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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 21/01/2026 (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 land grants and administration during the Gupta period:

1. The issuance of land grants to Brahmanas led to the emergence of intermediaries who exercised fiscal and administrative rights over donated land.
2. The Gupta rulers completely abolished private land ownership in favour of state-controlled agrarian management.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct as Gupta land grants often transferred revenue and administrative rights, creating intermediaries.

Statement 2 is incorrect because private land ownership continued alongside state and religious grants.

The state did not monopolize agrarian control.

Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the primary ecological consequence of large-scale afforestation using monoculture species in semi-arid regions?

- (a) Increase in groundwater recharge due to enhanced canopy cover
- (b) Reduction in soil salinity through improved organic matter
- (c) Decline in native biodiversity and altered soil moisture regime
- (d) Stabilization of local climate by increased evapotranspiration

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Monoculture plantations replace native vegetation, reducing species diversity.

Such species often consume more water, disturbing soil moisture balance.

This is especially harmful in semi-arid ecosystems.

Hence, option (c) is the most accurate ecological outcome.

Q3. Consider the following statements about the Reserve Bank of India:

1. The RBI can undertake open market operations even in the absence of a fiscal deficit.
2. The Monetary Policy Committee's decisions are binding on the RBI Governor.
3. The RBI's role as a banker to the government includes management of public debt but excludes direct participation in primary auctions of government securities.



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 OMOs are liquidity tools, not deficit-dependent.

Statement 2 is correct since MPC decisions are binding by statute.

Statement 3 is incorrect because RBI can participate in primary auctions under exceptional conditions.

Thus, two statements are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding constitutional and statutory bodies in India:

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General can audit private entities if public funds are substantially involved.
2. The Election Commission's powers regarding election symbols are derived from the Constitution itself.
3. The Finance Commission's recommendations are legally binding on the Union Government.
4. A Constitutional Amendment can curtail the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 32.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct as CAG audits extend to bodies using public funds.

Statement 2 is incorrect; symbol powers come from statute, not Constitution.

Statement 3 is incorrect since recommendations are advisory.

Statement 4 is correct, subject to the basic structure doctrine.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type:

Assertion (A):

Western Disturbances play a crucial role in maintaining the winter temperature balance over northwestern India.

Reason I (R1):

They originate as extra-tropical cyclones over the Mediterranean region and travel eastward embedded in the subtropical westerly jet stream.



Reason II (R2):

They cause advection of warm tropical air from the Indian Ocean into northern India during winter months.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) A is true; R1 is true and explains A; R2 is false
- (b) A is true; R1 is false; R2 is true
- (c) A is false; R1 is true; R2 is false
- (d) A is true; both R1 and R2 are true, but only R2 explains A

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The assertion is correct as western disturbances moderate winter temperatures.

R1 is correct and explains the assertion accurately.

R2 is incorrect because western disturbances bring cold air, not warm tropical air.

Therefore, option (a) is correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):

1. ONDC separates the buyer-side and seller-side platforms to reduce platform-level monopolistic control.
2. ONDC mandates uniform pricing of goods and services across all participating platforms.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct as ONDC is based on an open protocol that decouples buyers and sellers.

Statement 2 is incorrect because ONDC does not regulate or mandate pricing uniformity.

Price discovery remains market-driven.

Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q2. Which one of the following best captures the constitutional duty of the Election Commission of India?

- (a) Ensuring free and fair elections exclusively to Parliament
- (b) Superintendence, direction, and control of elections to legislatures and offices under the Constitution
- (c) Regulating political party funding under statutory authority
- (d) Adjudicating disputes related to election malpractices



Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Article 324 vests the Election Commission with comprehensive control over elections.

Its mandate covers Parliament, State Legislatures, and constitutional offices.

Judicial functions remain outside its scope.

Thus, option (b) correctly reflects the constitutional duty.

Q3. With reference to the Mpemba Effect, consider the following statements:

1. The Mpemba Effect describes a phenomenon where hot water can freeze faster than cold water under certain conditions.
2. The effect is universally observed across all temperature ranges and container types.
3. Evaporation, convection currents, and dissolved gas content are among the factors proposed to explain the effect.

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 and defines the Mpemba Effect.

Statement 2 is incorrect as the effect is conditional and not universal.

Statement 3 is correct; multiple physical mechanisms are hypothesized.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Railways becoming the world's largest electrified rail network:

1. Railway electrification contributes to reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels.
2. Electrification automatically guarantees reduction in absolute carbon emissions irrespective of electricity source.
3. Electric traction improves operational efficiency and reduces maintenance costs in the long term.

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 due to lower diesel consumption.

Statement 2 is incorrect because emission reduction depends on the power generation mix.

Statement 3 is correct as electric locomotives have higher efficiency and lower lifecycle costs.

Thus, two statements are correct.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Biomaterials India initiative:

1. It aims to promote indigenously developed biodegradable materials as alternatives to conventional plastics.
2. The initiative integrates biotechnology, material science, and circular economy principles.
3. It focuses exclusively on medical-grade biomaterials.
4. It aligns with India's commitments under sustainable development and climate action frameworks.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statements 1 and 2 are correct as the initiative promotes sustainable biomaterial innovation.

Statement 3 is incorrect since the scope is not limited to medical applications.

Statement 4 is correct due to its sustainability alignment.

Hence, three statements are correct.

Q6. Consider the following pairs related to map-based understanding:

River Valley / Economic Corridor

1. Godavari Valley – Petroleum refining hub
2. Western Dedicated Freight Corridor – Delhi–Mumbai axis
3. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor – Ludhiana–Dankuni route
4. Konkan Railway – Entirely inland alignment

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

**Explanation:**

Pair 1 is incorrect as the Godavari Valley is not a major petroleum refining hub.

Pair 2 is correct for the Western DFC.

Pair 3 is correct for the Eastern DFC.

Pair 4 is incorrect since the Konkan Railway is largely coastal.

Thus, option (b) is correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1

Q1. Discuss how urbanisation in ancient India was not merely an economic phenomenon but also a reflection of socio-cultural transformation. Illustrate with suitable examples.

Model Answer:

Urbanisation in ancient India represented far more than the growth of towns and trade; it marked a deeper socio-cultural transition involving changes in social stratification, occupational specialization, religious practices, and governance structures. Archaeological and literary sources from the Harappan period and later historical phases demonstrate that urban centres acted as crucibles of cultural evolution.

During the Harappan civilisation, cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa reflected advanced civic consciousness through planned layouts, standardized bricks, drainage systems, and public structures such as granaries and baths. These features indicate collective norms, regulated behaviour, and an emphasis on public hygiene, suggesting a shared civic culture rather than mere economic aggregation.

In the later Vedic and post-Vedic periods, the emergence of cities such as Kaushambi, Rajagriha, and Ujjain coincided with the rise of **varna-based social differentiation** and occupational specialization. Artisans, traders, scribes, and administrators formed distinct social groups, indicating a move away from pastoral-tribal organisation to complex social hierarchies. The growth of guilds (shrenis) further reinforced collective identity and social mobility within urban settings.

Urbanisation also facilitated religious and philosophical ferment. The rise of Buddhism and Jainism was closely linked to urban centres where merchant communities sought ethical systems that emphasized non-violence, rationality, and social equality. Monasteries and stupas located near cities became centres of learning, debate, and cultural exchange.

Politically, urban centres enabled the consolidation of territorial states (mahajanapadas). Cities became seats of administration, law, and taxation, reflecting the shift from kin-based authority to institutional governance. Coinage, writing systems like Brahmi, and legal norms further point to cultural sophistication accompanying urban growth.

Thus, ancient Indian urbanisation symbolised a comprehensive transformation encompassing values, beliefs, institutions, and social relations. It was as much a cultural revolution as an economic one, laying the foundation for later civilisational continuity.



GS-2 (Polity & Governance)

Q2. Examine the constitutional role of the Election Commission of India in ensuring free and fair elections. What challenges does it face in the contemporary political environment?

Model Answer:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a cornerstone of India's democratic framework, entrusted under Article 324 of the Constitution with the superintendence, direction, and control of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and constitutional offices. Its primary role is to ensure electoral integrity, political neutrality, and public confidence in the democratic process.

Constitutionally, the ECI enjoys wide discretionary powers to conduct elections, prepare electoral rolls, schedule polls, deploy security forces, and enforce the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Judicial pronouncements have repeatedly affirmed that Article 324 is a reservoir of authority, enabling the Commission to act even in areas where legislation is silent, provided such action furthers free and fair elections.

The Commission's independence is safeguarded through security of tenure for Election Commissioners and financial autonomy charged to the Consolidated Fund of India. Its authority to countermand elections, derecognize political parties, and order re-polls underscores its quasi-judicial character.

However, the contemporary political environment presents significant challenges. The increasing role of money power, opaque political funding mechanisms, and the rise of digital campaigning have stretched the Commission's regulatory capacity. Social media misinformation, deepfakes, and micro-targeted political advertisements often escape conventional oversight mechanisms.

Additionally, allegations of partisan conduct, selective enforcement of the MCC, and concerns over the appointment process of Election Commissioners have raised questions about institutional neutrality. The absence of a collegium-based appointment system has been a recurring point of debate in reform discourse.

Despite these challenges, the ECI remains one of the most respected constitutional bodies globally. Strengthening transparency in appointments, enhancing technological capabilities, and updating electoral laws to address digital-age challenges are essential to preserve its credibility and constitutional mandate.

GS-3

Q3. Critically analyse how large-scale infrastructure electrification contributes to economic efficiency and environmental sustainability in India.

Model Answer:

Large-scale infrastructure electrification, particularly in sectors such as railways, urban transport, and industry, represents a strategic shift in India's development trajectory. It aims to enhance economic efficiency while aligning growth with environmental sustainability goals.

From an economic perspective, electrification improves operational efficiency by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, particularly crude oil and diesel. Electric systems have lower energy losses, higher energy conversion efficiency, and reduced maintenance costs over their lifecycle. In transport infrastructure, electric traction allows higher acceleration, better load management, and reduced operational downtime, thereby increasing network capacity and productivity.



Electrification also supports macroeconomic stability by insulating the economy from volatile global oil prices and reducing the current account deficit. Domestic electricity generation, especially from renewable sources, further strengthens energy security and encourages indigenous manufacturing under initiatives like “Make in India.”

Environmentally, electrification has the potential to significantly reduce local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, especially in urban and densely populated corridors. Electric systems eliminate tailpipe emissions, improving public health outcomes. However, the extent of environmental benefit depends on the energy mix. Electrification powered by coal-based electricity merely shifts emissions upstream, limiting net climate gains.

The transition therefore necessitates parallel expansion of renewable energy, grid modernization, and energy storage systems. Electrification also demands substantial upfront capital investment, skilled manpower, and robust cyber-physical security systems.

In conclusion, infrastructure electrification is a transformative tool for sustainable growth, but its success depends on clean energy integration, policy coherence, and long-term planning rather than electrification in isolation.

GS-4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude)

Q4. In public administration, ethical governance requires balancing efficiency with accountability. Discuss the ethical dilemmas involved and suggest ways to resolve them.

Model Answer:

Ethical governance in public administration involves reconciling the often competing values of efficiency and accountability. While efficiency emphasizes speed, cost-effectiveness, and outcome-oriented delivery, accountability stresses transparency, due process, and answerability to the public.

One ethical dilemma arises when fast-tracking decisions may bypass procedural safeguards. For instance, emergency procurement can improve efficiency but may reduce transparency and increase the risk of corruption. Similarly, excessive procedural checks intended for accountability can lead to bureaucratic delays, undermining service delivery and public trust.

Another dilemma concerns discretion. Administrators require discretionary powers for efficient decision-making, yet unchecked discretion can lead to arbitrariness or abuse of power. Ethical conflict also emerges when performance targets encourage outcome manipulation rather than genuine public welfare.

Resolving these dilemmas requires institutional and value-based interventions. Clearly defined rules combined with outcome-based accountability frameworks can balance discretion with responsibility. Technology-driven governance—such as e-procurement, digital audits, and real-time monitoring—enhances both efficiency and transparency.

Ethics training and value inculcation among civil servants are equally crucial. Emphasizing integrity, empathy, and constitutional morality helps administrators internalize accountability rather than viewing it as an external constraint.

Ultimately, ethical governance is not about choosing efficiency over accountability or vice versa, but about harmonizing both to serve public interest effectively and legitimately.



Current Affairs

Q5. “Centre imposes norms for AI-based cancer detection.”

Discuss the significance of these norms in ensuring ethical, reliable, and inclusive healthcare delivery in India.

Model Answer:

The imposition of regulatory norms by the Centre for AI-based cancer detection marks a critical step in integrating emerging technologies with public health governance. Artificial Intelligence holds immense promise in early cancer detection through image analysis, pattern recognition, and predictive diagnostics, but its unregulated deployment carries significant ethical and clinical risks.

The primary significance of these norms lies in ensuring patient safety and clinical reliability. AI algorithms trained on biased or incomplete datasets can lead to misdiagnosis, disproportionately affecting certain demographic groups. Standardised validation protocols, mandatory clinical trials, and performance benchmarks help ensure diagnostic accuracy and reproducibility.

Ethically, the norms address concerns related to data privacy, informed consent, and algorithmic transparency. Medical AI systems rely on vast amounts of sensitive health data. Regulatory oversight ensures compliance with data protection principles, prevents unauthorized data usage, and mandates explainability so that clinicians can understand and trust AI-generated outputs.

The norms also promote accountability by clearly defining liability in cases of diagnostic error—whether it lies with developers, healthcare providers, or institutions. This clarity is essential for legal certainty and public confidence.

From an inclusivity perspective, regulatory frameworks can prevent the concentration of AI benefits in elite urban hospitals. By encouraging interoperability, affordability standards, and public-sector adoption, norms can help democratize access to advanced diagnostics, especially in resource-constrained regions.

In conclusion, regulating AI-based cancer detection is not a barrier to innovation but a prerequisite for responsible innovation. By embedding ethics, equity, and evidence-based validation into technological deployment, India can harness AI as a tool for universal, trustworthy healthcare rather than unchecked experimentation.