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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 3/11/2025 (MONDAY)

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

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding traditional puppetry in India:

1. In *Tolpavakoothu* of Kerala, leather puppets are used to depict stories from the *Ramayana*, and performances are synchronised with temple rituals.
2. The *Kathputli* of Rajasthan employs rod puppets and is traditionally accompanied by the *Pakhawaj* and *Sarangi*.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Both
(c) None
(d) Cannot be determined from the given information

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:
Statement 1 is **correct**. *Tolpavakoothu* is a shadow puppetry tradition of Kerala using leather puppets to enact episodes from the *Kamba Ramayana*, often performed in temples dedicated to Bhagavati.
Statement 2 is **incorrect**. *Kathputli* uses *string puppets* (not rods). It is associated with Rajasthan's nomadic *Bhat* community, accompanied typically by *dholak* or local string instruments—not *Pakhawaj* and *Sarangi*.
Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q2. Which one of the following regions is *most recently* recognised as part of the global biodiversity hotspots as per the updated classification by Conservation International?

(a) Sundaland
(b) Indo-Burma
(c) Eastern Himalaya
(d) Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa

Answer: (d) Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa

Explanation:
The list of biodiversity hotspots is periodically reviewed by *Conservation International*. While Sundaland, Indo-Burma, and Eastern Himalaya are long-established Asian hotspots, the *Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa* were more recently delineated (as part of hotspot redefinition). These forests extend along the coasts of Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique and are known for high endemism.
Hence, option (d) is correct.

Q3. Consider the following statements about *Money Market instruments* in India:

1. Treasury Bills are issued at a discount and redeemed at par, while Commercial Papers can be issued at either a discount or interest-bearing basis.
2. Certificates of Deposit (CDs) can be issued by both scheduled commercial banks and selected financial institutions, but not by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
3. Call Money Market deals exclusively in funds lent for a period not exceeding 14 days, whereas Notice Money Market deals in funds with maturity beyond 14 days but less than one year.

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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:** Correct. T-Bills are zero-coupon securities issued at a discount and redeemed at par. Commercial Papers (CPs) are short-term, unsecured promissory notes issued by corporates, usually at a discount, though some can be interest-bearing.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. CDs are issued by scheduled commercial banks and select All-India Financial Institutions (like NABARD, SIDBI), not by NBFCs.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. Call Money is for *1 to 14 days*, while Notice Money is *2 to 14 days*. Funds with maturity beyond 14 days fall under *Term Money Market*.
  Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q4. With reference to the *scope of Article 21 of the Constitution of India*, consider the following statements:

1. It includes the right to live with dignity and not merely physical existence.
2. It has been interpreted to encompass environmental protection and right to pollution-free air.
3. It provides for the right to privacy as a part of personal liberty.
4. It explicitly mentions the right to die with dignity in the constitutional text.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only three

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. In *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)*, the Supreme Court held that the right to life includes the right to live with dignity.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. In *Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar (1991)*, the Court recognised the right to pollution-free environment under Article 21.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. The *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)* judgment affirmed the right to privacy as part of personal liberty under Article 21.
- **Statement 4:** Incorrect. The Constitution does *not* explicitly mention the right to die; however, the *Common Cause (2018)* judgment recognised passive euthanasia under Article 21 through judicial interpretation.
  Hence, only three statements are correct.

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Q5. Assertion – Reason type -
Assertion (A): The North Atlantic Drift keeps the western coasts of Europe relatively warm even in high latitudes.

Reason 1 (R_1): It originates as a continuation of the Gulf Stream and carries warm equatorial waters northwards.
Reason 2 (R_2): The prevailing westerlies help in transferring its warmth onto the adjacent coastal lands.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both R_1 and R_2 are correct, and both explain A.
(b) Both R_1 and R_2 are correct, but only R_1 explains A.
(c) R_1 is correct, but R_2 is incorrect.
(d) A is true, but both R_1 and R_2 are false.

Answer: (a) Both R_1 and R_2 are correct, and both explain A.

Explanation:
The **North Atlantic Drift** (a branch of the Gulf Stream) carries warm water from the tropics towards northwestern Europe, moderating the climate even in regions like Norway and the British Isles. This warmth is further distributed inland by **prevailing westerlies**, which carry maritime air over the land. Thus, both reasons are correct and jointly explain the assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the *International Convention against Doping in Sport*:

1. It is the only international legal instrument that binds States Parties to adopt national measures in line with the *World Anti-Doping Code*.
2. India ratified this Convention under UNESCO, thereby committing to harmonise domestic sports policies with the global anti-doping framework.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Both
(c) None
(d) Cannot be determined from the given information

Answer: (b) Both

Explanation:
Both statements are **correct**. The *International Convention against Doping in Sport (2005)*, adopted under UNESCO, is the *only international legally binding treaty* to combat doping in sports. It obligates signatory states to align national anti-doping policies with the *World Anti-Doping Code* of WADA. India ratified it in 2007, committing to implement anti-doping education, testing, and compliance through the *National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)*.

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Q2. The *'23for23' Initiative*, often seen in news, aims to —

(a) Enable 23 African nations to achieve universal access to vaccines by 2023 under WHO-Gavi partnership.
(b) Empower 23 women entrepreneurs from G20 nations to lead AI-based innovation programs.
(c) Support 23 countries in strengthening their anti-doping frameworks under UNESCO-WADA collaboration.
(d) Train 23 developing nations in climate-resilient agriculture under UNFCCC's Capacity-Building Framework.

Answer: (c) Support 23 countries in strengthening their anti-doping frameworks under UNESCO-WADA collaboration.

Explanation:
The *'23for23' Initiative* was launched by **UNESCO and WADA** to help 23 countries — many of which lacked national anti-doping frameworks — to implement compliant systems by 2023. It aligns with the *International Convention against Doping in Sport* to enhance global integrity in sports through legislation, education, and testing support.

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the *Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025*:

1. It replaces the earlier DPM 2009 and seeks to simplify procurement for the Defence Services and inter-services organisations.
2. It introduces a specific chapter for *Green Procurement* to encourage environment-friendly defence infrastructure.
3. DPM 2025 operates independently of the *Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)* and applies only to capital procurements above ₹300 crore.

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:** Correct — *DPM 2025* replaces *DPM 2009*, focusing on transparency, digitisation, and efficiency in *revenue* procurements (as distinct from capital procurements).
- **Statement 2:** Correct — It indeed introduces *Green Procurement Guidelines* for sustainable and energy-efficient defence infrastructure.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect — DPM governs *revenue procurements* (below ₹300 crore, typically), while *DAP 2020* governs *capital acquisitions*. Hence, both are complementary, not independent.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the *Pilot Whale*, sometimes seen in environmental news:

1. They are toothed whales that belong to the dolphin family and are known for their mass stranding behaviour.

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2. They are found predominantly in tropical coastal waters, with major populations restricted to the Indian Ocean.
3. The recent mass stranding event in the *Chilika Lake region* was attributed to sonar disorientation caused by naval exercises.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct — Pilot Whales are large members of the *Delphinidae* (dolphin) family and are indeed known for *mass stranding*, often due to strong social bonding.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect — They inhabit *deep offshore waters* of both hemispheres, including subpolar to tropical seas, not limited to the Indian Ocean.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect — There has been no verified record of a Pilot Whale stranding in *Chilika Lake*; most strandings occur in regions like Tasmania or the Faroe Islands.
  Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q5. With reference to the *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)*, consider the following statements:

1. It was established under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to promote coordinated conservation of migratory mammals across Central Asia.
2. The initiative covers species such as Saiga Antelope, Snow Leopard, and Bactrian Camel, which migrate across transboundary mountain and desert ecosystems.
3. India is a formal signatory to CAMI and implements it through the *Project Snow Leopard* framework.
4. The CAMI Action Plan mandates periodic review by the *UN Environment Assembly* to ensure compliance among member states.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct — CAMI is a *regional initiative* under the *Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)*, launched in 2014, aimed at cooperative conservation of large migratory mammals in Central Asia.

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- **Statement 2:** Correct — The covered species include *Saiga Antelope, Snow Leopard, Wild Yak, Bactrian Camel*, and *Goitered Gazelle*.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect — India supports CMS and *Project Snow Leopard*, but it is **not** a formal signatory to CAMI, as the initiative primarily includes Central Asian republics and neighbouring states.
- **Statement 4:** Incorrect — The CAMI Action Plan is reviewed under *CMS Conference of the Parties (COP)*, not by the UN Environment Assembly.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q6. Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) — often seen in environmental conservation news — is located **between** which of the following physical features?

(a) Between the Western Ghats and the Thane Creek Basin
(b) Between the Satpura Range and the Tapi River Basin
(c) Between the Eastern Ghats and the Mahanadi Delta
(d) Between the Aravalli Hills and the Chambal River Basin

Answer: (a) Between the Western Ghats and the Thane Creek Basin

Explanation:
SGNP lies in the northern part of the *Mumbai Metropolitan Region*, Maharashtra. Geographically, it is located between the **western slopes of the Western Ghats** and the **Thane Creek Basin** (an estuarine system). The park is known for its rich biodiversity amidst dense urban surroundings, housing the *Kanheri Caves* and being one of the world's most visited urban national parks.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. *"Agrarian reforms in India were envisioned to restructure rural society and empower the peasantry, yet their outcomes have remained uneven and incomplete."* Critically examine the evolution and efficacy of agrarian reforms since independence.

Answer:
Agrarian reforms in India were aimed at dismantling the semi-feudal structure of rural society, ensuring equitable access to land, and increasing agricultural productivity. The process evolved through distinct phases since Independence, each reflecting socio-political priorities and structural limitations.

Phase I: Abolition of Intermediaries (1950s)
Post-Independence, the zamindari system was abolished to eliminate exploitative intermediaries. Around 20 million tenants gained ownership rights. However, due to *inadequate land records, poor implementation, and political resistance*, large tracts of land remained with rural elites.

Phase II: Tenancy Reforms and Ceiling Laws (1960s–70s)
Tenancy regulation and land ceilings sought to redistribute surplus land to the landless. In practice, these reforms were *circumvented through benami transfers and legal loopholes*. The green revolution further benefited larger farmers, reinforcing inequalities in some regions.

Phase III: Land Consolidation and Co-operative Farming
Efforts at land consolidation improved efficiency in states like Punjab and Haryana. Yet, *fragmentation* persisted elsewhere. Cooperative farming largely failed due to *lack of trust and weak institutional support*.

Phase IV: Post-1990s Focus — Livelihood and Inclusion
The reform discourse shifted towards *livelihood security, watershed management, and women's land rights*. The Forest Rights Act (2006) and digitisation of land records (Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme) represent a new phase of inclusive reform.

Evaluation:
While agrarian reforms achieved *partial social justice*, structural inequalities persist. Landless labourers still form nearly 55% of rural households, and women own less than 13% of land holdings.

Way Forward:
Reforms must now focus on *land leasing liberalisation*, *gender parity in ownership*, *agrarian digitisation*, and *rural non-farm employment linkages*. Agrarian transformation is no longer only about land—it is about integrating equity with sustainability and technology-driven growth.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. *"The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 marked a paradigm shift from welfare to rights-based governance. Yet, its implementation continues to face institutional and logistical challenges."* Examine critically.

Answer:
The *National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013* embodies India's commitment to transforming food entitlements into a **legal right**, ensuring that no citizen goes hungry. It seeks to provide subsidised food grains to nearly **75% of rural** and **50% of urban** populations through the *Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)*.

Rights-Based Architecture:
NFSA represents a *justiciable entitlement*, unlike earlier welfare schemes. It integrates several pre-existing programmes — *Mid-Day Meal, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)*, and *Maternity Benefits* — under a single legal framework.

Achievements:

- **Enhanced Coverage:** Nearly 80 crore beneficiaries under the *One Nation, One Ration Card* (ONORC) scheme ensure portability and inclusion.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Women are recognised as the head of beneficiary households.
- **Nutritional Security:** Diversification beyond cereals has begun in some states.

Challenges:

- **Identification and Exclusion:** Census 2011 data still forms the basis of beneficiary lists; millions of deserving citizens remain excluded.

- **Leakages and Diversion:** Despite digitisation, PDS leakages continue, especially in transport and distribution chains.
- **Nutritional Deficit:** Focus remains cereal-centric, neglecting protein and micronutrient security.
- **Fiscal Strain:** The food subsidy bill exceeds ₹2 lakh crore annually, raising questions on sustainability.

Way Forward:
To strengthen NFSA's impact:

1. Update beneficiary databases with dynamic exclusion–inclusion mechanisms.
2. Integrate *nutri-cereals (millets)* and pulses into the PDS.
3. Promote decentralised procurement and community grain banks.
4. Use AI and blockchain for real-time monitoring of supply chains.

Conclusion:
NFSA stands as a milestone in *rights-based governance*, but its promise of "food with dignity" will be realised only when digital efficiency converges with local accountability and nutritional adequacy.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. *"Money laundering is not just an economic crime but a threat multiplier for governance, security, and democracy."* Discuss in light of India's evolving anti–money laundering framework.

Answer:
Money laundering — the process of concealing illicit funds to appear legitimate — corrodes the financial system, fuels terrorism, and undermines governance. For a growing economy like India, its implications go far beyond fiscal losses.

Magnitude and Mechanism:
Black money arises from *tax evasion, corruption, trade misinvoicing,* and *crime syndicates*. Laundered money often re-enters the economy through *shell companies*, *havala routes*, or *real estate* transactions.

Institutional and Legal Framework:

1. **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002:** The cornerstone law; criminalises laundering of proceeds of crime.
2. **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND):** Collects and analyses suspicious transaction reports (STRs).
3. **Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 2016:** Targets property held in fictitious names.
4. **FATF and Egmont Group Participation:** Enhances India's compliance with global anti-laundering standards.

Challenges:

- **Judicial Bottlenecks:** Low conviction rates and long trials.
- **Misuse Allegations:** Concerns about selective enforcement under PMLA.
- **Cross-border Complexity:** Offshore havens and cryptocurrency make tracing difficult.

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- **Informal Sector Dominance:** Cash-based transactions create opacity.

Recent Developments:

- The inclusion of *cryptocurrency service providers* under PMLA (2023) broadens the compliance net.
- Enhanced cooperation with global enforcement agencies has improved asset recovery.

Way Forward:

1. Strengthen *data-sharing and forensic capacity* among agencies.
2. Balance enforcement with *due process and transparency*.
3. Encourage financial literacy and digital transactions to formalise the economy.

Conclusion:
Money laundering is a silent threat to economic democracy. India's progress must rest not merely on more laws, but on building *institutional integrity, accountability,* and *international collaboration* to prevent the economy from becoming a sanctuary for illicit wealth.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. *"Ethical governance is not merely about adhering to rules but about cultivating moral imagination in public life."* Discuss with suitable illustrations.

Answer:
Ethical governance transcends compliance; it is about applying moral reasoning to complex situations where rules alone may not suffice. The "moral imagination" in governance refers to the ability to envision and act upon what is *right*, *fair*, and *humane* beyond procedural correctness.

Dimensions of Ethical Governance:

1. **Integrity:** Commitment to truth, transparency, and impartiality in public decisions.
2. **Empathy:** Understanding citizens' lived realities — e.g., IAS officer Armstrong Pame personally mobilising funds for road construction in Manipur.
3. **Moral Courage:** Standing up against unethical orders or corruption, as exemplified by whistleblowers like Ashok Khemka.

Why Rules Alone Are Insufficient:
Rules define *minimum standards*, but governance demands *value-based judgments*. For instance, a bureaucrat facing an ethical dilemma between legal rigidity and humanitarian urgency — such as permitting food relief in a flood without formal sanction — must rely on *moral imagination*.

Institutionalising Ethical Governance:

- Training civil servants in *ethical decision-making* and *emotional intelligence*.
- Promoting *citizen charters* and *social audits* for accountability.
- Integrating *values education* in policy design.

Conclusion:
Ethical governance is the bridge between legality and legitimacy. The true measure of a civil servant lies not

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just in obeying the rulebook but in upholding the spirit of justice and humanity that underpins it. In essence, morality must be the compass, and not merely the map, of governance.

Current Affairs –

Q5. *"At 80, the United Nations remains both a symbol of global possibility and a mirror of geopolitical contradictions."* Critically analyse the UN's contemporary relevance in maintaining international peace and justice.

Answer: The United Nations (UN), established in 1945, embodies humanity's collective aspiration for peace, justice, and cooperation. At 80, it stands as both an *institution of promise* and an *arena of paralysis*.

Achievements as a Symbol of Possibility:

1. **Conflict Resolution:** The UN has helped end wars (e.g., Cambodia, Namibia) and deployed over 70 peacekeeping missions.
2. **Norm Building:** It pioneered global norms on *human rights (UDHR)*, *climate action (Paris Agreement)*, and *sustainable development (SDGs)*.
3. **Global Health and Relief:** The WHO-led campaigns (smallpox eradication, COVID-19 response) and WFP's humanitarian interventions highlight its indispensable humanitarian role.

Limitations and Contradictions:

- **Security Council Paralysis:** The veto power of five permanent members (P5) often subverts collective will—as seen in the Ukraine conflict or Gaza crisis.
- **Representation Deficit:** Africa, Latin America, and India remain excluded from permanent membership, undermining legitimacy.
- **Funding Inequality:** Dependence on major powers limits independence and action.
- **New Challenges:** Cybersecurity, climate migration, and AI governance remain under-regulated by current UN structures.

Relevance and Reform Imperatives:

- Democratisation of the *UN Security Council*.
- Strengthening *peacebuilding institutions* and *early warning systems*.
- Integrating Global South leadership into agenda-setting.

Conclusion:
The UN's 80th anniversary is a moment of reflection. It remains humanity's most ambitious experiment in global governance—imperfect, yet indispensable. Its enduring relevance lies not in its perfection, but in its capacity for reform and moral leadership amid rising nationalism and fragmentation.

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