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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE**

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 02/09/2025 (TUESDAY)

- **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 the Rigvedic age:

1. Ritual sacrifices (yajnas) during the Rigvedic period were primarily performed in permanent temples made of stone and brick.
2. The political structure of Rigvedic tribes was largely based on kinship units rather than territorial control.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Rigvedic society did not have permanent temples; yajnas were conducted in open spaces without idol worship or stone structures. The concept of elaborate temples developed much later.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Rigvedic polity was tribal in nature, where kinship ties determined authority, and the jana (tribe) was more important than territory. Kingship was weak and largely confined to protection and distribution of spoils.

Q2. Which of the following species is recognized as a "keystone species" in tropical rainforests due to its role in maintaining ecosystem diversity?

- (a) Fig trees
- (b) Bamboo
- (c) Sal trees
- (d) Teak trees

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Fig trees are considered a keystone species in tropical ecosystems because they fruit multiple times a year, providing food when other fruits are scarce.
- Many birds, bats, primates, and insects depend on them for survival, thus stabilizing the food web.
- Bamboo, Sal, and Teak are ecologically significant but not keystone in the same sense.

Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to India's Balance of Payments (BoP):

1. A current account deficit can be fully offset by capital account inflows, keeping the overall BoP balanced.
2. Capital inflows through External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) increase India's external debt position.



3. A persistent current account deficit, even when financed by capital inflows, may exert depreciation pressure on the domestic currency.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: By definition, BoP must balance; deficits in current account are matched by capital inflows or depletion of forex reserves.
- Statement 2 is correct: ECBs are borrowings from abroad, thus adding to India's external debt liability.
- Statement 3 is correct: Sustained current account deficits weaken confidence in currency, leading to depreciation pressures even if temporarily covered by inflows.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of the Rajya Sabha:

1. It can initiate a motion to remove the Vice-President of India.
2. It can pass a resolution empowering Parliament to make laws on subjects in the State List, in national interest.
3. It plays a decisive role in approving a proclamation of emergency under Article 352.
4. It cannot be dissolved, but it can be prorogued by the President.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Rajya Sabha initiates the motion for removal of the Vice-President; the Lok Sabha agrees subsequently.
- Statement 2 is correct: Under Article 249, Rajya Sabha may pass a resolution with a 2/3rd majority empowering Parliament to legislate on State List subjects.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: For national emergency (Article 352), approval requires both Houses; Lok Sabha holds greater weight since failure to approve in Lok Sabha leads to lapse of proclamation.
- Statement 4 is correct: Rajya Sabha is a permanent body (not subject to dissolution) but sessions may be prorogued.



Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Quantum key distribution (QKD) is considered highly secure for communication systems.

Reason (R): QKD enables two parties to share encryption keys by using the principles of classical cryptography, which cannot be intercepted without detection.

- (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: (c)

Explanation:

- Assertion is true: QKD provides security because it relies on quantum mechanics—any attempt to intercept or measure quantum bits (qubits) disturbs them, revealing eavesdropping attempts.
- Reason is false: The mechanism is not based on classical cryptography; instead, it depends on quantum entanglement and the no-cloning theorem.
- Hence, A is correct and R is wrong.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the indigenous handheld brain tool ‘CEREBO’, consider the following statements:

1. It uses near-infrared spectroscopy (not CT/MRI) and has received Indian regulatory clearance for rapid point-of-care screening of intracranial bleeding within minutes.
2. It produces diagnostic images using ionizing radiation similar to a CT scan and is therefore unsuitable for ambulance or field use.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

CEREBO is an indigenous innovation aimed at solving a major healthcare gap in India: timely diagnosis of brain hemorrhage, especially in accident and stroke patients. It is a handheld device that works on the principle of near-infrared spectroscopy combined with AI/ML algorithms to detect bleeding inside the skull in just a few minutes. This allows doctors and even paramedics to triage patients rapidly in ambulances, rural hospitals, or disaster zones. Unlike CT scans or MRI, it does not emit ionizing radiation and does not require bulky infrastructure. Hence, statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect because CEREBO does not generate diagnostic imaging like CT/MRI and is explicitly designed for field usability.



Q2. The term “\$WLFI”, recently seen in the news, best refers to:

- (a) A tradeable crypto token associated with the private venture World Liberty Financial.
- (b) Japan’s central bank digital currency pilot (popularly called DCJPY).
- (c) India’s RBI retail CBDC token for general public use.
- (d) A rupee-linked stablecoin fully backed by Government of India securities.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

\$WLFI refers to the token linked with *World Liberty Financial*, a private initiative positioned in the digital asset ecosystem. Unlike sovereign-backed digital currencies (such as India’s e₹ or Japan’s DCJPY), this token is essentially a **crypto asset**, subject to volatility and private market dynamics. It highlights the growing role of private players in creating alternative financial instruments parallel to state-backed currencies. Thus, option (a) is correct, while the other options confuse it with state-led digital currency projects.

Q3. With reference to the “Digital Yen – DCJPY”, consider the following statements:

- 1. DCJPY is a private deposit-token platform operated by DeCurret DCP with participation from major Japanese banks for settlement of tokenized assets.
- 2. DCJPY is Japan’s retail CBDC issued by the Bank of Japan and replaces commercial bank deposits with central-bank money.
- 3. The infrastructure has been piloted for on-chain settlement use-cases such as tokenized commercial paper and environmental value/credits.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The DCJPY initiative is a private sector-led digital currency platform, backed by the *Digital Currency Forum* and spearheaded by DeCurret DCP in partnership with Japanese megabanks. Its design is fundamentally different from a central bank digital currency: it tokenizes commercial bank deposits rather than creating new sovereign money. Hence, statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect because the Bank of Japan has not issued a retail CBDC; its CBDC trials are separate from DCJPY. Statement 3 is correct because pilots have successfully tested DCJPY for settlement of tokenized commercial paper, energy credits, and environmental value trading. This represents Japan’s attempt to integrate blockchain into its mainstream banking sector.

Q4. Under the current form of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), consider the following statements:

- 1. With effect from 1 January 2024, free foodgrains are provided to all NFSA beneficiaries for five years.



- Both Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Household (PHH) beneficiaries are covered.
- From 2024 onward, States bear the food subsidy while the Union only reimburses transport margins.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

PMGKAY, which initially started as a COVID-19 relief scheme, has now been **institutionalized as a free foodgrain program under NFSA from 1 January 2024 for five years**. This ensures continuity of food security for around 81 crore beneficiaries. Both **AAY households (the poorest of the poor)** and **Priority Households (identified under NFSA criteria)** are entitled to free rations. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is incorrect because the financial burden of food subsidy continues to be borne entirely by the Union Government, not the States. This marks a major welfare expansion, though it also raises questions about fiscal sustainability.

Q5. Concerning the Indo–US Army exercise “Yudh Abhyas”, consider the following statements:

- The 21st edition is scheduled at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, during 1–14 September 2025.
- “Yudh Abhyas” is a tri-service (Army–Navy–Air Force) exercise conducted by both countries.
- Recent iterations emphasize cold-weather/high-altitude operations and UN peacekeeping tasks.
- It is an annual exercise that generally alternates between venues in India and the United States.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

“Yudh Abhyas” is one of the largest joint military exercises between India and the United States, conducted annually since 2004. The 21st edition will take place at **Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in September 2025**. The exercise is purely an **Army-to-Army engagement** (not tri-service), so statement 2 is wrong. Its focus in recent years has been on **high-altitude and cold-weather warfare**, given India’s Himalayan challenges, along with **UN peacekeeping operations**, which is relevant to India’s global role. The exercise alternates between Indian and US locations, strengthening interoperability. Thus, statements 1, 3, and 4 are correct.

Q6. “Mount Markham” is correctly located in which of the following regions?

- The Queen Elizabeth Range along the Shackleton Coast (Transantarctic Mountains), Antarctica.
- The Alaska Range north of the Alaska Peninsula, USA.



- (c) The Southern Alps near Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, New Zealand.
(d) The Canadian Rockies on the Alberta–British Columbia border.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Mount Markham, with an elevation of about **4,350 metres**, is a massive twin-peaked mountain located in the **Queen Elizabeth Range of the Transantarctic Mountains, Antarctica**. Its prominence and unique twin peaks make it a landmark feature of the Shackleton Coast. This often leads to confusion because mountain ranges in New Zealand, Alaska, or Canada also host similar namesakes. For UPSC, distinguishing Antarctic geography is crucial as questions often target lesser-known physical features rather than famous ones like Mount Erebus.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS–1:

Q1. "Examine the contributions of the Bhakti and Sufi movements in bridging social and religious divisions in medieval India. How far did they succeed in shaping a pluralistic ethos?"

Answer:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements, emerging between the 8th and 17th centuries, profoundly influenced medieval Indian society. They arose as responses to rigid orthodoxy, caste barriers, and ritualism, offering spiritual alternatives rooted in equality, devotion, and inner experience.

The **Bhakti movement**, spearheaded by saints like Ramanuja, Kabir, Mirabai, and Tukaram, emphasized personal devotion (bhakti) to a chosen deity rather than ritualistic practices. Its message transcended caste and gender. Kabir's couplets, for instance, directly attacked both Hindu and Muslim orthodoxy, preaching the unity of God. Similarly, Mirabai's devotion challenged patriarchal norms and caste hierarchies. The movement spread in vernacular languages, ensuring accessibility to common people, thereby democratizing religion.

The **Sufi movement**, through saints like Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, Nizamuddin Auliya, and Bulleh Shah, emphasized love, tolerance, and service to humanity. Their khanqahs (hospices) became centers of cultural assimilation, where people of all backgrounds interacted. The Sufi principle of *wahdat-al-wujud* (unity of existence) resonated with the Bhakti idea of divine immanence, creating a common spiritual vocabulary.

Together, these movements promoted **pluralism**. They challenged orthodoxy, weakened social barriers, and fostered communal harmony. Their syncretic traditions influenced music, art, and literature—Bhajans, Qawwalis, and poetry reflected this fusion.



However, the success was partial. While they reduced social exclusiveness and laid the foundation for composite culture, caste rigidity and communal divisions persisted. With the later advent of religious revivalism and political conflicts, their unifying influence weakened.

In conclusion, Bhakti and Sufi movements played a transformative role in bridging divisions, shaping India's pluralistic ethos. Their enduring legacy lies in India's cultural syncretism and the values of tolerance, inclusivity, and spiritual democracy.

GS-2:

Q2. "Discuss the role of the Governor in India's federal structure. How do recurring controversies reflect tensions between constitutional ideals and political realities?"

Answer:

The office of the Governor in India occupies a unique place in the federal structure, serving as the constitutional head of the state and as a link between the Union and the state governments. The Constituent Assembly envisioned the Governor as a neutral, apolitical authority safeguarding constitutional provisions.

Constitutional Role:

Articles 153–162 outline the Governor's functions. He acts as the executive head, appoints the Chief Minister, and ensures government functions according to constitutional norms. He also has discretionary powers such as recommending President's Rule (Art. 356), reserving bills for the President's assent, and giving assent to ordinances.

Controversies and Challenges:

Despite the constitutional vision, controversies are frequent:

- **Appointment and removal:** Governors are centrally appointed and hold office at the President's pleasure, raising concerns of political bias.
- **Hung assemblies:** Governors' discretion in inviting parties to form governments often invites allegations of partisanship, as seen in Goa (2017) and Karnataka (2018).
- **Article 356 misuse:** Multiple instances, especially before the Bommai judgment (1994), reflect Governors recommending President's Rule for political motives.
- **Withholding assent to bills:** Recent standoffs, such as in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, highlight tensions between elected state governments and Governors.

The Supreme Court has sought to clarify roles, especially in **SR Bommai (1994)** and **Nabam Rebia (2016)**, limiting arbitrary discretion. Yet, political realities continue to overshadow constitutional ideals.

Way Forward:

- Depoliticizing the appointment process, perhaps via a collegium system.
- Clear codification of discretionary powers to minimize misuse.
- Encouraging cooperative federalism to reduce friction.

In conclusion, while the Governor's office is essential to India's federal balance, its credibility depends on neutrality and adherence to constitutional spirit. Current controversies highlight the need for reforms to align practice with constitutional ideals.



GS-3:

Q3. "Terrorism has significant economic repercussions. Examine the impact of terror attacks on India's tourism sector, with particular reference to Jammu & Kashmir."

Answer:

Terrorism not only undermines security but also has a direct economic impact, particularly on sensitive sectors like tourism, which relies heavily on perceptions of safety and stability. In India, and more specifically in Jammu & Kashmir, this linkage has been particularly pronounced.

Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir has historically been a major contributor to the local economy, often termed the "crown" of Indian tourism due to its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and pilgrimage sites like Amarnath and Vaishno Devi. The sector generates substantial employment in hospitality, transport, handicrafts, and allied services.

Impact of Terrorism:

- **Decline in tourist inflow:** Each major terror attack or militant incident—whether local (Pulwama, 2019) or high-profile incidents like the Parliament attack—has caused sharp declines in tourist arrivals.
- **Economic losses:** Reduced tourism affects small businesses and artisans, particularly the famed Kashmiri handicraft and shawl industries.
- **Image crisis:** Media portrayal of violence amplifies fear, affecting domestic and international tourists alike.
- **Multiplier effect:** Loss of tourism revenues impacts other sectors such as agriculture, transport, and local trade, worsening unemployment.

Beyond J&K: Nationwide attacks such as the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks also damaged India's global tourism image, leading to cancellations and reduced foreign tourist arrivals.

Mitigation Measures:

- **Security strengthening:** Improved counter-terrorism measures have enhanced safety in tourist zones.
- **Government promotion:** Initiatives like "Incredible India" and subsidies for domestic tourists attempt to offset losses.
- **Alternative tourism:** Promoting adventure tourism and eco-tourism has diversified offerings.

In conclusion, terrorism has deeply hampered the tourism sector, particularly in J&K, but sustained security efforts, infrastructural investments, and confidence-building measures are helping revive the sector. For a sustainable recovery, addressing the root causes of terrorism and fostering peace remain indispensable.

GS-4:

Q4. "Ethical governance is critical to public trust. Discuss how principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity can transform governance in India."

Answer:

Governance derives legitimacy from citizens' trust, which rests on the ethical principles of transparency,



accountability, and integrity. In India, where governance often faces challenges of corruption, inefficiency, and opacity, ethical governance becomes vital.

Transparency involves making governmental processes visible and comprehensible to the public. Tools like the **Right to Information Act (2005)** have empowered citizens to scrutinize decision-making, ensuring inclusiveness. Transparent tendering systems, e-governance portals, and open data platforms reduce scope for favoritism and arbitrary actions.

Accountability ensures that public officials are answerable for their actions. Institutional mechanisms like the CAG, Lokpal, and parliamentary committees embody this principle. Citizen charters, social audits (as in MGNREGA), and grievance redressal mechanisms bring accountability closer to the people.

Integrity refers to the moral uprightness of individuals in positions of authority. Codes of conduct, ethical training, and leadership by example foster integrity. The absence of integrity manifests as nepotism, corruption, and policy capture, which undermine governance.

Together, these principles transform governance in several ways:

- **Enhanced efficiency:** Streamlined processes and reduced red tape.
- **Trust-building:** Citizens are more willing to cooperate when governance is credible.
- **Reduced corruption:** Transparency and accountability act as deterrents.
- **Inclusive growth:** Ethical governance prioritizes equity and fairness.

However, challenges remain. Political patronage, weak enforcement of ethics codes, and lack of whistleblower protection dilute ethical norms.

Way forward involves strengthening institutions, leveraging technology for transparency, protecting whistleblowers, and cultivating ethical leadership.

In conclusion, ethical governance grounded in transparency, accountability, and integrity is indispensable for a democratic polity like India. It is not merely a moral aspiration but a functional necessity for inclusive and sustainable development.

Current Affairs

Q5. "Corruption remains a major obstacle to India's developmental trajectory. Critically analyze its causes, consequences, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures."

Answer:

Corruption, defined as abuse of public office for private gain, is deeply entrenched in India's political, bureaucratic, and business systems. Despite institutional and legal safeguards, corruption continues to impede governance and economic development.

Causes:

- **Systemic factors:** Complex regulations, excessive discretion, and bureaucratic red tape create opportunities for rent-seeking.
- **Political funding:** Opaque financing of elections fuels quid pro quo arrangements.
- **Weak enforcement:** Delay in prosecution and low conviction rates embolden corruption.
- **Cultural acceptance:** Petty bribery is often normalized as a "cost of service delivery."



Consequences:

- **Economic costs:** Misallocation of resources, delays in infrastructure projects, and reduced foreign investment.
- **Social costs:** Erosion of trust in public institutions, inequality, and weakened rule of law.
- **Political costs:** Policy capture by vested interests, weakening democratic accountability.

Measures Taken:

- **Legal framework:** Prevention of Corruption Act (1988, amended 2018), Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013).
- **Institutional mechanisms:** CVC, CBI, state vigilance commissions.
- **Technology tools:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Aadhaar-linked services, and e-procurement have reduced leakages.
- **Judicial interventions:** Supreme Court has acted against arbitrary allocations (e.g., 2G spectrum, coal block cases).

Effectiveness and Challenges:

Despite progress, enforcement remains inconsistent. Political will is selective, and institutions often lack independence. Lokpal, though established, has not realized its potential. Election funding reforms remain incomplete.

Way Forward:

- Electoral reforms for transparent political financing.
- Strengthening autonomy of investigative agencies.
- Enhancing citizen participation through social audits and whistleblower protection.
- Promoting ethical leadership and civic education to change cultural acceptance.

In conclusion, corruption is a systemic malaise that hinders India's development. While anti-corruption measures exist, their effectiveness depends on strong political will, institutional integrity, and active citizenry. A holistic approach combining structural reforms, transparency, and ethics is essential for sustainable progress.