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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 12/02/2026 (THURSDAY)

- **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 Vijayanagar Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The amara-nayakas system functioned as a key military arrangement, but they were strictly prohibited from maintaining independent forts or armed contingents.
2. The empire's revenue system relied heavily on detailed land surveys, and by the time of Krishnadeva Raya, cultivation intensity rather than soil quality formed the main basis of assessment.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **incorrect**. Amara-nayakas *did* maintain their own troops, garrisons, and fortified centers. They enjoyed considerable autonomy in their local jurisdictions, although their power was periodically checked by the kings.
- Statement 2 is **correct**. Vijayanagar rulers increasingly used detailed surveys to assess productivity. Under Krishnadeva Raya, revenue assessments emphasised *crop intensity and actual cultivation* over mere soil type, indicating a shift toward more empirical methods.

Q2. Which of the following best explains why certain invasive plant species such as *Prosopis juliflora* and *Lantana camara* continue to expand rapidly across semi-arid and dry deciduous ecosystems in India?

- (a) They demonstrate high mycorrhizal dependency, which restricts native species regeneration.
- (b) They produce allelochemicals that suppress competitors while thriving under conditions of soil nutrient stress.
- (c) They require prolonged waterlogging and thus dominate monsoon-fed wetlands.
- (d) They depend on specialist pollinators whose scarcity favours their clonal spread.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Invasive species such as *Lantana* and *Prosopis* owe their success to **allelopathy**, aggressive vegetative spread, and tolerance to nutrient-poor soils. They outcompete native grasses and shrubs in degraded landscapes. Statements about waterlogging, specialist pollinators, or high mycorrhizal dependency do not explain their proliferation in dry zones.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding India's macroeconomic management:

1. An increase in the government's fiscal deficit automatically results in a proportionate increase in the current account deficit.
2. Sterilized interventions by the RBI to manage exchange-rate volatility can potentially expand domestic liquidity even when conducted through open market sales.



3. A rise in the GDP deflator, without any corresponding increase in real output, mechanically raises the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio even if nominal borrowing remains constant.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **incorrect**. While the “twin deficits” hypothesis suggests correlation, there is no *automatic* or proportionate relation; capital flows, savings behavior, and exchange-rate dynamics mediate outcomes.
 - Statement 2 is **incorrect**. Sterilized interventions neutralize liquidity effects. **Open market sales withdraw liquidity**, not expand it. Hence the statement contradicts basic mechanics.
- Statement 3 is **correct**. If the GDP deflator rises while nominal borrowing stays constant, **nominal GDP rises**, reducing the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio? No—this seems counterintuitive. The trick here: fiscal deficit is a *flow*, but **GDP-deflator-induced inflation can raise expenditure (especially subsidies, interest, etc.) without immediate nominal GDP adjustment**, causing a short-term worsening of the fiscal ratio even when nominal borrowing hasn't changed. UPSC has framed similar “mechanical effect” traps; the intended correct reading is that a rising deflator can alter denominator–numerator dynamics adversely. Thus, only **one** statement holds.

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. A High Court in India can issue a writ of certiorari to quash an order of a statutory tribunal located outside its territorial jurisdiction, provided the cause of action arises within its territory.
2. The President’s rule proclaimed under Article 356 can be judicially reviewed only on the grounds of mala fide intention and violation of federal balance, but not on procedural irregularities.
3. The Constitution permits the Lok Sabha to continue functioning for up to one year after the declaration of a national emergency, even if a general election has not been conducted.
4. A money bill, once certified by the Speaker, remains open to judicial scrutiny only after the President has assented to it.

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 *cause of action* doctrine (post *Navinchandra Majithia* and reaffirmed in later cases) allows writs if the underlying cause partly arises within jurisdiction.



- Statement 2 is **incorrect**. Judicial review of Article 356 extends to **procedural compliance** as well (e.g., material relevance, application of mind), not just mala fides.
- Statement 3 is **correct**. During a National Emergency, Parliament's life can be extended by one year at a time under Article 83(2).
- Statement 4 is **incorrect**. Judicial review of money bill certification (as held in *Rojer Mathew*) exists *irrespective of Presidential assent*; certification is not immune.

Thus, **two** statements are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Despite being located at similar latitudes, the eastern coasts of continents experience warmer ocean currents than the western coasts.

Reason (R1): Trade wind circulation combined with the Coriolis effect causes surface waters to drift poleward on the eastern margins.

Reason (R2): Upwelling zones on the western margins intensify thermocline shoaling, thereby lowering sea-surface temperatures.

In the context of the above, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 correctly explain A.
- (b) A is correct, but only R2 correctly explains A.
- (c) A is correct, but neither R1 nor R2 is a correct explanation of A.
- (d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The assertion is **correct**: eastern continental margins receive **warm poleward currents** (e.g., Gulf Stream, Kuroshio), while western margins host **cold currents**.
- R1 is **not entirely correct**: trade winds push surface waters *westward*, not poleward; poleward flow on eastern margins results from **western intensification of gyres**, not the mechanism R1 states.
- R2 is **correct** and explains the cooling pattern on western sides through **upwelling and thermocline shoaling**, which contrasts with the warming of eastern margins.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the Himalayan Black Bear in India, consider the following statements:

1. In recent climate-change assessments, upward altitudinal migration of Himalayan Black Bears has been linked more to *habitat compression by expanding leopard populations* than to changes in vegetation phenology.
2. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Himalayan Black Bear and the Asiatic Black Bear are placed in different Schedules due to their distinct threat levels and distributional ranges.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect.** Multiple recent ecological studies attribute the bear's upward migration primarily to **warming temperatures** and **shifts in plant phenology**, *not* because of leopard-driven habitat compression. Predators do not significantly dictate the bear's altitudinal shifts.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect.** Both **Himalayan/Asiatic Black Bears** fall under **Schedule II** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. They are *not* placed in separate Schedules.

Thus, **none** of the statements is correct.

Q2. Which of the following best explains why lab-grown milk has been projected by food-system modellers as a larger disruptor than plant-based milk in India's dairy economy?

- (a) It bypasses all microbial fermentation steps and therefore qualifies as a 'raw' dairy product under the FSSAI.
- (b) Its casein-micelle structure and lactose profile are bio-identical, allowing it to replace dairy inputs in industrial food processing chains.
- (c) It requires significantly more water and feedstock than bovine milk, making it a superior fit for monsoon-dependent agriculture.
- (d) It has been legally recognised as "milk" under India's Food Safety Regulations.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Lab-grown (cell-based / precision-fermented) milk produces **bio-identical casein and whey**, enabling it to substitute dairy ingredients in **cheese, yoghurt, milk powder, nutraceuticals**, etc.

Options (a), (c), (d) are incorrect because:

- It does **not** qualify as raw dairy under FSSAI.
- It uses **much less water/land** than bovine milk.
- It has **not** been recognised as "milk" under Indian food safety law.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the conservation challenges of the Great Indian Bustard:

1. The Supreme Court-mandated undergrounding of power lines is based on evidence that even low-voltage distribution lines contribute significantly to adult mortality.
2. The GIB's breeding recovery is constrained more by *skewed sex ratios* than by low hatching success in semi-captive conditions.
3. Expansion of irrigation-based agriculture in the Thar desert has reduced suitable GIB habitat by facilitating meso-predator (fox, feral dog) proliferation.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct.** Studies show **both high-voltage and low-voltage** lines kill GIBs due to poor flight manoeuvrability. The Supreme Court mandated undergrounding accordingly.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect.** The sex ratio issue is *not* the dominant constraint; **poor hatching success and chick survival** remain the primary bottlenecks.
- **Statement 3 – Correct.** Irrigation expansion increases **vegetation cover and water**, encouraging predators like feral dogs and foxes, shrinking open-grassland habitats.

Thus, **two** statements are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding India's first MWh-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) commissioned at NTPC NETRA:

1. Unlike lithium-ion systems, VRFBs maintain constant power output irrespective of depth of discharge because both electrolytes remain in liquid phase.
2. Its installation aims primarily to support **short-duration frequency regulation**, rather than long-duration load-shifting in renewable-heavy grids.
3. VRFBs avoid metal depletion risks because the same vanadium ion undergoes multiple valence transitions during charge-discharge cycles.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct.** VRFBs have *flat discharge curves*, maintaining steady power across depths of discharge.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect.** VRFBs are **long-duration storage** systems suitable for load-shifting, not short-burst frequency regulation (which is better handled by Li-ion).
- **Statement 3 – Correct.** VRFB chemistry prevents metal cross-contamination; vanadium itself switches between valence states ($V^{2+}/V^{3+}/V^{4+}/V^{5+}$).

Thus, **two** statements are correct.

**Q5. Consider the following statements:**

1. The JSJB Awards assess water-saving interventions exclusively under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, excluding urban local bodies.
2. One of the core criteria of evaluation includes quantifiable reduction in groundwater extraction through community-managed demand-side interventions.
3. The awards follow a district-level competition model, with no provisions for recognition of individual gram panchayats.
4. The initiative's design is aligned with the national goal of behavioural change under the *Atal Bhujal Yojana*.

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 – Incorrect.** The Awards involve **multi-ministerial participation**, not limited to rural PRIs; urban entities are not excluded.
- **Statement 2 – Correct.** Community-driven **groundwater demand reduction** is a core quantifiable metric.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect.** Recognition exists at **multiple tiers**, including gram panchayats and districts.
- **Statement 4 – Correct.** The behavioural-change focus echoes **Atal Bhujal Yojana's** demand-side groundwater management goals.

Thus, **two** statements are correct.

Q6. In the map of India, which of the following combinations correctly identifies a region where Himalayan Black Bear presence overlaps with none of the historically recorded Great Indian Bustard (GIB) habitats?

- (a) Eastern Ladakh – Jaisalmer sector
- (b) Upper Kumaon – Kutch grasslands
- (c) Arunachal foothills – Barmer plains
- (d) Pir Panjal range – Desert National Park core zone

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Himalayan Black Bears occur in **Arunachal, Uttarakhand, Himachal, J&K**.
- GIB historical range includes **Rajasthan (Thar), Gujarat (Kutch), Maharashtra, Karnataka**, **NOT the eastern Himalayan region**.

The only option pairing a Black Bear region with **no GIB historical habitat at all** is:

→ **Arunachal foothills (bear) + Barmer plains (GIB range) do not overlap geographically**, but the question asks for “region where bear presence overlaps with *none* of the historically recorded GIB habitats.”



Since GIB has *never* had a distribution anywhere in the eastern Himalayas, **Arunachal foothills** are entirely outside the Bustard's recorded habitat.

Thus, (c) is correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. "India's cultural landscape has been shaped as much by processes of mobility and cross-cultural exchange as by political consolidation." Discuss with reference to major historical phases from the early medieval to the early modern period.

Sample Answer :

India's cultural evolution has never been a linear or isolated phenomenon. From the early medieval era onward, mobility—of traders, migrants, monks, warriors—and the resulting cross-cultural dialogues shaped India's social, artistic and intellectual life as deeply as political consolidation under empires.

During the early medieval period, **regionalisation and agrarian expansion** created new cultural zones. The movement of Brahmanas into eastern and southern India facilitated the spread of Sanskritic values, temple architecture and caste-based social organisation. Yet local traditions were not displaced; rather, they interacted creatively, producing hybrid cultural formations such as the *bhakti* traditions of the Alvars and Nayanars. Simultaneously, trade networks across the Indian Ocean fostered movement of Arabs, Southeast Asians and Africans, enriching coastal cultures in Kerala, Gujarat and the Coromandel region.

The Delhi Sultanate institutionalised a **Perso-Islamic cultural influx**. Sufi saints circulated widely, establishing hospices that became centres of linguistic fusion, music and devotional practices. Persianate literary forms—*masnavi*, *ghazal*—took root as Indo-Persian cultural synthesis flourished. Monumental architecture like the Qutb complex reflected the blending of Indic and Islamic motifs. Political consolidation under the Sultanate facilitated this mobility by integrating northern India into trans-regional networks.

Under the Mughals, mobility and exchange intensified. Persian scholars, Central Asian soldiers, Rajput nobles, Jain bankers and Deccani literati circulated through imperial cities. Akbar's court became a magnet for diverse traditions—Turko-Mongol, Persian, Rajput, and Indic. The **Mughal painting school**, influenced by Safavid, Hindu and European traditions, epitomised cosmopolitan synthesis. Simultaneously, the spread of Bhakti and Sufi movements enabled cultural integration at the popular level, transcending caste and ethnic boundaries.

In the Deccan, interaction between Persianate courts and Telugu-Marathi cultural worlds produced unique art styles (e.g., Bijapur, Golconda) and literary traditions. Even the rise of the Marathas drew from this composite milieu, as mobility of soldiers, administrators and merchants cut across regional boundaries.

Thus, the making of Indian culture was not merely the result of imperial command but was fundamentally driven by **movement, contact and continuous negotiation** among diverse peoples.



GS Paper 2

Q2. “The increasing judicialisation of politics and politicisation of the judiciary threaten to blur the constitutional separation of powers.” Critically examine in the Indian context.

Sample Answer:

The Indian Constitution envisages a delicate balance between the legislature, executive and judiciary. While judicial independence is a basic feature, the judiciary was not designed to be the primary arena for political contestation. Yet, in contemporary India, two parallel trends—the **judicialisation of politics** and the **politicisation of the judiciary**—have begun to blur the intended lines.

Judicialisation of politics refers to the expansion of judicial power into questions traditionally resolved by democratic institutions. Public Interest Litigations (PILs), expansive interpretation of Article 21, and judicial review of legislative and executive actions have empowered the judiciary to intervene in governance. Landmark verdicts on privacy, Aadhaar, coal block allocation, electoral reforms, farm laws stay order, and reservations have shaped policy outcomes. While this intervention has defended rights and checked executive arbitrariness, excessive reliance on courts risks weakening parliamentary accountability and allowing governance by judicial decree.

Parallely, accusations of **politicisation of the judiciary** have emerged. Contentious appointments in the higher judiciary, the tensions between the executive and judiciary over the collegium system, and perceived ideological alignments in sensitive cases (e.g., bail decisions, federal disputes, electoral bonds case) raise concerns about institutional neutrality. Even the sequencing of hearings or selective urgency for certain cases is often viewed through political lenses.

The crisis deepens when both trends reinforce each other: as politics enters courts, courts increasingly become arenas for political mobilisation. This burdens the judiciary, delays justice, and risks transforming courts into quasi-political platforms.

However, the situation is not irretrievable. The judiciary remains one of India’s most trusted institutions. Institutional solutions include reforms in appointments (e.g., a reimagined NJAC with safeguards), clearer judicial restraint doctrines, strengthening parliamentary committees, and revitalising deliberative democracy. Simultaneously, the executive must respect judicial autonomy, and the judiciary must avoid overreach that undermines democratic legitimacy.

Ultimately, preserving constitutional balance requires mutual respect, institutional transparency and recognition that no branch can dominate without eroding democratic foundations.

GS Paper 3

Q3. “India’s transition to a green economy requires not only technological upgrades but also structural reforms and behavioural changes.” Analyse in light of recent policies and global climate commitments.

Sample Answer:

India’s pursuit of a green economy is driven by domestic imperatives—energy security, pollution control, sustainable growth—and global commitments under the Paris Agreement and COP28 outcomes. While technological upgrades such as renewable energy expansion, EV adoption, and green hydrogen are crucial, a sustainable transition demands deeper **structural reforms and behavioural shifts**.



Technologically, India has made impressive strides: it has achieved some of the world's lowest solar tariffs, expanded renewable capacity beyond 180 GW, and launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Yet technology alone cannot guarantee decarbonisation. The real challenges lie in systemic restructuring. The power sector requires **distribution company (DISCOM) reforms**, rational tariffs, and market-based mechanisms for integrating variable renewables. Green hydrogen needs predictable offtake markets, grid upgrades, and fiscal incentives.

Agriculture—responsible for methane and nitrous oxide emissions—needs structural interventions such as crop-diversification away from water-intensive paddy, precision fertiliser use, and MSP reforms aligned with sustainability. The circular economy framework must address solid waste, e-waste and urban mining at scale.

Industrial decarbonisation requires long-term carbon pricing, green financing, and predictable regulatory signals. The success of schemes like the Perform-Achieve-Trade (PAT), carbon markets, and energy-efficiency norms depends on institutional coherence and private-sector participation.

Equally important are **behavioural changes**. Household energy consumption patterns, willingness to adopt EVs, water-use habits, and urban mobility preferences shape emission pathways. Initiatives like Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), Swachh Bharat, and Jal Jeevan Mission underscore the role of community behaviour. Urban planning must encourage public transport, walkable spaces, and reduced automobile dependence.

Financial behaviour is critical too: consumers and industries must shift toward green investments. Green bonds, blended finance, and ESG norms can guide markets toward low-carbon pathways.

Thus, India's green transition is not a narrow technological shift but a multi-dimensional transformation involving institutions, markets, policies and social norms. A holistic strategy integrating innovation with structural and behavioural reform will determine India's success in achieving a resilient, low-carbon future.

GS Paper 4

Q4. “Ethical leadership is not merely about personal integrity but about building systems that reduce the opportunity and incentives for corruption.” Discuss with suitable examples.

Sample Answer:

Ethical leadership extends beyond individuals displaying honesty or moral uprightness. In public administration, it involves designing institutions and processes that minimise incentives, discretion and opacity—the breeding grounds for corruption. Personal virtue alone is insufficient; ethical leaders must embed ethics into organisational architecture.

First, ethical leadership requires **systemic transparency**. Digitisation of services—such as e-procurement, online tax filing, and direct benefit transfers—reduces human interface and therefore opportunities for rent-seeking. Leaders who champion these reforms demonstrate ethics through institution-building rather than mere personal conduct. For instance, Aadhaar-enabled DBT systems significantly reduced leakages in LPG subsidies and welfare delivery.

Second, ethical leadership nurtures **accountability frameworks**. This includes independent vigilance bodies, social audits, and time-bound service delivery guarantees (as in Rajasthan's RTPS Act). Ethical leaders empower such institutions rather than bypass them. The success of the Lokpal or state-level Lokayuktas depends substantially on leadership commitment to operational autonomy.



Third, ethical leaders promote **incentive alignment**. Public servants may face perverse incentives—e.g., targets encouraging manipulation or bureaucratic delays generating informal payments. Reforming recruitment, performance evaluation, and promotion systems fosters an ethical environment. The transformation of railways' ticketing through IRCTC's online system shows how redesigning processes curbs corruption at source.

Fourth, ethical leadership shapes organisational culture. Leaders set ethical tone, uphold due process, and model fairness. Their conduct establishes "normative expectations," reducing tolerance for unethical behaviour. This aligns with the Gandhian idea of trusteeship and Max Weber's conception of impersonal, rule-based bureaucracy.

Finally, ethics-driven leadership involves **citizen empowerment**. Mechanisms like Right to Information (RTI), participatory budgeting, community monitoring and grievance redressal platforms create external checks on the system. Leaders who institutionalise such participatory platforms create shared ownership of governance ethics.

In essence, ethical leadership shifts the focus from personal morality to **systemic moralisation**. Sustainable ethical governance arises when leaders design transparent, accountable and incentive-compatible systems that leave little room—or motivation—for corruption.

Current Affairs:

Q5. "White Collar Terrorism represents a new frontier of non-violent yet highly consequential threats to national security." Examine the concept, its sources, and policy challenges for India.

Sample Answer:

White Collar Terrorism (WCT) refers to the use of sophisticated financial, technological or administrative tools by individuals or networks to undermine national security without direct physical violence. Unlike traditional terrorism, WCT exploits systemic vulnerabilities—economic, digital, institutional—to inflict long-term strategic damage. Its subtlety makes detection difficult and regulation complex.

WCT arises from multiple sources. **Financial channels** such as illicit fund flows, trade-based money laundering, manipulation of stock markets, and shell company networks can finance extremist groups or destabilise economic systems. Cyber-enabled WCT—phishing, ransomware, deepfake-driven disinformation, financial fraud—can cripple critical infrastructure. Another dimension is **institutional subversion**, where insiders in banking, customs, telecom or bureaucratic posts use privileged access to facilitate espionage, data leaks or supply-chain sabotage.

Global events reflect how non-violent actions can have destructive impacts: cryptocurrency-based terror financing, misuse of NGOs for cross-border funding, or corporate frauds that erode economic stability and trust. In India, vulnerabilities include informal financial networks, gaps in cyber hygiene, and weaknesses in regulatory coordination across agencies.

Policy challenges are significant. First, WCT often falls in a grey zone between criminality and national security, complicating legal classification. Second, its actors are educated, resource-rich and technologically adept, requiring specialised investigative capacity. Third, globalisation of finance and digital systems makes jurisdictional cooperation essential but difficult. Fourth, over-regulation risks restricting legitimate economic activity.



India's response must be multi-layered. Strengthening FIU-IND, expanding digital forensics, and tightening AML-CFT mechanisms under the PMLA are essential. Cross-agency coordination—RBI, SEBI, ED, NIA, CERT-In—must be institutionalised. International cooperation through FATF, INTERPOL and financial intelligence exchanges is critical. Corporate governance standards must be elevated, and whistle-blower protections strengthened.

Equally important is **public–private coordination**, since much of the cyber and financial infrastructure is privately owned. Capacity-building for forensic accountants, cybersecurity experts and specialised prosecutors is vital.

In sum, White Collar Terrorism represents a silent but potent threat. India needs integrated regulatory, technological and diplomatic strategies to safeguard economic sovereignty, digital integrity and national security.

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