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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 15/07/2026 (WEDNESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements with reference to Indian temple architecture:

1. The *Nagara* style of temple architecture is characterised by the absence of a *prakara* (enclosed courtyard) and the presence of a *shikhara* that is curvilinear in shape.
2. In the *Dravidian* style, the *gopuram* is generally taller than the *vimana*, and the temple complex is usually surrounded by multiple concentric *prakaras*.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. In the *Nagara* style, the presence of a *prakara* (enclosed courtyard) is not absent; many *Nagara* temples (e.g., Khajuraho, Surya at Modhera) have *Prakaras*. The *shikhara* is indeed curvilinear, but the claim that there is an absence of *prakara* makes the statement false.
- Statement 2 is also incorrect. In the *Dravidian* style, the *vimana* (tower over the garbhagraha) is generally taller than the *gopuram* in early temples; however, in later large complexes (e.g., Thanjavur, Madurai), the *gopurams* can become very tall, but the defining feature is that the *vimana* is the main tower over the sanctum, and the *gopuram* is the gateway tower. More importantly, the statement's claim that the *gopuram* is "generally taller than the *vimana*" as a universal feature is not accurate. Also, while multiple concentric *prakaras* are common in large *Dravidian* temples, the absolute generality in the statement combined with the first error makes the whole statement incorrect.

Thus, neither statement is fully correct.

2. With reference to the concept of "inverted trophic pyramid" in certain aquatic ecosystems, which of the following statements is most accurate?

- (a) It occurs when the biomass of primary consumers exceeds that of primary producers due to very high turnover rates of producers.
- (b) It is a standard feature of all freshwater lakes and indicates ecosystem instability.
- (c) It implies that energy flow is reversed and consumers produce energy for producers.
- (d) It is observed only in terrestrial ecosystems where decomposers dominate the biomass.

Answer: (a) It occurs when the biomass of primary consumers exceeds that of primary producers due to very high turnover rates of producers.

Explanation:

- In some aquatic systems (e.g., open oceans, certain phytoplankton-dominated systems), the standing biomass of phytoplankton (producers) can be lower than that of zooplankton (primary consumers), giving an "inverted" pyramid of biomass.



- This is possible because phytoplankton have extremely high turnover (growth and reproduction) rates; they are consumed rapidly but reproduce so quickly that they sustain a larger consumer biomass despite low standing biomass.
- Options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect: the phenomenon is not universal in all freshwater lakes, energy flow is never reversed (energy always flows from producers to consumers), and the inverted pyramid of biomass is not a terrestrial-decomposer-dominated feature.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian economy:

1. The “Base Effect” in inflation refers to the distortion in the current inflation rate caused by unusually high or low price levels in the corresponding month of the previous year.
2. A negative Gross Capital Formation (GCF) implies that the country is consuming more capital than it is producing in a given year.
3. An increase in the “Tax-GDP ratio” without a corresponding increase in non-tax revenue necessarily indicates improvement in the fiscal quality of the government.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The base effect arises because inflation is calculated as a percentage change from the previous year’s corresponding month; if that base month had extreme prices, the current inflation rate can be distorted.
- Statement 2 is essentially correct in conceptual terms: Gross Capital Formation being negative would mean that the economy’s capital stock is shrinking (depreciation exceeds new investment), implying that more capital is being consumed (through depreciation) than is being created. While “negative GCF” is practically rare in aggregate national data, the statement’s logic is correct.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. A higher tax-GDP ratio does not automatically mean better fiscal quality; if it is achieved through regressive taxes, distortionary levies, or without improving tax administration efficiency, it may not enhance fiscal quality. Fiscal quality depends on expenditure composition, deficit sustainability, and revenue quality, not just the tax-GDP ratio.
Hence, only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India and parliamentary procedures:

1. The President of India can withhold assent to a Bill passed by Parliament only in the case of Ordinary Bills and not in the case of Constitutional Amendment Bills.
2. A Bill requiring the consent of a specified number of State Legislatures under Article 249 can become law even if only one State Legislature gives its consent.



3. The Rajya Sabha can originate a Bill for the creation of a new State or alteration of boundary of an existing State, but such a Bill cannot be presented to the President without prior recommendation of the President.
4. Under Article 123, the President can promulgate an Ordinance only when both Houses of Parliament are not in session; if only one House is in session, the power to promulgate an Ordinance does not arise.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 3 and 4 only

Answer: (c) 1 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The President has three options for Ordinary Bills: give assent, withhold assent, or return the Bill (if it is not a Money Bill or Constitutional Amendment Bill). For Constitutional Amendment Bills (under Article 368), the President *must* give assent; there is no power to withhold or return.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Under Article 249, if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should legislate on a State subject, no consent of State Legislatures is required; this is not about a specified number of States giving consent. The statement misstates the constitutional provision.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Bills for creation of new States or alteration of boundaries are under Article 3; they must be introduced only in the Lok Sabha, and they require a prior recommendation of the President. The Rajya Sabha cannot originate such a Bill.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. Article 123 states that the President can promulgate an Ordinance only when *both* Houses are not in session. If even one House is in session, the condition is not satisfied, and the power does not arise. However, the statement says “if only one House is in session, the power ... does not arise,” which is actually correct; but the first part “only when both Houses of Parliament are not in session” is also correct. Wait—this makes statement 4 actually correct in substance. Let us re-evaluate carefully.

Re-check:

- The exact condition: Ordinance power arises only when *both* Houses are not in session.
- If only one House is in session, then *both* are not in session is false, so the condition fails, and the power does not arise.

Thus, statement 4 is correct.

Now we have statements 1 and 4 correct. But the options do not include “1 and 4 only” except option (c). Let us re-check statement 2 and 3 again to ensure no other correct ones.

- Statement 2: Article 249 does not involve consent of State Legislatures; it is a Rajya Sabha resolution. So 2 is false.
- Statement 3: Such Bills must be introduced in Lok Sabha, not Rajya Sabha. So 3 is false.



Thus, correct statements are 1 and 4.

Final Answer: (c) 1 and 4 only

5. Assertion – Reason type:

Assertion (A): In the tropical regions of peninsular India, the western coast receives significantly higher rainfall during the South-West Monsoon than the eastern coast.

Reason (R): The Western Ghats act as a major barrier to the moisture-bearing South-West Monsoon winds, causing intense orographic rainfall on the western side, while the eastern side lies in the rain-shadow zone.

Choose the correct answer from the following:

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Answer: (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Explanation:

- Assertion (A) is true: The western coastal strip of peninsular India (e.g., Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra coast) receives very heavy rainfall during the South-West Monsoon, whereas the eastern coast (e.g., Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh coast) receives comparatively less rainfall during this period.
- Reason (R) is also true: The Western Ghats, running parallel to the western coast, obstruct the South-West Monsoon winds, forcing them to rise. This leads to heavy orographic rainfall on the western (windward) side, while the eastern (leeward) side experiences a rain-shadow effect.
- Since the rain-shadow and orographic mechanism described in (R) directly explains why the western coast gets much more rainfall than the eastern coast during the South-West Monsoon, (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Hence, option (a) is correct.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Consider the following statements with reference to the emerging political profile of India's younger electorate:

1. The "new political generation" in India is characterised primarily by a shift away from identity-based politics towards purely economic and development-oriented voting behaviour.
2. Digital platforms have accelerated political engagement among young voters, but this has also contributed to increased fragmentation of political discourse and the rise of polarising micro-narratives.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. While economic and development concerns are important among young voters, identity-based politics (caste, religion, region) continues to play a significant role in India's electoral behaviour. The "new political generation" is not defined by a clean shift away from identity politics; instead, it often reflects a complex interplay of identity and economy.
 - Statement 2 is correct. Digital platforms have indeed increased political participation and awareness among youth, but they have also enabled the spread of polarising content, echo chambers, and fragmented micro-narratives, making consensus-building more difficult.
- Hence, only statement 2 is correct.

2. With reference to India-US defence technology ties, which of the following statements is most accurate?

- (a) Despite multiple high-level agreements and frameworks, actual delivery of advanced defence technologies from the US to India has remained limited due to regulatory, strategic, and commercial constraints.
- (b) India has successfully acquired cutting-edge US defence technologies such as nuclear-powered submarines and long-range strategic ballistic missiles under existing bilateral agreements.
- (c) The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) has led to the full-scale joint production of fighter jets and aircraft in India with complete technology transfer.
- (d) India-US defence ties are now primarily focused on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, with negligible progress in hard defence technology cooperation.

Answer: (a) Despite multiple high-level agreements and frameworks, actual delivery of advanced defence technologies from the US to India has remained limited due to regulatory, strategic, and commercial constraints.

Explanation:

- Statement (a) correctly captures the reality: while India and the US have signed various frameworks (e.g., DTTI, BECA, COMCASA, LEAM) and shown "big ambitions," the actual transfer of core,



cutting-edge defence technologies has been constrained by US export control laws, strategic caution, and commercial interests.

- Options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect: India has not acquired nuclear-powered submarines or strategic ballistic missiles from the US; DTTI has not resulted in full-scale joint fighter production with complete technology transfer; and defence ties are not “negligible” in hard technology—there is significant progress, but not at the level of full tech transfer or systemic co-production.

3. Consider the following statements regarding “Trial in Absentia” under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS):

1. Trial in absentia under BNSS is applicable only in cases where the accused is a proclaimed offender and has deliberately evaded arrest for a specified period.
2. The provision of trial in absentia is intended to prevent indefinite delays in trial due to the non-availability of the accused, while still ensuring that the accused receives notice of the proceedings.
3. Under BNSS, even if the accused is not physically present during trial, the court must ensure that the accused has been given a reasonable opportunity to present his defence through a counsel or by other means.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct in essence: trial in absentia is generally contemplated where the accused is a proclaimed offender who has deliberately evaded the legal process for a specified period, as per the provisions introduced in BNSS.
- Statement 2 is correct. The objective of this provision is to avoid trials being stalled indefinitely due to the accused’s absence, while safeguarding procedural fairness by ensuring that the accused is notified of the proceedings.
- Statement 3 is also correct. The BNSS framework, in line with principles of fair trial, requires that even when the accused is not physically present, the court must ensure that the accused has a reasonable opportunity to present his defence, typically through counsel or other permissible means. Thus, all three statements are correct.

4. Consider the following statements with reference to protein biosensors in medical emergency diagnosis:

1. Protein biosensors are analytical devices that use proteins as recognition elements to detect specific biomolecules, converting a biological interaction into a measurable signal.
2. In emergency settings, protein biosensors can enable rapid detection of markers such as cardiac enzymes, inflammatory proteins, and pathogen-specific antigens, aiding timely clinical decisions.



3. The main limitation of protein biosensors in current clinical use is their inability to function in complex biological fluids like blood or serum due to interference from other proteins.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. Protein biosensors indeed use proteins (e.g., enzymes, antibodies, receptors) as the recognition element to detect specific analytes, and the biological binding event is translated into an electrical, optical, or other measurable signal.
- Statement 2 is correct. In emergency diagnostics, such biosensors are being developed or used to rapidly detect cardiac markers (e.g., troponin), inflammatory proteins (e.g., cytokines), and pathogen antigens, helping clinicians make faster decisions.
- Statement 3 is incorrect as a blanket statement. While interference from complex biological fluids is a challenge, modern protein biosensors are specifically engineered (via surface modifications, selective membranes, etc.) to operate in blood, serum, and other complex fluids. Their limitation is not an “inability” but rather issues like stability, calibration, and standardisation, which are being progressively addressed.
Hence, only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA):

- 1. CETA is primarily aimed at eliminating all tariffs on goods exports from India to the UK immediately upon the agreement’s implementation.
- 2. The agreement is expected to facilitate greater mobility of professionals and skilled workers between India and the UK, including provisions on mutual recognition of qualifications.
- 3. CETA includes provisions to protect intellectual property rights and to enhance cooperation in areas such as digital trade, sustainable business practices, and labour standards.
- 4. The negotiations for CETA have been suspended indefinitely due to disagreements over agriculture exports and defence technology transfers.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Trade agreements like CETA typically involve gradual tariff reductions over a transition period, with some sensitive items either excluded or subject to quotas; they do not eliminate “all tariffs... immediately” across the board.
 - Statement 2 is correct. One of the key expected outcomes of CETA is improved mobility for professionals and skilled workers, including frameworks for easier visa pathways and, in some cases, mutual recognition mechanisms for certain qualifications.
 - Statement 3 is also correct. Modern comprehensive trade agreements commonly include chapters on intellectual property protection, digital trade, sustainability, and labour standards, and CETA negotiations have reflected these elements.
 - Statement 4 is incorrect. While negotiations have faced challenges and delays, there is no authoritative indication that CETA negotiations have been “suspended indefinitely” over agriculture and defence technology; defence technology is not a central component of a trade agreement, and agriculture issues are typically negotiated rather than acting as an absolute veto.
- Thus, only statements 2 and 3 are correct.

6. Put the following newly independent or recently elevated territories in the South-West Pacific in correct order from west to east:

1. Papua
2. New Guinea (independent state referred to in recent strategic discussions)
3. Solomon Islands
4. Fiji

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- (b) 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
- (c) 1 – 3 – 2 – 4
- (d) 2 – 3 – 1 – 4

Answer: (a) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

Explanation:

- Geographically, from west to east in the South-West Pacific:
 - **Papua** (the Indonesian western part of the island of New Guinea) lies furthest west.
 - The independent or newly discussed entity referred to as **New Guinea** (in the context of recent strategic discussions, often meaning the eastern part – Papua New Guinea) lies to the east of Indonesian Papua.
 - The **Solomon Islands** lie further east of Papua New Guinea.
 - **Fiji** is located further east of the Solomon Islands.
- Hence, the correct west-to-east sequence is: Papua → New Guinea → Solomon Islands → Fiji, which corresponds to option (a): 1 – 2 – 3 – 4.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS-1)

Chapter 1: Class 12 Geography – Chapter 8: *Manufacturing Industries*

Question:

“While industrialisation has been a key driver of economic growth in India, it has also led to severe regional imbalances and environmental degradation. Critically examine this statement with reference to the spatial pattern of manufacturing industries in India.” (20 marks, ~300 words)

Sample Answer

Industrialisation in India has indeed acted as a powerful engine of economic growth, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and exports. However, the benefits have not been evenly distributed across regions, leading to serious spatial imbalances and environmental costs.

Spatial Imbalances

The spatial pattern of manufacturing in India is highly concentrated. Major industrial corridors such as the **Mumbai–Pune**, **Chennai–Bengaluru**, **Delhi–Gurgaon–Faridabad**, and **Hyderabad–Bengaluru** corridors account for a disproportionate share of industrial output. States like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh dominate manufacturing, while many eastern and central states (e.g., Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, parts of Uttar Pradesh) remain relatively under-industrialised.

This concentration is driven by:

- **Better infrastructure** (power, roads, ports) in already developed regions.
- **Availability of skilled labour** and financial institutions.
- **Proximity to markets** and export hubs.

As a result, these regions attract more private and public investment, leading to a **cumulative advantage**, while poorer regions face a cycle of low investment, low productivity, and underemployment. This has widened inter-state disparities in income, employment, and quality of life.

Environmental Degradation

Rapid industrialisation has also caused severe environmental damage:

- **Air pollution** from thermal power plants, steel, cement, and chemical industries, especially in the National Capital Region and industrial belts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- **Water pollution** due to discharge of untreated effluents from textile, tannery, and sugar industries.
- **Land degradation** and loss of biodiversity due to mining and factory expansion.

Many small and medium enterprises operate without adequate pollution control measures, exacerbating the problem.

**** Critical Perspective****

While industrialisation has lifted millions out of poverty and strengthened India's global standing, the **regional skew** and **environmental externalities** cannot be ignored. Without targeted policies for **backward**



regions (e.g., industrial parks, infrastructure push, fiscal incentives) and **strict environmental regulation**, the gains of industrialisation will remain uneven and unsustainable.

(Suggested diagram: A simple sketch map of India showing major industrial corridors and less-industrialised regions.)

(GS-2)

Chapter: Class 12 Political Science – Chapter 9: *International Relations in the Coming Age*

Question 2: “India’s international relations in the coming age will be shaped less by ideological alignments and more by strategic autonomy and economic pragmatism.” Discuss. (20 marks, ~300 words)

Sample Answer

India’s external policy has undergone a significant transformation from the Cold War era of non-alignment and ideological solidarity to a more fluid, pragmatic approach centred on **strategic autonomy** and **economic interests**. In the coming age, this trend is likely to deepen.

From Ideology to Pragmatism

During the Cold War, India’s relations were often guided by ideological considerations—close ties with the socialist bloc, criticism of Western imperialism, and emphasis on decolonisation. Today, however, India engages with all major powers—US, Russia, China, EU, and others—based on **national interest** rather than ideological loyalty. For instance:

- India maintains strong defence and technological ties with the **US** while continuing to purchase oil and defence equipment from **Russia**.
- It cooperates with China on trade and climate issues while simultaneously countering Chinese assertiveness along the border and in the Indo-Pacific.
- It engages with the **West** on technology and security, while participating in BRICS and SCO to maintain ties with non-Western powers.

This reflects a **multi-aligned**, non-ideological stance where partnerships are transactional and issue-specific.

Strategic Autonomy

Strategic autonomy remains the core of India’s foreign policy. India refuses to be locked into any military alliance or bloc (e.g., it has not joined NATO-like structures) and insists on taking independent decisions on defence, trade, and diplomacy. This is evident in:

- Its calibrated response to global conflicts (e.g., Ukraine), where it balances criticism of aggression with concerns over energy and food security.
- Its leadership in forums like the **Global South**, emphasizing development priorities and South–South cooperation.

Economic Pragmatism

Economic considerations are now central:

- India seeks **trade agreements**, investment flows, and technology transfer from all partners.



- It promotes **digital public infrastructure**, green energy, and supply chain resilience as global priorities.
- The push for **Atmanirbhar Bharat** aims to reduce dependency while remaining open to global partnerships.

In the coming age, India will likely continue to navigate between competing powers, prioritising **security, development, and technology**, rather than ideological camps. Its foreign policy will be defined by **flexibility, issue-based coalitions**, and a strong emphasis on **strategic autonomy** backed by economic pragmatism.

(Suggested diagram: A simple flowchart showing “Ideology → Strategic Autonomy + Economic Pragmatism” as the new determinant of India’s foreign policy.)

(GS-3)

Chapter: Class 12 Economics – Chapter 6: *Development Experiences of India: A Reader*

Question3: “India’s development experience since 1991 reflects a shift from a state-led, protectionist model to a market-oriented, globally integrated one, but with persistent inequalities.” Analyse. (20 marks, ~300 words)

Sample Answer

India’s development trajectory since 1991 marks a decisive shift from the **state-led, protectionist model** of the 1950s–1980s to a **market-oriented, globally integrated economy**. However, despite rapid growth, **inequalities** in income, region, and social groups have persisted, raising concerns about the inclusiveness of this transformation.

Shift in Economic Model

Before 1991, India followed a **mixed economy model** with heavy state control:

- Licensing, tariffs, and public sector dominance in core industries.
- Limited foreign investment and trade, with an emphasis on self-reliance.

The 1991 reforms introduced:

- **Liberalisation:** reduction of licensing, dismantling of industrial controls.
- **Privatisation:** opening of public sectors to private players.
- **Globalisation:** reduction of tariffs, encouragement of foreign investment, and integration with global markets.

These reforms led to:

- Accelerated **GDP growth**, especially in services, IT, and manufacturing.
- Expansion of **exports**, rise in foreign exchange reserves, and greater consumer choice.
- Emergence of a vibrant **private sector** and global Indian corporations.



Persistent Inequalities

Despite these gains, inequalities remain stark:

- **Income inequality:** The share of the top 10% has risen, while the bottom 50% still struggle with low income and insecure employment.
- **Regional disparity:** States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have grown faster, while Bihar, Jharkhand, and parts of UP lag.
- **Social inequality:** Marginalised communities (SCs, STs, OBCs, women) continue to face barriers in education, health, and employment.
- **Sectoral imbalance:** While services and IT have flourished, agriculture and rural sectors remain underperforming, with low productivity and high distress.

Critical Evaluation

The post-1991 model has been successful in generating growth and global integration, but it has not sufficiently addressed **structural inequalities**. Without focused policies on **rural development, education, health, and social security**, the benefits of growth will remain concentrated.

Future development must combine **market dynamism** with **state intervention** to ensure that growth is **inclusive, sustainable, and equitable**, translating India's economic success into broader social progress.

(Suggested diagram: A dual-axis line graph showing "GDP Growth" rising while "Inequality Index" remains high or increases slightly.)

(GS-4)

Chapter: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude (General Framework)

Question 4: "Integrity is not merely adherence to rules, but a commitment to moral principles even in the absence of external oversight." Elucidate with reference to the role of a civil servant. (20 marks, ~300 words)

Sample Answer

Integrity is often understood as strict adherence to rules and procedures. However, in the context of civil services, it is more profound: it is a **commitment to moral principles** such as truthfulness, fairness, accountability, and public welfare, even when there is **no external monitoring** or immediate consequences.

Integrity Beyond Rules

Rules and regulations provide a framework, but they cannot cover every situation. A civil servant may face:

- **Conflicts of interest** where rules are ambiguous.
- **Pressure from powerful actors** to bend procedures.
- **Opportunities for personal gain** in the absence of oversight.

In such situations, integrity means choosing the **ethically right** action, not just the legally permissible one. For example:

- Disclosing a conflict of interest even when not explicitly required.



- Refusing to approve a dubious project despite pressure from political or corporate elites.
- Ensuring transparency in resource allocation even when audits are delayed.

Role of a Civil Servant

Civil servants are the **backbone of governance**. Their integrity directly affects:

- **Public trust** in institutions.
- **Fair implementation** of policies and welfare schemes.
- **Prevention of corruption** and misuse of power.

A civil servant with integrity acts as a **guardian of public interest**, ensuring that decisions are guided by **justice, equity, and accountability**, not personal or political gain.

Internal Moral Compass

True integrity arises from an **internal moral compass**, shaped by:

- Personal values and ethical education.
- Reflection on the consequences of actions on society.
- A sense of duty towards the public.

It is this internal commitment that enables a civil servant to remain honest when **no one is watching**, to resist corruption even in a corrupt system, and to uphold the **spirit of the law** rather than merely its letter.

In conclusion, integrity in public service is not just rule-following; it is a **moral stance** that prioritises ethical duty over convenience, ensuring that governance remains **fair, transparent, and people-centred**.

(Suggested diagram: A simple Venn diagram showing “Rules”, “Laws”, and overlapping circle “Ethical Duty”, with “Integrity” at the core.)

Current Affairs

Topic: Trial in Absentia under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)

Question 5: “The introduction of ‘trial in absentia’ under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita is a significant reform aimed at ensuring speedy justice, but it also raises serious concerns about the right to a fair trial. Discuss.” (20 marks, ~300 words)

Sample Answer

The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** introduces the provision of **trial in absentia**, allowing courts to proceed with trials even when the accused is not physically present, under certain conditions. This is a significant reform aimed at addressing **prolonged delays** in criminal justice, but it also raises critical concerns regarding the **right to a fair trial** and procedural justice.

Objectives of Trial in Absentia

The primary objective is to ensure **speedy justice** in cases where the accused:

- Has been declared a **proclaimed offender**.



- Has deliberately **evaded arrest** and court proceedings for a prolonged period.
- Is using absence as a tactic to delay trials.

By permitting trials to continue without the physical presence of the accused, the BNSS seeks to:

- Prevent **indefinite stalling** of criminal cases.
- Reduce the burden on courts and victims.
- Strengthen the **credibility** of the criminal justice system.

In cases of serious crimes (e.g., terrorism, organised crime, corruption), this provision can act as a deterrent against deliberate evasion of legal processes.

Concerns on Fair Trial

However, the provision also raises serious concerns:

1. **Right to be Heard:** A core element of a fair trial is the accused's right to present their defence, question witnesses, and challenge evidence. Trial in absentia risks undermining this right if safeguards are weak.
2. **Potential for Misuse:** There is a risk that the provision could be misused to pressure vulnerable individuals or to bypass due process if the criteria for "proclaimed offender" are not strictly applied.
3. **Quality of Justice:** Proceeding without the accused may lead to incomplete defence, increasing the risk of wrongful convictions.
4. **International Standards:** Several human rights instruments emphasise the right of the accused to be present at trial, especially in serious cases.

Balancing Speed and Fairness

To balance these concerns, the BNSS must ensure:

- Strict **procedural safeguards**: proper notice, opportunity to appear through counsel, and high threshold for declaring someone a proclaimed offender.
- Judicial **oversight** to prevent arbitrary application.
- Clear provisions for **re-trial** if the accused later appears and challenges the proceedings.

In conclusion, trial in absentia is a **necessary but sensitive** reform. While it can enhance the efficiency of the justice system, it must be implemented with **robust safeguards** to protect the fundamental right to a **fair trial** and prevent potential miscarriage of justice.