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

## **DAILY MCQ'S**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 16<sup>TH</sup> JAN-2026 (FRIDAY)**

- **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 Vedic Age:**

1. The Purusha Sukta of Rig Veda provides a divine origin to the varna system, mentioning four varnas emerging from different parts of the cosmic being.
2. Evidence from Painted Grey Ware (PGW) sites supports a clear association with later Rig Vedic texts and firmly locates the core region in the Deccan plateau.

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) 1 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **Purusha Sukta**, a hymn in the **10th Mandala** of the **Rig Veda**, mentions the **cosmic being Purusha** from whose mouth, arms, thighs, and feet emerged the Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras respectively—suggesting a divine justification for the varna system.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The **PGW culture** is associated with the **later Vedic phase**, but its core areas are the **Ganga-Yamuna Doab** and **Haryana**, not the **Deccan plateau**. Deccan plateau is more associated with **Iron Age megalithic cultures**, not PGW.

**Question 2: Consider the following statements regarding forest classification in India:**

1. Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests are found along the western coast of India, especially in Maharashtra and Goa.
2. Montane Wet Temperate Forests are typically found between elevations of 1800–3000 meters in the eastern Himalayas and experience high rainfall.
3. Littoral and Swamp Forests include mangroves, which are physiologically dry but grow in wet soil with high salinity.

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:** (b) 2 and 3 only

**Explanation:**



- **Statement 1 is incorrect. Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests** are found mainly along the **eastern coast** of India (Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh), not the western coast.
- **Statement 2 is correct. Montane Wet Temperate Forests** are found in the **eastern Himalayas** at elevations between 1800 to 3000 meters and receive heavy rainfall.
- **Statement 3 is correct. Littoral and Swamp Forests** include **mangroves**, which grow in **saline, anaerobic soils**, making them **physiologically dry**, despite growing in wet conditions.

**Question 3: Consider the following statements regarding Public Debt in India:**

1. Internal debt is owed by the Central Government to domestic creditors and forms the major portion of India's total public debt.
2. External debt of the Government of India is entirely denominated in Indian Rupees.
3. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, places a legal ceiling on both revenue and fiscal deficit targets but not on total public debt.

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 is correct. Internal debt**, raised through instruments like G-secs, T-Bills, etc., forms the **bulk of India's total public debt**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect. External debt** of the **Government is mostly denominated in foreign currencies** like USD, JPY, and SDRs. A small portion is in Indian Rupees.
- **Statement 3 is correct. The FRBM Act** mandates the government to reduce **fiscal and revenue deficits** as a % of GDP, but **does not explicitly cap total public debt**, although it emphasizes its sustainability.

**Question 4: Which of the following provisions are found in both the Indian Constitution and the Government of India Act, 1935?**

1. Division of powers between the Centre and States.
2. Establishment of a Federal Court.
3. Provision for a written Constitution.
4. Principle of bicameralism at the Union level.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only



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

**Answer:** (c) 1, 2 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **1935 Act introduced federalism** through a **three-fold distribution of powers**, similar to Part XI of the Constitution.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The **Federal Court** was set up in **1937 under the 1935 Act**, later replaced by the **Supreme Court** in 1950.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The **1935 Act was a statute**, not a **Constitution**, and was not a **comprehensive written document** like the Indian Constitution.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The **bicameral legislature** at the Centre (Council of States and Federal Assembly) existed under the **1935 Act**, and was retained in the **Indian Constitution** (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha).

**Question 5: Assertion-Reason Type –**

**Assertion (A):** The western coastal plains of India have fewer natural harbours compared to the eastern coastal plains.

**Reason (R):** The western coastal plains are narrow and more elevated compared to the wide and deltaic eastern coastal plains.

- (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:** (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A

**Explanation:**

- **Assertion is correct.** The **western coast** (Konkan, Kanara, Malabar) is **narrow, steep**, and lacks extensive delta formation, thus **has fewer natural harbours** (e.g., Mumbai, Mangalore).
- **Reason is correct** and explains the assertion: Its **elevation and narrowness** offer **less scope for sediment deposition** or river delta formation, unlike the **eastern coast**, which is **broader, low-lying**, and **deltaic** (Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadi deltas), making it less suitable for natural harbours but suitable for ports with artificial support.



## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Question 1: Consider the following statements:**

1. AdFalciVax is India's first two-dose malaria vaccine developed using recombinant protein technology that targets only the **asexual blood-stage** of *Plasmodium falciparum*.
2. The development of AdFalciVax was led by the **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)** and involves public-private collaboration under the Vaccine Grand Challenge Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) 2 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** AdFalciVax is a **two-stage** vaccine that targets both the **pre-erythrocytic (liver)** and **blood-stage** of *Plasmodium falciparum*. It's not limited to only the blood stage.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The vaccine has been developed through a **public-private partnership** between **THSTI, IIT Bombay**, and private entities under India's **Vaccine Grand Challenge**. It is a significant indigenous step in malaria elimination goals.

**Question 2: Which of the following correctly explains the primary function of the Codex Alimentarius Commission?**

- (a) To certify food products for export and import licensing globally
- (b) To formulate international food standards ensuring fair practices in trade and consumer safety
- (c) To regulate intellectual property rights in food innovation
- (d) To establish tariff classifications for genetically modified foods

**Answer:** (b) To formulate international food standards ensuring fair practices in trade and consumer safety

**Explanation:**

The **Codex Alimentarius Commission**, established by **FAO and WHO**, sets **voluntary international food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice**. These standards aim to ensure **food safety** and **fair practices in food trade**, and serve as global references under **WTO-SPS/TBT Agreements**.

**Question 3: Consider the following statements regarding the Guryul Ravine in Kashmir:**

1. It provides geological evidence marking the **Permian-Triassic mass extinction** event, often termed as the "Great Dying."
2. The site is recognized as a **UNESCO Global Geopark**, owing to its global stratigraphic significance.



3. Fossil records at Guryul Ravine helped establish the base of the **Triassic System** in the International Chronostratigraphic Chart.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 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 is correct:** Guryul Ravine records the **Permian-Triassic Boundary**, the largest mass extinction (~252 million years ago), marking the end of 90% marine species.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** As of now, **Guryul Ravine is not recognized as a UNESCO Global Geopark.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It contributed data towards defining the **Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP)** of the base of the **Triassic Period.**

**Question 4: Consider the following statements about the 2023 Kashi Cultural Pathway (Kashi Declaration):**

1. The declaration reaffirmed the role of **culture as a global public good** and emphasized **livelihood generation** through creative economy.
2. It proposed the establishment of a **Global Cultural Digital Repository (GCDR)** to digitally archive world cultural heritage.
3. The Kashi Declaration is legally binding and will be reviewed at the **UNESCO General Conference** every two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) 1 and 2 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kashi Declaration recognized **culture as a global public good** and stressed its role in **sustainable development** and **jobs.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The idea of a **Global Cultural Digital Repository** was introduced to digitally protect endangered heritage.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is a **non-binding political declaration**, not enforceable under UNESCO or any legal mechanism.



**Question 5: With reference to biostimulants in Indian agriculture, consider the following statements:**

1. Biostimulants are regulated under the **Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985**, with separate guidelines distinct from biofertilizers and organic manures.
2. These substances include both microbial and non-microbial products that act directly as plant nutrients.
3. Biostimulants enhance plant growth by **modifying physiological processes**, such as nutrient uptake or stress tolerance, rather than providing direct nutrition.
4. Manufacturers of biostimulants in India must submit **agrochemical residue and toxicology data** as per the 2022 notification of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Biostimulants are now regulated under the **FCO**, but with **distinct regulatory provisions** (from 2021-22).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Biostimulants **do not act as direct nutrients**. They differ from fertilizers in mechanism.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** They **modulate plant processes**, like stress resistance, photosynthesis, etc.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Manufacturers must submit data on **toxicity, heavy metals, and efficacy**, as mandated under recent FCO amendments.

**Question 6: Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. **Atacama Desert** – Rain shadow region of Andes Mountains
2. **Monte Desert** – Located primarily in the northeast of Argentina near Iguazu
3. **Patagonian Desert** – Located in southern Argentina, influenced by cold Falkland currents
4. **Sechura Desert** – Located in southern Brazil, caused by orographic lift from Amazon Basin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (a) 1 and 3 only

**Explanation:**



- **Atacama Desert** (Chile) lies in the **rain shadow of the Andes** and is one of the driest places on Earth – **correct**.
- **Monte Desert** is actually in **western-central Argentina**, not northeast – **incorrect**.
- **Patagonian Desert** lies in **southern Argentina** and is dry due to **cold Falkland currents** and Andes – **correct**.
- **Sechura Desert** lies in **northern Peru**, not Brazil, and is not influenced by the Amazon – **incorrect**.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1 –

**Q1. "How did the Treaty of Versailles sow the seeds for the rise of Nazism and the outbreak of the Second World War?"**

**Sample Answer:**

The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919 after World War I, was intended to secure peace and prevent future conflicts. However, it paradoxically laid the foundation for the rise of Adolf Hitler, Nazism, and the Second World War.

- **Harsh Reparations and Humiliation:**  
Germany was forced to accept complete blame for World War I under Article 231 (War Guilt Clause). It had to pay massive reparations (132 billion gold marks), severely crippling its economy. The loss of territory and military restrictions also led to a deep sense of humiliation and resentment among the German populace.
- **Economic Crisis and Hyperinflation:**  
The economic burdens imposed by the Treaty led to hyperinflation in the early 1920s, wiping out middle-class savings. This created fertile ground for extremist ideologies, particularly among the disillusioned youth and war veterans.
- **Collapse of the Weimar Republic:**  
The democratic Weimar government, which accepted the Treaty, was seen as a 'traitor regime'. Its perceived weakness and failure to address economic and nationalistic concerns allowed right-wing forces to gain political ground.



- **Rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Propaganda:**  
Hitler effectively exploited nationalistic sentiments, promising to revoke the Versailles Treaty, restore German pride, and recover lost territories. The Nazi party's rhetoric resonated with the masses, especially during the Great Depression.
- **Appeasement and Failure of the League of Nations:**  
The Treaty's enforcement failed due to the lack of will by the Allies. Moreover, the League of Nations was ineffective in curbing Hitler's expansionist policies in the 1930s, allowing Germany to remilitarize the Rhineland, annex Austria, and invade Czechoslovakia.

### Conclusion:

While the Treaty of Versailles aimed to ensure peace, its punitive clauses created a volatile environment ripe for authoritarianism. The Treaty failed to reconcile with Germany's national interests, ultimately catalyzing one of history's deadliest conflicts — the Second World War.

## GS Paper 2 –

**Q.1. Despite a robust legal framework and numerous initiatives, India's governance still suffers from issues of bureaucratic inefficiency, lack of accountability, and citizen disempowerment. Critically analyze the systemic challenges in governance and suggest institutional reforms to ensure a responsive and participatory administration.**

### Sample Answer:

Good governance is often described by attributes like transparency, accountability, efficiency, participation, and rule of law. While India has made significant progress through legislative frameworks such as the Right to Information Act (2005), E-Governance initiatives, and decentralization via Panchayati Raj Institutions, the quality of governance remains a persistent concern.

### Systemic Challenges in Governance:

1. **Bureaucratic Inefficiency:** The Indian administrative system still follows colonial-era structures, with rigid hierarchies and generalist bureaucrats who often lack domain expertise. The absence of performance-linked incentives and a security of tenure without accountability mechanisms breeds complacency.
2. **Red Tapism and Delay:** Over-centralization and procedural delays discourage innovation, limit swift policy implementation, and often erode public trust.
3. **Lack of Accountability:** There is limited horizontal accountability among government agencies and insufficient use of audit and review mechanisms. Whistleblower protection is weak, discouraging internal reporting of corruption or malpractice.
4. **Citizen Disempowerment:** Although participatory mechanisms like social audits and gram sabhas exist, their impact remains marginal due to lack of awareness, low capacity, and elite capture.
5. **Digital Divide in E-Governance:** While digitization has improved access, it has also created a new divide, marginalizing those without digital literacy or connectivity.



### Way Forward – Institutional Reforms:

- **Civil Services Reform:** Lateral entry, domain specialization, performance appraisal systems, and training in ethics and leadership are essential.
- **Strengthening Local Governance:** Empowering panchayats and urban local bodies with financial autonomy and technical support.
- **Promoting Citizen Participation:** Institutionalizing social audits, participatory budgeting, and grievance redressal systems.
- **Accountability Measures:** Strengthen bodies like the Central Vigilance Commission, Lokayuktas, and expand the scope of the RTI Act to political parties and private entities using public funds.
- **Bridging the Digital Gap:** Promote digital literacy, public Wi-Fi, and mobile governance to ensure last-mile delivery.

In conclusion, governance reforms must go beyond technology and legal frameworks. Building a culture of accountability, responsiveness, and citizen-centricity is key to transforming the Indian state into a truly democratic and participatory institution.

### GS Paper 3 -

**Q1. "Discuss the threats posed by cyber warfare to India's national security. Suggest a multi-pronged strategy to address these threats."**

#### Sample Answer:

In the digital era, **cyber warfare** has emerged as a potent non-conventional threat to national security. For India, with its expanding digital economy and sensitive strategic infrastructure, the vulnerabilities have grown significantly.

#### Threats Posed by Cyber Warfare:

- **Critical Infrastructure Attacks:** Attacks on power grids (e.g., suspected Chinese-linked attack on Mumbai's power grid in 2020), banking systems, and nuclear facilities can paralyze essential services.
- **Espionage & Data Breaches:** State-sponsored hackers often target defense, research, and diplomatic networks. The 2022 AIIMS ransomware attack exposed India's lack of preparedness.
- **Disinformation Campaigns:** Foreign powers spread fake news and propaganda to influence elections, sow discord, and destabilize societal harmony.
- **Economic Sabotage:** Cyber-attacks on financial institutions or start-ups can cause severe economic losses and investor distrust.



- **Threat to Sovereignty:**

Persistent foreign intrusions via malware or surveillance tools threaten India's cyber sovereignty and strategic autonomy.

**Challenges in Tackling Cyber Warfare:**

- **Lack of National-Level Coordination**
- **Shortage of Skilled Cybersecurity Professionals**
- **Poor Infrastructure in Government Systems**
- **Absence of a Comprehensive Cybersecurity Law**

**Multi-Pronged Strategy for India:**

1. **Institutional Measures:**

- Fast-track implementation of the **National Cyber Security Strategy**.
- Empower agencies like CERT-IN, NCIIPC with autonomy and resources.

2. **Legal and Policy Framework:**

- Enact a dedicated **Cybersecurity Act** covering surveillance, data protection, and cybercrime prosecution.
- Ensure accountability of private digital service providers.

3. **Technological Capacity Building:**

- Invest in AI-enabled cyber threat detection.
- Promote indigenous cybersecurity solutions via public-private partnerships.

4. **Human Resource Development:**

- Set up cyber training academies; introduce cyber hygiene in school curricula.

5. **International Cooperation:**

- Collaborate with like-minded nations for real-time intelligence and cyber norms (e.g., Quad Cybersecurity Working Group).

**Conclusion:**

Cyber warfare is not just a technological challenge—it is a strategic, legal, and societal one. India must approach it with a coordinated, resilient, and forward-looking national response.



## GS Paper 4 –

**Q.1. “Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.” In the context of public administration, discuss how ethical decision-making goes beyond legal compliance. Illustrate with examples.**

### **Sample Answer:**

The quote emphasizes the distinction between legality and morality. While laws define what is permissible, **ethics concerns what is just, fair, and right**, even in the absence of legal obligation. In public administration, ethical decision-making becomes especially crucial because civil servants operate in positions of authority, impacting large sections of society.

**Legal compliance** is a necessary but not sufficient condition for ethical governance. A decision may be **technically legal**, yet it may violate ethical standards of fairness, compassion, or public interest.

### **Examples:**

**1. Eviction of Street Vendors:**

Legally, unauthorized vendors can be removed from public spaces. But a bureaucrat who evicts them without providing rehabilitation or alternate livelihoods may be following the law, yet **failing morally** by overlooking the vulnerable condition of the poor.

**2. Whistleblowing:**

An officer may not be legally bound to expose corruption in another department. Yet ethically, it becomes imperative to act in the public interest, even at personal risk.

**3. Public Procurement:**

Following all procedures in a tender process may be legal, but if it leads to favoritism or inefficient allocation due to loopholes, **ethical considerations demand re-examination** of intent and impact.

### **Importance of Ethical Decision-Making in Public Administration:**

- It ensures that **discretionary powers are exercised justly** and not merely legally.
- Promotes **trust** in public institutions.
- Upholds the **spirit of the Constitution**, such as justice, equality, and dignity.

### **Conclusion:**

In public life, ethics serves as the **conscience of governance**. It fills the grey areas left by laws, ensuring that decisions are not only rule-bound but also morally sound and socially just. An ethical public servant must always ask: *Is this in the best interest of the people I serve?*



## Current Affairs -

**Q1. "Despite being legally abolished, manual scavenging continues in India in new forms. Analyse the reasons behind its persistence and evaluate recent policy efforts to eradicate it."**

**Sample Answer:**

Manual scavenging—the inhumane practice of cleaning human excreta manually—was legally prohibited under the **Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993**, and more stringently under the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**. Yet, it persists, albeit in indirect or mechanised forms.

**Persistence of the Practice:**

- **Informal Engagement:** Despite official denial, many workers are engaged in unsafe sewage cleaning without protective gear or machines.
- **Contractual Outsourcing:** Urban local bodies often contract sanitation work to private players, bypassing accountability.
- **Caste-Based Occupational Continuity:** Most manual scavengers belong to Dalit communities, reflecting deep-rooted caste prejudice.
- **Lack of Alternatives:** Socio-economically marginalised groups often lack access to skill training, forcing them into such work for survival.
- **Data Gaps and Denial:** The 2023 Ministry of Social Justice report acknowledges zero deaths from manual scavenging, though civil society groups report dozens of fatalities annually, reflecting underreporting.

**Recent Policy Efforts:**

- **NAMASTE Scheme (National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem):**
  - Aims to eliminate hazardous cleaning through robotic and mechanical tools.
  - Supports training and rehabilitation of sanitation workers.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):**
  - Encouraged construction of sanitary latrines to reduce demand for manual cleaning.
- **Supreme Court Directives:**
  - In *Safai Karamchari Andolan v. Union of India* (2014), the Court mandated compensation for deaths due to manual scavenging and urged complete mechanisation.
- **Use of Robotic Tools:**
  - Machines like Bandicoot are being deployed in urban areas like Hyderabad, Indore, and Pune to reduce manual intervention.



**Way Forward:**

- Strict monitoring of implementation and penalising agencies for illegal engagement.
- Comprehensive rehabilitation – including housing, education, and dignified employment.
- Public awareness and social inclusion campaigns to dismantle caste-based stigma.
- Real-time death reporting and third-party audits for transparency.

**Conclusion:**

Manual scavenging is a violation of human dignity. Legal prohibition alone is insufficient unless coupled with robust enforcement, social reform, and dignity-based rehabilitation. Its eradication must become a moral, not just administrative, priority.

  
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