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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 14/11/2025 (FRIDAY)**

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



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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

**Q1.** With reference to the Deccan Sultanates, consider the following statements:

1. The disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate directly led to the emergence of all five Deccan Sultanates that later confronted the Vijayanagara Empire at Talikota.
2. The Bidar Sultanate played a leading role in coordinating the Deccan Confederacy against Vijayanagara by providing the largest infantry contingent among the allies.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) None
- (d) Both

**Answer: (c) None**

**Explanation:**

- The Bahmani breakup produced four Sultanates—Ahmadnagar, Berar, Bidar, and Bijapur—but **Golconda emerged separately** and not directly as a Bahmani successor. Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.
- Bidar was the **weakest** of the Deccan Sultanates and did not provide the leading infantry force at Talikota. The dominant powers were Ahmadnagar and Bijapur. Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.

**Q2.** Which of the following best distinguishes an **ecotone** from an **ecotype**?

- (a) An ecotone represents genetic divergence within a species, while an ecotype marks a transitional vegetation boundary.
- (b) An ecotone is a transition zone between two ecosystems, whereas an ecotype is a genetically adapted population within a species suited to a particular habitat.
- (c) Both ecotone and ecotype refer to zones of species overlap due to environmental gradients.
- (d) An ecotone is strictly man-made, while an ecotype arises only under natural selection.

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- An **ecotone** is the **transition zone between two ecosystems**.
  - An **ecotype** is a **genetically distinct population** within a species adapted to specific environmental conditions.
- Option (b) correctly differentiates them.

**Q3.** With reference to currency convertibility in India, consider the following statements:

1. Full capital account convertibility would allow Indian residents to freely acquire foreign assets without quantitative restrictions.
2. India currently has full current account convertibility except for certain security-related restrictions.
3. Even partial capital account convertibility can influence domestic interest rates due to capital flow volatility.

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**: Full capital account convertibility implies freedom to buy/sell foreign financial assets freely.
- Statement 2 is **considered broadly correct**: India has current account convertibility with limited restrictions, though not termed “absolute” by the Government.
- Statement 3 is **correct**: Even partial capital mobility affects interest rates via inflow–outflow dynamics.  
However, UPSC usually discounts Statement 2 as “not fully complete,” so the best answer is **two statements correct**.

**Q4.** With reference to Local Governments in India, consider the following statements:

1. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment mandates that States constitute Gram Sabhas, although their powers and functions may be specified by the State Legislature.
2. The 74th Constitutional Amendment mandates the creation of Ward Committees in all Municipalities irrespective of population size.
3. The State Election Commission has the power to delimit wards and determine the number of seats in each Panchayat or Municipality.
4. The Constitution mandates reservation for SCs and STs in local bodies, but the exact quantum of such reservation is left to the discretion of the States.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is **correct**: Gram Sabhas are compulsory under the 73rd Amendment; States define their powers.
- Statement 2 is **incorrect**: Ward Committees are mandatory only in municipalities with **population above 3 lakh**.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect**: The SEC conducts elections, but **delimitation** is done by the **State Government** or designated bodies, not SEC.
- Statement 4 is **partially correct**, but UPSC treats it as **incorrect** because reservation must be **proportionate to SC/ST population**, not independently fixed by States.  
Therefore, **only two** statements (1 and a borderline reading of 4) are counted as correct in UPSC style.



**Q5.** Consider the following statements:

**Assertion (A):** Cirrostratus clouds often produce halos around the Sun or Moon because they are composed mainly of ice crystals.

**Reason (R1):** Ice crystals in cirrostratus refract light at a typical angle of about  $22^\circ$ , forming luminous halos.

**Reason (R2):** Cirrostratus clouds indicate strong vertical convection and commonly evolve into cumulonimbus within a short time.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 correctly explain A
- (b) A is correct, R1 is the correct explanation of A, but R2 is incorrect
- (c) A is correct, but neither R1 nor R2 explains A
- (d) A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Assertion is **correct**: Ice-crystal composition leads to halo formation.
- R1 is **correct** and directly explains halo formation via  $22^\circ$  refraction.
- R2 is **incorrect**: Cirrostratus clouds are **stable**, non-convective, and do not develop into cumulonimbus.

Hence option **(b)** is correct.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Q1.** With reference to Western Disturbances (WDs), consider the following statements:

1. Western Disturbances reaching India during El Niño winters are typically weaker because the subtropical jet stream shifts northward, reducing the steering mechanism for these systems.
2. Western Disturbances that originate over the Black Sea region generally cause less precipitation over North India than those originating near the Mediterranean Sea due to lower moisture availability.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) None
- (d) Both

**Answer: (a) Only one**

**Explanation:**



- **Statement 1: Incorrect.**

During **El Niño winters**, the subtropical jet actually becomes **stronger and more southward**, increasing WD penetration over North India. Hence WDs tend to be **stronger**, not weaker.

- **Statement 2: Correct.**

Mediterranean-origin WDs carry significantly higher moisture, while Black Sea–origin WDs are **drier**, leading to comparatively less precipitation.

Hence, **only one** statement is correct.

**Q2.** Which of the following best explains why *Cheetahs reintroduced into India under Project Cheetah exhibit high mortality rates despite suitable habitat availability?*

- (a) They lack natural predatory instincts because they were captive-bred.
- (b) They suffer from higher parasite load due to genetic homogeneity of African populations.
- (c) They display extensive exploratory behaviour that increases exposure to anthropogenic hazards.
- (d) They face competition for prey primarily from tigers and leopards in Kuno.

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The primary scientific observation from reports is **high exploratory ranging**, causing cheetahs to move long distances into human-dominated landscapes, leading to conflict, stress, and deaths.
- Genetic homogeneity is true, but not the dominant cause of field mortality.
- Kuno's competition with large predators is moderate; mortality is not prey-shortage driven.

Thus, option **(c)** is the most accurate.

**Q3.** With reference to the Cauvery River system, consider the following statements:

1. The upper catchment of the Cauvery receives a larger proportion of rainfall from the Northeast Monsoon compared to the lower basin.
2. The hydro-politics of the Cauvery is heavily influenced by the fact that Karnataka contributes more to the total basin runoff than Tamil Nadu.
3. The inter-State Cauvery dispute persists partly because the river basin has one of the highest levels of groundwater over-extraction among South Indian basins.

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: Incorrect.**

The **upper basin** (Kodagu, Hassan, Mysuru) receives rain mainly from the **Southwest Monsoon**, while the **lower basin** in Tamil Nadu depends more on the **Northeast Monsoon**.



- **Statement 2: Correct.**

Karnataka contributes **more runoff** due to the Western Ghats rainfall, shaping the political narrative of “upper-riparian control”.

- **Statement 3: Correct.**

Cauvery basin (especially Mandya–Mysuru and delta districts) is one of the **highest groundwater-stressed regions**, aggravating the surface-water conflict.

Thus, **two** statements are correct.

**Q4.** With reference to the Global Land, Atmospheric, and Space Sustainability (GLASS) Report, consider the following statements:

1. The report focuses on assessing anthropogenic changes across land cover, atmospheric composition, and orbital debris simultaneously.
2. One of its key recommendations is that countries should integrate upper-atmospheric governance into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
3. The report classifies “orbital carrying capacity” as a global commons metric similar to carbon budgets.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (c) All three**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Correct.**

GLASS uniquely integrates **land, atmosphere, and space domains** into a single sustainability metric.

- **Statement 2: Correct.**

The report emphasises including upper-atmospheric risks (e.g., soot deposition from spacecraft, re-entry emissions) into national climate plans.

- **Statement 3: Correct.**

It introduces “**orbital carrying capacity**” similar to ecological limits or carbon budgets, stating that space is a **finite, overused global commons**.

Thus, **all three** statements are correct.

**Q5.** With reference to Pampadum Shola National Park, consider the following statements:

1. It forms the uppermost montane forest patch within the Palani Hills stretch of the Western Ghats.
2. The park is ecologically significant because it contains one of the last continuous shola-grassland mosaics linked to the Eravikulam plateau.
3. The Nilgiri tahr population in this region is considered genetically distinct from populations found in the Nilgiri–Mukurthi landscape.
4. Its hydrological value lies partly in feeding tributaries of both the Periyar and the Vaigai river systems.

How many of the above statements are correct?



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

**Answer: (c) Three**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.**  
Pampadum Shola is part of the **Munnar high ranges**, not the upper Palani Hills.
- **Statement 2: Correct.**  
It contains an **intact shola–grassland mosaic**, contiguous with the Eravikulam–Munnar high-altitude ecosystem.
- **Statement 3: Correct.**  
Studies indicate **distinct genetic structuring** between the Munnar and Nilgiri populations of Nilgiri tahr.
- **Statement 4: Correct.**  
Streams from Pampadum Shola drain into both **Periyar** and **Vaigai** basins.

Thus, **three** statements are correct.

**Q6.** On the map of India, which one of the following pairs of regions and the phenomenon/feature recently in news is correctly matched?

- (a) **Sir Creek – High marine heatwave anomalies affecting mangrove extent**
- (b) **Gulf of Mannar – Decline in atmospheric visibility due to winter western disturbance haze**
- (c) **Kutch Mainland Fault – Site of the most recent confirmed cheetah translocation holding facility**
- (d) **Kabini–H.D. Kote belt – Region showing sharpest decline in Cauvery upper-basin groundwater levels**

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Option (a): Incorrect.**  
Marine heatwaves occurred mainly in **eastern coastal waters**; Sir Creek mangroves were not the hotspot.
- **Option (b): Incorrect.**  
Western disturbance haze affects **North India**, not the Gulf of Mannar.
- **Option (c): Incorrect.**  
Cheetah holding facilities are in **Kuno (Madhya Pradesh)** and **Gandhisagar**, not the Kutch region.
- **Option (d): Correct.**  
Kabini–H.D. Kote (in Karnataka) shows **sharp groundwater decline** in the **upper Cauvery basin**, confirmed by multiple basin-level aquifer assessments.

Hence, **(d)** is correct.



## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS-1

**Q1. “Patterns of urbanization in post-independence India have reflected both economic dynamism and structural inequalities.” Examine how regional disparities, migration patterns, and urban planning models have shaped India’s uneven urban growth over the decades.**

#### Sample Answer

Post-independence India’s urbanization has been characterized by a complex interplay of economic transitions, demographic movements, and policy choices. Unlike Western industrialization-led urbanization, Indian urban growth has been spatially uneven and highly concentrated, revealing deep structural inequalities.

India’s early Five-Year Plans prioritized heavy industries in pockets such as Bhilai, Rourkela, and Durgapur, creating **enclave-based urbanization**. Metropolises like Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai emerged as primate cities due to colonial legacies and concentration of economic activity. This institutional path dependence resulted in high regional disparities: Western and Southern states urbanized rapidly, while BIMARU states lagged.

Migration patterns further accentuated these disparities. Post-1991 economic reforms triggered **pull-based migration towards service-sector hubs** such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune. This generated “islands of prosperity” while large northern cities like Kanpur stagnated. Seasonal and distress migration from agrarian belts (Bundelkhand, Vidarbha) revealed that urbanization did not uniformly arise from productive growth but often from agrarian distress. The result was **circular migration**, not permanent urban absorption.

Urban planning models played a critical role in shaping outcomes. Master Plans in India largely adopted a **top-down, land-use zoning approach**, often disconnected from informal labour realities. Consequently, 40%–50% of urban workers remained in the informal sector, leading to **informal settlements, slum proliferation**, and inadequate services. Meanwhile, planned cities such as Chandigarh, Gandhinagar, and Navi Mumbai demonstrated more balanced spatial growth but remained exceptions.

India’s urbanization thus became **metropolitan-centric**, with 53 million-plus cities housing disproportionate infrastructure investment. Smaller towns—engines of transitional urbanization—were neglected. Smart Cities Mission attempted correction through area-based development, but uneven implementation perpetuated inequalities between “smart precincts” and surrounding “brownfield” spaces.

In conclusion, India’s urbanization reflects a duality: economic dynamism in growth clusters and structural inequalities across regions and classes. Addressing this requires polycentric planning, empowered urban local bodies, labour-market formalization, and regionally balanced economic strategies.

### GS-2

**Q2. Discuss how judicial review and federalism interact in India. Critically analyze whether recent judicial interventions in matters of State powers strengthen or dilute the essence of cooperative federalism.**

#### Sample Answer

Judicial review, as a basic feature of the Constitution, plays a pivotal role in maintaining the balance of power within India’s quasi-federal framework. The courts act as guardians of constitutional boundaries,



adjudicating overlaps between Union and State jurisdictions under Articles 131, 245, 246, and 254. This inherently creates areas of interaction, tension, and recalibration.

In many cases, judicial review has strengthened cooperative federalism. The Supreme Court's verdicts on *S.R. Bommai* established that federalism is a basic structure, curbing arbitrary President's Rule and protecting elected state governments. Similarly, the *Delhi vs. LG* judgments emphasized the primacy of elected governments in day-to-day administration. The Court's insistence on Finance Commission guidelines and its scrutiny of GST Council functioning have reinforced the accountability of federal institutions.

However, recent interventions raise concerns about the judiciary's expanding footprint. Frequent judicial examination of policy matters—such as regulation of local bodies, state recruitment examinations, or reservation policies—sometimes moves beyond constitutional boundaries into the domain of executive discretion. While motivated by the intent of safeguarding legality, such actions risk **judicial centralization**, which may implicitly dilute state autonomy.

The tension is most visible in centrally-enacted laws affecting state subjects—farm laws (later repealed), environmental regulations, or probing federal investigations under the CBI and ED. Courts often adjudicate such disputes, and their interpretation can either empower state control or reinforce Union supremacy. For example, the ruling allowing the Centre to extend CBI jurisdiction in states without consent has been criticized as undermining federal comity.

Thus, judicial review neither inherently strengthens nor weakens federalism; its impact depends on the nature and scope of intervention. A balanced approach—where courts enforce constitutional boundaries but avoid entering polycentric policy spheres—is essential. The judiciary's role must remain that of an **umpire**, not a parallel policymaker, to ensure cooperative federalism thrives.

### GS-3

**Q3. “India’s climate adaptation strategy must move beyond disaster-response orientation to resilience-building frameworks.” Analyze India’s progress and challenges in mainstreaming climate adaptation across agriculture, water resources, coastal management, and urban planning.**

#### Sample Answer

India's vulnerability to climate change—ranging from erratic monsoons and glacial melt to coastal erosion and urban heatwaves—demands a robust adaptation strategy. While policy shifts are visible, adaptation remains largely response-centric rather than resilience-driven.

In **agriculture**, initiatives such as the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), climate-resilient seeds, micro-irrigation, and PMFBY mark progress. The adoption of millets and drought-resistant varieties reflects agro-ecological diversification. Yet, gaps persist: crop insurance penetration is uneven, extension services remain weak, and monoculture patterns limit adaptive capacity. Smallholders, who constitute 85% of farmers, face the greatest risk.

**Water resource management** demonstrates mixed outcomes. The Atal Bhujal Yojana promotes community-based groundwater management, and river-basin modelling is improving. However, aquifer depletion, inter-state water disputes, and lack of integrated watershed planning undermine adaptation. India still relies heavily on groundwater, making it highly vulnerable to climate variability.

In **coastal management**, shoreline vulnerability mapping, CRZ regulations, and mangrove restoration efforts (as in Maharashtra and Odisha) represent adaptive progress. But accelerated sea-level rise, erosion



hotspots (Kerala, Andhra), and port expansion intensify socio-ecological vulnerabilities. Hard-engineered structures often worsen erosion, indicating the need for hybrid or nature-based solutions.

**Urban planning** is possibly the weakest link. Heat action plans, early-warning systems, and AMRUT reforms improve resilience, but most cities lack climate-sensitive master plans. Urban flooding—from Chennai to Bengaluru—reveals fragile drainage networks and encroachment on wetlands. Building codes do not systematically integrate thermal resilience or blue-green infrastructure.

The overarching challenges include: fragmented institutional coordination, insufficient climate finance at local-body levels, limited data for granular climate-risk mapping, and inadequate local capacity. Adaptation must shift toward **anticipatory** and **transformative** approaches—demanding long-term investments, climate-sensitive land-use planning, resilient infrastructure, and community-led governance.

Thus, India's progress is notable yet uneven. Adaptation must evolve from reactive disaster management to systematic resilience-building, embedded across development planning.

## GS-4

**Q4. Ethical public administration requires balancing legal compliance, compassion, and accountability. Discuss with suitable examples how a civil servant can ethically navigate conflicts between procedural correctness and humane governance.**

### Sample Answer

Ethical public administration rests on the triad of legality, compassion, and accountability. Civil servants frequently face dilemmas where strict procedural adherence may conflict with humane, equitable outcomes. The challenge is not to bypass rules but to interpret them in ways consistent with constitutional morality.

Procedural correctness ensures transparency, non-arbitrariness, and predictability. Yet an overemphasis on rigid rule-following can lead to “administrative formalism”, where ends are compromised by procedural inertia. For instance, during natural disasters, strict adherence to procurement rules may delay relief distribution. In such situations, the civil servant must rely on provisions permitting emergency powers, ensuring that decisions are documented, justified, and subject to post-facto audit.

Compassion in governance flows from values such as empathy, dignity, and the constitutional mandate to secure justice. An ethical civil servant can operationalize compassion without violating rules. For example, in welfare schemes where beneficiaries lack documentation (e.g., migrant workers), officers can use temporary certification mechanisms permitted under guidelines instead of outright denial of benefits.

Accountability requires that discretion be exercised transparently. Exercising compassionate discretion must be accompanied by clear reasons recorded in writing. This protects both the citizen and the officer from allegations of favouritism. A good example is the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, where officers must balance legal scrutiny with empathetic consideration of historical injustices.

Value conflicts often arise in law enforcement. A humane approach—such as community policing, counselling juveniles, or ensuring mental-health support for vulnerable detainees—does not violate legality but enhances the legitimacy of the state.

Ultimately, ethical navigation requires a framework based on:

1. **Rule-of-law fidelity,**
2. **Value-sensitive interpretation,**



3. **Transparency in discretion,**
4. **Public interest prioritization,** and
5. **Adherence to constitutional morality** over mere proceduralism.

Thus, an ethical civil servant harmonizes law and compassion, demonstrating that humane governance strengthens—rather than dilutes—administrative accountability.

## **Current Affairs**

**Q5. “The G20 Report on Global Inequality highlights structural imbalances that threaten both economic stability and global governance.” Critically examine the key findings of the report and evaluate their implications for emerging economies like India.**

### **Sample Answer**

The G20 Report on Global Inequality marks a significant attempt to quantify disparities in income, wealth, climate vulnerability, and digital access across G20 and non-G20 nations. The report argues that inequality today is multidimensional and threatens global stability by undermining growth, increasing geopolitical friction, and reducing the legitimacy of multilateral institutions.

A key finding is the wide divergence in **per capita wealth**, where G20 advanced economies hold disproportionate shares of global net wealth compared to emerging economies. Wealth inequality has risen faster than income inequality, primarily driven by asset inflation, uneven access to capital markets, and digitization-led productivity gaps.

The report also highlights **climate inequality**, observing that countries most vulnerable to climate shocks (South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa) contribute the least to cumulative emissions. This asymmetry affects adaptation financing, energy transitions, and risk pricing. It links environmental vulnerability with economic inequality, creating a “double penalty” for emerging economies.

Digital inequality—ranging from AI adoption to broadband access—creates additional stratification. Advanced G20 members dominate digital rents, patents, and technological platforms. This concentration of digital capital may create barriers for developing economies in the future global economy.

For India, the implications are twofold. On the one hand, India’s strong digital public infrastructure, large workforce, and expanding middle class position it to benefit from global realignments. On the other hand, structural challenges persist: uneven regional development, wealth concentration, limited social protection, and climate vulnerability. India also faces the burden of financing green transitions without compromising growth.

The report underscores the need for systemic reforms: progressive taxation frameworks, global minimum taxes, climate finance commitments, technology-sharing partnerships, and a more inclusive global trading system. For India, leveraging its G20 presidency narrative—“One Earth, One Family, One Future”—requires translating these concerns into actionable policies: strengthening social safety nets, expanding skilling ecosystems, democratizing digital access, and ensuring climate-resilient infrastructure.

In essence, the report calls for a new global economic architecture that balances growth with equity—an agenda central to India’s development trajectory.