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

# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 18/12/2025 (THURSDAY)**

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



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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

**Question 1. Consider the following statements regarding the Virupaksha Temple at Hampi:**

**Statement-I:** The temple architecture reflects a sophisticated "Panchayatan" style where the principal deity is surrounded by four subsidiary shrines, representing a transition from early Chalukyan to mature Vijayanagara styles.

**Statement-II:** Historical inscriptions within the temple complex suggest that the main structure was significantly expanded during the coronation of Krishnadevaraya, specifically the addition of the central pillared hall.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Answer: (d)**

**Detailed Explanation:** Statement-I is incorrect because the Virupaksha Temple is primarily known for its Dravidian style and its evolution from a small shrine to a sprawling complex; it is not a classic "Panchayatan" layout (which is more common in North Indian Nagara styles like Khajuraho). Statement-II is correct as Krishnadevaraya made significant contributions to the temple to mark his accession in 1509 AD, including the building of the Ranga Mandapa (central pillared hall) and the eastern gopuram.

**Question 2. In the context of "Niche Construction" within an ecosystem, which of the following best describes the phenomenon where an organism modifies its own selective environment?**

- (a) The process by which a species occupies a vacant functional role following a localized extinction event.
- (b) The physiological adaptation of a species to survive in extreme micro-climatic variations without altering the physical habitat.
- (c) The active modification of environmental states by organisms that subsequently affects the selection pressures acting on them and their descendants.
- (d) The competitive exclusion of a native species by an invasive species due to superior resource acquisition efficiency.

**Answer: (c)**

**Detailed Explanation:** Niche construction is a core concept in evolutionary ecology where organisms (like beavers building dams or earthworms changing soil chemistry) physically or chemically modify their environment. This modification changes the "selection pressure" not just for other species, but for the organism's own future generations, essentially "inheriting" a modified environment.



**Question 3. With reference to various types of deficits in the Indian economy, consider the following statements:**

1. The Effective Revenue Deficit (ERD) is always lower than the Revenue Deficit because it excludes grants-in-aid given to states for the creation of capital assets.
2. A persistent Primary Deficit indicates that the government is forced to borrow just to meet the interest payment obligations on its accumulated past debts.
3. The Fiscal Deficit necessarily leads to an increase in the money supply (M3) if it is financed entirely through market borrowings from the public.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Detailed Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct;  $ERD = \text{Revenue Deficit} - \text{Grants for creation of capital assets}$ . Since these grants are deducted, ERD is lower. Statement 2 is incorrect; the Primary Deficit is Fiscal Deficit minus Interest Payments. If the Primary Deficit is zero, it means the government is borrowing only to pay interest. If there is a "persistent" Primary Deficit, it means the government is borrowing for current consumption/investment in addition to interest payments. Statement 3 is incorrect; market borrowings from the public shift money from private hands to the government, which is generally "money supply neutral." It is the financing through the RBI (monetized deficit) that increases the money supply.

**Question 4. Regarding the powers and functions of the District Collector in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Collector, in the capacity of District Magistrate, is the head of the criminal administration in the district and exercises general control over the police.
2. Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the District Collector acts as the Chairperson of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in an ex-officio capacity.
3. The District Collector has the discretionary power to override the technical decisions of the Zila Parishad regarding the implementation of Central Sector Schemes.
4. The Collector serves as the principal channel of communication between the State Government and the general public within the district jurisdiction.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three



(d) All four

**Answer: (c)**

**Detailed Explanation:** Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. The DM has supervisory authority over the police (though the Commissionerate system changes this in some cities). The DM is the ex-officio head of the DDMA. Statement 3 is incorrect; while the Collector (often as CEO of Zila Parishad in some states or as a coordinator) has significant influence, they do not have "discretionary power to override technical decisions" of an elected local body like the Zila Parishad, as these bodies have their own statutory or constitutional mandates.

**Question 5. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** In the middle and lower courses of a river, the formation of ox-bow lakes is a result of both active lateral erosion and simultaneous deposition.

**Statement-II:** The high kinetic energy of the river in its old stage prevents the deposition of silt on the inner curve of a meander, leading to a "neck" cutoff.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?1011

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I1213

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I14t-I15

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect16

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct17t

**Answer: (c)**

**Detailed Explanation:** Statement-I is correct; ox-bow lakes form through a cycle of erosion on the outer bank (cut-off bank) and deposition on the inner bank (point bar), eventually narrowing the neck until the river breaks through. Statement-II is incorrect because, in the old stage (lower course), the river has low kinetic energy and low velocity. It is this low energy that causes the river to deposit its load on the inner curves, which is a prerequisite for the meandering process that eventually leads to an ox-bow lake.

## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

**Q1. (Assertion–Reason Type)**

**Assertion (A):**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India exercises regulatory powers that go beyond mere technical oversight of civil aviation.

**Reason (R1):**

DGCA derives its authority primarily from delegated legislation under the Aircraft Act, 1934 and the Aircraft Rules, 1937.



**Reason (R2):**

DGCA has independent statutory status comparable to regulators such as the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

- (a) A is true, and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A
- (b) A is true, but only R1 is a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but only R2 is a correct explanation of A
- (d) A is false

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The DGCA performs regulatory, safety, certification and enforcement functions, extending beyond technical oversight. Its powers flow from **delegated legislation** under the Aircraft Act and Rules, making R1 correct. However, DGCA **does not have independent statutory regulator status** like TRAI; it functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Hence, R2 is incorrect. Therefore, A is true and only R1 explains it.

**Q2. With reference to Open Market Operations (OMO) Purchase conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, consider the following statements:**

1. OMO purchase directly injects durable liquidity into the banking system.
2. OMO purchase always leads to a reduction in government bond yields.
3. OMO is a quantitative tool, unlike the policy repo rate.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct as OMO purchases inject liquidity.

Statement 2 is incorrect because bond yields may not always fall; market expectations and inflation outlook matter.

Statement 3 is correct since OMO is a **quantitative monetary policy tool**, unlike policy rates which are price-based instruments. Hence, only two statements are correct.

**Q3. With reference to India hosting the 20th UNESCO Inter-Governmental Committee, consider the following statements:**

1. The Inter-Governmental Committee functions under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
2. Only States Parties to the Convention can be elected to the Committee.
3. Decisions of the Committee are legally binding on all UNESCO member states.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Correct Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2 is correct as only States Parties are eligible.

Statement 3 is incorrect because the Committee's decisions are **recommendatory**, not legally binding.

Thus, only two statements are correct.

**Q4. With reference to Exercise Harimau Shakti, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a bilateral military exercise between India and Malaysia.
2. It primarily focuses on jungle warfare and counter-insurgency operations.
3. The exercise is conducted under the aegis of the Indian Navy.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Correct Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2 is correct as the exercise emphasizes jungle warfare and tactical coordination.

Statement 3 is incorrect because it is an **Army-to-Army exercise**, not naval.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

**Q5. With reference to Niger becoming the first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis, consider the following statements:**

1. Onchocerciasis is a parasitic disease transmitted by blackflies.
2. Elimination implies complete eradication of the parasite globally.
3. WHO certification of elimination is based on sustained interruption of transmission.
4. Mass drug administration using ivermectin played a key role in Niger's success.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two



- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Correct Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2 is incorrect because **elimination is country-specific**, not global eradication.

Statement 3 is correct.

Statement 4 is correct.

Thus, three statements are correct.

**Q6. Kaibul Lamjao National Park, often mentioned in environmental current affairs, is correctly described by which of the following?**

- (a) It is located in Assam and is the largest riverine national park in India
- (b) It lies in Manipur and is the only floating national park in the world
- (c) It is situated in Mizoram and is known for tropical evergreen forests
- (d) It lies in Nagaland and is a core area of Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve

**Correct Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Kaibul Lamjao National Park is located in **Manipur**, on Loktak Lake, and is globally unique as the **only floating national park**, known for the endangered Sangai deer.

## **SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE**

### **GS Paper–I**

**Q1. “Rising intolerance in society increasingly affects institutions meant for critical thinking and socialization.”**

Discuss the **impact of rising intolerance on the education system in India.**

**Answer:**

Education systems thrive on openness, debate and diversity of ideas. Rising intolerance—manifested through ideological rigidity, cultural polarisation, and shrinking space for dissent—has begun to adversely affect educational institutions in India.

**Impact on Academic Freedom:**

Universities are increasingly witnessing pressures on curriculum design, choice of texts, and research themes. Scholars and students expressing dissenting or non-conformist views often face social backlash, institutional action or legal scrutiny. This weakens academic freedom, which is a cornerstone of higher education.

**Erosion of Critical Thinking:**

An atmosphere of intolerance discourages questioning and debate. Students may resort to self-censorship to



avoid controversy. Over time, education risks becoming rote-driven and ideological rather than inquiry-driven, undermining the scientific temper envisaged under Article 51A(h).

**Campus Polarisation and Violence:**

Identity-based mobilisation on campuses—religious, ideological or regional—has led to confrontations, disrupting academic calendars and normal learning processes. Campuses shift from being spaces of dialogue to arenas of confrontation.

**Impact on Inclusivity:**

Marginalised students, minorities, and first-generation learners are disproportionately affected. Hostile environments reduce their participation and retention, contradicting the goals of equity and social justice in education.

**Global Academic Standing:**

Restrictions on intellectual freedom can damage India's reputation as a knowledge hub, affecting international collaborations, faculty mobility and student exchanges.

**Way Forward:**

Strengthening institutional autonomy, upholding constitutional values of pluralism, promoting dialogue-based conflict resolution, and insulating education from partisan politics are essential.

**Conclusion:**

Education shapes democratic citizenship. If intolerance penetrates classrooms and campuses, it risks producing conformity instead of creativity. Safeguarding educational spaces is thus vital for India's democratic and developmental future.

## GS Paper–II

### Q2. Define Good Governance. Examine the major challenges in achieving good governance in India.

**Answer:**

Good governance refers to the manner in which power is exercised in managing a country's social, economic and administrative resources for development. The World Bank associates it with accountability, transparency, rule of law, responsiveness, equity, effectiveness and participation.

**Key Features of Good Governance:**

- Transparency in decision-making
- Accountability of institutions and officials
- Rule of law and impartial justice
- Citizen participation
- Efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery

**Challenges in India:**

**Administrative Challenges:**

Bureaucratic inertia, procedural delays, and excessive rule-bound functioning reduce efficiency. Frequent transfers and political interference weaken accountability.



**Corruption and Rent-Seeking:**

Despite legal frameworks like the Prevention of Corruption Act, corruption persists due to weak enforcement, opacity in public procurement, and political funding issues.

**Capacity Deficits:**

Local governments often lack financial and technical capacity, limiting the effectiveness of decentralisation under the 73rd and 74th Amendments.

**Exclusion and Inequality:**

Governance outcomes are uneven. Marginalised communities face barriers in accessing welfare schemes due to digital divide, lack of awareness and social discrimination.

**Weak Citizen Participation:**

Public consultation mechanisms are often tokenistic. Feedback rarely translates into policy correction.

**Judicial Delays:**

Backlog of cases undermines rule of law and contract enforcement, affecting governance and economic confidence.

**Way Forward:**

Civil service reforms, e-governance, social audits, strengthening local bodies, judicial reforms and transparency in political funding are critical.

**Conclusion:**

Good governance is not merely about efficient administration but about ethical, inclusive and participatory decision-making. Addressing structural challenges is essential to realise governance that truly serves citizens.

## GS Paper–III

**Q3. *Free Market vs Protectionism* is a recurring debate in economic policymaking.**

Critically examine this debate in the context of India's development needs.

**Answer:**

The debate between free markets and protectionism revolves around the degree of state intervention in trade and industry. While free markets emphasise efficiency and competition, protectionism stresses domestic capacity-building and strategic autonomy.

**Arguments for Free Market:**

Free trade enables optimal resource allocation, lowers consumer prices, enhances innovation and integrates economies into global value chains. India's post-1991 liberalisation boosted growth, exports and foreign investment.

**Arguments for Protectionism:**

Developing economies often require protection to nurture infant industries, ensure employment, and prevent deindustrialisation. Strategic sectors like defence, semiconductors and agriculture demand safeguards against volatile global markets.

**Indian Context:**

India adopts a calibrated approach. Initiatives like Make in India, Production Linked Incentive (PLI)



schemes, and selective tariff increases reflect strategic protectionism. Simultaneously, India pursues FTAs and global supply chain integration.

**Challenges of Excessive Protectionism:**

- Higher consumer prices
- Inefficient domestic monopolies
- Retaliatory trade actions
- Reduced export competitiveness

**Risks of Unchecked Free Trade:**

- Premature exposure of weak industries
- Job losses in labour-intensive sectors
- External vulnerability

**Balanced Approach:**

India needs “strategic openness”—temporary protection with clear sunset clauses, productivity-linked support, skilling, infrastructure investment and export orientation.

**Conclusion:**

The debate is not binary. For India, the challenge lies in harmonising market efficiency with national developmental priorities. Pragmatic, time-bound and sector-specific policies offer the most sustainable path.

## GS Paper–IV-

### Q4. How does tolerance function as a core ethical value in a diverse democracy like India?

Examine its relevance in public life and administration.

**Answer:**

Tolerance is the ethical capacity to respect differences in belief, opinion and identity, even in disagreement. In a plural society like India, tolerance is not merely moral idealism but a practical necessity.

**Ethical Significance:**

Tolerance flows from constitutional morality—Articles 14, 19 and 25 guarantee equality, freedom of expression and religion. It upholds dignity, prevents majoritarian domination and fosters social harmony.

**Relevance in Public Administration:**

Civil servants serve diverse populations. Ethical governance demands neutrality, empathy and fairness irrespective of caste, religion, gender or ideology. Intolerance in administration leads to bias, exclusion and erosion of trust.

**In Decision-Making:**

Policy formulation requires balancing competing interests. Tolerance enables dialogue, consultation and compromise rather than coercion.

**Challenges:**

- Political polarisation
- Social media-driven outrage
- Conflation of dissent with disloyalty



**Ethical Dilemmas:**

Tolerance does not mean acceptance of injustice or violence. Administrators must balance tolerance with constitutional values and rule of law.

**Way Forward:**

Ethics training, value-based leadership, institutional safeguards, and role-model behaviour by public officials are crucial.

**Conclusion:**

Tolerance sustains democracy by converting diversity from a source of conflict into a source of strength. In public life, it is both a moral duty and an administrative imperative.

**Current Affairs-**

**Q5. The 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit reflects continuity amid global flux.**

Discuss its significance and challenges in the evolving geopolitical order.

**Answer:**

The 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit underscores the resilience of a time-tested strategic partnership despite shifting global alignments.

**Strategic Significance:**

Russia remains a key defence partner, supplying critical platforms and facilitating technology transfer. Cooperation in nuclear energy (Kudankulam), space, and hydrocarbons enhances India’s energy and strategic security.

**Geopolitical Context:**

The Ukraine conflict, Western sanctions on Russia, and growing Russia–China proximity complicate India’s balancing act. Yet, India’s engagement reflects strategic autonomy rather than alignment.

**Economic Dimension:**

Bilateral trade has expanded, particularly in energy imports. Discussions on alternative payment mechanisms and connectivity via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) are significant.

**Multilateral Cooperation:**

India and Russia coordinate in BRICS, SCO and on global governance reforms, including UN Security Council restructuring.

**Challenges:**

- Overdependence in defence
- Payment and logistics constraints due to sanctions
- Russia–China convergence potentially diluting India’s leverage

**Way Forward:**

Diversification of defence procurement, deeper economic engagement beyond energy, and people-to-people ties are essential.

**Conclusion:**

The summit highlights pragmatic diplomacy. For India, sustaining ties with Russia while deepening relations with the West exemplifies a multipolar, interest-based foreign policy suited to a complex global order.