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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 10/02/2026 (TUESDAY)

- **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 the origin and evolution of the Earth's atmosphere:

1. The present composition of Earth's atmosphere is primarily a result of degassing of the Earth's interior rather than solar nebular capture.
2. The Great Oxidation Event coincided with the complete disappearance of methane from the atmosphere.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Earth's primary atmosphere (hydrogen and helium) was lost early, and the present atmosphere formed mainly through volcanic degassing (secondary atmosphere).

Statement 2 is incorrect. During the Great Oxidation Event (~2.4 billion years ago), oxygen levels rose significantly, but methane did not completely disappear; it declined sharply but persisted in smaller concentrations. Complete disappearance is scientifically incorrect. Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the *latitudinal variation of insolation* on Earth?

- (a) Differential speed of Earth's rotation
- (b) Inclination of Earth's axis and curvature of the Earth
- (c) Unequal distribution of land and sea
- (d) Seasonal migration of pressure belts

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Latitudinal variation of insolation is fundamentally governed by the **angle of incidence of solar rays**, which depends on Earth's axial tilt ($23\frac{1}{2}^\circ$) and its spherical shape. Rotation speed affects day–night duration but not latitudinal energy receipt. Land–sea distribution and pressure belts are consequences, not causes, of insolation variation.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding plate tectonics:

1. Transform plate boundaries are associated with neither creation nor destruction of lithosphere.
2. Most of the world's deep-focus earthquakes occur along convergent plate boundaries.
3. Oceanic plates are always subducted beneath continental plates due to higher density.

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. Transform boundaries involve lateral movement without lithospheric gain or loss. Statement 2 is correct. Deep-focus earthquakes (300–700 km) are characteristic of subduction zones at convergent boundaries.

Statement 3 is incorrect. While oceanic plates are denser, subduction depends on relative density and age; oceanic–oceanic subduction is also common. Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding geomorphic processes:

1. Weathering is a prerequisite for mass wasting.
2. Running water acts both as an erosional and depositional agent depending on velocity.
3. Chemical weathering is more effective in cold and arid climates.
4. Deposition by glaciers always produces stratified landforms.

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. Weathering weakens rock structure, facilitating mass wasting.

Statement 2 is correct. High velocity causes erosion; reduced velocity leads to deposition.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Chemical weathering is most effective in warm and humid climates.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Glacial deposits (till) are typically unstratified. Therefore, only two statements are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A):

Soil profiles in tropical regions often show a thick horizon rich in iron and aluminium oxides.

Reason 1 (R1):

High temperature and heavy rainfall enhance chemical weathering and leaching.

Reason 2 (R2):

Rapid mechanical weathering prevents downward movement of minerals.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct; R1 is correct and explains A; R2 is incorrect
- (b) A is correct; both R1 and R2 are correct, but only R1 explains A



- (c) A is correct; R1 is incorrect; R2 is correct
- (d) A is incorrect; R1 is correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The assertion is correct—tropical soils (lateritic soils) are rich in iron and aluminium oxides due to intense leaching.

Reason 1 is correct and directly explains the assertion: high rainfall and temperature accelerate chemical weathering and removal of silica.

Reason 2 is incorrect because mechanical weathering does not prevent mineral leaching; in fact, chemical processes dominate in tropics. Hence, option (a) is correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Silver metal in the context of recent economic and technological developments:

1. Unlike gold, silver has a higher elasticity of industrial demand than investment demand.
2. The price volatility of silver is structurally lower than gold because of its diversified industrial usage.

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. Silver has substantial industrial demand (electronics, photovoltaics, medical devices), making its demand more responsive to economic cycles.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Despite diversified use, silver is **more volatile than gold** because it is thinner in market depth and exposed to both commodity and precious-metal cycles. Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q2. The Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS) is primarily aimed at:

- (a) Developing cybersecurity tools for government networks
- (b) Creating technical standards for internet protocols
- (c) Building domestic expertise in multistakeholder internet governance processes
- (d) Regulating social media platforms through statutory mechanisms

Answer: (c)



Explanation:

IGICBS focuses on **capacity building**, exposure, and participation of Indian stakeholders in **global internet governance forums** (such as IGF, ICANN processes), rather than regulation or technical protocol development.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Artemis II Mission:

1. It will be the first crewed mission of the Artemis programme to travel beyond low Earth orbit.
2. Unlike Artemis I, it involves a lunar landing module.
3. It uses the Space Launch System (SLS) and the Orion spacecraft.

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. Artemis II is the first **crewed** mission to venture beyond LEO.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Artemis II does **not** include a lunar landing; it is a lunar flyby mission.

Statement 3 is correct. The mission uses **SLS and Orion**. Hence, two statements are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Alliance:

1. It seeks to integrate media literacy and information literacy as a unified competency.
2. It is a legally binding framework for countering misinformation.
3. It promotes cooperation among governments, civil society, academia, and digital platforms.

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. MIL treats media and information literacy as interlinked competencies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Alliance is **normative and collaborative**, not legally binding.

Statement 3 is correct. It follows a **multi-stakeholder approach**. Thus, only two statements are correct.



Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Operation Trashi-I, recently seen in the news:

1. It is aimed at preventing illegal wildlife trafficking across international borders.
2. It involves coordinated action among customs, police, and enforcement agencies.
3. It is conducted exclusively under the framework of INTERPOL.
4. It focuses only on marine species.

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. The operation targets **illegal wildlife trade**.

Statement 2 is correct. It involves **multi-agency coordination**.

Statement 3 is incorrect. While global cooperation exists, it is **not exclusively under INTERPOL**.

Statement 4 is incorrect. It covers **terrestrial and marine wildlife**. Hence, two statements are correct.

Q6. With reference to Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following:

- (a) It lies entirely east of the Aravalli Range
- (b) It is located in Rajasthan and forms an ecological corridor with the Thar Desert
- (c) It is situated in the districts of Rajsamand, Pali and Udaipur
- (d) It is part of the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Rajsamand, Pali and Udaipur districts of Rajasthan**.

It lies **within the Aravalli Range**, not east of it, is unrelated to the Thar ecological corridor, and is **not part of the Western Ghats**.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS-1)

Q1. Discuss how geographical factors have historically influenced the evolution of cultural diversity in India. Illustrate with suitable examples.

Answer:

India's cultural diversity is deeply rooted in its physical geography, which has acted both as a **barrier and a conduit** for human interaction over centuries. The subcontinent's varied relief, climate, and river systems have shaped settlement patterns, livelihoods, and cultural identities.

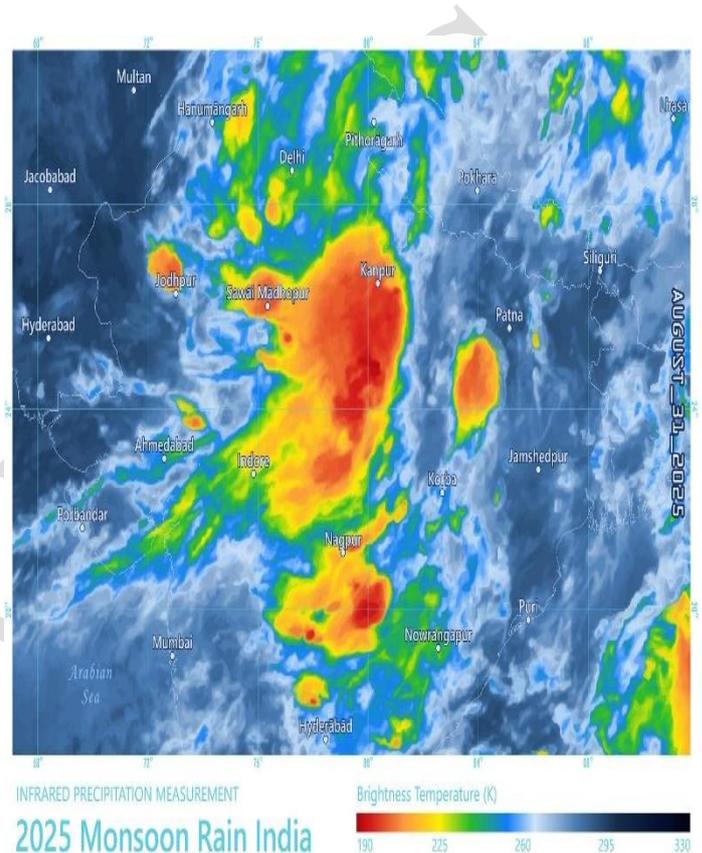
The **Himalayas**, while acting as a formidable natural barrier against large-scale invasions, also functioned as selective gateways through passes such as the Khyber and Bolan. These routes facilitated cultural exchanges, resulting in layers of influence—Indo-Aryan, Persian, Central Asian—visible in languages, architecture, and social practices of northern India.

The **Indus–Ganga–Brahmaputra plains**, endowed with fertile alluvial soils and perennial rivers, enabled dense agrarian settlements. This led to the early rise of civilizations like the Harappans and later sustained empires such as the Mauryas and Guptas. The relative ease of communication across the plains promoted linguistic and cultural diffusion, explaining the broad spread of Indo-Aryan languages.

In contrast, **peninsular plateaus and forests** fostered relative isolation. Tribal communities in the Chotanagpur Plateau or Bastar region developed distinct socio-cultural systems, art forms, and belief structures due to limited external contact. Similarly, the **Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats** shaped localized cultural traditions in coastal and hill regions.

India's **monsoon system** further influenced agricultural calendars, festivals, and rituals. Harvest festivals like Onam, Pongal, and Baisakhi reflect regional adaptations to monsoon rhythms.

Thus, India's cultural diversity is not accidental but a geographical outcome—where physical features interacted with human agency to produce pluralism. Geography provided the stage; history and society performed upon it.





(GS–2)

Q2. “Judicial removal in India is a tough law with an inherent loophole.” Critically examine this statement in the context of judicial independence and accountability.

Answer:

Judicial independence is a cornerstone of India’s constitutional democracy, and the framers deliberately made the **removal of judges extremely difficult** to protect them from political pressure. However, this very rigidity has created a functional loophole in accountability.

Under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution, judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts can be removed only through **impeachment by Parliament**, requiring a special majority in both Houses. This high threshold ensures independence but has rendered removal practically impossible—no judge has been successfully impeached so far.

The loophole lies in the **absence of an effective intermediate disciplinary mechanism**. Misconduct that does not meet the high standard of “proved misbehaviour” remains inadequately addressed. In several cases, judges facing impeachment proceedings have resigned before completion, thereby **escaping formal accountability while retaining post-retirement benefits**.

Further, impeachment is a **political process**, not a judicial one. Party whips, political bargaining, and legislative disruptions often derail proceedings, as seen in past attempts. This politicisation undermines both judicial credibility and public trust.

Institutions like the **in-house procedure of the judiciary** lack statutory backing and transparency. While bodies such as the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill were proposed, they have not been enacted, leaving a governance vacuum.

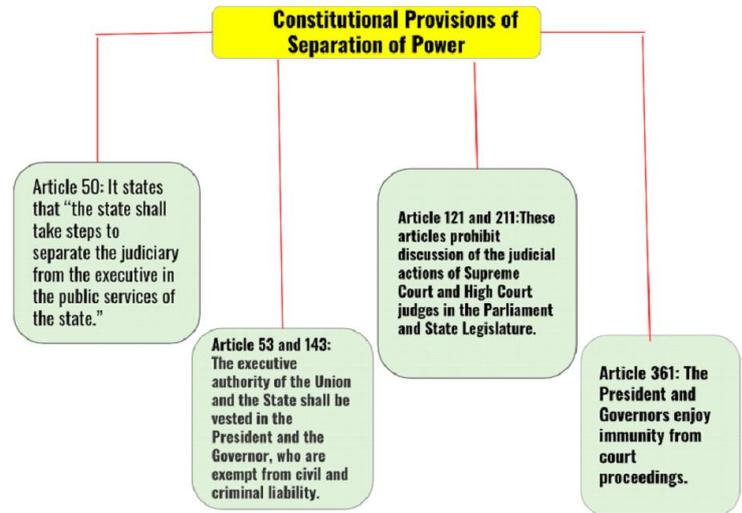
Thus, while judicial removal law is “tough” by design, it suffers from a **structural loophole of enforceability**. The solution lies not in diluting independence, but in creating a **credible, transparent, and constitutionally consistent oversight mechanism**, balancing autonomy with accountability.

(GS–3)

Q3. Evaluate the role of infrastructure development in accelerating inclusive economic growth in India. Highlight the associated challenges.

Answer:

Infrastructure is the backbone of economic development, enabling productivity, connectivity, and market integration. In India, investment in physical and digital infrastructure has been a central strategy to achieve **inclusive and sustainable growth**.





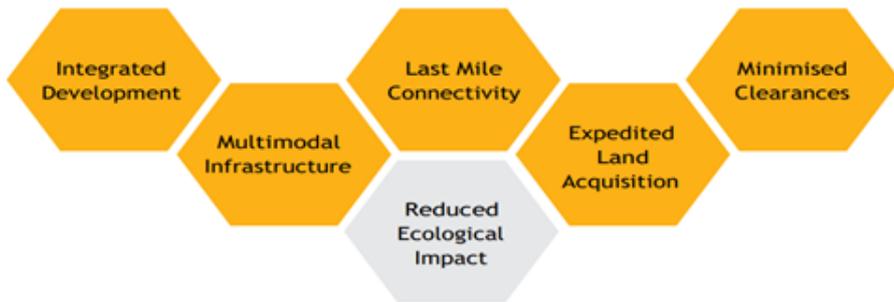
Projects such as **Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Dedicated Freight Corridors, and Gati Shakti** have improved logistics efficiency, reduced transaction costs, and enhanced regional connectivity. Improved road and rail networks integrate rural markets with urban centres, enabling farmers, MSMEs, and informal workers to access broader economic opportunities.

Infrastructure also plays a critical role in **social inclusion**. Electrification, digital connectivity, and water infrastructure enhance access to education, healthcare, and financial services. The expansion of digital public infrastructure has allowed welfare delivery through DBT, reducing leakages and improving state capacity.

However, challenges persist. **Land acquisition delays**, environmental clearances, and cost overruns frequently slow project execution. Infrastructure development can also exacerbate regional inequality if concentrated in already developed corridors. Further, climate vulnerability raises concerns about the sustainability of infrastructure assets.



SIX PRINCIPLES OF PM GATISHAKTI



Financing constraints, particularly for state governments, and the need for skilled manpower add to the challenge. Public-private partnerships have had mixed success due to regulatory uncertainty.

Therefore, while infrastructure is a powerful growth multiplier, its inclusiveness depends on **balanced regional planning,**

environmental sustainability, and institutional capacity. Infrastructure must be seen not merely as construction, but as a tool for equitable development.

(GS-4)

Q4. Discuss the ethical challenges involved in balancing personal conscience and professional duty for a civil servant.

Answer:

Civil servants often operate at the intersection of **law, morality, and public interest**, making ethical dilemmas inevitable. The tension between personal conscience and professional duty arises when legal orders conflict with moral values.

Professional duty requires adherence to constitutional principles, rule of law, and lawful instructions of superiors. However, personal conscience—shaped

by ethics, empathy, and integrity—may resist actions perceived as unjust, discriminatory, or harmful.





For instance, implementing an eviction order may be legally valid but morally troubling if it affects vulnerable populations. Blind obedience risks moral abdication, while excessive moralism risks administrative anarchy.

Ethical governance requires **value-based discretion**, not value-neutral compliance. The Constitution itself embeds moral values—justice, dignity, equality—providing ethical guidance. Mechanisms such as recording dissent, seeking written orders, whistleblower protections, and ethical advisory bodies help reconcile this conflict.

A civil servant must cultivate **moral courage**, guided by constitutional morality rather than personal prejudice. Training in ethics, emotional intelligence, and case-based reasoning strengthens ethical decision-making.

Thus, the balance lies not in choosing conscience over duty or vice versa, but in aligning both with **constitutional values and public interest**, ensuring ethical administration without undermining governance.

(Current Affairs)

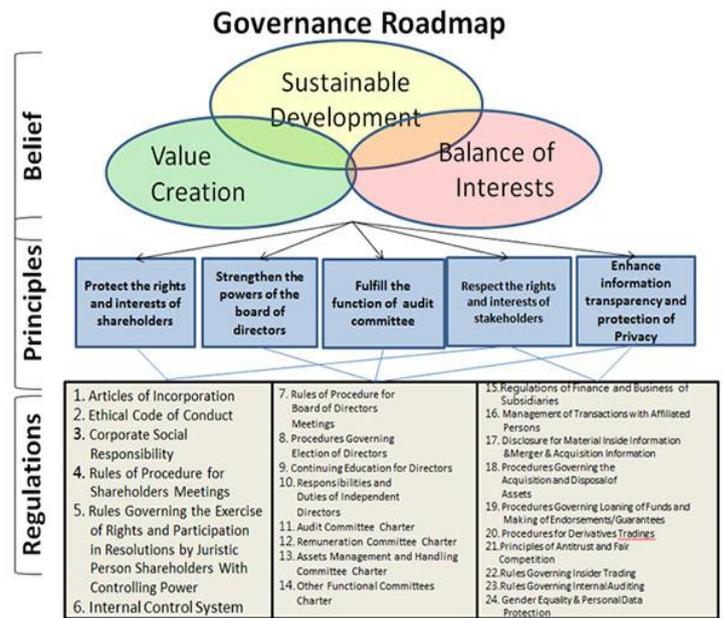
Q5. How does the National Legislative Index (NLI) contribute to transparency and cooperative federalism in India? Discuss its significance.

Answer:

The **National Legislative Index (NLI)** is a reform-oriented initiative aimed at enhancing **transparency, accessibility, and comparative assessment** of legislative performance across India. It represents a shift from opaque legislative functioning to evidence-based democratic accountability.

By systematically compiling data on legislative output, attendance, debates, and committee participation, NLI empowers citizens, researchers, and policymakers to objectively assess legislatures. This promotes **informed public discourse** and strengthens democratic oversight.

From a federal perspective, NLI fosters **competitive and cooperative federalism**. States can benchmark their legislative efficiency against others, encouraging institutional learning and best-practice adoption. It also reduces information asymmetry between Union and States.





NLI contributes to good governance by incentivising qualitative law-making rather than merely quantitative output. Over time, it can guide capacity-building interventions, procedural reforms, and digitisation efforts in legislatures.

However, its effectiveness depends on data accuracy, contextual interpretation, and avoidance of reductionist rankings. Legislatures perform diverse functions that cannot be captured fully by numbers alone.

In essence, NLI strengthens democratic institutions by **making law-making visible, comparable, and accountable**, aligning legislative functioning with the ideals of participatory governance.

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