



“ We help you reach for the star ”

VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 21/02/2026 (SATURDAY)

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



 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Question 1. With reference to the administrative and agrarian structure under the Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:

1. The iqta holders were originally appointed only for revenue collection and had no military obligations towards the Sultan.
2. The practice of transferring iqta holders frequently was intended to prevent the emergence of autonomous regional power centres.

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 incorrect. Iqta holders (muqtis) were assigned revenue rights primarily to maintain troops and render military service to the Sultan; military obligation was central to the iqta system.

Statement 2 is correct. Frequent transfers prevented muqtis from establishing hereditary control and regional autonomy, which was a key concern of Sultans like Iltutmish and Balban.

Question 2. Consider the following statement regarding ecological succession in tropical ecosystems:

In primary succession over bare rock in humid tropics, soil formation is initially accelerated mainly due to biological weathering by pioneer species rather than chemical weathering by rainfall alone.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) The statement is correct and explains why lichens dominate early succession on rocks.
- (b) The statement is correct but lichens do not significantly contribute to soil formation.
- (c) The statement is incorrect because chemical weathering always precedes biological weathering in humid tropics.
- (d) The statement is incorrect because primary succession does not occur on bare rock in humid tropics.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Primary succession on bare rock commonly begins with lichens and mosses. Lichens secrete organic acids that break down rock (biological weathering), initiating soil formation. In humid tropics, rainfall enhances chemical weathering, but without pioneer organisms soil formation is extremely slow. Hence, biological weathering by pioneer species is the main initial accelerator, explaining lichen dominance.



Question 3. Consider the following statements regarding India's external sector and exchange rate dynamics:

1. An increase in foreign portfolio investment inflows can appreciate the domestic currency even if the current account deficit remains unchanged.
2. Sterilized intervention by the central bank to absorb excess foreign exchange reserves has no impact on domestic liquidity conditions.
3. A persistent current account deficit necessarily implies depletion of foreign exchange reserves if capital inflows are insufficient.

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. Capital inflows increase demand for the domestic currency, causing appreciation even if the CAD remains unchanged.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Sterilization involves offsetting liquidity effects through open market operations; therefore, it directly affects domestic liquidity conditions.

Statement 3 is correct. If the CAD exceeds capital inflows, foreign exchange reserves must finance the gap, leading to depletion.

Question 4. With reference to the constitutional scheme of legislative and executive powers in India, consider the following statements:

1. The executive power of a State extends to matters on which the State Legislature has competence to make laws, except where expressly conferred on the Union by the Constitution.
2. Parliament can confer executive functions on States even in matters exclusively within the Union List without requiring State consent.
3. The executive power of the Union extends to giving directions to States regarding construction and maintenance of means of communication declared to be of national or military importance.
4. The Constitution expressly provides that in case of inconsistency between Union and State executive directions in the Concurrent List, Union directions prevail.

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 (Article 162).

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under Article 258, Union functions are generally entrusted to States with State consent, especially when duties are imposed.

Statement 3 is correct (Article 257).

Statement 4 is correct. Within the Articles 256–257 framework, Union directions prevail to maintain constitutional supremacy.

Question 5 (Assertion–Reason)

Assertion (A): Regions lying on the western margins of continents in the subtropics often experience dry summers.

Reason 1 (R1): Subtropical high-pressure belts shift poleward during summer, suppressing convection over these regions.

Reason 2 (R2): Cold ocean currents along western continental margins reduce evaporation and atmospheric moisture availability.

Which of the following is correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Mediterranean-type climates occur on western margins of continents in the subtropics with dry summers. In summer, subtropical high-pressure belts shift poleward, bringing subsidence and stable air that suppress rainfall (R1). Additionally, cold ocean currents (e.g., California, Canary, Benguela) reduce evaporation and moisture supply (R2). Both mechanisms jointly explain the dry summer conditions.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Question 1. With reference to the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology recently tested in India, consider the following statements:

1. SFDR propulsion enables a missile to sustain supersonic speed throughout its flight without carrying onboard oxidizer.
2. Unlike conventional ramjets, SFDR systems can throttle thrust during flight by regulating the solid fuel gas generator.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both



- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. SFDR is an advanced ramjet variant in which a solid fuel gas generator produces fuel-rich gases that mix with atmospheric oxygen in the combustor; hence oxidizer is not carried onboard. Statement 2 is correct. Unlike classic ramjets with fixed fuel flow, SFDR allows controlled gas generation and thus thrust modulation during flight. India's DRDO tested SFDR to enable long-range BVRAAM missiles with high supersonic no-escape capability.

Question 2. "Project Vault," sometimes mentioned in discussions on digital public infrastructure, is best understood as:

- (a) A secure consent-based data sharing architecture enabling individuals to store and selectively share verified personal data
- (b) A sovereign gold storage initiative aimed at repatriating India's bullion reserves from overseas vaults
- (c) A blockchain-based land record digitization project for rural property titles
- (d) A cybersecurity program for protecting critical banking infrastructure from ransomware

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Project Vault refers to a consent-based personal data storage and sharing architecture aligned with India's Digital Public Infrastructure approach (similar in ethos to the Account Aggregator framework). It aims to allow individuals to securely store verifiable credentials and share them selectively with institutions. It is unrelated to gold reserves, land records, or banking cybersecurity.

Question 3. With reference to the constitutional process for removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The CEC can be removed from office in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
2. Other Election Commissioners can be removed by the President only on the recommendation of the CEC.
3. The Constitution explicitly provides for impeachment proceedings against the CEC initiated exclusively in the Rajya Sabha.

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. Under Article 324, the CEC enjoys protection similar to a Supreme Court judge—removal by Parliament through special majority on proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

Statement 2 is correct. Other Election Commissioners can be removed by the President only on the recommendation of the CEC, ensuring institutional independence.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Constitution does not mandate that removal proceedings originate exclusively in the Rajya Sabha; the motion can be introduced in either House.

Question 4. With reference to the Blue Line along the Lebanon–Israel frontier, consider the following statements:

1. The Blue Line was demarcated by the United Nations in 2000 to confirm Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.
2. It constitutes an internationally recognized permanent boundary between Israel and Lebanon.
3. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) monitors violations along this line.

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. After Israel's withdrawal in 2000, the UN identified the Blue Line to verify compliance with UNSC Resolution 425.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Blue Line is a withdrawal line, not a legally recognized international boundary, and parts remain disputed.

Statement 3 is correct. UNIFIL patrols and reports violations along the Blue Line to maintain ceasefire stability.

Question 5. With reference to the “Turtle Trails” initiative associated with marine conservation in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a satellite-tracking program to monitor migratory routes of olive ridley turtles in the Indian Ocean.
2. The initiative integrates coastal community participation with tagging and release of rehabilitated sea turtles.
3. The primary objective is to map nesting beaches exclusively along India's east coast.
4. Data from the initiative contribute to identifying marine protected area priorities.

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. Turtle Trails uses satellite telemetry to track post-nesting migrations of sea turtles, especially olive ridleys.

Statement 2 is correct. It involves tagging, rescue, rehabilitation, and community engagement in coastal states.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The initiative is not limited to the east coast; turtles migrate across the Indian Ocean and tagging occurs at multiple coasts.

Statement 4 is correct. Movement data help identify marine protected area priorities.

Question 6. Consider the following island groups in the western Indian Ocean:

1. Aldabra
2. Farquhar
3. Cosmoledo
4. Mahé

Which of the above are part of Seychelles?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

All listed are islands/island groups of Seychelles. Mahé is the principal granitic island hosting the capital, Victoria. Aldabra, Cosmoledo, and Farquhar belong to the Outer Islands (coralline atolls and groups) southwest of Mahé. Aldabra Atoll is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its giant tortoise population.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1. “The Treaty of Versailles, while intended to secure lasting peace, instead sowed the seeds of future conflict.” Critically examine. (GS-1: World History)



Answer:

The Treaty of Versailles (1919) formally ended World War I between the Allied Powers and Germany. Conceived under the ideals of peace and collective security, particularly U.S. President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points, the treaty paradoxically generated structural conditions that contributed to World War II.

First, the treaty imposed severe territorial, military, and economic penalties on Germany. The “war guilt clause” (Article 231) assigned sole responsibility for the war to Germany, legitimizing massive reparations. Territorial losses—Alsace-Lorraine to France, Polish Corridor creation, and overseas colonies confiscation—undermined German nationalism and economic viability. Military restrictions reduced the army to 100,000 troops and prohibited an air force, generating humiliation and revanchist sentiments.

Second, the treaty destabilized Central and Eastern Europe. The collapse of empires (German, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman) created new states based on ethnic self-determination, but borders often ignored demographic complexity. This produced minority grievances (e.g., Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia), which later enabled Nazi expansionism under the pretext of ethnic unification.

Third, economic consequences were profound. Reparations and territorial losses crippled German industry and trade. Hyperinflation (1923) and later the Great Depression amplified resentment toward the Weimar Republic, enabling extremist ideologies. Thus, Versailles unintentionally delegitimized democratic governance in Germany.

Fourth, the treaty failed to create effective enforcement or inclusivity. Germany and Soviet Russia were excluded from negotiations; the League of Nations lacked military power and U.S. participation. Hence, the international order lacked legitimacy and deterrence capacity.

However, revisionist historians argue the treaty was not excessively harsh compared to earlier settlements (e.g., Brest-Litovsk). They emphasize domestic German factors and the global economic crisis in explaining Nazism’s rise. Yet even these analyses acknowledge Versailles’ symbolic and structural role.



In conclusion, Versailles created a punitive peace that neither reconciled Germany nor stabilized Europe. By combining humiliation, economic strain, and geopolitical fragility, it produced conditions ripe for revisionist aggression. Thus, the treaty secured temporary cessation of hostilities but undermined durable peace.

2. Examine the constitutional and institutional challenges in ensuring independence of Election Commissioners in India in light of recent debates on their appointment and removal. (GS-2)



Answer:

Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body under Article 324 entrusted with conducting free and fair elections. Its independence is essential to democratic legitimacy. Recent debates on appointment processes and tenure security of Election Commissioners (ECs) highlight structural challenges in ensuring institutional autonomy.

The Constitution grants strong removal protection only to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), who can be removed like a Supreme Court judge through parliamentary impeachment. Other ECs, however, may be removed by the President on the recommendation of the CEC. This asymmetry creates internal dependence within the Commission and potentially undermines collegial independence. Furthermore, since the executive appoints all commissioners, the appointment process itself raises concerns of executive dominance.

The Supreme Court (2023) recognized this lacuna and directed that appointments be made by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and Chief Justice of India until Parliament enacts a law. This judicial intervention sought to introduce bipartisan and institutional checks, aligning with comparative democracies where multi-stakeholder appointment systems exist.

However, subsequent legislation replaced the Chief Justice with a Union Minister, restoring executive majority in the selection committee. Critics argue this weakens the spirit of judicial safeguards and may compromise perceived neutrality. The debate thus centers on balancing executive accountability with independence.

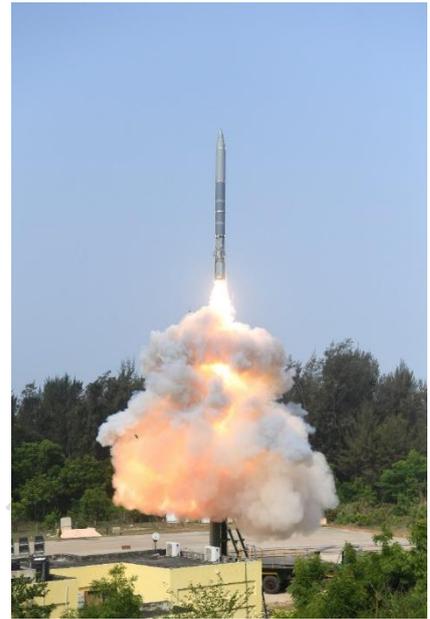
Institutionally, challenges also arise from post-retirement prospects and tenure insecurity. Commissioners typically serve short residual tenures, creating incentives for executive accommodation. Fixed non-renewable tenure and transparent appointment criteria could strengthen autonomy.

Operational independence also depends on financial and administrative autonomy. Although ECI expenditure is charged on the Consolidated Fund, staffing and logistical support often rely on executive agencies, creating functional dependence during elections.

Thus, ensuring independence requires reforms: (1) constitutionally mandated bipartisan appointment committee, (2) equal removal protection for all ECs, (3) fixed tenure, (4) independent secretariat and cadre. Ultimately, electoral legitimacy rests not only on constitutional text but on perceived impartiality. Strengthening ECI autonomy is therefore essential to democratic resilience.



3. Increased capital spending in the defence sector has implications beyond military preparedness. Discuss its economic and technological spillovers for India. (GS-3)



Answer:

India's rising defence capital expenditure reflects modernization imperatives amid evolving security challenges. Beyond strengthening military capability, defence capital spending generates significant economic and technological spillovers that influence industrial growth, innovation ecosystems, and strategic autonomy.

Economically, defence procurement stimulates domestic manufacturing under the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and indigenization policies. Increased capital outlay prioritizes domestic sourcing through negative import lists and defence industrial corridors (Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu). This promotes MSME participation in supply chains, job creation in high-skill sectors, and regional industrialization. Defence production's high multiplier effect arises from complex value chains spanning metallurgy, electronics, composites, and precision engineering.

Technologically, defence R&D fosters frontier innovation with civilian spillovers. Historically, military investments have driven technologies such as GPS, jet engines, and the internet globally. In India, DRDO-led programs (missiles, avionics, radar, materials) enhance national capabilities in aerospace, AI, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing. Dual-use technologies benefit civilian sectors like space, telecommunications, and disaster management.

Strategically, domestic defence capability reduces import dependence and foreign exchange outflow. India has been among the largest arms importers; capital spending directed toward indigenous systems strengthens technological sovereignty and supply chain security, especially amid geopolitical disruptions. It also enhances export potential, as seen in rising defence exports (missiles, patrol vessels, electronics), improving the trade balance.

However, challenges remain. Defence R&D efficiency and private sector integration need strengthening; procurement delays and cost overruns reduce economic returns. Excessive military spending could crowd out social expenditure if not balanced. Therefore, capital spending must be aligned with industrial policy, innovation funding, and export strategy.

In conclusion, defence capital expenditure functions as both security investment and industrial policy instrument. When effectively managed, it catalyzes advanced manufacturing, innovation diffusion, and strategic autonomy. Thus, defence spending in India increasingly acts as an engine of technological and economic transformation beyond its primary military purpose.



4. “Integrity in public administration requires balancing legality with ethical responsibility.” Discuss with suitable examples. (GS-4)



Whistleblower
Protection

EDITABLE STROKE

Answer:

Integrity in public administration involves adherence not only to legal rules but also to ethical values such as fairness, compassion, and public interest. Situations often arise where strict legality may conflict with ethical responsibility, requiring moral judgment by civil servants.

Legality ensures procedural correctness and accountability. However, rules cannot anticipate every human circumstance. Ethical responsibility guides administrators to interpret laws purposively. For example, disaster relief norms may prescribe documentation requirements for compensation. A rigid legal approach may deny aid to victims lacking documents, whereas ethical responsibility would justify flexible interpretation to serve humanitarian objectives while maintaining accountability.

Similarly, whistleblowing illustrates this balance. Official secrecy laws may legally constrain disclosure, yet exposing corruption serves higher public interest. Ethical integrity may compel reporting wrongdoing through lawful channels, even at personal risk. Thus, legality frames action, but ethics determines moral legitimacy.

Public procurement offers another domain. A technically compliant tender may still favor a vendor through biased specifications. Ethical administrators uphold fairness beyond minimum legality by ensuring transparency and equal opportunity. Conversely, bending rules for favoritism, though sometimes justified under “discretion,” violates integrity.

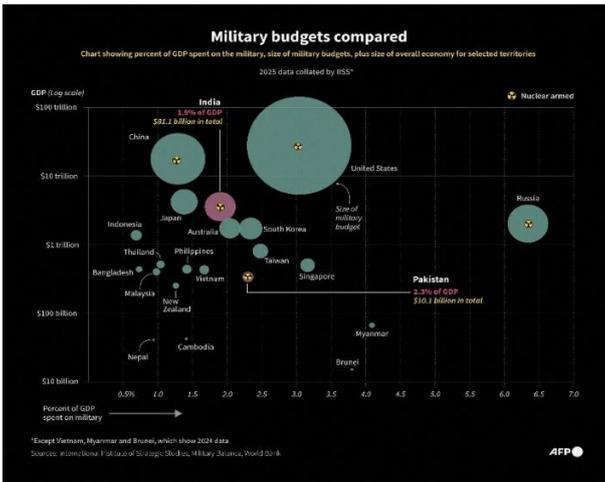
Indian administrative ethics emphasize constitutional morality—justice, equality, and dignity—as guiding principles. Civil servants are trustees of public power; legality is the floor, not the ceiling, of ethical conduct. Training frameworks increasingly incorporate ethical decision-making models that assess consequences, rights, and virtues alongside rules.

However, excessive subjectivity risks arbitrariness. Therefore, ethical discretion must operate within legal bounds, documented reasoning, and institutional oversight. Mechanisms such as citizen charters, social audits, and vigilance systems align legality with ethics.

In conclusion, integrity requires harmonizing rule compliance with moral purpose. Laws provide structure; ethics provide direction. Public administrators demonstrate true integrity when they apply rules faithfully yet interpret them in the spirit of justice and public welfare. Balancing legality and ethical responsibility thus sustains both procedural legitimacy and moral trust in governance.



5. Increased capital spending for the defence sector is often justified on strategic grounds. Evaluate its fiscal sustainability and opportunity costs in India’s development context. (Current Affairs)



Answer:

India’s defence capital spending has risen to modernize forces, indigenize production, and address security challenges. While strategically necessary, such spending must be assessed for fiscal sustainability and opportunity costs within a developing economy with competing social priorities.

Fiscal sustainability depends on the defence burden relative to GDP, revenue capacity, and debt dynamics. India’s defence expenditure is around 2% of GDP—moderate globally—but capital spending growth must be financed without widening fiscal deficits. High committed revenue expenditure (salaries, pensions) constrains fiscal space; thus, capital expansion may require reallocation or borrowing. Sustainable defence financing therefore depends on tax buoyancy, economic growth, and efficiency gains (e.g., indigenization reducing import bills).

Opportunity costs arise because public resources are finite. Increased defence capital may crowd out infrastructure, health, or education spending—sectors with high human development returns. For a developing country, marginal gains from social investment may exceed those from additional military capability. Hence, prioritization must consider threat perception and development stage.

However, defence capital spending can mitigate opportunity costs through economic spillovers. Domestic procurement stimulates industry, technology, and employment, partially offsetting fiscal costs. Defence industrial corridors and exports generate revenue and innovation, transforming defence from consumption to investment. Thus, opportunity cost is reduced when spending enhances productive capacity.

Strategically, underinvestment carries its own costs—deterrence failure, conflict risk, and import dependence. Security is a prerequisite for development; hence defence spending cannot be evaluated purely as a trade-off. Optimal allocation requires balancing minimum credible capability with developmental needs.

Policy measures can improve sustainability: (1) prioritizing indigenous systems to reduce lifecycle costs, (2) rationalizing manpower and pensions, (3) joint procurement and tri-service integration, (4) defence export promotion, (5) public-private partnerships in R&D.

In conclusion, increased defence capital spending is fiscally sustainable and developmentally compatible only if aligned with economic growth and industrial policy. India must pursue a calibrated approach—ensuring credible security while safeguarding human development expenditure. Strategic security and socio-economic development should be treated as mutually reinforcing, not competing, objectives.