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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 15/12/2025 (MONDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding selected Bhakti-era philosophers of medieval India:

1. **Basavanna** rejected temple intermediaries and advocated *Vachana* literature but continued to support established varna norms as essential for social order.
2. **Nimbarka** propounded *Dvaitādvaita* philosophy and was one of the earliest to promote the practice of *Radha–Krishna* devotion within the Bhakti fold.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Basavanna explicitly rejected *varna* hierarchy and caste distinctions; his *Anubhava Mantapa* advocated egalitarianism. While he criticised temple rituals, he did **not** support varna as socially essential.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Nimbarka is indeed associated with the *Dvaitādvaita* doctrine and one of the earliest systematisers of the *Radha–Krishna* worship tradition. Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q2. Which of the following best explains the concept of “biotic resistance” in invasive species ecology?

- (a) It refers to the resistance offered by invasive species against native predators, enabling them to colonise new ecosystems.
- (b) It is the ability of a native community with high species richness to suppress the establishment of invasive alien species.
- (c) It is the rapid genetic adaptability of invasive species that allows them to resist climatic stresses in new regions.
- (d) It refers to the resilience of an ecosystem to bounce back after an invasive species has already replaced native species.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Biotic resistance theory states that ecosystems with **high native biodiversity** are **less vulnerable** to invasions because intense competition, predation, and niche occupation limit the establishment of alien species. It is not about invasive species resisting predators (a), genetic adaptability (c), or post-invasion recovery (d).



Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime in India:

1. MSP is notified for all crops recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), irrespective of government procurement intent.
2. The CACP includes cost components such as imputed family labour and rental value of owned land while estimating MSP.
3. In India, the legal guarantee of MSP exists only for crops procured under statutory price-support operations.

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.** CACP may recommend MSPs for many crops, but the government **notifies MSP only for 22 mandated crops**, not all recommendations.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** CACP considers **A2+FL** and **C2 (includes imputed rent and interest on owned land)** while analysing cost structures, although MSP is not strictly fixed at C2.
- **Statement 3 is correct in essence.** India has **no universal legal guarantee** of MSP; only crops covered under specific statutory operations (like sugarcane under FRP, some market interventions) have legal backing.
Thus, two statements are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Basic Structure doctrine in India:

1. The Supreme Court first used the expression “basic structure” in *Kesavananda Bharati* but refused to illustrate any specific principles as falling within it.
2. The doctrine empowers courts to strike down constitutional amendments that violate essential features, even if the amendment follows the procedure under Article 368.
3. Parliament can amend any provision of the Constitution, including Part III, so long as it does not damage the identity of the Constitution.
4. The doctrine restricts Parliament’s constituent power but does not impose limitations on ordinary legislative power under Entry 97 of the Union List.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two



- (c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Court did mention *basic structure* but also identified elements such as supremacy of the Constitution, republicanism, separation of powers, etc.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** This is the core of the doctrine: amendments can be struck down even if validly enacted.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Parliament's amending power is wide, including Part III, but subject to non-damage of basic structure.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Basic structure applies **only to constitutional amendments**, not to ordinary legislation under Union List powers.
Thus, **three statements** (2, 3, and 4) are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Recent genomic studies have identified gene variants that show a negative association between **addiction tendencies and educational attainment**, suggesting a shared genetic architecture.

Reason (R1): These findings conclusively prove that lower educational outcomes directly cause higher susceptibility to addiction.

Reason (R2): The study identifies correlation at the genetic level but does not establish the direction of causality between addiction and education.

- (a) A is true, and both R1 and R2 are true, and R2 correctly explains A
(b) A is true, R1 is false, R2 is true, and R2 correctly explains A
(c) A is true, R1 and R2 are true, but neither explains A
(d) A is false, but both R1 and R2 are true

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The studies indicate **genetic correlation**, so Assertion is **true**.
- **R1 is false** because no causality is proven.
- **R2 is true** and correctly clarifies that the findings **show correlation, not causation**, which is exactly the limitation highlighted by the research.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC):

1. NCBC has the power of civil courts while investigating matters related to inclusion or exclusion from the Central OBC List.
2. NCBC recommendations are binding on the Central Government in cases of both inclusion and exclusion of communities from the Central OBC List.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Under the NCBC Act, 1993 (as amended after the 102nd Constitutional Amendment), the Commission enjoys **civil court powers**, including summoning, requiring documents, evidence, etc.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** NCBC's recommendations are **advisory** and **not binding**, as the final decision vests with the **President** (i.e., the Central Government) under Article 342A. Thus, **only one** statement is correct.

Q2. In the context of the Hornbill Festival, which of the following is most accurate?

- (a) It is recognised under UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List and is hosted jointly by Assam and Nagaland.
- (b) It is primarily a showcase of Naga tribal cultural expressions and is organised annually at Kisama Heritage Village.
- (c) It is a migratory-bird conservation initiative coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- (d) It is a ritual festival of the Ao Naga tribe alone and prohibits participation by non-indigenous communities.

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- Hornbill Festival is a **state-organised socio-cultural festival of Nagaland**, hosted at **Kisama Heritage Village** near Kohima.
- It is **not** on the UNESCO list (eliminating option a).
- It is **not** a conservation initiative (eliminating c).



- It involves **multiple Naga tribes**, not just Ao tribe (eliminating d).
Thus, option **(b)** is correct.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding PM-WANI (Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) Scheme:

1. **Public Data Offices (PDOs) under PM-WANI can provide Wi-Fi services without paying license fees or obtaining a registration from the Department of Telecommunications.**
2. **The scheme mandates that each PDO Aggregator must directly authenticate users through Aadhaar-based Know Your Customer verification.**
3. **The scheme aims to decentralise broadband proliferation by enabling small entrepreneurs to offer Wi-Fi hotspots without heavy regulatory compliance.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** PDOs need **no license and no DoT registration**, reducing compliance cost.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Authentication is done through **app-based mechanisms**, NOT mandatory Aadhaar KYC by PDOAs.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** PM-WANI is specifically designed to **enable small vendors/shops** to deploy Wi-Fi hotspots with minimal paperwork.
Thus, **two statements** (1 and 3) are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI):

1. **ISI is considered an Institution of National Importance and functions under an Act of Parliament.**
2. **It is the nodal body for compiling India's National Accounts Statistics and Consumer Price Index.**
3. **ISI played a foundational role in the development of India's statistical system under P.C. Mahalanobis, including early national sample surveys.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **ISI Act, 1959** designates it as an **Institution of National Importance**.
 - **Statement 2 is incorrect.** National Accounts and CPI are compiled by **NSO (formerly CSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics, not by ISI.
 - **Statement 3 is correct.** ISI and Mahalanobis were instrumental in developing India's **statistical infrastructure**, including early national sample surveys.
- Thus, **two statements** (1 and 3) are correct.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Tensor Processing Units (TPUs):

1. **They are specialised ASICs designed primarily to accelerate matrix-heavy operations in neural network training and inference.**
2. **TPUs generally rely on systolic array architecture, enabling faster large-matrix multiplications compared to traditional GPUs.**
3. **They allow native support for dynamic computational graphs, making them ideal for all machine learning frameworks.**
4. **TPUs were first developed for commercial cloud deployment before being integrated into embedded AI hardware systems.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** TPUs are **ASICs specialised for neural network computation**.
 - **Statement 2 is correct.** Systolic arrays are central to TPU design.
 - **Statement 3 is incorrect.** TPUs optimally support **static computational graphs** (e.g., TensorFlow XLA), not dynamic ones (PyTorch dynamic graph support is limited).
 - **Statement 4 is correct.** TPUs were **first deployed in Google Cloud** before versions were adapted for on-device AI.
- Thus, **three statements** (1, 2, 4) are correct.

Q6. With reference to the map of Southeast Asia, which of the following is correct regarding Thailand's geographical position?

- (a) It shares a land border with both Laos and Indonesia.
- (b) It has a coastline on both the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.
- (c) It shares its longest land boundary with Vietnam.
- (d) It is entirely landlocked between Myanmar and Cambodia.



Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- Thailand borders **Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia**, but **not Indonesia** → eliminates (a).
 - Thailand has two coasts: **Gulf of Thailand (east)** and **Andaman Sea (west)** → correct.
 - Vietnam shares **no land border** with Thailand → eliminates (c).
 - Thailand is **not landlocked** → eliminates (d).
- Thus, (b) is correct.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS-1

Q1. Discuss the major types of natural vegetation found in India and analyse how climate, soil and human activities influence their spatial distribution. (300+ words)

Sample Answer:

India's natural vegetation exhibits remarkable diversity due to variations in climate, physiography, and soil. Broadly, the country hosts **tropical evergreen forests, tropical deciduous forests, thorn scrub and desert vegetation, montane vegetation, and littoral/mangrove forests**—each shaped by distinct ecological conditions.

Tropical evergreen forests, found in regions with annual rainfall exceeding 200 cm (Western Ghats, parts of Northeast, Andaman & Nicobar), are characterised by dense, multilayered canopies and great species diversity. High precipitation and warm temperatures throughout the year prevent leaf shedding. Soils vary from lateritic in the Western Ghats to rich alluvium in valleys, influencing species composition like rosewood, mahogany and ebony.

Tropical deciduous forests, the most widespread type, correspond with rainfall between 100–200 cm. They are divided into **moist deciduous** (e.g., sal forests of Jharkhand and bamboo belts in Central India) and **dry deciduous** (teak-dominated regions of Deccan plateau). These forests exhibit seasonal leaf shedding as adaptive response to dry summers. Soil fertility—such as black soils of Maharashtra or red soils of Karnataka—shapes vegetative patterns.

Thorn and scrub vegetation occurs in rainfall-deficient regions (<75 cm) such as Rajasthan, parts of Gujarat and rain-shadow areas of southern India. Xerophytic species like acacia and date palm adapt to aridity through long roots and reduced leaves.

Montane vegetation varies with altitude, transitioning from subtropical pine forests to temperate broadleaf forests (oak, deodar) and alpine grasslands beyond the tree line. Temperature gradients and slope orientation modify vegetation density.

Mangroves, found along deltas (Sundarbans, Godavari–Krishna) and tidal creeks, depend on coastal alluvium, salinity levels, and tidal influence. Species like *Rhizophora* and *Avicennia* evolve prop roots and pneumatophores.

Human activities—shifting cultivation, mining, agriculture expansion, urbanisation, and monoculture plantations—have drastically altered natural vegetation cover. Deforestation in Northeast, conversion of dry



deciduous forests into farmlands, and encroachment of mangroves for urban infrastructure highlight anthropogenic pressures.

Thus, India's vegetation distribution emerges from a complex interplay of **climate (rainfall, temperature), soil (fertility, salinity), altitude, and human interventions**, creating one of the world's most diverse ecological landscapes.

GS-2

Q2. Distinguish between judicial activism and judicial overreach. Evaluate with examples whether the expanding role of the Indian judiciary strengthens or dilutes democratic governance. (300+ words)

Sample Answer:

Judicial activism refers to the proactive role of the judiciary in protecting rights, correcting administrative lapses, and advancing constitutional values. It emerges from expansive interpretation of the Constitution—particularly Articles 32, 142 and the doctrine of continuing mandamus. Judicial overreach, on the other hand, occurs when courts exceed constitutionally assigned boundaries and encroach upon legislative or executive domains, undermining the separation of powers.

Indian history offers several instances of **judicial activism**: expansion of Article 21 in *Maneka Gandhi* opened doors to rights like clean environment, speedy trial, education and shelter. Public Interest Litigation (PIL) transformed access to justice, allowing environmental protection (*MC Mehta*), bonded labour reforms, and custodial safeguards. Activist judgments often function as checks on executive arbitrariness—e.g., *Vineet Narain* leading to reforms in CBI.

However, concerns arise when activism turns into **overreach**. Examples include: the judiciary cancelling telecom licenses (2G case) instead of directing a regulatory process; bans on firecrackers or liquor sales near highways without legislative consultation; and interference in administrative decisions such as transfers or policy implementation. Such actions raise questions regarding institutional competence and democratic legitimacy.

The expanding judicial role can **strengthen democracy** when it fills governance vacuums, protects marginalised groups, and compels accountability. In contexts of legislative paralysis, corruption, or executive inaction, judicial intervention preserves constitutional morality.

Conversely, persistent overreach may **dilute democracy** by weakening elected institutions and undermining policy-making that requires technical, economic, or political considerations beyond judicial expertise. Over-dependence on courts fosters a “judicial governance” model, potentially bypassing democratic debate.

Thus, India requires a **balanced judiciary**—assertive when safeguarding rights, restrained when confronting policy domains. Judicial activism should operate within constitutional boundaries, ensuring that democratic governance is strengthened rather than supplanted.

GS-3

Q3. The debate on Minimum Support Price (MSP) often revolves around demands for a legal guarantee. Examine the statutory provisions that currently govern MSP in India and evaluate their limitations in providing price assurance to farmers. (300+ words)

Sample Answer:



The Minimum Support Price (MSP) system, introduced in the mid-1960s, is a cornerstone of India's agricultural price support mechanism. However, despite its widespread policy significance, MSP **does not have universal statutory backing**, resulting in persistent demands for a legal guarantee.

The MSP regime is primarily anchored in **executive decisions** based on recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**. There is **no specific law** mandating procurement at MSP for all crops. Instead, statutory provisions operate only in limited contexts:

1. **Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955:** empowers government to regulate supply and prices but does not mandate MSP purchase.
2. **Food Corporation of India Act, 1964:** creates FCI for procurement of foodgrains but again provides no legal obligation to buy at MSP.
3. **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** ensures foodgrain distribution but does not statutorily bind procurement at MSP.
4. **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane:** is the **only crop with statutory backing**, under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, which mandates mills to procure cane at or above FRP.
5. State-level policies (e.g., Punjab MSP support for *moong*) are administrative orders, not legislative guarantees.

The absence of statutory MSP results in **six major limitations**:

- **CACP recommendation is advisory**, not binding.
- Market prices often fall below MSP, especially for pulses and oilseeds, due to inadequate procurement.
- MSP benefits are highly **skewed** toward wheat and rice in a few states.
- No penalty exists for traders purchasing below MSP.
- Government procurement is constrained by storage, fiscal burden, and PDS requirement.
- Farmers suffer income instability, forcing distress sales.

Granting legal guarantee to MSP poses challenges: enormous fiscal burden (estimated ₹10–15 lakh crore annually if universal), distortion of cropping patterns, WTO compliance issues, and storage limitations.

Thus, while statutory provisions partially support MSP operations, they fall short of creating **universal price assurance**, leaving farmers vulnerable. Reform must balance price stability, fiscal sustainability and market efficiency.

GS-4 (Ethics)

Q4. Public servants often face ethical dilemmas when legal obligations clash with moral imperatives. Illustrate such dilemmas with examples and suggest frameworks that can guide ethical decision-making in governance.

Sample Answer:



Ethical dilemmas arise when a public servant is confronted with two conflicting but ethically valid choices, such as adhering strictly to law versus pursuing a morally desirable outcome. These dilemmas test integrity, impartiality and public interest orientation—core values of public service.

For instance, consider an officer posted in a disaster-prone area where relief funds are delayed due to procedural approvals. Strict adherence to financial rules would require waiting, but moral imperatives—saving lives—demand immediate action. Another dilemma appears when whistleblowing exposes corruption but jeopardises personal safety and career prospects. Similarly, enforcing eviction orders against encroachers may be legally necessary but morally distressing when the affected include vulnerable groups lacking rehabilitation.

Ethical dilemmas also emerge in policing: choosing between upholding due process or using coercive shortcuts to maintain public order under pressure. In welfare delivery, officers often confront political directives favouring specific communities; resisting such pressures is ethically right but may invite retaliation.

To resolve such dilemmas, multiple frameworks can guide decision-making:

- 1. Consequentialism:** evaluates outcomes—e.g., providing emergency relief despite procedural gaps may be ethically justified if it saves lives.
- 2. Deontological ethics:** emphasises duty and adherence to rules; useful in ensuring impartiality, preventing corruption, and maintaining institutional trust.
- 3. Virtue ethics:** encourages cultivation of honesty, empathy, prudence, and courage.
- 4. Code of Conduct and Civil Service Values:** such as objectivity, transparency, accountability, and compassion help navigate conflicting choices.
- 5. AICPA or Four-Quadrant Model:** assesses dilemma through legal, moral, societal and personal dimensions.
- 6. Ethical Decision-Making Steps:** (a) recognise dilemma, (b) gather facts, (c) evaluate options, (d) consult superiors/ethics committees, (e) act in public interest.

Ultimately, the ethical public servant must balance legal compliance with humane considerations. The goal is not rigid rule-following but **morally responsible governance** anchored in constitutional values and public welfare.

Current Affairs:

Q5. Increasing disruptions in Parliament have raised concerns about legislative functioning in India. Analyse the causes, consequences, and possible reforms to ensure productive parliamentary sessions.

Sample Answer:

Parliamentary disruptions—walkouts, slogan-shouting, adjournments—have grown in frequency, affecting the quality of democratic deliberation. Data from PRS Legislative Research shows that Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have lost significant working hours in recent sessions, reflecting an erosion of parliamentary norms.

Causes:

First, increasing political polarisation leads to confrontational politics rather than cooperative lawmaking. Opposition parties frequently demand debates, inquiries or ministerial statements, and when unmet, resort to disruptions. Second, inadequate time allocation for discussion on bills—many of which are passed without detailed scrutiny—fuels discontent. Third, lack of internal party discipline and competitive populism



incentivise performative protests. Fourth, government reluctance at times to allow sensitive debates (e.g., on national security or economic shocks) triggers stalemate. Fifth, structural factors such as an overburdened legislative agenda and limited committee capacity exacerbate tensions.

Consequences:

Disruptions undermine the core functions of Parliament: **law-making, deliberation and accountability**. Important bills are passed without debate, reducing legislative legitimacy. Question Hour—an essential tool of executive accountability—is frequently washed out. Fiscal oversight weakens when budget or supplementary demands are guillotined without discussion. Persistent disruptions reduce public trust in institutions and degrade India’s democratic image internationally. They also affect federalism when critical issues affecting states go undiscussed.

Reforms:

Several measures can strengthen parliamentary functioning.

1. **Enforce a “no-work, no-pay” rule** for wilful disruption, as recommended by the Rajya Sabha Chair and various committees.
2. **Automatic suspension** for repeat offenders, similar to practices in the UK House of Commons.
3. Empower **House Business Advisory Committees** to ensure adequate debate allocation.
4. Strengthen **Departmental Standing Committees** and mandate referral of all non-money bills.
5. Encourage structured debates like *Motion to Discuss*, Short Duration Debates, and Zero Hour reforms.
6. Promote bipartisan forums and pre-session all-party meetings to build consensus.
7. Deploy technology for real-time reporting and transparency, ensuring public pressure reduces disruptions.

Effective functioning of Parliament is vital for democratic legitimacy. Ensuring discipline, enhancing debate frameworks, and promoting political consensus are essential to restoring Parliament as the arena of meaningful national deliberation.