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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 19/11/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Mahajanapadas:

1. The capital of the Avanti Mahajanapada was initially Mahishmati but later shifted to Ujjayini.
2. The Anga Mahajanapada was annexed by Magadha during the reign of Bimbisara.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) None
- (d) Both are correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

• *Statement 1:* Ancient sources such as the *Mahavamsa Tika* and Puranic lists suggest that Avanti originally had Mahishmati as its early centre, but later Ujjayini emerged as the political core. This is generally accepted as historically plausible → **Correct**.

• *Statement 2:* Bimbisara is credited with conquering Anga and annexing it to Magadha, with Champa made its administrative centre → **Correct**.

Thus, **both statements are correct**, but the question asks: “How many...?”

Therefore answer should be **two** → (b).

(Note: If selecting from given options, (b) is correct; corrected mapping above.)

2. With reference to Ecological Pyramids, which one of the following best explains why the pyramid of biomass in certain aquatic ecosystems appears inverted?

- (a) The rate of biomass turnover of phytoplankton is extremely high compared to zooplankton.
- (b) The total energy captured by phytoplankton is higher than that by zooplankton at any time.
- (c) The standing crop of zooplankton is energetically more efficient than that of fish and molluscs.
- (d) The biomass of primary consumers collapses seasonally, changing the entire trophic structure.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

In aquatic ecosystems, the *standing biomass* of phytoplankton is very low at any given moment because they reproduce, grow, and die extremely rapidly, leading to *high turnover*. Zooplankton feeding on this rapidly replenished biomass may collectively weigh more at a single point in time, creating an *inverted biomass pyramid*. Energy pyramids, however, can never be inverted.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT):

1. AMT applies to all categories of non-corporate taxpayers without exceptions.
2. The credit of AMT paid can be carried forward for a limited number of assessment years.
3. AMT provisions were introduced to prevent erosion of the tax base due to profit-linked deductions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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



Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- *Statement 1:* AMT applies only to non-corporate taxpayers who claim certain deductions under Chapter VIA (part C) and Section 10AA; not “all”. Certain small individuals/HUFs with low adjusted income are exempt. → **Incorrect.**
 - *Statement 2:* AMT credit can be carried forward for **up to 15 assessment years.** → **Correct.**
 - *Statement 3:* AMT was introduced on lines of MAT to prevent taxpayers from completely eliminating tax liability through profit-linked incentives. → **Correct.**
- Hence, **two statements are correct.**

4. With reference to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), consider the following statements:

1. PAC examines the accounts showing the appropriation of funds granted by Parliament for various services.
2. The Chairman of PAC is appointed by the Lok Sabha Speaker from amongst the members of Parliament belonging only to the ruling party.
3. PAC can scrutinize accounts of autonomous bodies receiving grants from the Consolidated Fund of India.
4. The recommendations of PAC are binding on the government.

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:* PAC’s primary function is to examine the *Appropriation Accounts* and the *Audit Reports* of the CAG on expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. → **Correct.**
 - *Statement 2:* By convention, the Chairman is from the **Opposition**, though formally appointed by the Speaker. Therefore the statement that it is “only from the ruling party” is incorrect. → **Incorrect.**
 - *Statement 3:* PAC may examine accounts of bodies receiving grants, as highlighted in CAG audit reports. → **Correct.**
 - *Statement 4:* PAC’s recommendations are *advisory*, not binding. → **Incorrect.**
- Thus, **two statements are correct.**

5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A):

Oceanic ridge systems display frequent volcanic activity and hydrothermal vent formation.

Reason (R1):

They coincide with zones of crustal divergence where upwelling mantle material generates new lithosphere.

Reason (R2):

High sediment accumulation at ridge crests leads to intense heating and subsequent volcanism.

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct, but only R1 explains A.
- (b) A is correct, R1 is correct, 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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Assertion:** Mid-Ocean Ridges are volcanically active and host hydrothermal vents → **Correct**.
 - **R1:** Divergent boundaries cause mantle upwelling and partial melting → directly explains volcanic activity and vent formation → **Correct and explanatory**.
 - **R2:** Sediment accumulation at ridge crests is minimal, not high; ridges are topographic highs where sediments thin out → **Incorrect**.
- Thus, combination matches **Option (a)**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayan Black Bear:

1. Although primarily distributed in the Western and Eastern Himalayas, the species shows a documented altitudinal migration pattern that is *inverse* to that of most Himalayan ungulates.
2. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Himalayan Black Bear is listed under Schedule II, but its IUCN status globally is classified as “Vulnerable”.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

• **Statement 1 – Correct.**

Himalayan Black Bears move **downward during winter** in search of food, whereas many Himalayan ungulates (bharal, tahr) move downward during summer — hence the bear’s pattern is *inverse* to typical ungulate migration.

• **Statement 2 – Incorrect.**

The species is listed under **Schedule II** of the Wildlife Protection Act, but IUCN classifies it as “**Vulnerable**” in some regional assessments and “**Least Concern**” globally, making the statement incorrect because it generalises IUCN status.

Thus, **only one is correct**.

2. In the context of recent technological developments, which one of the following best describes “lab-grown milk”?

- (a) Milk synthesized using enzymatic alteration of plant proteins without any microbial involvement
- (b) Milk produced through precision fermentation using genetically engineered microorganisms that secrete dairy-identical proteins



- (c) A synthetic substitute created by catalytic hydrogenation of lipid precursors
- (d) Milk analogues produced by expressing casein genes in hydroponically grown algae

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Lab-grown milk (also called **precision-fermented dairy**) is produced by **genetically engineered microbes** such as yeast or fungi that generate proteins like **casein and whey**, chemically identical to natural milk proteins. Options (a), (c), and (d) do not represent the globally recognized method.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Great Indian Bustard (GIB):

1. The species' primary breeding sites in India are restricted to two landscapes, both falling entirely within the Aravalli mountain system.
2. The Supreme Court has directed undergrounding of power lines in critical habitats of the GIB under Article 142.
3. The GIB is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and is listed as "Critically Endangered" under the IUCN Red List.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

• Statement 1 – Incorrect.

Breeding areas lie mainly in *Thar Desert landscapes* (Rajasthan–Gujarat), not the Aravalli mountain system.

• Statement 2 – Correct.

The Supreme Court invoked **Article 142** to mandate power-line undergrounding in GIB habitats.

• Statement 3 – Correct.

GIB is in **Schedule I** of WPA, 1972 and **IUCN: Critically Endangered**.

Thus, **two statements are correct**.

4. Consider the following statements about the "Rare Earth Hypothesis":

1. It argues that microbial life may be common in the universe, but complex life is extremely rare due to the stringent geophysical and astrophysical conditions required.
2. The hypothesis supports the view that the Fermi Paradox can be resolved by the limited number of Earth-like planets with long-term tectonic activity.
3. The hypothesis contradicts the Copernican Principle by asserting that Earth's position and conditions are fundamentally non-typical in the cosmos.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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



Answer: (c)

Explanation:

• **Statement 1 – Correct.**

The Rare Earth Hypothesis states that simple life may be widespread but **complex life is exceedingly rare**.

• **Statement 2 – Correct.**

The hypothesis explains the Fermi Paradox by proposing that very few planets maintain **plate tectonics, magnetic fields, stable orbits**, etc.

• **Statement 3 – Correct.**

It indeed **rejects the Copernican Principle**, arguing Earth is *exceptional*, not typical.

Thus, **all three are correct**.

5. Consider the following statements regarding India's first MWh-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) installed at NTPC NETRA:

1. VRFB technology enables deep-cycle usage with almost zero degradation of electrodes, making it particularly suitable for long-duration stationary storage.
2. The electrolyte of VRFB can be reused indefinitely because both half-cells utilize different oxidation states of vanadium, avoiding cross-contamination.
3. The installation at NETRA aims to support grid-scale storage for solar-heavy regions and is designed to operate with a round-trip efficiency comparable to lithium-ion batteries.
4. The battery system inherently eliminates any risk of thermal runaway because its energy is stored entirely in liquid electrolytes outside the cell stack.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

• **Statement 1 – Correct.**

VRFBs allow **deep cycling** with minimal degradation — ideal for long-duration storage.

• **Statement 2 – Correct.**

Both half-cells use **vanadium ions** in different oxidation states, so electrolyte reuse avoids cross-contamination.

• **Statement 3 – Incorrect.**

Round-trip efficiency of VRFBs (~70–80%) is **lower** than lithium-ion (~85–95%), so they are not comparable.

• **Statement 4 – Correct.**

VRFBs store energy in **external tanks of liquid electrolyte**, making thermal runaway essentially impossible.

Thus, **three statements are correct**.



6. The Valley of Flowers National Park is located in which of the following river basins?

- (a) Mandakini
- (b) Pindar
- (c) Pushpawati
- (d) Dhauliganga

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand lies in the **Pushpawati River valley**, a tributary of the Alaknanda. The push-shaped U-valley formed by glacial action gives it its distinct floral diversity.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. The Industrial Revolution altered not merely Europe's economy but its social structures, political institutions, and global power equations. Discuss how the Industrial Revolution reshaped human society and laid foundations for the modern world.

Sample Answer

The Industrial Revolution, beginning in late 18th-century Britain, marked a decisive rupture in human history. It transitioned societies from agrarian economies to machine-based industrial production, fundamentally altering economic relationships, social hierarchies, political institutions, and global alignments.

Economically, the shift from manual labour to mechanized production increased productivity exponentially. The rise of the factory system concentrated labour and capital, stimulating urbanization and giving birth to industrial cities such as Manchester and Birmingham. Innovations—steam engine, spinning jenny, power loom—multiplied output, generating unprecedented economic surplus and enabling capitalism to flourish. This laid the foundation for modern economic systems based on mass production and consumption.

Socially, the Industrial Revolution reorganized class structures. A new working class (proletariat) emerged, dependent on wage labour. Simultaneously, industrialists and entrepreneurs formed a rising bourgeoisie that gradually replaced the landed aristocracy in influence. While social mobility expanded for some, exploitative working conditions, child labour, and gendered wage disparities triggered labour unrest and subsequent labour rights reforms. Urbanization created overcrowding and poor sanitation but also stimulated modern public health systems, municipal governance, and social reforms.

Politically, industrialization redefined state responsibilities. The need for regulations in labour, trade, and public utilities pushed governments toward interventionist policies. The growth of literacy and print culture spread political consciousness, contributing to democratic reforms like the Reform Acts in Britain. Ideas such as liberalism, socialism, and utilitarianism gained traction as responses to industrial capitalism's challenges.



Globally, industrialization enabled European powers to dominate international trade and colonization. Access to raw materials and markets became strategic priorities, intensifying imperialism. Technological superiority—railways, telegraphs, steamships—helped Britain and later other powers restructure global economic networks, laying the foundations of today's globalized world order.

In conclusion, the Industrial Revolution reshaped human civilization by transforming production systems, urban life, socio-political institutions, and global power dynamics. Its legacy persists in modern technological innovation, industrial capitalism, labour rights movements, and globalization—making it one of the most consequential turning points in world history.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. Effective intergovernmental dispute resolution is essential for cooperative federalism. Critically examine the functioning of bodies such as the Inter-State Council and tribunals under Articles 262 and 131 in resolving Centre–State and inter-State conflicts.

Sample Answer (≈330 words)

Dispute resolution mechanisms constitute the backbone of cooperative federalism in India. With increasing political, administrative, and economic interactions among the Union and States, institutional devices such as the Inter-State Council (ISC), tribunals under Article 262, and the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction under Article 131 play a pivotal role. However, their performance has been mixed.

The **Inter-State Council**, established under Article 263, is intended to facilitate consultation on subjects of common interest and resolve inter-governmental disputes. Despite its constitutional status, it remains underutilized. Meetings have been infrequent, and decisions largely recommendatory. The Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions emphasized strengthening the ISC through regular meetings, permanent secretariat support, and binding dispute-resolution protocols. Although some steps were taken, the ISC has not emerged as the principal platform for Centre–State coordination, especially on contentious issues like GST compensation, environmental regulation, or law and order coordination.

Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals (ISWDTs) under Article 262 seek to resolve disputes through quasi-judicial mechanisms. Despite multiple tribunals—Cauvery, Krishna, Ravi-Beas—delays have been significant, taking decades to conclude. Implementation remains challenging as awards lack automatic enforceability, often requiring Supreme Court intervention. The Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Act, 2019, attempts to streamline the process by creating a single permanent tribunal, but its operationalization is pending.

Under **Article 131**, the Supreme Court acts as the final arbiter on Centre-State and inter-State disputes. Recent judgments—on State taxation powers, legislative competence, and federal relations—highlight its central role. However, overreliance on judicial resolution risks judicialization of politics and undermines negotiated federalism.

In essence, while India possesses a robust architecture for intergovernmental dispute resolution, weaknesses in institutional capacity, irregular functioning, and political contestation undermine their effectiveness. Strengthening the ISC, operationalizing permanent tribunals, and promoting structured negotiation frameworks are essential to reinforce cooperative federalism and reduce adversarial litigation.



GS Paper 3 –

Q3. Agricultural credit and crop insurance are intended to mitigate agrarian risk, yet their structural deficiencies often deepen farmers' vulnerabilities. Analyse the challenges and suggest reforms to make rural financial systems more inclusive and resilient.

Sample Answer:

Agricultural credit and crop insurance are critical pillars of agrarian stability, enabling farmers to invest, diversify risk, and withstand climatic and market shocks. However, despite extensive institutional frameworks—PSBs, RRBs, cooperative banks, NABARD, KCCs, and PM-FBY—India's rural financial landscape remains fragmented, exclusionary, and risk-prone.

Major challenges persist. First, **institutional credit remains skewed**, with large and medium farmers cornering most loans, while small and tenant farmers depend on informal lenders charging exorbitant interest rates. Land-title dependencies, poor documentation, and weak tenancy recognition exacerbate exclusion. The shift toward **input-intensive agriculture** increases credit dependence, raising farmers' vulnerability to crop failures and price crashes.

Second, the **quality of credit** is poor. Much of agricultural lending often becomes consumption credit, leading to distress indebtedness. Banks meet targets through short-term loans, evergreening, and indirect finance, reducing genuine capital formation. NPA levels in agricultural lending strain the system further.

Third, **crop insurance penetration remains low**. PMFBY faced issues such as delayed claim settlement, inaccurate yield estimation via CCEs, and inadequate grievance redress mechanisms. Many farmers withdrew due to rising premiums, low transparency, and private insurers' lack of accountability. Climate change-induced extreme events further complicate actuarial models.

Reforms are urgently needed. Digitization—satellite-based yield estimation, remote sensing, and automated CCEs—can enhance credibility. A **public sector reinsurance mechanism**, risk pooling, and area-specific climate insurance can stabilize premiums. Formalizing tenancy, promoting joint liability groups, and expanding KCCs to allied sectors can enhance credit inclusion. The shift toward **agency banking, self-help groups, and farmer-producer organizations** can democratize access. Strengthening cooperative banking, integrating credit with extension services, and promoting crop diversification reduce systemic risk.

In conclusion, agricultural credit and insurance must evolve from narrow financial instruments to holistic risk-management systems. By combining technology, institutional reforms, and community-based models, India can create a resilient rural financial architecture capable of empowering farmers and ensuring long-term agrarian sustainability.

GS Paper 4 – Ethics

Q4. Ethical governance requires balancing rule-based administration with compassion, accountability, and public trust. Explain this balance with suitable examples from public service.

Sample Answer:

Ethical governance demands more than mere compliance with rules; it requires administrators to uphold integrity, justice, and compassion while exercising public authority. A balance between rules and empathy is central to ensuring public trust and effective service delivery.

Rule-based administration ensures predictability, fairness, and non-arbitrariness. It prevents misuse of discretion and maintains equality before law. For instance, transparent procurement rules reduce corruption,



while strict adherence to service codes prevents conflict of interest. At the same time, rigid application of rules without considering human dimensions may cause injustice or inefficiency.

Compassion in administration enables empathetic responses to citizen needs without undermining legality. Values like responsiveness, empathy, and humane approach bring legitimacy to governance. For example, during disasters, officers often relax procedural requirements to provide immediate relief. Similarly, a district magistrate facilitating ration delivery to elderly people unable to complete biometric verification demonstrates humane governance within legal bounds.

Balancing both requires **responsible discretion**. The Supreme Court has often emphasized that fairness must temper technical legality. Officers must interpret rules in the spirit of public welfare. For example, allowing night shelters to operate in unused government buildings during winter reflects ethical discretion.

Accountability ties the system together. Responsive governance requires transparent decision-making, clear documentation, citizen charters, and grievance redress mechanisms. Social audits in schemes like MGNREGA illustrate how community oversight strengthens ethical conduct.

This balance reflects Gandhian principles of **trusteeship**, where public servants act as custodians of public resources. Ethical leadership models—exemplified by officers like E. Sreedharan—demonstrate adherence to rules while inspiring trust through integrity and humane decision-making.

In essence, ethical governance merges procedural correctness with moral sensitivity. Rules provide the skeleton, compassion brings vitality, discretion gives flexibility, and accountability ensures credibility. Together, they create a governance culture that upholds justice, transparency, and human dignity.

Current Affairs –

Q5. Recent debates on 'exploited workers' highlight structural inadequacies in India's labour policies, especially regarding informalisation and the new labour codes. Examine the issue and suggest reforms for meaningful worker protection.

Sample Answer:

The discourse around “exploited workers” in India underscores a widening gap between legislative promises and lived realities. Despite four consolidated Labour Codes—on wages, social security, occupational safety, and industrial relations—worker protection remains fragile. The majority of India's workforce (over 90%) is informal, lacking job security, social protection, and bargaining power. This structural imbalance forms the backdrop of debates over labour exploitation.

Firstly, the **informal sector's dominance** means workers frequently operate without written contracts, regulated working hours, or safety standards. Migrant labourers, gig workers, platform delivery personnel, and construction workers embody this vulnerability. During the COVID-19 lockdown, mass reverse migration exposed the lack of a robust social security net.

Secondly, labour codes, though promising simplification, exhibit **ambiguities and dilution of safeguards**. Provisions allowing easier hire-and-fire, widening thresholds for industrial layoffs, and enabling fixed-term employment risk weakening collective bargaining. The promise of universal social security through aggregators and gig platforms remains vague, with implementation mechanisms undefined.

Third, **weak enforcement** is a fundamental challenge. Labour inspectorates are understaffed and often replaced by self-certification regimes that favour employers. Penalties for violations remain low, encouraging non-compliance. Workers' access to grievance redressal remains limited by lack of awareness and procedural hurdles.



Fourth, the **gender dimension** intensifies exploitation. Women in home-based and care work remain invisible in labour statistics, receiving lower wages and facing unsafe conditions.

To address these issues, reforms must follow a rights-based, worker-centric approach. Strengthening labour inspection, creating national databases for migrant workers, and ensuring portability of social security benefits are essential. Gig and platform workers require statutory recognition with dedicated social-security funds. Collective bargaining must be protected by ensuring trade union rights and curbing excessive employer discretion.

Additionally, the state must invest in skills, formalization incentives, and targeted welfare—housing, childcare, health safety—to improve labour conditions substantively.

In conclusion, India's labour reforms must move beyond legislative consolidation to real enforcement and inclusion. Protecting exploited workers is indispensable for equitable growth, social stability, and true economic transformation.