbone of democratic governance. However, India continues to struggle with a regulatory architecture marked by overlapping jurisdictions, weak inter-agency coordination, and blurred lines of responsibility. These issues undermine policy outcomes, regulatory enforcement, and public trust.

Recent governance challenges illustrate the problem. In the digital ecosystem, responsibilities for data protection, competition oversight, cyber security, and content regulation are dispersed among bodies such as CERT-In, TRAI, MeitY, and sectoral regulators. This fragmentation results in policy delays, inconsistent rulings, and weak accountability during data breaches or digital harms. Similarly, in environmental governance, pollution control boards, urban local bodies, and central authorities frequently pass responsibility to one another, leading to persistent air and water quality crises.

In financial regulation, despite institutional mechanisms like the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), coordination gaps have surfaced during crises involving cooperative banks, NBFC failures, and emerging fintech risks. Overlapping functions between SEBI, RBI, and IRDAI often complicate regulatory clarity. Even social sector schemes witness duplication and leakage due to parallel systems managed by central ministries, state departments, and district agencies.

These issues stem from structural complexity, historical layering of institutions, and absence of clear accountability architecture. Strengthening accountability therefore requires systemic reforms. First, regulatory jurisdictions must be clarified through statutory amendments, minimising functional overlaps. Second, cross-sectoral coordination bodies—like FSDC—should be empowered with decision-making authority rather than remain advisory. Third, digital platforms enabling real-time data sharing across agencies can reduce siloed functioning. Fourth, periodic performance audits by independent bodies (CAG or third-party evaluators) must assess regulatory delivery rather than merely compliance.

Most importantly, transparency in regulatory decision-making—through disclosure norms, reasoned orders, and public consultation—can enhance public trust. Consolidating some regulators or integrating them under sectoral umbrellas may also reduce fragmentation.

Ultimately, accountability can improve only when institutional design aligns mandate, capacity, and coordination. India's governance trajectory demonstrates the need for a holistic redesign rather than incremental fixes.

### GS-3

**Q3. “The future of India’s growth depends on the capacity to manage technological disruptions while expanding social protection for vulnerable communities.” Evaluate this statement with reference to AI, automation, and India’s demographic transition.**

#### **Sample Answer:**

India stands at a critical juncture where technological disruptions—driven by artificial intelligence, automation, platformisation, and digital infrastructure—coincide with a demographic window of opportunity. Managing this transition effectively will determine whether India achieves inclusive, sustainable growth or faces widened inequalities.

AI and automation are reshaping labour markets by altering skill demands. Studies indicate that while routine and repetitive jobs are at high risk of automation, new opportunities are emerging in fields such as data analytics, robotics maintenance, biotech, digital health, and renewable energy systems. For India, with



its large young workforce, the challenge is twofold: aligning education and skilling systems to new industry requirements, and cushioning vulnerable workers—especially in informal sectors—against displacement.

The platform economy illustrates the duality. While it creates flexible work and expands services, it also produces precarious livelihoods lacking social security. Automation in manufacturing and logistics similarly threatens low-skilled employment, even as it boosts productivity. Without adequate social protection—universal health coverage, unemployment insurance, portable benefits, and pension schemes—the transition could exacerbate inequality.

India has made progress through initiatives like PMKVY, Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile architecture, eShram portal, and digital skilling platforms. However, gaps persist in quality of training, labour market matching, and social security coverage. The demographic dividend will be short-lived unless productivity rises through skill upgradation and innovation ecosystems.

Managing technological disruption requires a multi-pronged strategy:

- education reforms emphasising critical thinking, STEM, and vocational integration;
- regulatory frameworks ensuring ethical and responsible AI deployment;
- incentives for MSMEs to adopt technology without displacing workers abruptly;
- robust social protection floors that provide resilience during transitions.

Ultimately, India's growth story will depend not merely on embracing technology but on ensuring that its benefits are widely shared. A balanced approach integrating innovation with inclusion is crucial for long-term economic stability.

#### GS-4

**Q4. “Ethical leadership in public service is not merely about personal integrity but about cultivating institutions that prevent moral hazards.” Discuss with relevant examples.**

#### **Sample Answer:**

Ethical leadership in public service goes beyond the individual moral compass of officials; it encompasses the creation of institutional environments that deter unethical behaviour, reduce discretion, and promote transparency. Personal integrity is essential but insufficient because public systems operate through networks of rules, incentives, and organisational cultures that shape behaviour.

Moral hazards arise when individuals have opportunities to act in self-interest at the expense of public good without bearing full consequences. Weak oversight, ambiguous procedures, or concentration of power exacerbate such risks. Ethical leaders therefore must design institutions that minimise opportunities for corruption, bias, and arbitrariness.

For example, procurement processes are vulnerable to rent-seeking. While an honest officer may resist temptation, institutional reforms such as e-procurement, open tender portals, and real-time audits systematically reduce moral hazard across the system. Similarly, land administration historically suffers from opacity and discretion. Digitisation of land records and grievance redress systems reduces the dependency on individual honesty by establishing structural safeguards.

Ethical leadership also involves improving organisational culture. Leaders who reward integrity, encourage whistleblowing, and act against misconduct create a ripple effect that strengthens collective ethics. Conversely, cultures that tolerate small ethical violations gradually normalise larger ones.



The role of transparency is equally important. Proactive disclosure under RTI, public dashboards, and citizen charters promote accountability irrespective of individual intent. Ethics frameworks such as code of conduct, conflict-of-interest rules, and asset declaration norms institutionalise ethical expectations.

Examples like police reforms, electoral finance transparency proposals, and civil service capacity-building programs demonstrate that ethics must be embedded institutionally. Ethical leadership must thus focus on systemic reforms—rule clarity, accountability mechanisms, technology-driven transparency, and participatory governance.

Hence, ethical leadership is ultimately about transforming governance structures so that integrity becomes the default rather than an exception. Such institutionalised ethics ensure continuity even when individual leaders change, making public administration more resilient and trustworthy.

### **Current Affairs (CSC – National Security)**

**Q5. “The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) has emerged as a key sub-regional security architecture in the Indian Ocean. Critically analyse India’s role and strategic interests in hosting the recent CSC National Security Advisers’ Meeting.”**

#### **Sample Answer:**

The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), comprising India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, and observer states such as Bangladesh and Seychelles, has evolved into a critical sub-regional mechanism for maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean. India’s hosting of the recent NSA-level meeting demonstrates its commitment to shaping a stable, rules-based maritime environment amid shifting regional geopolitics.

India’s strategic interests in the CSC framework are multifold. First, CSC enhances maritime domain awareness, joint surveillance, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism cooperation—essential for a region vulnerable to drug trafficking, piracy, illegal fishing, and extremist networks. Hosting the NSA meet allows India to align regional maritime strategies with its own doctrines such as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

Second, CSC strengthens India’s leadership narrative at a time when external powers, especially China, are expanding their strategic footprints in the Indian Ocean through port investments, naval presence, and security partnerships. By anchoring the CSC, India builds trusted, cooperative engagement with island and littoral states, reducing their security dependence on extra-regional actors.

Third, the forum provides a flexible, non-bureaucratic platform for capability-building—training, coastal security exercises, cyber security collaboration, and emerging tech applications like AI-enabled maritime surveillance. This bolsters India’s soft power and defence diplomacy.

However, challenges remain. Divergent political alignments within member states, periodic shifts in Maldivian and Sri Lankan foreign policies, and resource constraints may affect CSC’s stability. India must balance its leadership with sensitivity to the autonomy of smaller states. Moreover, CSC must avoid becoming perceived as a counter-China grouping; otherwise, regional coherence may weaken.

To deepen CSC’s effectiveness, India should promote shared maritime infrastructure, institutionalise information fusion, and expand participation in humanitarian assistance, climate resilience, and blue economy projects.



Thus, India's hosting of the CSC NSA meet underscores its ambition to shape regional maritime governance while reinforcing cooperative security in the Indian Ocean—a theatre central to India's long-term geopolitical and economic interests.

---

VIDHVATH IAS