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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 20/01/2026 (TUESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the Partition of Bengal during the British rule, consider the following statements:

1. The administrative reorganisation of Bengal in 1905 was justified officially on grounds of administrative efficiency, but it also sought to weaken the growing nationalist movement by creating religious and regional divisions.
2. The annulment of the Partition of Bengal in 1911 was accompanied by the transfer of the capital of British India from Calcutta to Delhi, partly to reduce the political influence of the Bengali intelligentsia.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) More than two

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The British justification of administrative convenience masked the political objective of dividing the politically active Bengali population, especially by communal lines.

Statement 2 is also correct. The annulment of the partition was announced along with shifting the capital to Delhi, which diluted Calcutta's political centrality and reduced the influence of Bengal-based nationalism.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains why tropical rainforests continue to function as net carbon sinks despite high rates of decomposition?

- (a) The rate of photosynthesis consistently exceeds respiration due to year-round sunlight
- (b) Nutrient cycling is slow, allowing long-term carbon storage in forest biomass
- (c) Soil organic carbon accumulation is higher than in temperate forests
- (d) High biodiversity ensures minimal loss of carbon through trophic transfers

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

In tropical rainforests, decomposition is rapid due to warm and moist conditions, but continuous and intense photosynthesis throughout the year results in net carbon uptake. Nutrient cycling is actually rapid (not slow), soil carbon storage is often limited, and biodiversity does not directly prevent carbon loss through trophic transfers.

Q3. With reference to Credit Default Swaps (CDS), consider the following statements:

1. A Credit Default Swap allows the transfer of credit risk without transferring the ownership of the underlying debt instrument.
2. The widespread use of CDS can increase systemic risk by creating interconnected exposures among financial institutions.



3. In India, CDS contracts are freely permitted on all categories of corporate bonds, including those without any credit rating.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: CDS separates credit risk from ownership of the bond or loan.

Statement 2 is correct: excessive and opaque CDS exposure can amplify systemic risk, as seen during the global financial crisis.

Statement 3 is incorrect: in India, CDS usage is regulated and restricted mainly to rated corporate bonds, not all categories.

Q4. With reference to the powers and functions of the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Election Commission can countermand an election on grounds of large-scale electoral malpractice, even if such malpractice is not explicitly defined in statute law.
- 2. The Model Code of Conduct derives its enforceability from the constitutional powers of the Election Commission under Article 324.
- 3. The Election Commission has the power to deregister a political party for violations of the Model Code of Conduct.
- 4. The decisions of the Election Commission regarding election symbols are subject to judicial review only on grounds of mala fide or arbitrariness.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: the Commission's plenary powers under Article 324 allow such action.

Statement 2 is correct: the Model Code's authority flows from Article 324, though it is not a law.

Statement 3 is incorrect: the Commission cannot deregister parties for MCC violations; deregistration powers are extremely limited.

Statement 4 is correct: courts intervene only on limited grounds like mala fide or arbitrariness.

**Q5. Assertion – Reason type**

Assertion (A): Sudden stratospheric warming events can weaken the polar vortex and trigger severe cold spells in mid-latitude regions.

Reason 1 (R1): During such events, the temperature gradient between the polar and mid-latitude stratosphere reverses, disrupting the westerly circumpolar winds.

Reason 2 (R2): A weakened polar vortex allows cold Arctic air masses to spill southward due to increased meridional flow in the jet stream.

- (a) A is correct, R1 and R2 are correct, and both R1 and R2 explain A
- (b) A is correct, R1 is correct but R2 is not correct
- (c) A is correct, R2 is correct but R1 is not correct
- (d) A is not correct

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

The assertion is correct: weakening of the polar vortex is linked to extreme cold events at lower latitudes. R1 is correct and explains the dynamical weakening of the vortex due to stratospheric temperature changes. R2 is also correct and explains how altered jet stream patterns allow cold air to move southward. Both reasons jointly explain the assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q91. With reference to the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), consider the following statements:

1. It implements the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.
2. It recognises farmers as breeders and conservers of plant varieties.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority** is the statutory body established under the **PPV&FR Act, 2001**, making statement 1 correct. The Act is unique globally because it explicitly recognises **farmers not only as cultivators but also as breeders and conservers**, granting them rights alongside commercial breeders—validating statement 2. UPSC often tests this authority to evaluate understanding of India's sui generis approach to intellectual property in agriculture.



Q2. With reference to Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN), consider the following statements:

1. It provides a unique digital identification number for land parcels.
2. It aims to integrate land records across states and departments.
3. It replaces Aadhaar for individual identity verification in land transactions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

ULPIN or Bhu-Aadhaar assigns a **14-digit unique identification number to land parcels**, making statement 1 correct. It facilitates **interoperability of land records** across states, departments, and digital platforms, validating statement 2. Statement 3 is incorrect because **ULPIN does not replace Aadhaar**, which identifies individuals; it complements personal identity by uniquely identifying land parcels. UPSC frequently tests Digital Public Infrastructure by checking clear separation between *person-based* and *asset-based* identifiers.

Q3. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is primarily used to:

- (a) Generate renewable energy through nuclear fusion
- (b) Study fundamental particles by high-energy collisions
- (c) Observe distant galaxies and cosmic radiation
- (d) Simulate climate change scenarios

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Large Hadron Collider is the world's largest and most powerful **particle accelerator**, operated by CERN. It collides subatomic particles at near-light speeds to study **fundamental forces, particles, and the origins of the universe**, famously contributing to the discovery of the Higgs boson. It has no role in energy generation, astronomy, or climate modelling. UPSC often tests flagship scientific facilities to assess conceptual clarity between physics sub-disciplines.

Q4. With reference to magnetoresistance, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to the change in electrical resistance of a material in the presence of a magnetic field.
2. Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR) has applications in data storage technologies.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None



Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Magnetoresistance describes the variation in electrical resistance when a material is subjected to a magnetic field—making statement 1 correct. **Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR)** revolutionised hard-disk drives by enabling highly sensitive magnetic read heads, validating statement 2. UPSC often tests such concepts to connect **fundamental physics discoveries** with real-world technological applications.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type

Assertion (A): **Europe’s JUICE mission** aims to deepen understanding of Jupiter’s icy moons.

Reason (R1): It will study the subsurface oceans and habitability potential of moons like Ganymede.

Reason (R2): It is designed to land humans on Jupiter’s largest moon.

Which of the following is correct?

(a) A is correct; both R1 and R2 are correct and explain A

(b) A is correct; only R1 is correct and explains A

(c) A is correct; only R2 is correct and explains A

(d) A is incorrect

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer) is an ESA mission focused on **studying Jupiter and its icy moons**, particularly Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa, making the Assertion correct. Reason 1 is valid as JUICE will investigate **subsurface oceans, magnetic fields, and habitability conditions**. Reason 2 is incorrect because JUICE is an **uncrewed orbital mission**, not a human-landing programme. UPSC increasingly tests planetary missions by linking them with astrobiology and comparative planetology rather than human spaceflight.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. GS Paper I

“Indian society is witnessing a simultaneous assertion of tradition and transformation.” Examine this statement in the context of social change in post-independence India.

Sample Answer:

Post-independence Indian society presents a complex paradox where tradition and transformation coexist, often reinforcing and contesting each other simultaneously. Rather than a linear shift from traditional to modern, social change in India has been evolutionary, negotiated, and uneven.

On one hand, **transformative forces** have significantly altered social structures. Constitutional values such as equality, liberty, and fraternity weakened rigid hierarchies. The abolition of untouchability, expansion of education, urbanisation, industrialisation, and women’s participation in public life have challenged caste, patriarchy, and feudal relations. Processes like the Green Revolution reshaped rural class structures, while



liberalisation and digitalisation created new middle classes and aspirations. Inter-caste marriages, declining fertility rates, and nuclear families are indicators of social mobility and demographic transition.

However, **tradition has not disappeared**; instead, it has adapted. Caste continues to influence politics through identity mobilisation, matrimonial choices, and social networks. Religious and cultural symbols are increasingly used in public and political spheres, reflecting a reassertion of tradition in modern forms. Patriarchal norms persist despite legal reforms, evident in declining female labour force participation and skewed sex ratios in certain regions.

This coexistence is best understood through the concept of “**selective modernisation**”, where individuals embrace modern education or technology while retaining traditional values related to family, community, and religion. For example, digital platforms have strengthened kinship ties and religious outreach rather than weakening them.

Moreover, globalisation has produced **cultural hybridity**—traditional festivals celebrated on social media, indigenous practices marketed through modern supply chains, and local identities asserted in global spaces.

Thus, Indian society is not moving away from tradition but reinterpreting it within a modern framework. The challenge lies in ensuring that progressive constitutional morality guides this transformation so that tradition does not undermine social justice. Sustainable social change in India depends on harmonising cultural continuity with inclusive modernisation.

Q2. GS Paper II

“**The effectiveness of constitutional institutions depends as much on democratic conventions as on formal powers.**” Discuss this statement with reference to India’s constitutional framework.

Sample Answer:

India’s constitutional architecture provides extensive formal powers to its institutions, but their effective functioning relies equally on unwritten democratic conventions, ethical conduct, and institutional restraint. This balance is essential to preserve constitutional morality and democratic stability.

The Constitution clearly defines powers of institutions such as the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, and independent bodies like the Election Commission. However, **formal authority alone is insufficient** to ensure legitimacy and public trust. Democratic conventions—though non-justiciable—act as moral guidelines that prevent abuse of power.

For instance, the **Office of the Governor** has discretionary powers, yet constitutional conventions demand political neutrality. Deviations from these norms, especially during government formation or legislative assent, have led to constitutional crises and judicial scrutiny. Similarly, the **Speaker of the Legislature**, though empowered under law, is expected to act impartially; erosion of this convention undermines parliamentary democracy.

Judicial independence is constitutionally guaranteed, but its credibility depends on conventions such as reasoned judgments, judicial restraint, and avoidance of executive overreach. Excessive judicial activism without institutional humility can disturb the separation of powers.

Independent constitutional bodies like the **Election Commission** draw authority not merely from Article 324 but from public confidence built through neutrality, transparency, and consistency. The Model Code of Conduct, though not statutory, derives strength from accepted conventions and moral compliance.



Conversely, weakening of conventions—such as bypassing parliamentary scrutiny through ordinances, frequent use of money bills, or lack of consultation in appointments—dilutes democratic governance despite constitutional compliance.

Therefore, democratic conventions act as **lubricants of constitutional machinery**, ensuring that power is exercised with responsibility. In a plural and vibrant democracy like India, adherence to both the letter and spirit of the Constitution is indispensable. Strengthening institutional culture, ethical leadership, and respect for conventions is crucial to safeguarding India's constitutional democracy.

Q3. GS Paper III

“India’s transition to a sustainable economy requires reconciling economic growth with ecological constraints.” Analyse the challenges and opportunities involved.

Sample Answer:

India's development trajectory is at a critical juncture where aspirations for high economic growth intersect with mounting ecological constraints. Reconciling these two imperatives is essential for long-term sustainability and intergenerational equity.

The **challenges** are significant. Rapid industrialisation, urban expansion, and infrastructure development have intensified pressure on land, water, forests, and biodiversity. India faces air and water pollution, groundwater depletion, climate-induced disasters, and loss of ecosystems. Growth-centric policies often prioritise short-term economic gains over environmental costs, leading to externalities that disproportionately affect the poor.

Additionally, India's dependence on fossil fuels for energy security complicates climate commitments. Transitioning to green technologies involves high upfront costs, technological gaps, and concerns over employment displacement in traditional sectors.

However, these challenges also present **transformative opportunities**. India can leapfrog to cleaner technologies by expanding renewable energy, green hydrogen, electric mobility, and circular economy models. Sustainable agriculture practices, agroforestry, and climate-resilient crops can enhance farmer incomes while conserving resources.

Green growth can generate employment through renewable energy projects, waste management, afforestation, and sustainable infrastructure. Urban planning focused on public transport and green spaces improves both productivity and quality of life.

Policy instruments such as carbon markets, environmental impact assessments, and green finance can internalise ecological costs. International climate finance and technology transfer further strengthen India's capacity.

Thus, sustainability should not be viewed as a constraint but as a **development multiplier**. A calibrated approach integrating ecological economics, inclusive growth, and technological innovation can ensure that India's growth remains resilient, equitable, and environmentally responsible.

Q4. GS Paper IV (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude)

“Ethical governance requires balancing legal authority with moral responsibility.” Discuss this statement in the context of public administration.

**Sample Answer:**

Ethical governance extends beyond strict adherence to law; it demands that public officials exercise authority with moral responsibility, empathy, and a commitment to public interest. While legality ensures procedural correctness, morality ensures justice, fairness, and trust.

Public administrators often operate in complex situations where legal provisions may be ambiguous or inadequate. In such cases, ethical values such as integrity, compassion, accountability, and impartiality guide decision-making. For example, disaster management requires swift and humane responses that may go beyond routine procedures.

Blind legalism can lead to injustice, while unchecked discretion risks arbitrariness. Ethical governance lies in balancing both. The principle of **constitutional morality** mandates that officials uphold the spirit of the Constitution, especially values like dignity, equality, and social justice.

Corruption illustrates the failure of moral responsibility despite legal frameworks. Conversely, whistle-blowers demonstrate ethical courage even when laws offer limited protection. Ethical leadership fosters institutional trust, improves service delivery, and strengthens democracy.

Training in ethics, transparency mechanisms, social audits, and citizen-centric governance help institutionalise moral responsibility. Ultimately, ethical governance transforms authority into service, ensuring that power is exercised for collective welfare rather than personal or political gain.

Q5. Current Affairs

“Inclusion of women is critical to the success of India’s green economy transition.” Examine the opportunities, challenges, and way forward.

Sample Answer:

India’s transition to a green economy—encompassing renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, and circular economy—cannot succeed without the meaningful inclusion of women. Women are not merely beneficiaries but key agents of sustainable development.

Women play a central role in natural resource management, agriculture, water conservation, and household energy use. Inclusion of women enhances efficiency, equity, and resilience of green initiatives. For instance, women-led Self-Help Groups have been instrumental in promoting solar lighting, biogas, waste management, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

The **opportunities** are immense. Green sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable farming, eco-tourism, and forest-based enterprises can generate decent employment for women. Women’s participation improves community acceptance and long-term sustainability of environmental programmes. Studies show that women’s leadership correlates with better conservation outcomes.

However, **challenges persist**. Structural barriers such as limited access to land ownership, credit, technology, and skills restrict women’s participation. Green jobs often require technical training, from which women are excluded due to social norms and educational gaps. Informalisation of women’s labour further reduces economic security.

Policy frameworks often adopt a gender-neutral approach, overlooking differentiated impacts of climate change and green transitions on women. Without targeted interventions, the green economy risks reproducing existing inequalities.



The way forward lies in **gender-responsive green policies**. This includes skilling women in renewable energy technologies, ensuring access to green finance, recognising unpaid care work, and integrating women into decision-making at local and national levels. Aligning climate action with women's empowerment transforms sustainability into inclusive growth.

In conclusion, women's inclusion is not optional but foundational to India's green economy. A just transition requires that ecological sustainability and gender justice advance together.

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