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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 12/11/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

- **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:

1. The earliest surviving examples of rock-cut caves, such as the *Lomas Rishi Cave*, were primarily commissioned by patrons of Jainism for the ascetic dwelling of Jain monks.
2. The development of the *Gandhara School of Art*, with its strong Hellenistic features, coincided with the rise of *Mahayana Buddhism*, marking the first anthropomorphic depictions of the Buddha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** The *Lomas Rishi Cave* (3rd century BCE, Mauryan period) and other *Barabar caves* were dedicated to the *Ajivika sect*, not Jainism. Commissioned during *Ashoka's reign*, these caves mark India's earliest rock-cut architecture.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The *Gandhara School* (1st–3rd century CE, Kushana period) blended *Greek-Roman* artistic traits—curly hair, drapery, and realism—with Buddhist symbolism. It flourished under *Mahayana Buddhism*, which encouraged the *anthropomorphic depiction* of the Buddha, unlike *Hinayana's* symbolic representation.

Key Concept: *Gandhara Art = Greco-Buddhist synthesis; Barabar Caves = Ajivika patronage (Mauryan era).*

Q2. Which one of the following National Parks is most strategically significant for the conservation of the so-called 'Sirohi Salamander' (*Salamandra atra sirohi*), a high-altitude endemic amphibian species found in isolated meadow–forest ecotones?

- (a) Namdapha National Park
(b) Keibul Lamjao National Park
(c) Mukundra Hills National Park
(d) Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The question is deliberately *twisted* to test conceptual reasoning and geographical association.
- The term '*Sirohi*' denotes a district in *southern Rajasthan*, in the *Aravalli Range*, where the *Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary* is located.
- Although no officially recognized species named *Sirohi Salamander* exists, the area is known for *isolated high-altitude flora and relict fauna*, typical of *ecotonal diversity* in the semi-arid Aravalli hills.

Elimination Logic:

- *Namdapha (Arunachal Pradesh)* – Red Panda, Hoolock Gibbon.



- *Keibul Lamjao (Manipur)* – Sangai Deer on Phumdis.
- *Mukundra Hills (Rajasthan)* – Tiger Reserve, dry scrub fauna.
Hence, **Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary** is the only plausible high-altitude, semi-arid ecosystem for an endemic amphibian species.

UPSC Skill Tested: *Ecological association through geography and habitat reasoning rather than rote species knowledge.*

Q3. With reference to various instruments in the Indian money market, consider the following statements:

1. *Certificates of Deposit (CDs)* can be issued by Scheduled Commercial Banks and All-India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) and have a minimum maturity period of 7 days, whereas for AIFIs, the maximum maturity period is one year.
2. *Commercial Papers (CPs)* are unsecured promissory notes issued by highly rated corporates, and any single investor must invest a minimum of ₹5 lakh in face value.
3. *Treasury Bills (T-Bills)* are issued by the RBI on behalf of the Central Government and are available in four maturities: 91-day, 182-day, 364-day, and 730-day.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** CDs are issued by *Scheduled Commercial Banks* (7 days–1 year) and *AIFIs* (1–3 years). The statement incorrectly limits AIFI CDs to one year.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** CPs are *unsecured*, short-term instruments issued by *highly rated corporates*. The *minimum investment* for a single investor is ₹5 lakh (in multiples thereof).
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** *T-Bills* are issued in **only three maturities**—91-day, 182-day, and 364-day—*not* 730-day.

Correct Answer: Only one statement (Statement 2).

UPSC Focus: *Conceptual clarity + factual precision in monetary policy and short-term financing instruments.*

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. The *Rule of Law*, mandating that no person is above the law, is wholly derived from the ‘*Equality Before Law*’ clause in Article 14 and forms part of the Basic Structure.
2. The concept of ‘*Equal Protection of Laws*’ allows reasonable classification, provided it is based on intelligible differentia and has a rational nexus with the objective sought to be achieved.
3. The Supreme Court has consistently applied the ‘*doctrine of reasonable classification*’ as the sole test for reviewing state action under Article 14.
4. A foreign national, though not a citizen, is entitled to the guarantee of equality under Article 14 as it applies to ‘any person’.



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 – Incorrect:** *Rule of Law* is part of the *Basic Structure*, but it is not wholly derived from Article 14. It is a broader constitutional principle encompassing the entire spirit of legality and justice.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** This defines the '*Doctrine of Reasonable Classification*', upheld in *State of West Bengal v. Anwar Ali Sarkar (1952)*.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Post *E.P. Royappa v. State of Tamil Nadu (1974)* and *Maneka Gandhi (1978)*, the Court introduced the '*Doctrine of Arbitrariness*', expanding Article 14 beyond classification.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Article 14 applies to '*any person*', thus extending to *foreign nationals and legal entities*.

Correct Count: 2 statements (2 and 4).

Concept Reinforcement:

- **Equality before law** – negative concept (no special privileges).
- **Equal protection of laws** – positive concept (equal treatment in similar circumstances).

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): The *Rafale* fighter aircraft, procured from France, is specifically optimized for high-altitude, long-endurance missions, making it the most suitable platform for strategic deterrence in the Himalayan region.

Reason (R1): The aircraft is equipped with the *SPECTRA* integrated electronic warfare suite, providing multi-spectral stealth capabilities and active radar cancellation.

Reason (R2): *Rafale* is a 4.5-generation omnirole fighter equipped with *Meteor Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missiles (BVRAAM)*, enabling simultaneous multi-target engagement.

Codes:

- (a) (A) is correct, (R1) and (R2) are correct and R2 explains (A).
(b) (A) is correct, (R1) and (R2) are correct, but R1 explains (A).
(c) (A) is incorrect, but (R1) and (R2) are correct.
(d) (A) is correct, but only (R2) is correct and does not explain (A).

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) – Incorrect:** *Rafale* is a *multi-role (omnirole)* aircraft, not specifically optimized for high-altitude or endurance missions. Other aircraft like *Su-30MKI* have superior service ceilings for Himalayan terrain.
- **Reason (R1) – Correct:** The *SPECTRA EW suite* gives *Rafale* advanced threat detection, jamming, and stealth protection.



- **Reason (R2) – Correct:** The *Meteor BVRAM* (ramjet-powered) provides unmatched long-range precision, enhancing strategic deterrence capabilities.

Correct Relationship: (A) is incorrect, but both reasons are factually correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.1. With reference to the *Employees' Enrolment Scheme – 2025 (EES-2025)* launched by EPFO, consider the following statements:

1. Under the scheme, employers can declare and enrol employees who joined the establishment between **1 July 2017 and 31 October 2025**, provided such employees are alive and currently employed.
2. A lump-sum penal damage of ₹100 is to be paid by each employer availing the scheme, while the employee's share of contribution for the past period continues to be payable if not deducted earlier.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Only the second

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2 is incorrect because the employee's share *is waived* if it was not deducted earlier. The scheme provides amnesty from past dues and simplifies enrolment.

Q.2. Which one of the following correctly identifies the launch vehicle used by ISRO on 2 November 2025 to place India's heaviest communication satellite CMS-03 into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)?

- (a) PSLV-C62
- (b) GSLV Mk II
- (c) LVM3-M5
- (d) SSLV-L1

Answer: (c) LVM3-M5

Explanation:

ISRO's *LVM3-M5* successfully launched CMS-03 from the Second Launch Pad, SDSC Sriharikota. It marked the fifth operational flight of the LVM3 series.



Q.3. With reference to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), consider the following statements:

1. Lucknow was designated as a *City of Gastronomy* under the UCCN during the 43rd UNESCO General Conference held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 2025.
2. Before Lucknow, no other Indian city had ever been designated under the *Gastronomy* category.
3. The UCCN recognises cities under seven creative fields — *Crafts & Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.*

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is incorrect because *Hyderabad* was designated as a *City of Gastronomy* in 2019.

Q.4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex in Assam:

1. It lies within the Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary in the Nagaon district of Assam.
2. It has been officially designated as a *Ramsar Site* under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
3. It serves as an ecological corridor linking *Kaziranga Tiger Reserve* with *Orang National Park*.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is incorrect — the wetland complex is *proposed* for Ramsar recognition but *not yet notified*.

Q.5. With reference to the LVM3–M5 launch mission, consider the following statements:

1. The mission carried the *CMS-03* communication satellite weighing around 4,400 kg into GTO.
2. LVM3 consists of two solid strap-on boosters (S200), a liquid core stage (L110), and a cryogenic upper stage (C25).
3. The launch took place from the *First Launch Pad* at SDSC Sriharikota.
4. The mission was the *fifth operational flight* of the LVM3 series.



Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) (1), (2) and (4) only
- (b) (1), (3) and (4) only
- (c) (2) and (4) only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (a) (1), (2) and (4) only

Explanation:

Statement 3 is incorrect — the launch occurred from the *Second Launch Pad*. Other statements are correct.

Q.6. (Map–Based Question)

Identify the correct location of the *Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex* on the map of India:

- (a) Nagaon district, Assam
- (b) Golaghat district, Assam
- (c) Dibrugarh district, Assam
- (d) Sonitpur district, Assam

Answer: (a) Nagaon district, Assam

Explanation:

The *Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex* lies in Nagaon district, within Laokhowa Sanctuary, forming part of the *Kaziranga–Orang landscape corridor*.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 -

Q1. “The Cold War was less a military confrontation and more an ideological contest for global influence.” Discuss how the Cold War shaped the political, economic, and strategic order of the post-1945 world.

Answer:

The Cold War (1947–1991) was a period of sustained ideological, political, and strategic rivalry between the **United States and the Soviet Union**. Though nuclear brinkmanship defined its imagery, the essence of the Cold War lay in **clashing worldviews** — *liberal-capitalism vs. communism*.

1. Ideological and Political Impact:

The U.S. propagated democracy and a capitalist world order through institutions like the **UN, IMF, and World Bank**, while the USSR created rival blocs such as **COMECON** and **Warsaw Pact**. This bipolarity shaped foreign policies worldwide — the **Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, and Breznev Doctrine** extended their ideological frontiers beyond national boundaries.

2. Strategic and Security Dimensions:

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) and the nuclear arms race created a **balance of terror**, but also paradoxically ensured *peace through deterrence*. The formation of **NATO** and the **Warsaw Pact**



institutionalized military alliances, while proxy wars in **Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan** exported ideological battles to the Global South.

3. Economic and Developmental Consequences:

The Cold War spurred **technological competition**, leading to the **space race** and scientific advancement. In the developing world, it gave rise to **dependency politics** — where aid and alignment dictated national destinies.

4. Emergence of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):

Leaders like **Nehru, Tito, and Nasser** attempted to carve an independent identity for post-colonial nations, promoting peaceful coexistence and sovereignty.

Conclusion:

The Cold War was an ideological chessboard where power was measured not merely in arms but in **ideas, influence, and institutions**. Its end in 1991 did not dissolve ideological divides but redefined them into new forms — globalization, information dominance, and renewed great-power competition.

GS Paper 2 -

Q2. India's foreign policy has historically blended moral idealism with pragmatic realism. Examine how India's evolving doctrines reflect this duality, particularly in the post-1991 era.

Answer:

India's foreign policy is guided by a synthesis of **values and interests** — a legacy of Nehruvian idealism moderated by strategic realism. The tension between the two has defined India's global engagement since Independence.

1. Foundational Principles – Idealism:

Nehru's foreign policy was anchored in *Panchsheel, Non-Alignment, and peaceful coexistence*. India sought to be a **moral voice of the Global South**, rejecting military alliances and advocating disarmament and decolonization.

2. Pragmatic Re-orientation – Post-1991:

The end of the Cold War and economic liberalization forced India to recalibrate. **Gujral Doctrine** emphasized trust with neighbors without reciprocity, while **Vajpayee's nuclear doctrine** institutionalized *credible minimum deterrence* and *no-first-use*, reflecting realism.

3. Strategic Autonomy & Multi-Alignment:

Under recent governments, India's diplomacy has evolved from *non-alignment* to *multi-alignment*. Partnerships with the **U.S. (QUAD), Russia, EU, and ASEAN** coexist with strong ties to the **Global South**. This ensures freedom of maneuver in a multipolar world.

4. Doctrinal Developments:

- **Neighbourhood First** and **Act East Policy** combine regional goodwill with strategic leverage.
- **Net Security Provider Doctrine** in the Indian Ocean reflects a proactive stance.
- **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** global messaging merges civilizational ethos with global leadership aspirations.

Conclusion:

India's foreign policy today is neither strictly idealist nor realist; it is **“principled pragmatism.”** It uses



moral legitimacy to pursue material interests — balancing ethical diplomacy with strategic assertiveness in a complex world order.

GS Paper 3 -

Q3. Disinvestment and privatization are tools for improving efficiency, not merely reducing fiscal burden. Critically analyze India's disinvestment strategy in this context.

Answer:

Disinvestment in India refers to the sale of government equity in public sector undertakings (PSUs). Though initiated in the 1990s as a fiscal necessity, it has evolved into an instrument of **structural reform and governance modernization**.

1. Objectives and Rationale:

Initially aimed at bridging fiscal deficits, disinvestment now seeks to:

- Enhance **operational efficiency** and corporate governance.
- Unlock **asset value** and attract private capital.
- Reduce political interference and encourage competition.

2. Evolution of Policy:

- **1991–2000:** Partial disinvestment with minority stake sales.
- **2000–2014:** Strategic sales (e.g., BALCO, VSNL) and creation of **National Investment Fund**.
- **2016 onwards:** Shift to **strategic privatization** (e.g., Air India, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.).

3. Performance and Concerns:

While receipts often fall short of targets, success stories like **Air India's turnaround under Tata** highlight efficiency gains. However, **valuation transparency, job security, and loss of public accountability** remain major concerns.

4. Way Forward:

- Adopt “**asset monetization plus governance reform**” approach.
- Focus on **public sector restructuring**, not mere sale.
- Ensure **regulatory capacity** and **competition neutrality** post-privatization.

Conclusion:

Disinvestment must transcend the fiscal arithmetic of revenue collection. When combined with reforms in management, innovation, and accountability, it can convert PSUs from “**public ownership of inefficiency**” to “**public purpose through efficiency**.”

GS Paper 4 -

Q4. Ethical governance demands that public servants reconcile efficiency with empathy. Discuss the significance of empathy as an ethical value in contemporary public administration.

Answer:

Empathy — the ability to *understand and share the feelings of others* — is a cornerstone of ethical public



service. While efficiency ensures timely and effective delivery, empathy ensures *justice, dignity, and humaneness* in governance.

1. Ethical Foundation:

Empathy transforms **rule-based administration** into **citizen-centric governance**. A bureaucrat's decisions are not just technical acts but moral judgments affecting human lives.

2. Role in Public Administration:

- In **service delivery**, empathetic officers can design schemes sensitive to local needs.
- In **law enforcement**, empathy ensures humane treatment, reducing conflict and corruption.
- In **crisis management**, it builds trust and emotional resilience among citizens.

3. Philosophical Underpinnings:

Thinkers like **Gandhi** and **Max Weber** emphasized that rational bureaucracy must be balanced by moral sensibility. Empathy embodies *Gandhian trusteeship* — using authority for others' welfare.

4. Institutionalization of Empathy:

Training modules in **Emotional Intelligence**, **citizen charters**, and **grievance redress mechanisms** institutionalize empathy as part of professional ethics.

Conclusion:

Empathy is not a weakness but a **strategic strength** — it bridges the moral gap between government and governed. In an era of rising distrust and digital bureaucracy, empathy humanizes the state, ensuring that governance remains not only efficient but also *ethical, inclusive, and compassionate*.

Current Affairs -

Q5. Kerala recently declared itself 'Free from Extreme Poverty'. Examine the significance of this achievement in the broader context of India's welfare model and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Answer:

In 2025, Kerala became the first Indian state to declare itself **free from extreme poverty**, based on a multidimensional poverty assessment covering 42 indicators. This milestone marks both a policy achievement and a model for inclusive governance.

1. Approach and Implementation:

Kerala's strategy combined **data-driven identification**, **community-based interventions**, and **convergence of welfare schemes**. The state tracked individuals through *family-based deprivation mapping*, addressing income, education, health, and housing simultaneously.

2. Key Features:

- Integration of *Kudumbashree Mission*, *Ayyankali Urban Employment Scheme*, and *LIFE Mission (housing)*.
- Emphasis on **women-led SHGs** and **micro-credit empowerment**.
- Local self-governments functioned as execution hubs, reflecting Kerala's robust **decentralized planning model**.



3. Broader Significance:

- Aligns with **SDG 1 – No Poverty** and **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities**.
- Demonstrates the effectiveness of *multidimensional poverty tracking* versus income-based metrics.
- Sets a template for **federal cooperation**, as poverty elimination moves from national averages to localized action.

4. Challenges & Replicability:

Despite success, sustaining progress requires continued investment in **education, health, and climate resilience**. Replicating this model in larger states demands **fiscal capacity** and **institutional integrity**.

Conclusion:

Kerala's declaration is not an end but a benchmark — proving that targeted, inclusive, and community-led governance can transform welfare delivery. It redefines poverty alleviation as a **moral, administrative, and developmental** imperative, aligning India's welfare vision with global human development ethics.
