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

## **DAILY MCQ'S**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 07/01/2026 (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 regarding the Later Mauryan Empire:**

1. Pushyamitra Shunga, who established the Shunga dynasty, was originally a commander-in-chief under Brihadratha, the last Mauryan ruler.
2. Evidence from the Divyavadana suggests that the later Mauryas continued to patronize Buddhism without any interruption until their fall.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Pushyamitra Shunga, indeed the founder of the Shunga dynasty, overthrew Brihadratha Maurya, the last Mauryan king, while serving as commander-in-chief, making Statement 1 correct. However, according to literary sources like Divyavadana, the later Mauryas faced internal decline and rising hostility towards Buddhism, especially under Pushyamitra Shunga, who is often accused (though debated) of persecuting Buddhists. Hence, continuous Buddhist patronage is not accurate. Therefore, Statement 2 is incorrect.

**Q2. Which of the following National Parks is the only floating National Park in the world, located in India?**

- (a) Keibul Lamjao National Park
- (b) Silent Valley National Park
- (c) Nokrek National Park
- (d) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Keibul Lamjao National Park, situated in Manipur within Loktak Lake, is the world's only floating national park. It consists of *phumdis* (floating biomass). Silent Valley (Kerala) is famous for tropical rainforests, Nokrek (Meghalaya) is a biosphere reserve, and Dibru-Saikhowa (Assam) is known for its semi-wetland ecosystems but is not floating.

**Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to Monetary Policy in India:**

1. The primary objective of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
2. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a statutory body created by the Finance Act, 2016, consisting of six members.
3. The Repo Rate is the rate at which the RBI borrows short-term funds from commercial banks, while the Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the RBI lends funds to commercial banks.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct as per the amended RBI Act (2016), where the objective is price stability with growth. Statement 2 is also correct – the MPC was created under the RBI Act, amended by the Finance Act 2016, and has six members (three nominated by the Government, three from RBI including the Governor). Statement 3 is incorrect – it reverses definitions. *Repo Rate* is the rate at which RBI lends to banks; *Reverse Repo Rate* is the rate at which RBI borrows from banks. Hence, only two statements are correct.

**Q4. With reference to Judicial Activism in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Judicial activism emerged strongly in India post-Emergency (1975–77), leading to the development of Public Interest Litigation (PIL).
2. The Supreme Court in *Kesavananda Bharati* case (1973) invoked judicial activism to propound the Basic Structure Doctrine.
3. Judicial activism necessarily means encroachment into legislative and executive domains.
4. Article 142 of the Constitution has been frequently used by the Supreme Court to deliver complete justice in cases, often cited as an example of judicial activism.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct: Judicial activism gained momentum in the post-Emergency period with PILs spearheaded by Justices Bhagwati and Krishna Iyer. Statement 2 is correct: *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973) is a landmark in judicial creativity/activism with the Basic Structure Doctrine. Statement 3 is incorrect: Judicial activism is not always encroachment; it can be a legitimate interpretation to fill governance gaps. Statement 4 is correct: Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to do complete justice, a hallmark of activist judgments. Thus, 1, 2, and 4 are correct.

**Q5. Assertion – Reason - type**

Assertion (A): The Pontic Mountains in Turkey run parallel to the southern coast of the Black Sea and act as a climatic barrier for inland regions.

Reason (R): The Taurus Mountains, lying further south in Turkey, cause a rain shadow effect on the Anatolian Plateau.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.



- (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, but R is correct.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** The Pontic Mountains run east-west along northern Turkey, parallel to the Black Sea coast, trapping maritime moisture and preventing its penetration into central Anatolia – making Assertion (A) correct. The Taurus Mountains in the south also block Mediterranean influences, creating a rain shadow effect in the Anatolian Plateau – Reason (R) is also correct. However, R does not explain A directly, since the Pontic Mountains' barrier effect is independent of the Taurus system. Therefore, (b) is correct.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Q1. Consider the following statements about Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan:**

1. He held the Spalding Chair of Eastern Religions and Ethics at the University of Oxford from 1936 to 1952.
2. He served as India's Ambassador to the United States between 1949 and 1952.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Dr. Radhakrishnan held the Spalding Chair at Oxford (1936–1952). However, he was Ambassador to the Soviet Union, not the United States.

**Q2. During a total lunar eclipse (a "blood moon"), which of the following most directly determines the reddish colour observed on the Moon during totality?**

- (a) Wavelength-dependent scattering and refraction of sunlight through Earth's atmosphere (Rayleigh scattering), modulated by aerosols and volcanic dust.
- (b) Differential absorption by the Moon's regolith minerals when in Earth's shadow.
- (c) Temporary increase in solar chromospheric emissions during eclipse.
- (d) Reflection of interplanetary dust (zodiacal light) concentrated along the lunar surface.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** The reddish hue results from Earth's atmosphere filtering and refracting sunlight. Shorter wavelengths scatter away, while longer wavelengths bend into the Earth's shadow to illuminate the Moon.

**Q3. With reference to the Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap (TPCR–2025), consider the following statements:**

1. TPCR–2025 is a 15-year roadmap published by the Ministry of Defence to guide technology development and industry engagement for the Armed Forces.



2. TPCR–2025 explicitly mandates unconditional foreign procurement for all technologies listed, thereby overriding indigenous ‘Make in India’ priorities.
3. The document highlights areas such as next-generation armoured platforms and nuclear-propulsion technologies among its long-term capability priorities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is incorrect, as TPCR emphasises indigenous development, not unconditional foreign procurement.

**Q4. Consider the following statements about *Acanthamoeba* and human disease:**

1. *Acanthamoeba* species can cause granulomatous amoebic encephalitis (GAE) predominantly in immunocompromised hosts.
2. *Acanthamoeba* keratitis is strongly associated with contact-lens wear in many countries and is often linked to inadequate lens hygiene.
3. Boiling drinking water for 1–2 minutes is the single, sufficient public-health measure to prevent all forms of *Acanthamoeba* infection.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All three

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong as cysts of *Acanthamoeba* are resistant; broader measures are needed.

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding India’s first port-based green hydrogen pilot at V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port:**

1. The pilot project was inaugurated in early September 2025 and is officially described as India’s first port-based green hydrogen demonstration.
2. The initiative includes plans for a green hydrogen fuelling station and trials of hydrogen-powered trucks for port operations, with industry MoUs supporting these works.
3. The pilot is financed entirely from VOC Port’s internal revenue with no participation from central or private partners.
4. A primary objective of the pilot is to demonstrate on-site hydrogen production from renewable energy and decarbonize cargo-handling operations at the port.



Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) All four

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. Statement 3 is incorrect, as central and industry partners are involved.

**Q6. On a map of the southwest Indian Ocean, the point marked A lies approximately at 20°S latitude and 57.5°E longitude. Which country does point A represent?**

- (a) Seychelles
- (b) Mauritius
- (c) Réunion (France)
- (d) Comoros

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** The coordinates correspond to Mauritius. Seychelles is further north, Réunion slightly west, and Comoros lies between Madagascar and Mozambique.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1

**Q1. Discuss the role of orographic rainfall in shaping the Indian monsoon system. How does it affect regional agriculture and hydrology?**

**Answer:**

Orographic rainfall refers to precipitation caused when moist air ascends mountain slopes, cools adiabatically, and condenses. In India, the monsoon system is profoundly influenced by orographic features like the Western Ghats, Himalayas, and Khasi Hills.

The southwest monsoon winds, after crossing the Arabian Sea, strike the Western Ghats. The windward side receives heavy rainfall (e.g., Agumbe, Mahabaleshwar), while the leeward side (rain-shadow regions like Solapur, Beed) remains semi-arid. This creates sharp spatial rainfall contrasts influencing cropping patterns. Similarly, the Himalayas block the monsoon currents, forcing them to rise and release heavy rains in northern and northeastern India. The Khasi Hills experience Cherrapunji–Mawsynram rainfall records due to funnel-shaped orographic uplift.

Hydrologically, orographic rainfall replenishes major river systems—the Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna—which are lifelines for irrigation, drinking water, and hydropower. However, uneven orographic distribution also causes floods in Assam and Bihar while leaving drought-prone belts in Marathwada and Vidarbha.



Agriculturally, regions like Punjab and Uttar Pradesh rely on Himalayan-fed rivers sustained by orographic rainfall, enabling paddy and wheat cultivation. Rain-shadow zones, however, adopt drought-resistant crops like jowar and bajra. Further, heavy dependence on monsoon-fed orographic rains makes Indian agriculture vulnerable to climate variability.

In conclusion, orographic rainfall acts as a key determinant of India's spatial rainfall distribution, agriculture, and river regimes. For long-term sustainability, crop diversification, watershed management, and climate-resilient farming in rain-shadow zones are essential.

## GS Paper 2

**Q2. Examine the constitutional role, powers, and limitations of the Vice President of India. In what ways does the office contribute to the functioning of Indian democracy?**

**Answer:**

The Vice President of India, the second-highest constitutional office, is defined under Articles 63–71 of the Constitution. Article 63 mandates the office, while Article 64 establishes the Vice President as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

**Powers:** The Vice President presides over the Rajya Sabha, ensuring parliamentary discipline, deciding on procedural matters, and exercising a casting vote in case of a tie. Under Article 65, in the event of the President's death, resignation, or incapacity, the Vice President acts as President until a new election is held. This ensures continuity of governance.

**Limitations:** Unlike the President, the Vice President has no veto powers, control over executive decisions, or significant role in legislative assent. His power is restricted largely to the Upper House. Moreover, unlike the Lok Sabha Speaker, who enjoys independence, the Vice President's role is circumscribed by conventions, especially since he may not be a member of the ruling party.

**Contribution:** The office ensures checks and balances in parliamentary democracy. By moderating debates in Rajya Sabha, the Vice President safeguards the federal structure, as the Upper House represents states. During political crises, acting as President stabilizes governance. Historical instances—such as Vice President B.D. Jatti acting as President after Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed's death—showcase its importance.

In conclusion, while limited in executive authority, the Vice President's office strengthens Indian democracy by preserving parliamentary integrity, ensuring continuity of governance, and reinforcing federalism.

## GS Paper 3

**Q3. Climate change is a “threat multiplier” for India's developmental challenges. Critically analyze this statement with examples.**

**Answer:**

Climate change acts as a “threat multiplier” because it worsens pre-existing socio-economic, environmental, and security challenges faced by India.

Firstly, agriculture—employing nearly 42% of India's workforce—faces rising risks due to erratic monsoons, heatwaves, and droughts. Rain-fed farming belts (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan) see yield decline in wheat and pulses, exacerbating rural distress. Secondly, water stress is worsened by glacier retreat in the Himalayas (Gangotri, Siachen), altering river flows. This threatens irrigation, drinking water, and hydropower security.



Thirdly, urbanization is heavily impacted. Coastal megacities like Mumbai and Chennai are exposed to rising sea levels, storm surges, and urban floods, multiplying existing governance and infrastructure deficiencies. Fourthly, health systems face new disease burdens—vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue spreading into new zones. Heat stress worsens morbidity, particularly among vulnerable populations.

Fifthly, energy and economy face uncertainty. Cooling demand spikes under heatwaves, pressuring electricity grids. Renewable energy production—particularly hydropower and solar—faces variability from climate extremes.

Security-wise, climate-induced resource stress can intensify migration, conflict, and insurgency. For example, desertification in Bundelkhand has pushed out-migration, indirectly fueling socio-political instability.

Thus, climate change does not act in isolation but multiplies India's challenges across agriculture, health, infrastructure, and security. Policy responses such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), state action plans, and green hydrogen initiatives are positive steps. However, stronger adaptation strategies, resilient infrastructure, and climate justice for vulnerable groups are crucial.

In conclusion, climate change is a threat multiplier because it amplifies existing vulnerabilities, making developmental challenges harder to address without integrated climate–development planning.

## GS Paper 4

**Q4. “Ethical governance requires balancing legality, morality, and accountability.” Discuss this statement in the context of public administration.**

**Answer:**

Ethical governance is the practice of exercising authority in a manner consistent with legality, morality, and accountability. These three pillars often overlap but may also conflict, requiring balance in decision-making.

Legality ensures adherence to constitutional provisions, laws, and rules. For instance, the RTI Act mandates transparency in administration. Yet, strict legality may not always ensure justice; rigid application of rules can cause hardship. Hence, morality provides the ethical compass. A public servant handling rehabilitation for disaster victims may go beyond legal mandates to ensure human dignity.

Accountability, the third dimension, ensures responsibility to the public, legislature, and institutions. Instruments like the CAG, CIC, Lokpal, and parliamentary oversight reinforce accountability. However, overemphasis on accountability may paralyze decision-making, causing bureaucratic delays.

The challenge lies in balancing the three. For example, during COVID-19, lockdown orders were legally valid, but moral responsibility demanded ensuring food and shelter for migrants. Similarly, in welfare programs like MGNREGA, legality ensures proper utilization of funds, morality demands fairness to vulnerable sections, and accountability checks leakages.

Ethical governance therefore requires virtues like integrity, empathy, impartiality, and courage of conviction. Classical thinkers support this: Aristotle's “golden mean” suggests balance, while Gandhi's trusteeship emphasizes moral responsibility of power holders.

In conclusion, ethical governance is not merely rule-following but harmonizing legality, morality, and accountability. Only by balancing these can public administration truly serve the constitutional vision of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.



## Current Affairs

**Q5. Compare the constitutional mechanisms of government accountability in India and France with special reference to the vote of confidence.**

**Answer:**

India and France, though both democracies, differ in their systems—India has a parliamentary system, while France operates a semi-presidential system under the Fifth Republic (1958).

In India, Article 75(3) makes the Council of Ministers collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. A vote of confidence may be sought by the Prime Minister to prove majority or enforced via a no-confidence motion under Rule 198. Historical cases include Indira Gandhi (1969), Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999), and Narendra Modi (2023). The vote of confidence ensures parliamentary supremacy and executive accountability.

In France, the government (headed by the Prime Minister) is accountable to the National Assembly under Article 49 of the French Constitution. Article 49(1) allows the Prime Minister to request a vote of confidence; Article 49(2) enables the Assembly to pass a censure motion; and Article 49(3) controversially allows laws to be passed unless a no-confidence motion is carried. Recently, French governments under Macron invoked Article 49(3) on pension reforms, sparking political contestation.

Comparison:

- India's mechanism rests on parliamentary sovereignty; failure in a confidence vote mandates resignation.
- France blends parliamentary accountability with presidential dominance; the President appoints the PM and wields dissolution powers, giving the executive greater stability.
- India's system is majoritarian, while France's hybrid design tempers legislative control to prevent instability seen in earlier French republics.

In conclusion, both systems enforce accountability but differ in balance—India emphasizes legislature's supremacy, France balances it with executive strength. For India, lessons from France show the risks of over-concentrating power in the executive, whereas for France, India illustrates how parliamentary control sustains representative legitimacy.