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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **AUGUST 6, 2026**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the **Later Vedic Age**, consider the following statements:

1. The emergence of territorial kingdoms was accompanied by the growing importance of hereditary kingship, although the *Sabha* and *Samiti* continued to exist.
2. The *Rajasuya* sacrifice primarily symbolized military conquest over foreign territories rather than ritual recognition of the king's sovereignty by his own subjects.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Neither 1 nor 2
- (d) Both 1 and 2

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** During the Later Vedic period, tribal polities gradually transformed into territorial kingdoms (*Janapadas*). Kingship increasingly became hereditary, though assemblies such as the *Sabha* and *Samiti* survived with declining influence.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** *Rajasuya* was primarily a royal consecration ritual legitimizing the king's authority over his realm. Although military success enhanced prestige, the ritual itself was not intended mainly to celebrate foreign conquests.

Value Addition:

- *Ashvamedha* symbolized imperial supremacy.
- *Vajapeya* emphasized royal power and prosperity.
- The decline of tribal institutions marked the transition toward state formation.

Q2. Which one of the following ecosystem services is generally regarded as the **most effective long-term natural mechanism** for stabilizing atmospheric carbon while simultaneously improving soil fertility?

- (a) Coral reef calcification
- (b) Peatland formation
- (c) Mangrove litter decomposition
- (d) Tropical grassland grazing

Answer: (b) Peatland formation

Explanation:

- Peatlands accumulate partially decomposed organic matter under waterlogged conditions, locking away enormous quantities of carbon for thousands of years.
- They function as one of the world's largest terrestrial carbon sinks while improving hydrological regulation.
- Coral reefs primarily store carbon in calcium carbonate but are not major long-term terrestrial carbon sinks.

- Mangrove litter decomposes relatively rapidly unless buried.
- Grassland grazing alone does not ensure permanent carbon sequestration.

Value Addition:

- Though peatlands occupy only a small fraction of Earth's land surface, they store disproportionately large quantities of global soil carbon.

Q3. With reference to **capital market instruments in India**, consider the following statements:

1. A rights issue necessarily increases the paid-up share capital only when existing shareholders subscribe to the offered shares.
2. Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) can be undertaken only by listed companies.
3. Bonus shares raise fresh capital for the issuing company without changing its reserves.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** Rights shares increase paid-up capital only to the extent that shares are actually subscribed.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** SEBI permits QIPs only for listed companies to raise capital from Qualified Institutional Buyers without elaborate public issue procedures.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect.** Bonus shares are issued by capitalizing reserves. They do **not** bring fresh funds into the company; reserves decrease while share capital increases.

Value Addition:

- Rights Issue → Existing shareholders.
- QIP → Institutional investors.
- Bonus Issue → Capitalization of reserves.
- Preferential Issue → Selected investors.

Q4. With reference to the **Constitutional position of the Governor**, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor may reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President even if the Constitution does not expressly mandate such reservation.
2. Once a State Bill is reserved for the President, the Governor has no constitutional authority to withdraw that reservation.
3. The President is constitutionally bound to either assent or withhold assent to every reserved Bill within a specified time limit.

4. The Governor can return a Money Bill passed by the State Legislature for reconsideration.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** Article 200 gives discretionary scope to reserve certain Bills beyond cases where reservation is mandatory.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** After reservation, the matter passes to the President under Article 201; the Governor cannot subsequently recall the Bill.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect.** The Constitution prescribes **no time limit** for Presidential assent to State Bills.
- **Statement 4 is Incorrect.** A Money Bill cannot be returned by the Governor for reconsideration.

Value Addition:

- Article 200 → Governor's options regarding Bills.
- Article 201 → President's consideration of reserved Bills.
- Recent constitutional debates have focused on delays in assent by Governors and the President.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A):

Most of the world's major hot deserts occur in the subtropical belt around 20°–30° latitude.

Reason I:

Descending air associated with the Hadley Cell creates persistent high-pressure conditions that suppress cloud formation.

Reason II:

These regions receive abundant rainfall from equatorial low-pressure systems throughout the year.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Assertion is correct, Reason I is correct, and Reason I is the correct explanation of the Assertion, but Reason II is incorrect.
- (b) Assertion is correct, Reason I and Reason II are both correct, but only Reason II explains the Assertion.
- (c) Assertion is incorrect, but both Reason I and Reason II are correct.
- (d) Assertion is correct, but both Reason I and Reason II are incorrect.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Assertion is Correct.** Deserts such as the Sahara, Arabian, Kalahari, Australian, and Atacama are concentrated in the subtropical high-pressure belt.

- **Reason I is Correct.** Descending dry air inhibits condensation and precipitation, producing arid climatic conditions.
- **Reason II is Incorrect.** Equatorial low-pressure systems produce heavy rainfall near the Equator, not in the subtropical high-pressure belt.

Value Addition:

- Subtropical deserts result primarily from global atmospheric circulation.
- Cold ocean currents and continentality may further intensify aridity, but the Hadley Cell remains the principal global control.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. With reference to the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, recently inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, consider the following statements:

1. The Ashokan Pillar at Sarnath originally bore inscriptions in both Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts, reflecting the cosmopolitan nature of Mauryan administration.
2. The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Sarnath is linked both to its archaeological remains and to its continued association with one of Buddhism's most sacred events.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Neither 1 nor 2
- (d) Both 1 and 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect.** The Sarnath Ashokan Pillar inscription is in **Brahmi script**. There is no Kharosthi inscription on the pillar. UPSC often tests confusion between Ashokan inscriptions found in north-western India and those of the Gangetic plains.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** UNESCO recognised Sarnath not merely because of its archaeological remains but also because it is the site where the Buddha delivered the **First Sermon (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta)**.

2. Which one of the following statements best distinguishes the recently launched Corporate Mitra Scheme from conventional government financial assistance programmes?

- (a) It primarily facilitates institutional mentoring, business integration and market access rather than direct fiscal support.
- (b) It provides statutory tax exemptions to all participating MSMEs.
- (c) It creates a sovereign venture capital fund exclusively for AI startups.
- (d) It mandates compulsory CSR funding for all registered companies.

Answer: (a)

Explanation

The distinguishing feature of the scheme is that it seeks to leverage **corporate expertise, mentorship, technology transfer and market access**, instead of providing direct budgetary grants or tax incentives.

UPSC Trap

The examiner may include attractive fiscal options, although the scheme is essentially an **ecosystem-building initiative**.

3. With reference to BitChat Repositories, consider the following statements:

1. Public availability of source code enables independent verification of security architecture but does not itself guarantee software security.
2. A decentralized messaging protocol necessarily eliminates all single points of failure under every operational condition.
3. Open-source repositories permit community-led identification and correction of software vulnerabilities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** Open-source code increases transparency but cannot eliminate implementation flaws.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** Decentralization reduces dependence on centralized infrastructure but cannot eliminate every possible failure point.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Community auditing is one of the principal strengths of open-source repositories.

UPSC Trap

UPSC increasingly differentiates between **transparency, security, privacy, and resilience**, which are related but distinct concepts.

4. With reference to the Kimi K3 AI Model, consider the following statements:

1. The routing mechanism in a Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) architecture selectively activates only certain expert networks during inference.
2. Increasing the total number of parameters in an MoE model necessarily increases the computational cost per generated token in the same proportion.
3. Sparse activation is intended to improve scalability while maintaining computational efficiency.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** MoE models activate only selected experts for each token.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** Since only a subset of experts is activated, computational cost does not necessarily increase in proportion to total parameters.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Sparse activation is the defining characteristic of MoE architecture.

UPSC Trap

UPSC may test whether aspirants incorrectly assume that **more parameters always mean proportionately higher computation.**

5. With reference to the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), consider the following statements:

1. The NBA is the designated national authority responsible for implementing India's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework under the Biological Diversity Act.
2. Every foreign individual or company intending to obtain biological resources from India for research purposes can do so without NBA approval if the research is conducted jointly with an Indian institution.
3. Biodiversity Management Committees function primarily at the level of local self-government institutions.
4. State Biodiversity Boards possess identical statutory powers as the National Biodiversity Authority in matters involving foreign access to biological resources.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

(d) All four

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** NBA is India's apex statutory authority for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** Foreign access remains regulated and approval requirements continue under the Biological Diversity framework.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are constituted by local bodies.
- **Statement 4 is Incorrect.** Matters involving foreign entities fall principally within the jurisdiction of the NBA, not the State Biodiversity Boards.

UPSC Trap

Many aspirants confuse the respective jurisdictions of the **NBA, State Biodiversity Boards, and Biodiversity Management Committees.**

6. With reference to the Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora, consider the following statements:

1. The site is situated on the Crimean Peninsula along the northern coast of the Black Sea.
2. The term "**Chora**" refers to the systematically planned agricultural hinterland associated with an ancient Greek city-state.
3. The site represents a continuous cultural sequence reflecting Greek, Roman and Byzantine influences.
4. The UNESCO inscription is based exclusively on its military fortifications, with no recognition of its agricultural landscape.

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 Correct.** The site lies near Sevastopol in the **Crimean Peninsula.**
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** In the Greek world, **Chora** denoted the rural agricultural territory supporting the urban settlement.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** The site preserves evidence of successive Greek, Roman and Byzantine occupations.

- **Statement 4 is Incorrect.** UNESCO recognises both the **urban archaeological remains** and the exceptionally preserved **agricultural landscape (Chora)**, not merely the fortifications.

UPSC Trap

The examiner may test the meaning of "**Chora**", which many candidates mistakenly interpret as a fortification or citadel rather than an organised agricultural territory.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. "Globalization has transformed the Indian family from a traditional institution into a dynamic social unit, creating both opportunities and challenges." Critically examine the impact of globalization on the family system in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

Globalization refers to the increasing integration of economies, societies, cultures, and technologies across the world. Since the economic reforms of 1991, globalization has significantly influenced India's social institutions, particularly the family. While it has expanded opportunities through education, employment, migration, and digital connectivity, it has also altered traditional family structures, values, and relationships.

Impact of Globalization on the Indian Family System

1. Shift from Joint to Nuclear Families

- Increased urbanization and migration have encouraged nuclear families.
- Employment opportunities in cities have reduced dependence on traditional joint family structures.
- Greater privacy and individual autonomy have emerged.

2. Changing Gender Roles

- Rising female education and workforce participation have improved women's economic independence.
- Decision-making within households has become more egalitarian.
- Traditional patriarchal norms are gradually weakening.

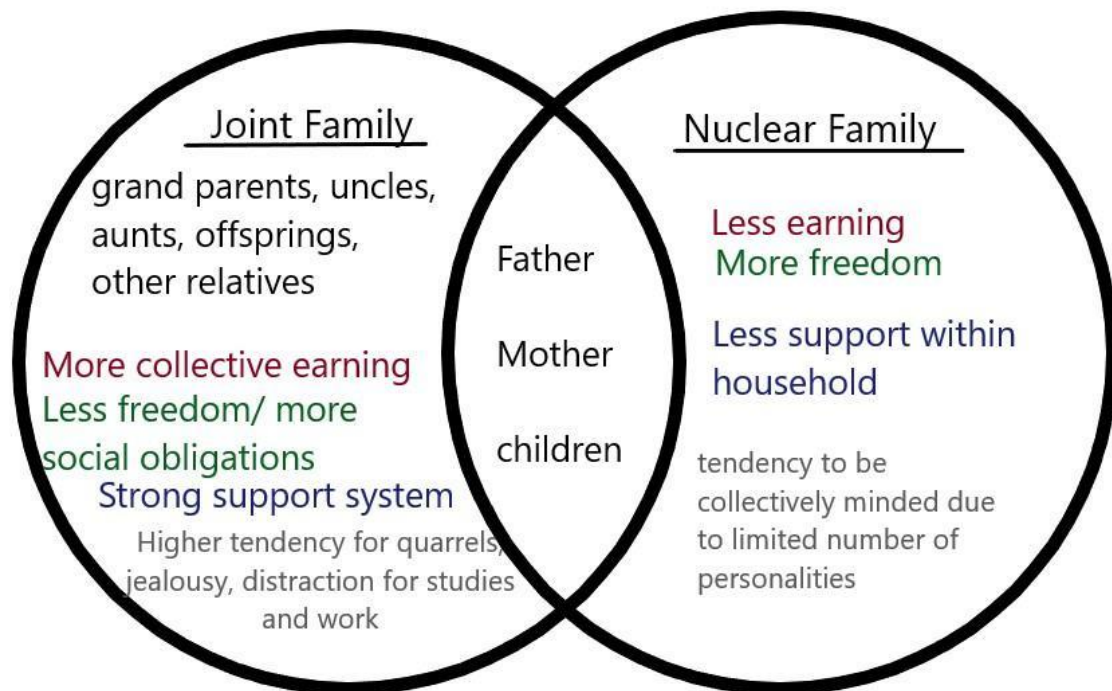
3. Individualism over Collectivism

- Greater emphasis on personal aspirations and career choices.
- Increased acceptance of inter-caste and inter-religious marriages.

- Growing preference for independent lifestyles.

4. Technological Transformation

- Digital communication enables transnational families to remain connected.
- Online education and work-from-home have reshaped family interactions.
- However, excessive digital dependence may reduce face-to-face communication.



5. Demographic Changes

- Delayed marriages and declining fertility.
- Rising elderly population living separately.
- Increasing number of single-person households.

Positive Outcomes

- Greater educational opportunities.
- Economic empowerment of women.
- Better access to healthcare and global knowledge.
- Increased social mobility.
- Enhanced exposure to diverse cultures and values.

Challenges

- Decline in traditional support systems.
- Rising work-life imbalance.
- Increasing divorce and separation in urban areas.
- Psychological stress and loneliness among elderly.

- Consumerism and weakening of family values.

Critical Analysis

Globalization has not uniformly affected all families. Urban and educated households have experienced greater structural transformation, whereas rural families continue to retain several traditional characteristics. Simultaneously, technology has created "virtual joint families," where emotional bonds are maintained despite geographical separation.

A balanced perspective suggests that the challenge lies not in globalization itself but in managing its social consequences through family-friendly workplaces, community support systems, and value-based education.

Conclusion

Globalization has redefined the Indian family by making it more adaptive, inclusive, and economically empowered. At the same time, preserving intergenerational bonding, care for the elderly, and cultural values remains essential. The future of the Indian family lies in combining modern aspirations with traditional social cohesion.

Q2. "The Anti-Defection Law has strengthened political stability but weakened legislative accountability." Critically examine the working of the Anti-Defection Law in India. Suggest reforms to address its shortcomings. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

The Anti-Defection Law was introduced through the **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985**, by inserting the **Tenth Schedule** into the Constitution. It seeks to curb political defections motivated by the lure of office or personal gain, thereby promoting stability in parliamentary democracy.

Salient Features

- Applies to Members of Parliament and State Legislatures.
- Disqualification occurs if a member:
 - Voluntarily gives up membership of a political party.
 - Votes or abstains contrary to the party whip without prior permission.
- The **91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** removed the exemption for splits and retained only mergers (requiring two-thirds of members).

Significance

1. Political Stability

- Prevents frequent changes in government.
- Reduces opportunistic floor-crossing.

2. Strengthening Party System

- Encourages party discipline.

- Ensures implementation of the electoral mandate.

3. Protecting Democratic Mandate

- Prevents legislators from betraying voter confidence for personal gains.

Limitations

Whip on All Matters

- Members cannot vote according to conscience even on ordinary legislation.
- Weakens deliberative democracy.

Speaker's Role

- The Speaker decides disqualification petitions.
- Questions regarding impartiality have arisen in several cases.

Delay in Decisions

- No constitutional time limit.
- Delayed rulings can alter government formation.

Mass Defections

- Two-thirds merger provision has occasionally enabled large-scale defections.

Judicial Perspective

- **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992):** Upheld constitutional validity while allowing judicial review.
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh (2020):** The Supreme Court recommended that Speakers decide defection cases within a reasonable period, ordinarily around **three months**, except in exceptional circumstances.

Suggested Reforms

- Restrict the binding whip only to:
 - Confidence motions.
 - No-confidence motions.
 - Money Bills.
- Transfer adjudicatory powers from the Speaker to an independent tribunal or the Election Commission-backed mechanism.
- Prescribe a statutory time limit for deciding petitions.
- Increase transparency in proceedings.

Conclusion

The Anti-Defection Law has undoubtedly enhanced governmental stability but has also curtailed legislative independence. Reforming the law to balance party discipline with democratic debate is essential for strengthening India's parliamentary democracy.

Q3. India follows a pluralistic healthcare system in which different medicinal systems coexist. Discuss the significance of various medicinal systems in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India. Also examine the challenges associated with their integration. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

India possesses one of the world's most diverse healthcare traditions, comprising modern medicine (Allopathy) and the traditional systems collectively promoted under **AYUSH**—Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homeopathy. These systems, recognized by the Government of India, contribute significantly to preventive, promotive and curative healthcare. Their scientific integration can play an important role in achieving **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** under **SDG 3**.

Major Medicinal Systems in India

1. Ayurveda

- One of the oldest holistic medicinal systems.
- Emphasizes balance of **Tridoshas** (Vata, Pitta and Kapha).
- Strong focus on preventive healthcare and lifestyle modification.

2. Yoga & Naturopathy

- Promotes physical and mental well-being.
- Effective in lifestyle disorders, stress management and rehabilitation.

3. Unani

- Based on the concept of balance among bodily humours.
- Widely practiced in several regions of India.

4. Siddha

- Originated in South India.
- Particularly recognized for management of chronic ailments.

5. Homeopathy

- Based on the principle of "Like cures Like."
- Used extensively for chronic and allergic conditions.

6. Modern Medicine (Allopathy)

- Evidence-based system.
- Highly effective for emergency care, surgery, infectious diseases and critical care.



Significance for Universal Health Coverage

Improves Accessibility

- AYUSH practitioners strengthen healthcare delivery in rural and underserved regions.

Promotes Preventive Healthcare

- Yoga and Ayurveda encourage healthy lifestyles, reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases.

Cost-effective Healthcare

- Several traditional therapies are comparatively affordable.

Preservation of Traditional Knowledge

- Protects India's rich medicinal heritage and indigenous knowledge systems.

Boosts Medical Tourism

- India has emerged as a global destination for Ayurveda and Yoga-based wellness.

Supports Integrative Healthcare

- Appropriate integration can provide patient-centric treatment options.

Challenges

- Limited high-quality clinical evidence for some therapies.
- Standardization and quality control issues.
- Variations in education and clinical practices.
- Need for stronger pharmacovigilance.
- Public misconceptions regarding the role and limitations of different systems.
- Shortage of interdisciplinary research.

Government Initiatives

- Ministry of AYUSH
- National AYUSH Mission
- Ayushman Bharat
- National Digital Health Mission
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (Jamnagar)

Way Forward

- Promote evidence-based validation of traditional medicine.
- Strengthen interdisciplinary medical education.
- Standardize medicines and treatment protocols.
- Increase investment in clinical research.

- Encourage integrated primary healthcare.

Conclusion

India's pluralistic healthcare system is a unique strength. Rather than viewing different medicinal systems as competing models, they should be integrated scientifically to provide affordable, accessible and patient-centred healthcare. A balanced combination of modern medicine and evidence-based traditional knowledge can substantially contribute to Universal Health Coverage.

Q4. "Integrity is not merely an individual virtue but the foundation of ethical governance." Discuss the importance of integrity in public administration. Suggest institutional measures to strengthen ethical governance in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

Integrity refers to unwavering adherence to moral values, honesty, impartiality and accountability in both public and private life. In public administration, integrity is the cornerstone of ethical governance as it strengthens public trust, ensures transparency and promotes efficient delivery of public services. The **Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2nd ARC)** described ethics as the foundation of good governance.

Importance of Integrity in Public Administration

1. Enhances Public Trust

- Citizens develop confidence in institutions that function honestly and transparently.

2. Prevents Corruption

- Ethical decision-making minimizes abuse of public office for private gain.

3. Promotes Rule of Law

- Decisions are guided by constitutional values rather than personal interests.

4. Ensures Efficient Service Delivery

- Resources are utilized for intended public purposes.

5. Strengthens Democratic Governance

- Accountability and transparency improve institutional legitimacy.

6. Builds Professional Credibility

- Honest officers inspire confidence among colleagues and citizens alike.

Challenges to Integrity

- Political interference
- Conflict of interest
- Corruption
- Weak accountability mechanisms
- Lack of ethical training
- Delays in disciplinary proceedings



Institutional Measures

Legal Measures

- Prevention of Corruption Act
- Right to Information Act
- Whistle Blowers Protection Act
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act

Administrative Measures

- E-governance
- Social audits
- Citizen Charters
- Performance-based evaluation
- Transparent recruitment and procurement

Ethical Measures

- Continuous ethics training
- Leadership by example
- Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct
- Value-based civil service education

Relevant Ethical Thinkers

- **Mahatma Gandhi:** *Means are as important as ends.*
- **Max Weber:** Rational-legal authority strengthens impartial administration.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** Civil servants are the "Steel Frame" of India.

Case Illustration

During disaster management, an officer with integrity ensures that relief materials reach the intended beneficiaries without discrimination or diversion, thereby protecting both public resources and human dignity.

Conclusion

Integrity transforms governance from mere administration into public service. Strong institutions, transparent processes, ethical leadership and accountable governance are indispensable for nurturing integrity in India's administrative system. Ethical governance ultimately strengthens constitutional democracy and inclusive development.

Q5. The Nandan Nilekani-led Task Force on Examination Reforms seeks to transform India's examination ecosystem by leveraging technology, governance reforms and institutional accountability. Discuss the major recommendations of the Task Force. Examine their significance as well as the challenges in their implementation. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

The **Nandan Nilekani-led Task Force on Examination Reforms** was constituted to recommend comprehensive reforms for strengthening India's examination ecosystem. The Task Force was entrusted with suggesting measures to improve **fairness, transparency, security, technological resilience, and governance** in public examinations, particularly in the backdrop of increasing incidents of question paper leaks, impersonation, cyber fraud and logistical challenges. Its recommendations aim to build a **credible, technology-enabled and future-ready examination system**.

Why was the Task Force Needed?

- Repeated incidents of paper leaks in competitive examinations.
- Growing use of digital technologies requiring robust cybersecurity.
- Need for standardized examination processes across agencies.
- Declining public confidence in recruitment examinations.
- Increasing scale of national-level examinations involving millions of candidates.

Major Recommendations of the Task Force

1. Digital-First Examination Ecosystem

- Gradual transition towards **Computer-Based Tests (CBTs)** wherever feasible.
- Expansion of secure examination centres across districts.
- Standardization of digital examination infrastructure.



2. Strengthening Cybersecurity

- Multi-layer encryption of question papers.
- Secure transmission protocols.
- AI-enabled monitoring for suspicious digital activities.
- Regular cybersecurity audits.

3. Institutional Reforms

- Clearly defined accountability of examination authorities.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for every stage of examinations.
- Independent audit mechanisms for examination agencies.

4. Technology Integration

- AI-based anomaly detection.
- Biometric authentication of candidates.
- Digital identity verification.
- Real-time monitoring dashboards.

5. Capacity Building

- Regular training of examination personnel.
- Cybersecurity awareness programmes.
- Certification standards for examination centres.

6. Data Governance

- Secure storage of candidate data.
- Privacy-by-design architecture.
- Compliance with data protection principles.
- Controlled access to examination databases.

Significance of the Recommendations**Enhances Credibility**

A transparent and secure examination system restores public confidence.

Promotes Meritocracy

Reduces opportunities for unfair practices and strengthens equal opportunity.

Improves Administrative Efficiency

Automation minimizes human error and expedites evaluation and result processing.

Strengthens National Security

Secure digital systems reduce organized examination-related fraud.

Supports Digital India

Promotes adoption of modern digital infrastructure in public administration.

Facilitates Better Governance

Data-driven monitoring enables evidence-based policy interventions.

Challenges in Implementation

Digital Divide

Rural and remote regions may face inadequate digital infrastructure.

Cybersecurity Risks

Sophisticated cyberattacks continue to evolve rapidly.

Financial Constraints

Large-scale modernization requires substantial investment.

Capacity Constraints

Training personnel across multiple examination agencies remains a major challenge.

Privacy Concerns

Use of biometric authentication and AI must comply with data protection safeguards.

Institutional Coordination

Effective implementation requires coordination among the Union Government, States, examination agencies and technology providers.

Way Forward

- Develop a **National Examination Digital Infrastructure Framework**.
- Establish an independent **National Examination Security Authority** for periodic audits.
- Introduce mandatory cybersecurity certification for examination centres.
- Adopt AI responsibly with human oversight.
- Strengthen legal deterrence against examination malpractices.
- Expand high-quality CBT centres to underserved districts.
- Conduct regular mock audits and disaster recovery exercises.

Conclusion

The recommendations of the **Nandan Nilekani-led Task Force** represent an important step towards creating a **transparent, secure, technology-driven and trustworthy examination ecosystem**. However, technology alone cannot eliminate examination malpractice. Sustainable reforms require a combination of **institutional accountability, robust legal safeguards, cybersecurity preparedness, administrative capacity and public trust**. If implemented effectively, these reforms can significantly strengthen the credibility of India's

education and recruitment systems while advancing the broader objectives of **Digital India** and **good governance**.

