VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 10/12/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

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

QUIZ TIME!

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the historical factors behind the spread of Buddhism in early India:

1. The adoption of Prakrit dialects for Buddhist teachings reduced dependence on patronage from political elites and facilitated easier transmission among non-urban communities.

2. The establishment of long–distance trade networks by the Satavahanas created new monastic–trade linkages that enabled monasteries to function as financial intermediaries, thereby indirectly aiding the spread of Buddhism beyond the Gangetic plains.

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: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.
Buddhism's use of **vernacular Prakrit** (instead of elite Sanskrit) significantly reduced reliance on Brahmanical scholastic networks and royal courts. This linguistic accessibility helped percolate Buddhist ideas into **artisan, mercantile, and rural communities**, which directly accelerated its spread.

Statement 2 is correct.
During Satavahana rule, the **western and southern trade routes expanded**. Buddhist monasteries often acted as **safe repositories for merchants**, granting them banking-like services (loaning stored wealth, guaranteeing safety, etc.). This strengthened monastery–merchant linkages and facilitated the **southward and westward diffusion** of Buddhism.

Thus, **both statements are correct**.

Q2. In the context of global biodiversity assessments, which of the following most accurately explains the purpose of the "Living Planet Index (LPI)" as used by conservation agencies?

(a) It measures extinction probabilities of critically endangered species only.
(b) It tracks trends in the population abundance of thousands of vertebrate species worldwide.
(c) It quantifies ecosystem services by assigning monetary values to major biomes.
(d) It reports annual net habitat loss in biodiversity hotspots.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The **Living Planet Index (LPI)**, published by WWF and ZSL, is a **global indicator of vertebrate population trends** (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish). It **does not** estimate extinction probabilities, ecosystem valuation, or habitat loss directly.
Hence, **(b) is the correct answer**.

Q3. With reference to Repurchase Agreements (Repos) used by the Reserve Bank of India in liquidity management, consider the following statements:

1. A Repo transaction always results in a permanent transfer of securities to the RBI, with only cash returning to the banks at maturity.

2. In a Repo, the lender of funds faces collateral risk, whereas the borrower faces interest-rate risk during the tenure of the transaction.

3. An increase in the Repo rate, without any change in the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate, narrows the policy corridor and restricts the RBI's ability to conduct fine-tuned liquidity adjustments.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) — Only one statement is correct

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect.
A Repo is **not a permanent transfer**. It is a **temporary sale** of securities with an agreement to repurchase them.
Both **cash and securities** return to their original holders at maturity.

Statement 2 is correct.
In a Repo:

- The **lender of funds** (RBI or bank) holds collateral and thus faces **collateral risk** (value fluctuations).

- The **borrower** faces **interest-rate risk** because the cost of borrowing depends on repo rates that may shift in subsequent operations.

Statement 3 is incorrect.
Repo rate changes without MSF rate changes **widen or narrow the corridor** only if the reverse repo also changes.
Repo alone cannot restrict liquidity operations significantly because **MSF remains the upper bound** and **Reverse Repo remains the lower bound**. RBI flexibility remains intact.

Thus, **only Statement 2 is correct**.

Q4. With reference to constitutional mechanisms regulating Centre–State administrative relations, consider the following statements:

1. The Inter-State Council is constitutionally mandated to meet at least twice every year and its recommendations are binding on the Union Government.

2. Under Article 258, the Union may entrust executive functions to a State only through a legislative enactment passed by Parliament.

3. The All-India Services derive their legal authority not from the Constitution but from a Parliamentary law enacted under Article 312.

4. A State Government may delegate its executive functions to the Union only with the prior approval of the State Legislature.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) — Only one statement is correct

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect.
The Inter-State Council (Art. 263) **has no mandated meeting frequency**, and its recommendations are **non-binding**.

Statement 2 is incorrect.
Article 258 allows the Union to **entrust functions to states by agreement**, not necessarily requiring a Parliamentary law.

Statement 3 is correct.
All-India Services (IAS, IPS, IFoS) are created by **Parliament under Article 312**, though the *provision* itself is constitutional. Their legal existence depends on **Parliamentary legislation**, not the Constitution alone.

Statement 4 is incorrect.
A State may delegate executive functions to the Union **without the State Legislature's approval**; delegation is an **executive decision**, not a legislative one.

Hence, **only Statement 3 is correct**.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -
Assertion (A): In the Bhabhar zone, rivers flowing down from the Himalayas disappear abruptly into the ground, whereas in the Khadar zone they frequently change their course.

Reason (R1): The Bhabhar zone consists primarily of highly porous gravel and coarse alluvium, allowing rapid percolation of water.

Reason (R2): The Khadar zone remains geologically younger than the Bhangar region and is characterised by repeated alluvial deposition that induces river-channel instability.

Which one of the following is correct?

(a) **A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A.**
(b) **A is correct, but only R1 is the correct explanation of A.**
(c) **A is correct, but only R2 is the correct explanation of A.**
(d) **A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct.**

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct**:
  In the **Bhabhar**, coarse sediments cause streams to **vanish underground**.
  In the **Khadar**, fine sediments + fresh alluvium make rivers **change course frequently**.

- **R1 is correct and directly explains A**:
  High porosity → water percolation → disappearance of streams.

- **R2 is correct but does *not* explain the disappearance of rivers**:
  It explains **course instability in Khadar**, not the Bhabhar phenomenon.

Therefore, **only R1 explains the Assertion**, making **(b) the correct answer**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched Tex-Ramps Scheme:

Statements:

1. The scheme aims to establish a unified fibre-to-fashion digital platform enabling MSME textile clusters to integrate directly with global procurement systems without requiring export registration.

2. It includes a dedicated Innovation Fund that allows technical textile start-ups to access viability gap funding for commercializing indigenous high-performance fibres.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Tex-RAMP focuses on R&D, incubation and commercialization support for textile start-ups. It does **not** create a unified global procurement platform, nor does it bypass export-related compliances.

- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The scheme offers innovation and incubation support that enables start-ups—especially in technical textiles—to receive funding from prototype to commercialization, functioning similar to viability-gap support.

Q2. Under the National Green Tribunal Act, the Tribunal can take cognizance of environmental damage cases primarily on the basis of which principle?

(a) Principle of Sustainable Extraction
(b) Precautionary Principle
(c) Doctrine of Aeolian Responsibility
(d) Principle of Limited Remedial Jurisdiction

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The NGT Act, 2010 is based on the **Precautionary Principle** and **Polluter Pays Principle**. Other options are not recognized legal doctrines under the NGT framework.

Q3. With reference to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and emerging superbugs in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National AMR Surveillance Network tracks resistance only in hospital-acquired infections and excludes community-acquired pathogens.

2. Carbapenem resistance in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is significantly higher in India than the global average and is listed by WHO as a critical-priority pathogen.

3. India's One Health approach legally empowers district administrations to issue binding directives on antibiotic use in animal husbandry.

Answer: (b) — Only two statements are correct

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Surveillance covers both hospital-acquired and community-acquired pathogens.

- **Statement 2 – Correct:** India shows very high carbapenem resistance in *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, classified by WHO as a critical-priority superbug.

- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The One Health AMR framework allows district authorities to regulate veterinary antibiotic practices through administrative orders.

Q4. Regarding provisions of the Revised Earthquake Design Code (2025), consider the following statements:

1. The revised code introduces microzonation-based structural grading with different ductility standards for buildings on different soil types within the same seismic zone.

2. The code mandates real-time structural health monitoring for all public buildings above a certain height.

3. The revised code eliminates the response-reduction factor (R-factor) and replaces it with a probabilistic hazard curve parameter.

Answer: (a) — Only one statement is correct

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The code introduces microzonation layers requiring soil-specific ductility and reinforcement.

- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Health-monitoring systems are recommended, not universally mandated.

- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The R-factor is retained; probabilistic modelling supplements but does not replace it.

Q5. Concerning the First Blind Women's T20 World Cup 2025, consider the following statements:

1. B1 players are mandatorily placed closest to the wicket.

2. India qualified through host-nation exemption under IBSA regulations.

3. The format uses a modified Duckworth–Lewis system adapted for blind cricket.

4. Teams must include at least one WBCC-certified female umpire.

Answer: (a) — Only one statement is correct

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** B1 players are not mandated to field near the wicket; placement is tactical.

- **Statement 2 – Correct:** India qualified through standard host-nation exemption.

- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Blind cricket does not use DLS-based adjustments.

- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** No mandatory requirement for WBCC-certified female umpires.

Q6. On a map of India, Paradip Port is located closest to which feature?

(a) Subarnarekha–Bay of Bengal confluence
(b) Mouth of the Mahanadi River
(c) Chilika Lake northern outlet
(d) Devi River estuary

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
Paradip Port lies near the **Mahanadi River mouth**, making option (b) the correct choice.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. "The evolution of temple architecture in India reflects not only artistic progression but also shifting socio-political structures." Explain with suitable examples.

Sample Answer :

Temple architecture in India evolved through a long civilizational arc, shaped by artistic innovation, regional material conditions, religious transformations, and political patronage. The trajectory from the early rock-cut caves to fully developed Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara styles demonstrates how architecture functioned simultaneously as a sacred space and an expression of political legitimacy.

The **early cave traditions at Bhaja, Karla, and Ajanta** reflected Buddhist monastic cultures in trade-linked regions. Their simple chaitya halls and viharas evolved with increasing state support under the Satavahanas, indicating how architecture responded to emerging political consolidation along the Deccan trade networks.

The rise of **Hindu temple architecture** marks a significant shift. The **Gupta period**, considered the "classical age," introduced structural temples like **Dashavatara Temple (Deogarh)** with shikhara prototypes. This canonical clarity mirrored the Guptas' effort to standardize Brahmanical institutions as part of an integrative political system.

The **Nagara style** of North India diversified into regional sub-schools—**Odisha's Rekha-Deul**, **Khajuraho's Chandella temples**, **Solanki temples in Gujarat**—each shaped by local artistic guilds and regional kingdoms. These temples became visual assertions of political power, as seen in the monumental **Kandariya Mahadeva Temple**, whose vertical thrust mirrors Chandella authority.

In the South, the **Dravida style** matured under the Pallavas and Cholas. Rock-cut temples of Mahabalipuram reflect Pallava naval power, while the **Brihadeeswara Temple** of Rajaraja I stands as a political manifesto of imperial Chola hegemony. Its scale, axial precision, and bronze sculpture tradition reveal deep state investment in temple-based socio-economic organization.

Later, the **Vesara style** under the Chalukyas and Hoysalas showcased hybridization, reflecting cultural pluralism in peninsular Deccan polities. Temples like **Chennakeshava (Belur)** illustrate how guild patronage and courtly cosmopolitanism shaped intricate workmanship.

Thus, Indian temple architecture is not only an artistic continuum but also a record of state formation, religious patronage, economic change, and regional identity.

GS Paper 2

Q2. "Cooperative federalism in India is increasingly being reshaped by judicial interventions." Critically examine with recent examples.

Sample Answer:

Cooperative federalism—where the Union and states coordinate in policy formation—has historically been mediated through political negotiation. However, in recent decades, **judicial intervention** has increasingly become a crucial arbiter in defining federal boundaries.

The Supreme Court has reinforced institutional federalism through landmark cases. The **S.R. Bommai (1994)** judgment restricted arbitrary dismissal of state governments under Article 356, strengthening democratic federalism. Similarly, in **State of Karnataka v. Union of India (1977)**, the Court recognized that federalism is part of the basic structure.

In the contemporary context, the judiciary has addressed **administrative and fiscal federalism**. The **Delhi Government vs. Union of India (2023)** judgment held that the elected Delhi government controls services except over police, land, and public order. This expanded the domain of state autonomy in a Union Territory with partial statehood, illustrating judicial recalibration of federal power.

In fiscal matters, disputes over **GST compensation**, cesses, and allocation of revenues have prompted judicial scrutiny. While the judiciary avoids deciding on purely political matters, it reinforces constitutional limits by emphasizing that the **GST Council's recommendations are cooperative, not coercive** (Mohit Minerals, 2022). This underscores that cooperative federalism cannot override legislative sovereignty of states.

The Court has also intervened in **inter-state water disputes**, such as the **Cauvery case**, where it readjusted water allocations and emphasized sustainable management and negotiation frameworks.

Critics argue that frequent judicial involvement may shift the balance away from political federalism, making courts arbiters of routine Centre–State disputes. Others contend that judicial oversight is essential where executive federalism becomes centralized.

Overall, judicial intervention today acts as a **constitutional referee**, ensuring that cooperative federalism does not slip into coercive federalism, but also inadvertently expanding the judiciary's role in governance.

GS Paper 3

Q3. "India's transition to a circular economy requires systemic reform beyond waste management." Discuss.

Sample Answer:

The concept of a **circular economy (CE)** involves closing material loops, designing out waste, and ensuring resources circulate within economic systems for as long as possible. India's current approach remains centered on waste management, but achieving a genuine CE transition requires deeper structural reform.

Traditional waste-management policies—such as **Solid Waste Management Rules (2016)** and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)—focus on downstream processes: collection, segregation, recycling. While crucial, they do not address upstream determinants such as product design, material choice, or consumer behavior.

A circular system requires **design-based transformation**. Products must be engineered for reuse, repairability, and modularity. India's electronics, textiles, and plastics sectors have limited design alignment with CE because profit structures still rely on linear "take–make–dispose" consumption.

Secondly, CE demands **industrial symbiosis**, where waste from one industry becomes input for another. While examples exist—fly ash in cement, slag in road construction—such symbiosis remains fragmented due to regulatory gaps, data unavailability, and weak industry coordination.

Third, transitioning requires **policy harmonization**. Sectoral rules for mining, manufacturing, recycling, and urban planning operate in silos. A CE framework would require integrating these under a unified resource-use policy emphasizing lifecycle assessment, carbon valuation, and mandatory CE reporting by industries.

Fourth, **technology and infrastructure**—material recovery facilities, reverse logistics for e-waste and batteries, chemical recycling—remain underdeveloped. India needs innovation incentives, digital product passports, and blockchain-based traceability for high-value materials.

Finally, CE requires **behavioral and market restructuring**. Repair economies, rental markets, sharing platforms, and green public procurement can shift demand toward circular products. The government's new thrust on **carbon markets and green credit** can align financial incentives with circularity.

Thus, India must move from a "waste problem" mindset toward a **resource-efficiency paradigm** embedded in design, industry systems, policy coherence, technological innovation, and behavioral change.

GS Paper 4

Q4. "Ethical governance is not just about preventing wrongdoing but about cultivating institutional character." Elaborate.

Sample Answer:

Ethical governance is often narrowly interpreted as preventing corruption or enforcing compliance. However, this negative framing overlooks the deeper objective of building **institutional character**—a system's inherent capacity to act justly, transparently, and responsively.

Institutional character emerges from shared values, culture, and internal norms that guide behavior even when no external enforcement exists. For example, the Election Commission's institutional culture of neutrality allows it to withstand political pressure despite constraints. Similarly, the Supreme Court's emphasis on judicial independence rests not merely on rules but on ethical traditions.

Preventing wrongdoing through vigilance, audit, or punishment addresses symptoms, whereas institutional character addresses causes. When public institutions internalize values like **integrity, fairness, empathy, and accountability**, officials operate with moral autonomy rather than relying solely on procedural compliance.

Theories of administrative ethics emphasize **virtue ethics**, which focus on character traits, and **public service motivation**, which prioritizes commitment to public welfare. Institutions must create environments where ethical conduct is rewarded, not penalized, and where leadership models moral behavior.

Institutional character also requires **ethical infrastructure**—codes of conduct, training, open information systems, whistle-blower protection, and transparent decision-making. Such infrastructure embeds ethics into daily administrative processes. For example, proactive disclosure under the RTI Act fosters a culture of openness; social audits in schemes like MGNREGA encourage participatory accountability.

Furthermore, ethical governance must evolve through **continuous reflection**. Feedback loops, citizen charters, and grievance redressal systems help institutions evaluate their moral performance, not just service delivery metrics.

When institutions cultivate character, they act ethically even under political pressure or resource constraints. This reduces administrative arbitrariness and strengthens democratic legitimacy. Thus, ethical governance is a **transformative process**, shifting the focus from preventing unethical acts to nurturing integrity as a structural attribute.

Current Affairs

Q5. "Italy's new Femicide Law represents a shift from reactive punishment to preventive protection. Discuss the significance of this reform for global gender-justice frameworks."

Sample Answer:

Italy's passage of the **Femicide Prevention Law (2023–24)** marks a pivotal moment in global gender-justice policy. Rising incidents of intimate-partner killings, especially after the widely publicized case of Giulia Cecchettin, exposed systemic gaps in early-warning mechanisms and victim protection. The new law reframes femicide not merely as homicide but as a **structural gender-based crime**, requiring proactive state intervention.

A major feature is **risk-based preventive monitoring**. Courts can impose immediate restraining orders, electronic surveillance, and forced removal of violent partners even before a crime occurs. This shifts policy from reactive criminal justice to **anticipatory protection**, similar to Spain's gender-violence courts.

The law also mandates **faster investigation timelines**, creating specialized task forces and enhanced police training on behavioral risk indicators. This addresses chronic institutional delays that previously left women vulnerable. Importantly, it expands **victim-support systems**, including shelters, financial assistance, and psychological support.

From a global perspective, Italy's shift is significant for several reasons. First, it aligns with UN recommendations recognizing femicide as a distinct category requiring differentiated legal treatment. Second, it strengthens the global discourse on **state responsibility in preventing gendered violence**, moving beyond reliance on individual complaint mechanisms.

Third, the law underscores the need for **data-driven risk assessment**—a framework that many countries lack. Predictive analytics for gendered violence can help design targeted interventions and improve criminal justice responsiveness.

Fourth, Italy's reform highlights that femicide is embedded in patriarchal culture. By mandating school-level sensitization programs, the law integrates **cultural transformation** into legal reform—an essential but often neglected dimension.

For India and other countries, Italy's model demonstrates the importance of early-warning systems, integrated institutional responses, and recognizing femicide as a systemic issue rather than isolated crimes. Thus, the law contributes meaningfully to evolving global frameworks on gender justice.