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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 04/02/2026 (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 Ecological Succession:

Statement I: In a **primary succession**, the rate of soil formation is faster during early seral stages than during later stages.
Statement II: In a **secondary succession**, the net primary productivity initially increases but may temporarily decline before reaching climax community.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Statement I only
(b) Statement II only
(c) Both Statement I and Statement II
(d) Neither Statement I nor Statement II

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- In **primary succession**, soil formation is extremely slow during early stages due to lack of organic matter; it accelerates later due to litter accumulation → **Statement I is incorrect**.
- In **secondary succession**, initial productivity rises quickly due to pre-existing soil, but competition and resource limitation can cause a temporary dip before stabilization → **Statement II is correct**.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains why energy pyramids are always upright, unlike biomass pyramids?

(a) Energy is recycled efficiently within trophic levels
(b) Energy transfer follows the law of conservation of mass
(c) Energy is lost as heat at each trophic level due to metabolic activities
(d) Primary consumers assimilate more energy than producers

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Energy transfer across trophic levels obeys the **Second Law of Thermodynamics**, leading to loss of usable energy as heat at each level.
- Biomass can show inversion (e.g., aquatic systems), but **energy pyramids are always upright** due to irreversible energy loss.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Biodiversity Hotspots:

1. A region must have at least **1,500 endemic vascular plant species** to qualify as a biodiversity hotspot.
2. All biodiversity hotspots lie entirely within tropical regions.
3. Biodiversity hotspots together account for less than 3% of Earth's land surface but harbor more than 50% of plant species.

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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** (standard criterion by Conservation International).
- Statement 2 is **incorrect** (e.g., Mediterranean Basin lies in temperate zone).
- Statement 3 is **correct** (hotspots cover ~2.3% land area but contain ~50% plant species).

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Biogeochemical Cycles:

1. The phosphorus cycle lacks a significant gaseous phase under natural conditions.
2. Human-induced eutrophication primarily accelerates the nitrogen cycle rather than the phosphorus cycle in freshwater ecosystems.
3. Denitrification converts nitrate into molecular nitrogen under anaerobic conditions.
4. Weathering of rocks is the ultimate source of phosphorus in terrestrial ecosystems.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **correct** (phosphorus cycle is sedimentary).
- Statement 2 is **incorrect** (freshwater eutrophication is largely phosphorus-driven).
- Statement 3 is **correct** (denitrification occurs under anaerobic conditions).
- Statement 4 is **correct** (phosphorus originates from rock weathering).

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -
Assertion (A):
Mangrove ecosystems act as effective carbon sinks and play a significant role in climate change mitigation.

Reason (R1):
Mangroves have high rates of carbon sequestration due to anaerobic soil conditions that slow down organic matter decomposition.

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Reason (R2):
Mangroves store most of their carbon in above-ground biomass rather than in sediments.

Which of the following is correct?

(a) A is true; R1 is true; R2 is true; and both R1 and R2 correctly explain A
(b) A is true; R1 is true; R2 is false; and R1 alone explains A
(c) A is true; R1 is false; R2 is true; and R2 alone explains A
(d) A is false; R1 is true; R2 is false

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Assertion is **true**: Mangroves are major **blue carbon ecosystems**.
- R1 is **true**: Anaerobic soils reduce decomposition, enhancing carbon storage.
- R2 is **false**: Most carbon in mangroves is stored in **sediments**, not above-ground biomass.
- Hence, **R1 alone explains A**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Gaza Peace Board mentioned in recent international discourse:

Statement I: The Gaza Peace Board is envisaged as a **temporary multilateral civilian administration** with a mandate limited to post-conflict humanitarian stabilization.
Statement II: The proposed structure of the Gaza Peace Board explicitly excludes representation from regional organizations to ensure neutrality.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Statement I only
(b) Statement II only
(c) Both Statement I and Statement II
(d) Neither Statement I nor Statement II

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Statement I is correct because the Gaza Peace Board has been discussed as a **time-bound, transitional arrangement** focusing on humanitarian relief, reconstruction coordination, and governance stabilization.
Statement II is incorrect because proposals emphasize **regional stakeholder involvement** (including regional organizations and neighboring states) to enhance legitimacy and feasibility, rather than excluding them.

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Q2. The primary purpose of establishing an Environmental Protection Fund at the national level is to:

(a) Replace existing compensatory afforestation mechanisms
(b) Finance environmental remediation through legally mandated penalties and levies
(c) Provide unconditional grants to States for biodiversity conservation
(d) Monetize ecosystem services for international carbon trading

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
Environmental Protection Funds are designed to **channel penalties, environmental compensation, and statutory levies** towards restoration, remediation, and mitigation activities.
They do not replace afforestation funds, nor are they unconditional grants or primarily carbon-market instruments.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Skimmer (Rynchops albicollis):

1. The species is an indicator of healthy **large riverine sandbar ecosystems**.
2. Nesting success of the Indian Skimmer is severely affected by **regulated river flows and sand mining**.
3. The species is endemic to India and found only in the Gangetic river system.

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: Indian Skimmer reflects ecological health of **undisturbed sandbars**.
Statement 2 is correct: Altered flow regimes and sand mining destroy nesting habitats.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The species is **not endemic to India** and is also found in parts of South and Southeast Asia.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity (GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025:

1. The Rules shift India's mitigation focus from absolute emissions reduction to emissions per unit of GDP.
2. The amended framework introduces sector-specific flexibility rather than a uniform national reduction pathway.
3. The Rules are legally aligned with India's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

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How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct: India follows **emission intensity–based targets**, consistent with development needs.
Statement 2 is correct: Sectoral differentiation allows flexibility across industries.
Statement 3 is correct: The Rules operationalize India's **Paris Agreement commitments** domestically.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) launched by India:

1. It evaluates countries on parameters such as climate responsibility, digital governance, and global public goods.
2. The Index seeks to provide an alternative narrative to GDP-centric global rankings.
3. It is designed exclusively for assessing developing countries.
4. The Index integrates ethical governance as a measurable dimension of state performance.

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, 2, and 4 are correct: RNI emphasizes **responsibility, ethics, sustainability, and global contribution**, moving beyond GDP-based metrics.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The Index is **universal in scope**, not limited to developing nations.

Q6. With reference to the Hooghly River, consider the following:

(a) It is a distributary of the Ganga that flows entirely within West Bengal before entering the Bay of Bengal.
(b) It receives the waters of the Damodar River downstream of Kolkata.
(c) It forms the eastern boundary of the Sundarbans delta.
(d) It originates directly from the Farakka Barrage without any natural channel upstream.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
The Hooghly is a **distributary of the Ganga**, flowing south through West Bengal into the Bay of Bengal.

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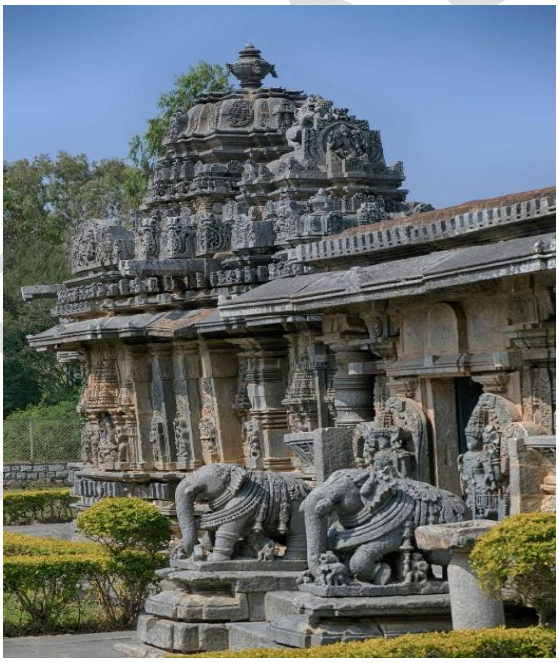
Damodar joins upstream, not downstream of Kolkata; the Sundarbans are primarily east of the Hooghly-Matla system; and the river has a **natural antecedent channel**, with Farakka only regulating flows.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS–1: Art & Culture)

Q1. Indian temple architecture evolved as a synthesis of religious philosophy, regional materials, and socio-political patronage. Examine with suitable examples.



Model Answer:

Indian temple architecture is not merely an artistic tradition but a **civilizational expression of cosmology, devotion, and statecraft**. Its evolution reflects a dynamic synthesis of **religious philosophy**, **regional geography**, and **political patronage**, giving rise to distinct architectural traditions.

Philosophically, Hindu temples embody the idea of the **cosmic order (ṛta)**. The temple is conceived as a **microcosm of the universe**, with the *garbhagriha* symbolizing the womb of creation and the *shikhara* or *vimana* representing Mount Meru. Texts such as the *Shilpa Shastras* and *Vastu Shastra* provided metaphysical and geometric principles, ensuring that architecture aligned with ritual and spiritual objectives.

Regionally, temple forms evolved in response to **local materials and climatic conditions**. In North India, the **Nagara style** developed with curvilinear shikharas, suited to stone availability and climatic stability, as seen in the **Khajuraho temples**. In contrast, the **Dravidian style** of South India emphasized pyramidal vimanas, massive gopurams, and enclosed temple complexes, exemplified by the **Brihadeeswarar Temple**, reflecting both granite availability and socio-ritual congregation needs. The **Vesara style** of the Deccan represents a hybrid adaptation, blending northern verticality with southern solidity.

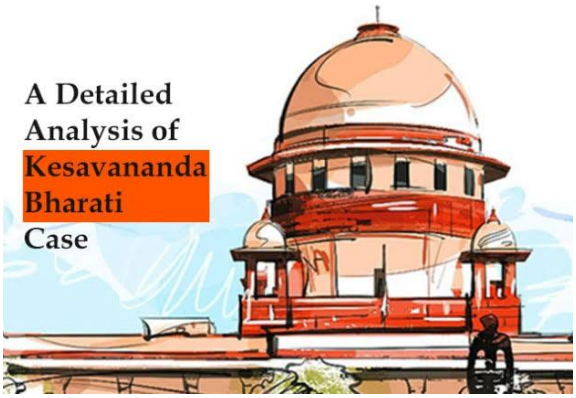
Socio-political patronage played a decisive role. Temples functioned as **centres of administration, economy, and education**, supported by land grants and royal endowments. Dynasties like the Cholas,

Hoysalas, and Chandelas used temple construction as a means of **legitimizing authority**, displaying wealth, piety, and artistic excellence. Sculptural programs depicting gods, celestial beings, and social life also reinforced cultural cohesion.

Thus, Indian temple architecture evolved through an organic interaction between **idea, environment, and power**, making it a living archive of India's cultural history rather than a static artistic form.

(GS–2: Polity)

Q2. The basic structure doctrine has ensured constitutional supremacy while allowing democratic adaptability. Critically examine its role in India's constitutional governance.



Model Answer:

The **Basic Structure Doctrine** represents one of the most significant judicial innovations in India's constitutional history. Evolved to reconcile **constitutional supremacy with democratic flexibility**, it ensures that Parliament's amending power does not undermine the core philosophy of the Constitution.

The doctrine emerged from the landmark **Kesavananda Bharati judgment (1973)**, where the Supreme Court held that while Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution, it cannot alter its "basic structure." Though not exhaustively defined, elements such as **supremacy of the Constitution, rule of law, separation of powers, judicial review, and secularism** have been recognized as part of this structure.

Its primary contribution lies in **preventing majoritarian excesses**. During periods of political dominance, constitutional amendments could potentially erode democratic safeguards. The doctrine acts as a **constitutional check**, ensuring that transient political majorities cannot dismantle fundamental values. This was evident in the striking down of provisions that sought to curtail judicial review or undermine federalism.

At the same time, the doctrine does not freeze the Constitution. Parliament retains wide powers to amend provisions in response to **changing social, economic, and political needs**—for example, amendments related to local governance, reservation policies, and economic reforms. Thus, adaptability is preserved without sacrificing constitutional identity.

Critics argue that the doctrine grants excessive power to the judiciary, leading to **judicial overreach** and ambiguity due to the lack of a precise definition. However, this flexibility has also allowed the doctrine to evolve contextually, responding to new challenges rather than being rigidly codified.

In essence, the Basic Structure Doctrine has emerged as a **guardian of constitutional morality**, striking a delicate balance between democratic will and constitutional permanence. It has strengthened India's

constitutional governance by ensuring that change occurs **within the framework of enduring principles**, not at their cost.

(GS–3: Economy)

Q3. Discuss the structural challenges faced by India in achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Suggest policy measures to address them.

Model Answer:

India's pursuit of inclusive and sustainable economic growth is constrained by several **structural challenges**, despite robust macroeconomic indicators. Addressing these challenges is essential for translating growth into broad-based welfare.

One major challenge is **sectoral imbalance**. While services contribute significantly to GDP, agriculture continues to employ a large proportion of the workforce with low productivity. This results in disguised unemployment and rural distress. Simultaneously, manufacturing has not absorbed labour at the required scale, limiting the demographic dividend.

Another issue is **infrastructure deficit**—in logistics, urban transport, energy distribution, and digital connectivity. High logistics costs reduce export competitiveness, while uneven infrastructure development deepens regional disparities. Closely linked is the challenge of **human capital**, marked by skill mismatches, low female workforce participation, and quality gaps in education and healthcare.

The **informal sector dominance** poses additional hurdles. A large share of employment remains informal, characterized by low wages, lack of social security, and vulnerability to shocks. Environmental sustainability is another concern, as growth has often come at the cost of ecological degradation, water stress, and urban pollution.

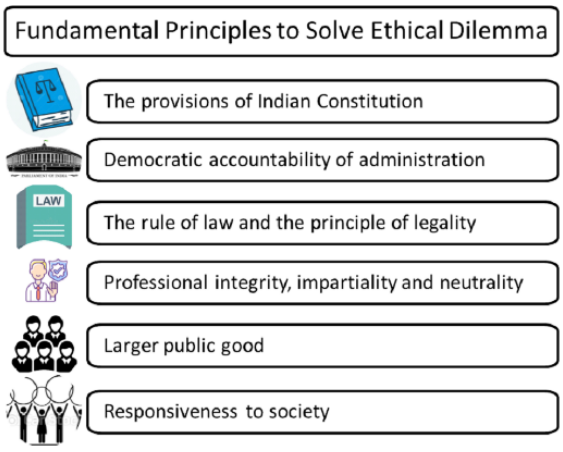
To address these challenges, a multi-pronged policy approach is needed. **Agricultural diversification**, value-addition, and agri-processing can raise rural incomes. A renewed focus on **labour-intensive manufacturing**, supported by simplified labour laws and MSME credit access, can enhance job creation. Massive investment in **infrastructure and logistics**, combined with green technologies, can improve productivity while ensuring sustainability.

Further, strengthening **education, skilling, and healthcare systems** will enhance human capital. Formalization of the economy through digital platforms and social security expansion can improve labour welfare.

Thus, inclusive and sustainable growth in India requires **structural transformation**, not merely higher GDP numbers—anchored in productivity, equity, and environmental responsibility.

(GS–4: Ethics)

Q4. Ethical leadership in public administration requires a balance between empathy and impartiality. Discuss with examples.



Model Answer:

Ethical leadership in public administration lies at the intersection of **empathy and impartiality**. While empathy enables administrators to understand human suffering and social realities, impartiality ensures fairness, legality, and equal treatment—both are indispensable for ethical governance.

Empathy allows civil servants to design and implement policies that are **people-centric**. In contexts such as disaster management, poverty alleviation, or public health crises, empathetic leadership ensures sensitivity to vulnerabilities, reducing exclusion and alienation. For instance, empathetic district administration during natural disasters often prioritizes immediate relief, dignity of affected populations, and inclusive rehabilitation.

However, unchecked empathy can risk **favouritism or emotional bias**. This is where impartiality becomes crucial. Public administrators are bound by constitutional values to act without discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, or political affiliation. Impartial enforcement of laws maintains public trust and institutional credibility.

Ethical leadership demands the **harmonization of both values**. An administrator may empathize with economically weaker sections but must still allocate resources transparently, following established criteria. Similarly, while hearing grievances with compassion, decisions must align with rules and public interest.

The challenge intensifies in politically charged environments, where pressure to act selectively can undermine neutrality. Ethical leaders resist such pressures by grounding decisions in **constitutional morality**, professional integrity, and accountability mechanisms.

In conclusion, empathy humanizes administration, while impartiality institutionalizes justice. Ethical leadership is not about choosing one over the other but about **integrating compassion with fairness**, ensuring governance that is both humane and just.

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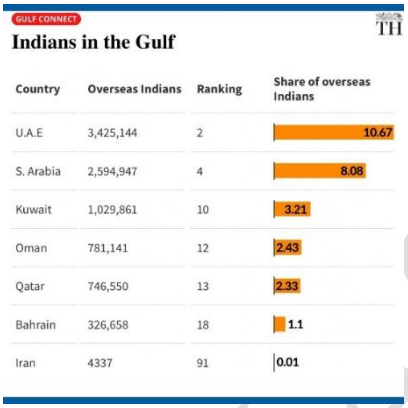
(Current Affairs)

Q5. India and the UAE have pledged to double bilateral trade to USD 200 billion. Examine the strategic significance of this commitment and the challenges involved.



Model Answer:

The pledge by India and the UAE to **double bilateral trade to USD 200 billion** marks a significant milestone in India's West Asia engagement and reflects the deepening of a **comprehensive strategic partnership**.

Strategically, the commitment strengthens India's position in the **Gulf region**, a critical source of energy, remittances, and investment. The UAE is one of India's largest trading partners and a key logistics and financial hub connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. Enhanced trade ties diversify India's export markets and reduce over-dependence on traditional partners.

The agreement builds upon initiatives such as the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, which has lowered tariffs, improved market access, and facilitated services trade. Sectors like energy, fintech, pharmaceuticals, food security, and renewable energy stand to benefit. The UAE's sovereign wealth funds also play a crucial role in financing India's infrastructure and green transition.

Geopolitically, the partnership reflects convergence on **economic diplomacy over conflict**, particularly in a volatile West Asian landscape. It also aligns with India's vision of becoming a **global manufacturing and trading hub**.

However, challenges remain. Non-tariff barriers, regulatory mismatches, and logistics inefficiencies could limit trade expansion. Ensuring balanced trade growth without exacerbating deficits is another concern. Additionally, global economic uncertainty and regional instability may affect investor confidence.

To realize the USD 200 billion target, both countries must deepen **supply-chain integration**, enhance ease of doing business, and promote MSME participation.

Overall, the pledge is not merely a trade target but a **strategic statement**—positioning India-UAE relations as a pillar of India's emerging global economic footprint.

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