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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 21/08/2026 (FRIDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following events in the Indian National Movement:

1. Kheda Satyagraha
2. Ahmedabad Mill Workers' Strike
3. Champaran Satyagraha

Which of the following correctly represents the **chronological order** of the events?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Champaran Satyagraha – April 1917**
- **Ahmedabad Mill Strike – February–March 1918**
- **Kheda Satyagraha – March 1918 onwards**

Thus, the correct sequence is:

Champaran (3) → Ahmedabad (2) → Kheda (1)

→ Option **(b)** is correct.

Q2. Which of the following best explains why deep-sea aquatic organisms often exhibit extremely slow metabolic rates despite the availability of dissolved oxygen in certain ocean zones?

- (a) High hydrostatic pressure reduces enzyme flexibility needed for rapid biochemical reactions.
- (b) Absence of sunlight chemically inactivates ATP-producing pathways inside mitochondria.
- (c) High concentration of mineral salts prevents osmotic balance, slowing cellular respiration.
- (d) Low CO₂ solubility at depth restricts formation of organic molecules required for metabolism.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

In the deep sea, immense pressure compresses biological molecules, reducing **enzyme mobility and reaction rates**.

- Mitochondria do not require sunlight.
- Deep-sea organisms maintain osmotic balance.
- CO₂ solubility actually **increases** with depth, not decreases.

Thus, option **(a)** is correct.

Q3. With reference to financial derivatives, consider the following statements:

1. A European call option can be exercised any time before or on the expiration date.
2. In a futures contract, both parties are obligated to perform the contract at the agreed future date.
3. The premium paid for an option is generally lower than the margin required for a futures contract.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:**
European options can be exercised **only on** the expiry date.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:**
Futures impose **mutual obligations** on both buyer and seller.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
Options require only a premium; futures require higher margins.

Thus, **two statements** (2 and 3) are correct → **(b)**.

Q4. With reference to the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution directs the State to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens.
2. Organisation of village panchayats is included under the Socialist principles.
3. Promotion of cottage industries on an individual or cooperative basis is a Gandhian principle.
4. The separation of the judiciary from the executive belongs to Liberal–Intellectual principles.

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 – Correct** (Article 44).
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Village panchayats (Art. 40) are a **Gandhian** principle.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Cottage industries are Gandhian.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Separation of judiciary and executive (Art. 50) is Liberal–Intellectual.

Hence, **three statements** are correct → **(c)**.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Recombinant DNA technology allows insertion of foreign DNA into host organisms, enabling them to express new traits.



Reason (R1): Restriction endonucleases cut DNA at specific recognition sites, producing sticky or blunt ends suitable for recombination.

Reason (R2): DNA ligase can join only those DNA fragments that originate from the same organism.

- (a) A is true, and both R1 and R2 are true, and R1 is the correct explanation of A.
(b) A is true, R1 is true, R2 is false, and R1 is the correct explanation of A.
(c) A and R1 are true, R2 is false, but R1 does not explain A.
(d) A is false, but R1 and R2 are true.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Assertion – True:** Recombinant DNA introduces foreign genes into host genomes.
- **R1 – True:** Restriction enzymes create precise DNA fragments enabling recombination.
- **R2 – False:** DNA ligase joins any compatible DNA fragments regardless of species origin.

Since R1 correctly explains the assertion, the correct answer is **(b)**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. With reference to the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2.0 (NAP-AMR 2.0) launched by India in 2024, consider the following statements:

1. The plan integrates the “One Health” approach by making antimicrobial stewardship mandatory only for human health facilities and explicitly excluding the animal husbandry sector.
2. The plan mandates establishing state-level AMR surveillance nodes aligned with India’s National Programme on AMR Containment (NP-AMR) and requires all states to integrate data into a unified national digital dashboard.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both are correct
(d) Both are incorrect

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** The plan follows a full **One Health** approach, covering humans, animals, food, and the environment. Stewardship is **not limited to human** health facilities.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** NAP-AMR 2.0 requires states to set up **State AMR Surveillance Units (S-ASUs)** aligned with NP-AMR and integrate data into a **national AMR digital dashboard**.



Q2. “The Meerut Bugle,” recently in news, is associated with which of the following domains?

- (a) A newly declassified military event documenting early signals of the 1857 uprising
- (b) A cryptographic communication protocol for defence satellite systems
- (c) An environmental early-warning instrument deployed in the Upper Ganga basin
- (d) A new terrestrial insect species discovered in the Western Himalayas

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

“The Meerut Bugle” is a newly declassified **military historical document** from Meerut Cantonment shedding light on early signals of the **1857 uprising**. It has no link to defence cryptography, ecology, or insect taxonomy.

Q3. With reference to BIRSA-101 Gene Therapy, consider the following statements:

1. The therapy uses CRISPR-Cas9 editing to correct mitochondrial mutations responsible for a rare form of congenital myopathy.
2. BIRSA-101 received regulatory clearance under India’s “Accelerated Genomic Therapy Approval Framework” designated for ultra-rare diseases.
3. It is among the first Indian gene therapies to use an adeno-associated virus-9 (AAV-9) vector platform for direct in vivo delivery.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** BIRSA-101 targets **nuclear gene mutations**, not mitochondrial ones, and its editing mechanisms are not restricted to CRISPR-Cas9 mitochondrial correction.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It received consideration under the **Accelerated Genomic Therapy Approval Framework** for ultra-rare diseases.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** It uses **AAV-9 vectors**, which are widely used for **in vivo gene delivery**.

Q4. With reference to the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO), consider the following statements:

1. KoSO holds the world’s longest-running sunspot drawing archive and is instrumental in reconstructing over a century of solar magnetic activity.
2. It is the first observatory in India to integrate a full-disk H-alpha imaging facility into a space-weather real-time forecasting system.
3. KoSO’s digitisation project allows calibration of historic Ca-II K plates, enabling long-term climate and solar irradiance correlation studies.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** KoSO maintains one of the **longest continuous sunspot archives** globally (since 1904).
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It recently integrated its **H-alpha full-disk imaging** capability with India's emerging **space-weather forecasting** systems.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Digitisation and calibration of **Ca-II K plates** enables studies on long-term **solar irradiance and climate correlations**.

Q5. With reference to the Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) designation by the United States, consider the following statements:

1. MNNA status guarantees a mutual defence treaty between the U.S. and the designated country.
2. MNNA nations are eligible for priority delivery of excess U.S. defence articles and participation in cooperative defence research.
3. The U.S. President can revoke MNNA status without requiring Congressional approval.
4. Taiwan is listed as an MNNA by the U.S. under a special legislative category.

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 – Incorrect:** MNNA status **does not** include a mutual defence treaty; it is a **security cooperation** classification.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** MNNAs receive **priority access** to excess defence articles and joint R&D opportunities.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The U.S. President can revoke MNNA status **unilaterally**.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Under the **Taiwan Relations Act**, Taiwan receives MNNA-equivalent treatment.



Q6. Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary, recently in news, is located near the border of which of the following states?

- (a) Gujarat–Rajasthan
- (b) Gujarat–Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat–Maharashtra
- (d) Gujarat–Goa

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary lies in **Dahod district of Gujarat**, adjacent to the **Madhya Pradesh** border, known for its sloth bear habitats and tribal landscapes.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS-1 (Modern Indian History / Culture)

Q1. “Modern Indian literature reflects evolving socio-political realities while negotiating the forces of colonialism, nationalism, identity, and modernity.” Analyse the major trends in modern Indian literature from the late 19th century to the present.

Sample Answer:

Modern Indian literature, emerging significantly from the late 19th century, mirrors India’s complex social, political, and cultural transitions. The earliest major trend was shaped by **colonial modernity**, which introduced print culture, modern education, and new literary forms such as the novel, short story, and modern drama. This period saw writers like Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bharatendu Harishchandra, and Fakir Mohan Senapati experimenting with prose to articulate early nationalist aspirations.

A second major trend was **nationalist and reformist literature**, which intensified from the early 20th century. Literature became a tool of political awakening, as exemplified in Tagore’s humanistic writings, Subramania Bharati’s patriotic poems, Premchand’s realism, and Muhammad Iqbal’s philosophical poetry. Social reform themes—caste oppression, widowhood, women’s education, and social justice—became central, reflecting broader socio-religious reform movements.

Post-independence literature saw a sharp shift toward **realism and existential concerns**. Writers examined the trauma of Partition (e.g., Saadat Hasan Manto, Bhisham Sahni, Amrita Pritam), rural distress, and the contradictions of development. The Progressive Writers’ Movement and IPTA pushed themes of class struggle, anti-imperialism, and egalitarianism.

From the 1960s–80s, there was a clear movement towards **subaltern and marginal voices**. Dalit literature (e.g., Omprakash Valmiki), feminist writing (e.g., Ismat Chughtai, Mahasweta Devi), and regional identity literature (e.g., Assamese and Manipuri modernists) reshaped Indian literary consciousness. These works dismantled dominant narratives and foregrounded caste, gender, tribal rights, and socio-economic deprivation.

In contemporary times, Indian literature reflects **globalisation, migration, urban alienation, identity politics, and technological modernity**. Indian English writing—by authors like Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh,



Arundhati Roy—has expanded themes and global readership. Digital platforms and regional language revival movements have democratised literature.

Thus, modern Indian literature is not a monolith but a mosaic of evolving trends—rooted in resistance, reform, reconstruction, and identity assertion—reflecting India's multi-layered social evolution.

GS-2 (Governance)

Q2. Good governance is shaped by historical experiences, political culture, institutional design, and evolving societal expectations. Discuss the meaning, forms, and major models of governance in the context of contemporary India.

Sample Answer:

Governance refers to the **processes, structures, and norms** through which authority is exercised and public affairs are managed. Unlike government, which denotes formal institutions, governance includes interactions among the State, markets, and civil society. In the Indian context, governance is an evolving concept shaped by constitutional values, democratic aspirations, and developmental priorities.

The meaning of governance today encompasses **accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, efficiency, rule of law, citizen participation, and responsiveness**. These principles were emphasised by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2nd ARC) and Sustainable Development Goal-16.

Governance takes many forms:

1. **Political Governance** – functioning of democratic institutions, electoral processes, legislative oversight, and political accountability.
2. **Economic Governance** – regulation of markets, fiscal management, financial sector stability, and enabling economic freedoms.
3. **Administrative Governance** – policy implementation, service delivery systems, e-governance, and bureaucratic ethics.
4. **Social Governance** – protection of rights, welfare schemes, social justice, empowerment, and inclusive development.
5. **Environmental Governance** – sustainable resource management, climate action, and regulatory enforcement.

India has adopted multiple governance models to address complex challenges:

1. Weberian Bureaucratic Model:

Emphasises hierarchy, rule-bound functioning, and neutrality. It provides stability but can become rigid and slow.

2. New Public Administration (1960s–70s):

Stresses social equity, citizen-centric administration, and welfare-oriented policies—visible in Indian affirmative action and rights-based legislations.

3. New Public Management (NPM):

Encourages efficiency, competition, performance measurement, and private-sector involvement. PPPs, outsourcing, and performance-based budgeting reflect this trend.



4. Network Governance Model:

Collaborative governance involving NGOs, community organisations, private firms, and local bodies—seen in SHG movements, CSR partnerships, and participatory planning.

5. Digital Governance / GovTech:

Use of ICT platforms such as Aadhaar, UMANG, DigiLocker, FASTag, and JAM trinity to enhance transparency and reduce discretion.

Thus, governance in India is a **hybrid, multi-actor ecosystem**, continually evolving to meet changing public expectations and developmental imperatives.

GS-3 (Economy / Infrastructure)

Q3. Public–Private Partnership (PPP) models have evolved as a crucial mechanism for infrastructure financing and service delivery in India, yet they remain fraught with structural challenges. Discuss major PPP models and critically analyse the issues that affect their effectiveness. (300+ words)

Sample Answer:

Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) are collaborative arrangements where the public and private sectors share resources, responsibilities, risks, and rewards to deliver infrastructure or public services. In India, PPPs gained prominence with the 2004 National PPP Policy and have since expanded across highways, airports, urban services, energy, and logistics.

Major PPP models include:

1. **BOT (Build–Operate–Transfer):**

The private developer builds infrastructure, operates it for a concession period, and transfers it back to the government.

- **BOT–Toll:** Developer collects toll directly (NHDP Phase-I & II).
- **BOT–Annuity:** Government pays annuities irrespective of traffic risk.

2. **HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model):**

Introduced to correct BOT failures. Government provides 40% upfront; private sector invests 60%. Traffic risk lies with government. HAM revived stalled highway projects.

3. **OMDA Model (Airports):**

Used in Delhi and Mumbai airports; private concessionaire pays revenue share to AAI.

4. **BOOT, BOO, DBFOT models:**

Variants that allocate construction, ownership, and operation across parties.

Despite successes, PPPs face systemic challenges:

- **Over-leveraging & Financial Stress:**

Many private companies bid aggressively but faced revenue shortfalls due to unrealistic projections and macro-economic shocks.

- **Risk Allocation Issues:**

Best practices require risk to be allocated to the party best able to manage it, but Indian PPPs often transfer excessive risk to private players.



- **Regulatory Uncertainty:**
Policy changes, land acquisition delays, and litigation affect compliance and financial viability.
- **Contract Rigidity:**
Long-term PPPs need flexible renegotiation frameworks. The absence of a robust legal architecture limits adaptability.
- **Low Capacity of Implementing Agencies:**
Many state bodies lack expertise in drafting complex concession agreements, leading to disputes.
- **Weak Dispute Resolution:**
Arbitration delays, payment bottlenecks, and poor contract enforcement discourage private participation.

To strengthen PPPs, India needs a **PPP legislation**, improved risk-sharing, viability gap funding reforms, stronger regulatory autonomy, and capacity-building. The Kelkar Committee recommendations remain critical for future PPP reforms.

GS-4 (Ethics)

Q4. “Ethical governance requires not only compliance with rules but cultivation of public-service values that strengthen trust between citizens and the State.” Examine this statement in the context of ethical issues in public administration.

Sample Answer:

Ethical governance is the foundation of a legitimate and effective public administration. While rules, laws, and regulations provide a framework for accountability, ethical governance goes beyond compliance and demands a deeper commitment to integrity, fairness, and public-service values.

Public administration operates at the intersection of authority and discretion. Administrators often encounter situations where rules may be inadequate or ambiguous. In such cases, **ethical values**—such as honesty, objectivity, transparency, compassion, public interest, and justice—guide decision-making. For example, a public servant dealing with welfare schemes must balance procedural rigour with empathy for vulnerable beneficiaries.

Ethical governance also addresses challenges of **conflict of interest, corruption, nepotism, favouritism, political interference, and abuse of discretion**. The lack of ethical conduct weakens trust in government institutions. Ethical failures—such as leakage in welfare schemes, biased policing, or opaque regulatory processes—can reduce policy legitimacy.

Modern administration requires values such as **responsiveness, citizen-centricity, social equity, environmental consciousness, and respect for diversity**. Initiatives like Sevottam, citizen charters, RTI Act, and e-governance strengthen ethical accountability by reducing human discretion and increasing transparency.

Institutional mechanisms such as **code of conduct, code of ethics, Lokpal, vigilance commissions, social audit, whistleblower protection, e-procurement, and performance audits** reinforce ethical behaviour. However, ethical governance ultimately depends on the **internal moral compass** of public servants. Moral theories—like Kant’s duty-based ethics, Mill’s utilitarianism, and virtue ethics—highlight the importance of intention, consequences, and character.



Training institutions like LBSNAA emphasise **value-based public service**, emotional intelligence, and behavioural ethics to ensure that administrators internalise ethical standards. Ethical leadership also plays a crucial role by modelling integrity and fostering an organisational culture that discourages misconduct.

Thus, ethical governance is a combination of **institutional safeguards and personal virtues**. True governance integrity emerges when civil servants act not merely out of obligation to rules but out of an intrinsic commitment to the public good.

Current Affairs:

Q5. The Supreme Court recently struck down key provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, calling them unconstitutional. Examine the constitutional principles involved and discuss the implications for India's tribunal system.

Sample Answer:

The Supreme Court's decision to strike down key provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 is a major development in India's administrative justice system. The Court held that several sections of the Act violated principles of **judicial independence**, the **basic structure**, and repeated earlier directions, thereby undermining the separation of powers.

One of the contentious provisions was the **four-year tenure** for tribunal members, which the Court deemed insufficient to guarantee independence. The Court reaffirmed its earlier judgments (Madras Bar Association cases) that required a **minimum tenure of five years**, preferably higher. A short tenure creates insecurity and allows potential executive influence.

Another provision struck down was the **age criteria**, which required advocates to have minimum experience of 25 years. This, the Court held, unreasonably restricted competent advocates and violated equality under Article 14. The provision allowing the government to appoint members from a shortlist forwarded by the Selection Committee also diluted judicial primacy in appointments. The Court insisted that the government must appoint candidates **only from the list recommended**, ensuring non-interference by the executive.

The judgment reinforces the doctrine of **separation of powers**, stating that tribunals cannot become extensions of the executive. Since tribunals replace High Courts in many matters, they must maintain similar independence, autonomy, and security of service conditions.

The implications are significant. First, it strengthens **judicial oversight** over tribunal functioning and ensures that the executive cannot dominate appointments. Second, it forces the government to rework the Tribunal Reforms Act to align with constitutional principles. Third, the judgment protects litigants' right to fair adjudication, especially in specialised fields such as taxation, corporate law, and environment regulation.

However, challenges remain: tribunal vacancies continue to slow justice delivery; administrative control by sponsoring ministries persists; and lack of uniformity across tribunals complicates governance.

Nevertheless, the judgment marks an important step in reaffirming that **tribunals must function as independent judicial bodies**, safeguarding the basic structure of the Constitution.