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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 09/01/2026 (FRIDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins on a large scale.
2. The Satavahanas were known for issuing coins with bilingual inscriptions, one in Prakrit and another in Greek.

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: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Indo-Greeks issued gold coins but not extensively. The Kushanas were the first to issue gold coins on a large scale in India. Indo-Greeks primarily issued silver and copper coins.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Satavahana coins had bilingual inscriptions, but the second language was usually Tamil or inscriptions in Brahmi script with Prakrit, not Greek. Greek inscriptions were mainly used by Indo-Greeks.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Ramsar Wetlands:

1. A site can be declared as a Ramsar site only if it meets all nine criteria defined by the Ramsar Convention.
2. Once a site is designated as a Ramsar site, it cannot be delisted under any circumstances.
3. India is a party to the Ramsar Convention but is not a member of the Montreux Record mechanism.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** A site needs to meet **at least one** of the nine criteria, not all.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Ramsar sites can be **delisted** or placed under Montreux Record if their ecological character changes.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Montreux Record is not a “membership” body but a list of sites under Ramsar facing ecological changes. India has engaged with this mechanism in the past.



Q3. Consider the following statements about 'Ways and Means Advances' (WMA):

1. They are temporary advances given by the Reserve Bank of India to the Central and State Governments to meet temporary mismatches in cash flow.
2. WMA rates are decided by the Monetary Policy Committee of RBI.
3. The maximum limit for WMA for the Central Government is decided jointly by RBI and the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** WMAs are short-term loans from RBI to governments to bridge liquidity gaps.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** WMA interest rate is linked to the repo rate but is set administratively by RBI, not by the MPC.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** For the Centre, WMA limits are set jointly by RBI and the Ministry of Finance; for states, RBI decides separately.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. The CAG is appointed by the President and can be removed by the President without any Parliamentary procedure.
2. The CAG's salary is equal to that of a Supreme Court Judge.
3. The CAG audits both receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the States.
4. The CAG is not responsible for auditing the accounts of Government-owned corporations.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Removal requires the same procedure as a Supreme Court judge — by Parliament, not just the President.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** CAG's salary matches that of a Supreme Court judge.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** CAG audits receipts and expenditure of Union and State Governments.



- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** CAG does audit government-owned corporations under provisions of their respective legislations.

Q5. Assertion-Reason type

Assertion (A): Western Ghats have higher biodiversity than Eastern Ghats.

Reason (R): Western Ghats receive higher and more uniform annual rainfall compared to Eastern Ghats.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

Answer: (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

Explanation:

- Western Ghats are a UNESCO World Heritage site and biodiversity hotspot.
- Their high and evenly distributed rainfall supports lush evergreen forests and diverse ecosystems, explaining the higher biodiversity compared to the drier Eastern Ghats.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The first-ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival was hosted by India in 2025 under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs.
2. BIMSTEC's headquarters are located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The 1st BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival was held in 2025 in India, aimed at strengthening cultural cooperation among member states. It was coordinated under the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) has its permanent secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Q2. The LEAP-1 Mission recently seen in news is primarily aimed at:

- (a) Developing a next-generation satellite-based navigation system for South Asia.
- (b) Boosting ocean-based renewable energy through floating solar farms.



- (c) Enabling Indian universities to collaborate on deep-ocean exploration technology.
- (d) Enhancing India's lunar exploration capabilities through private sector participation.

Answer: (d) Enhancing India's lunar exploration capabilities through private sector participation

Explanation:

- The **LEAP-1 Mission** (Lunar Exploration Advancement Programme – 1) is a new ISRO-led initiative designed to involve Indian private industry in developing payloads, instruments, and modules for lunar missions. It marks a shift toward commercial space participation in deep space exploration.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. BrahMos is a joint venture between India and Russia, named after two rivers – Brahmaputra and Moskva.
2. The missile uses a ramjet propulsion system for its supersonic cruise phase.
3. The latest variant of BrahMos has a maximum range exceeding 1,000 km.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** BrahMos is indeed a joint venture between DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia), named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It uses a ramjet propulsion for sustained supersonic speeds (~Mach 2.8–3).
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The latest extended-range variant tested has a range of ~450–800 km; 1,000 km range is still under developmental consideration.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Sunflower Sea Stars:

1. They are among the largest sea star species in the world and can have up to 24 arms.
2. They are classified as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.
3. They are keystone predators in kelp forest ecosystems, feeding primarily on sea urchins.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:



- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Sunflower Sea Stars (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*) can grow up to 1 meter in diameter and have up to 24 arms.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** They are listed as ‘Critically Endangered’ due to sea star wasting disease and warming oceans.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** They help control sea urchin populations, which in turn maintains kelp forest health — making them keystone predators.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to the Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
3. It is classified as ‘Endangered’ on the IUCN Red List.
4. The recent population rise of 21% has been attributed mainly to reintroduction programs in the Eastern Ghats.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Nilgiri Tahr is found only in the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Classified as ‘Endangered’ on the IUCN Red List due to habitat loss and hunting in the past.
- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** The population increase is due to conservation measures and habitat protection in its native range — not Eastern Ghats reintroduction.

Q6. In the context of India’s BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile deployment, which one of the following correctly matches the location with its strategic significance?

- (a) **Car Nicobar Island** – Enhances India’s strategic reach in the Malacca Strait.
- (b) **Port Blair** – Controls entry to the Gulf of Mannar.
- (c) **Kolkata** – Monitors movements in the Persian Gulf.
- (d) **Kochi** – Serves as forward base to oversee Andaman Sea traffic.

Answer: (a) Car Nicobar Island – Enhances India’s strategic reach in the Malacca Strait

Explanation:

- **Car Nicobar Island**, part of the Andaman & Nicobar Command, provides a forward location for monitoring and, if necessary, blocking naval movements through the Malacca Strait — a key maritime chokepoint for East Asian and Indian Ocean trade.



- The other options are factually misplaced: Port Blair is in the Andamans, not related to Gulf of Mannar; Kolkata is far from the Persian Gulf; Kochi is on the Kerala coast and oversees Arabian Sea routes, not Andaman Sea.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1

Q1. Discuss the changing dynamics of joint family systems in India in the context of urbanization and economic transformations.

Sample Answer:

The joint family system, a traditional socio-cultural institution in India, has undergone significant transformation due to the forces of urbanization, industrialization, and economic change.

Historically, joint families offered economic security, shared resources, and a social safety net. They were prevalent in agrarian societies where land was the main source of livelihood and collective labor ensured stability.

Impact of Urbanization:

- **Spatial constraints:** Urban housing patterns make accommodating large families difficult.
- **Occupational mobility:** Migration for jobs and education leads to nuclear family setups.
- **Individualism:** Exposure to modern values promotes personal autonomy over collective decision-making.

Economic Transformations:

- Shift from agrarian to service-based economy reduced dependence on family labor.
- Women's participation in the workforce has altered intra-family roles and authority patterns.
- Rising aspirations and consumerism have encouraged financial independence.

Contemporary Trends:

- **Modified extended families** exist, where nuclear units maintain strong emotional and economic ties with the larger kin network.
- Digital connectivity enables virtual togetherness despite physical separation.
- Economic uncertainties during crises (e.g., COVID-19) highlighted the resilience of extended family support systems.

Challenges:

- Care for elderly members is becoming fragmented.
- Erosion of traditional knowledge transfer.
- Inter-generational value conflicts.



Way Forward:

Policy measures such as multi-generational housing, tax incentives for caregiving, and community eldercare facilities can blend tradition with modernity.

Conclusion:

While urbanization and economic changes have diluted the traditional joint family model, its values of mutual support and collective responsibility remain relevant, albeit in adapted forms. The future may see hybrid structures combining economic practicality with cultural continuity.

GS-2

Q2. Critically examine the role of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in strengthening grassroots democracy in India.

Sample Answer:

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, marked a watershed in India's democratic journey by granting constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and ensuring decentralized governance.

Salient Features:

- **Three-tier structure:** Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad.
- **Constitutional backing:** Part IX of the Constitution (Articles 243–243O).
- **Regular elections:** Every five years.
- **Reservation:** One-third seats for women, reservation for SC/STs proportionate to population.
- **State Finance Commission:** To ensure financial viability.

Achievements:

- Enhanced political participation, especially among marginalized groups.
- Women's representation rose significantly; studies show increased focus on social welfare and public goods in women-led Panchayats.
- Localized decision-making has improved responsiveness to community needs.

Challenges:

- **Capacity deficits:** Lack of training and administrative expertise hampers effective governance.
- **Fiscal dependence:** States control funds; devolution of financial powers remains weak.
- **Elite capture:** Local elites often dominate decision-making, undermining inclusivity.
- **Parallel bureaucracy:** Limited control over local officials reduces PRI autonomy.

Critical Perspective:

While the 73rd Amendment has democratized local governance, its transformative potential is constrained by structural, financial, and capacity-related issues. States vary widely in empowering PRIs, reflecting political will and local socio-economic conditions.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen capacity building through regular training.
- Ensure untied funds and fiscal autonomy.



- Use technology for transparency and citizen participation.
- Legal safeguards against undue state interference.

Conclusion:

The 73rd Amendment has laid the foundation for grassroots democracy, but its success hinges on deepening devolution, building institutional capacity, and fostering an empowered citizenry.

GS-3

Q3. Evaluate the strategic significance of hypersonic missile technology for India's defence preparedness.

Sample Answer:

Hypersonic missile technology, capable of speeds greater than Mach 5, represents a transformative advancement in modern warfare due to its speed, maneuverability, and reduced reaction times for adversaries.

Strategic Advantages:

1. **Enhanced Deterrence:** The speed and unpredictability of hypersonic weapons complicate interception by current air defence systems.
2. **Precision Strike Capability:** They can strike high-value targets deep inside enemy territory with minimal warning.
3. **Reduced Detection Time:** Limits adversary's decision-making window.
4. **Force Multiplication:** Enhances the credibility of India's second-strike capability in the nuclear triad.

India's Progress:

- DRDO is developing the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV).
- Collaboration with Russia on hypersonic variants of the BrahMos missile.
- Development aligned with the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) vision for self-reliance.

Challenges:

- **Technological complexity:** Thermal management, propulsion, and material durability at extreme speeds.
- **Cost and infrastructure:** High R&D expenditure and advanced testing facilities required.
- **Geopolitical race:** The US, China, and Russia are ahead in operational deployment, intensifying strategic competition.

Strategic Context:

- Hypersonic capability fits into India's strategic posture against two-front threats (China and Pakistan).
- Countering China's DF-17 missile system is a key motivation.
- It contributes to India's role in emerging defence partnerships like QUAD.



Way Forward:

- Strengthen indigenous R&D while exploring strategic collaborations.
- Integrate hypersonic systems into overall deterrence strategy without triggering destabilizing arms race.

Conclusion:

Hypersonic missiles are not just technological milestones but strategic assets. For India, they can reinforce deterrence, enhance operational readiness, and ensure credible defence in a rapidly evolving threat landscape.

GS-4

Q4. “Transparency is the antidote to corruption.” Discuss the ethical significance of transparency in public administration with suitable examples.

Sample Answer:

Transparency refers to openness in decision-making, accessibility of information, and accountability in governance processes. Ethically, it is grounded in principles of fairness, justice, and public trust.

Ethical Significance:

1. **Accountability:** Transparency ensures that public officials are answerable for their actions, deterring misuse of power.
2. **Public Trust:** Open governance fosters citizen confidence in institutions.
3. **Equity and Fairness:** Decisions taken transparently reduce bias and discrimination.
4. **Prevention of Corruption:** When processes are visible, opportunities for rent-seeking diminish.

Examples:

- **Right to Information Act, 2005:** Empowered citizens to demand records, leading to exposure of scams.
- **E-procurement systems:** Reduced leakages in public contracts by minimizing human discretion.
- **Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile (JAM) Trinity:** Increased direct benefit transfers, reducing middlemen.

Ethical Challenges:

- Excessive transparency may compromise privacy and national security.
- Information overload can obscure critical issues.
- Resistance from vested interests to disclose information.

Balancing Transparency with Other Values:

- Must be paired with data protection laws.
- Citizens should be educated to use information responsibly.

Conclusion:

Transparency is a moral imperative in democratic governance, enabling participatory decision-making and



reducing corruption. However, it must be implemented with safeguards to protect sensitive information while ensuring public accountability.

Current Affairs –

Q5. Analyze the evolving India–Philippines Strategic Partnership in the Indo-Pacific context.

Sample Answer:

India–Philippines relations have gained unprecedented momentum in recent years, shaped by shared strategic concerns in the Indo-Pacific. The partnership spans defence, trade, maritime security, and people-to-people ties.

Strategic Context:

- The Indo-Pacific has emerged as a central geopolitical theatre, with rising tensions in the South China Sea due to China's assertiveness.
- Both countries are committed to a rules-based maritime order under UNCLOS.

Key Developments:

1. Defence Cooperation:

- India supplied the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system to the Philippines in a landmark deal worth \$375 million — its first major arms export in this category.
- Joint military training and capacity-building in maritime domain awareness.

2. Economic Engagement:

- Growing bilateral trade in pharmaceuticals, IT, and agriculture.
- Cooperation under ASEAN–India framework and BIMSTEC observer linkages.

3. Maritime Security:

- Joint efforts in countering piracy, illegal fishing, and HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief).

4. People-to-People Ties:

- Academic exchanges, cultural diplomacy, and diaspora engagement.

Opportunities:

- Expansion of defence manufacturing collaboration.
- Coordinated stance in multilateral forums like EAS, ARF, and IORA.
- Joint ventures in renewable energy and digital connectivity.

Challenges:

- China's likely reaction to closer India–Philippines defence ties.
- Need to navigate ASEAN's internal divisions on South China Sea disputes.

Conclusion:

The India–Philippines strategic partnership is a significant pillar of India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific strategy. It enhances maritime security, promotes economic resilience, and strengthens the regional balance of power in favour of a free and open Indo-Pacific.