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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 25/02/2026 (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 subtropical jet streams over the Indian subcontinent:**

1. During winter, the subtropical westerly jet (STWJ) lies south of the Himalayas and steers western disturbances into northwestern India.
2. During summer, the STWJ shifts north of the Tibetan Plateau and is replaced over India by the tropical easterly jet (TEJ).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

The subtropical westerly jet stream (STWJ) plays a crucial role in India's seasonal weather. In winter, it flows south of the Himalayas, guiding western disturbances that bring winter rainfall and snowfall to northwestern India. With the onset of summer and strong heating over the Tibetan Plateau, the STWJ shifts northward beyond the Himalayas. Over peninsular India, it is replaced by the tropical easterly jet (TEJ), which is associated with the southwest monsoon circulation. Hence both statements are correct.

**Q2. Which one of the following Indian rivers has the largest proportion of its drainage basin located outside India?**

- (a) Indus
- (b) Brahmaputra
- (c) Ganga
- (d) Sutlej

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Among major Indian river systems, the Brahmaputra has the largest share of its drainage basin outside India. It originates in Tibet (as the Yarlung Tsangpo) and flows a long distance in China before entering India in Arunachal Pradesh. A substantial part of its catchment also lies in Tibet and Bhutan. The Indus basin also lies largely outside India, but India still possesses a larger proportion of the Indus basin compared to the Brahmaputra basin share within India. The Ganga basin is predominantly in India and Nepal, while the Sutlej basin, though partly in Tibet, has a smaller total foreign proportion than the Brahmaputra. Hence, Brahmaputra is correct.

**Q3. Consider the following statements about Indian soils:**

1. Laterite soils are generally deficient in nitrogen, potash, lime and organic matter due to intense leaching.



2. Black soils exhibit self-ploughing characteristics because of their high clay content dominated by montmorillonite minerals.
3. Alluvial soils are uniformly rich in nitrogen and humus but deficient in phosphates.

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: Laterite soils form under high rainfall and temperature, causing intense leaching that removes bases and nutrients such as nitrogen, potash and lime.

Statement 2 is correct: Black soils contain swelling clay minerals (montmorillonite) that expand when wet and crack when dry, producing a self-ploughing effect.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Alluvial soils are generally poor in nitrogen and humus, not rich. They are relatively rich in potash and lime, and variable in phosphates.

Hence two statements are correct.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Indian monsoon variability:**

1. El Niño events generally weaken the Indian summer monsoon rainfall.
2. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) tends to enhance monsoon rainfall over India.
3. Snow cover over Eurasia during winter has an inverse relationship with the subsequent Indian monsoon strength.
4. The Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) has no significant influence on intra-seasonal variability of the Indian monsoon.

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: El Niño (warming of central/eastern Pacific) weakens Walker circulation and reduces monsoon rainfall over India in many years.

Statement 2 is correct: Positive IOD (warmer western Indian Ocean near Africa, cooler eastern near Indonesia) enhances moisture transport toward India and can strengthen monsoon rainfall.

Statement 3 is correct: Higher Eurasian snow cover leads to weaker land heating in summer and hence a weaker monsoon (inverse relationship).

Statement 4 is incorrect: The MJO significantly influences intra-seasonal active and break cycles of the



monsoon.

Thus three statements are correct.

**Q5. Assertion – Reason type:**

Assertion (A): Tropical cyclones rarely form over the Arabian Sea compared to the Bay of Bengal.

Reason (R1): Sea surface temperatures in the Bay of Bengal are generally higher and extend over a larger area than in the Arabian Sea.

Reason (R2): Strong vertical wind shear over the Arabian Sea is typically lower than over the Bay of Bengal during cyclone seasons.

- (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct and both explain A
- (b) Both R1 and R2 are correct but only one explains A
- (c) Only one of R1 and R2 is correct
- (d) Neither R1 nor R2 is correct

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

The Bay of Bengal experiences more cyclones than the Arabian Sea.

R1 is correct and explains A: The Bay of Bengal usually has higher and more spatially extensive warm sea-surface temperatures and a more favourable thermodynamic environment for cyclogenesis.

R2 is incorrect in explanatory sense: Vertical wind shear over the Arabian Sea is generally **higher**, not lower, which suppresses cyclone formation. The statement claims it is lower, so it is factually incorrect.

However wait—option check: we must select “Only one of R1 and R2 is correct.” Hence correct option is (c).

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the mangrove clam (*Geloina erosa*):**

1. It is a bivalve species inhabiting intertidal mangrove ecosystems and is considered an indicator of mangrove health.
2. In India, its natural distribution is restricted to the eastern coast mangroves such as the Sundarbans and Mahanadi delta.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

*Geloina erosa* (mangrove clam) is a large bivalve mollusc living in muddy sediments of mangrove intertidal zones across the Indo-Pacific region. It is widely used in ecological studies as a bioindicator of mangrove ecosystem health due to its sensitivity to pollution and habitat degradation.

However, in India it is **not restricted to the eastern coast**; it is also reported from Andaman & Nicobar Islands and parts of the west coast mangroves (e.g., Kerala). Hence Statement 1 is correct and Statement 2 is incorrect.

**Q2. With reference to the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025, which of the following organizations publishes the index?**

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) International Telecommunication Union
- (c) Portulans Institute
- (d) World Bank

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) was earlier produced by the World Economic Forum until 2016. Since 2019 onward, it has been published annually by the **Portulans Institute** (in collaboration with partners such as the Saïd Business School, Oxford). NRI measures countries' preparedness to exploit digital technologies across four pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Hence option (c) is correct.

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Kimberley Process:**

1. It is an international certification scheme established to prevent trade in conflict diamonds.
2. Participation in the Kimberley Process is legally binding under the World Trade Organization framework.
3. India is both a participant country and one of the world's largest diamond cutting and polishing centres.

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: The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) was launched in 2003 to prevent conflict diamonds from entering legitimate trade.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Kimberley Process is **not legally binding under WTO law**; it is a voluntary multilateral certification regime implemented through national legislation of participating countries.

Statement 3 is correct: India is a Kimberley Process participant and globally dominant in diamond cutting



and polishing (not mining).

Hence two statements are correct.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding *Lyriothemis keralensis*:**

1. It is an endemic dragonfly species first described from the Western Ghats of Kerala.
2. Its known habitat includes shaded forest streams and swampy areas within evergreen forests.
3. It has been assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List due to extremely restricted range.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

*Lyriothemis keralensis* is a rare dragonfly species endemic to the Western Ghats, originally described from Kerala. It inhabits shaded swampy forest habitats and slow-flowing streams in evergreen forest ecosystems. However, it has **not been assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List** (it has either not been evaluated globally or lacks that status). Thus Statements 1 and 2 are correct; Statement 3 is incorrect.

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Form 7 controversy in India:**

1. Form 7 under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 is used for objection to inclusion or for deletion of a name from the electoral roll.
2. Large-scale submissions of Form 7 applications during elections have raised concerns about potential voter suppression.
3. Only the Election Commission of India can file Form 7 applications suo motu for electoral roll revision.
4. Filing Form 7 requires documentary proof and is subject to verification before deletion of any voter's name.

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: Form 7 is prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules for objections to inclusion or for deletion of entries in electoral rolls.



Statement 2 is correct: The controversy arose when political actors allegedly filed bulk Form 7 objections against voters, raising fears of disenfranchisement.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Any elector or political party representative can file Form 7; it is **not restricted to the Election Commission**.

Statement 4 is correct: Electoral Registration Officers must verify claims and provide due process before deletion.

Hence three statements are correct.

**Q6. With reference to Rajaji National Park, consider the following pairs:**

1. Located in the Shivalik range of the Himalayas
2. Lies along the Ganga River corridor between Shivalik and Doon valleys
3. Forms part of the Terai Arc Landscape for elephant conservation

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:**

Rajaji National Park is situated in Uttarakhand across Haridwar, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal districts.

- It lies in the **Shivalik hills** of the outer Himalayas.
- The park spans the **Ganga river corridor** between the Shivalik range and Doon Valley, creating diverse habitats.
- It is a key component of the **Terai Arc Landscape**, a transboundary conservation region crucial for Asian elephant movement between protected areas of India and Nepal.

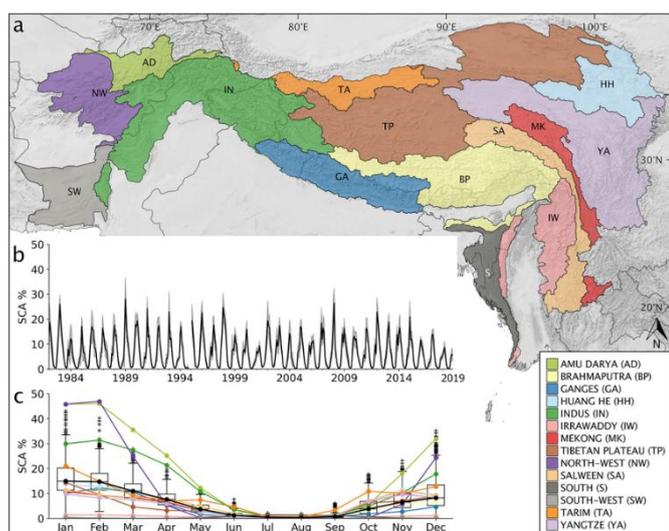
Hence all three pairs are correct.



# DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

## (GS-1: Geography)

**Q1. Discuss the role of the Himalayan cryosphere in regulating India's climate and river systems. Examine the implications of accelerated glacier retreat for India's physical and human geography.**



### Answer:

The Himalayan cryosphere—comprising glaciers, snowfields, permafrost and glacial lakes—functions as the “Third Pole” and a critical regulator of India's climate and hydrology. It influences atmospheric circulation, sustains perennial rivers and supports ecological and socio-economic systems across northern India.

### Climate regulation:

Snow and ice surfaces possess high albedo, reflecting solar radiation and moderating regional temperatures.

The Himalayan snow cover influences land–atmosphere heat exchange and monsoon circulation. Studies show winter–spring snow anomalies affect summer monsoon intensity by altering thermal contrast between the Tibetan Plateau and the Indian Ocean. Thus, the cryosphere stabilizes regional climate variability.

### Hydrological role:

The Himalayas host headwaters of the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra systems. Glaciers act as natural freshwater reservoirs, releasing meltwater during lean seasons. In snow-fed basins like the Indus, glacier melt contributes significantly to annual discharge, sustaining irrigation and drinking water for millions. Seasonal snowmelt also regulates river flow timing and sediment transport.

### Implications of accelerated retreat:

Climate warming has accelerated glacier mass loss and glacial lake formation. In the short term, enhanced melt increases summer discharge, raising flood risk. Over the long term, reduced ice storage threatens dry-season water availability, affecting agriculture and hydropower. Emerging glacial lakes elevate the probability of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), as seen in recent Himalayan disasters.



Geomorphologically, retreat exposes unstable slopes, intensifies erosion and alters sediment loads, affecting river morphology downstream. Ecologically, alpine habitats shift upward, threatening endemic biodiversity. Human geography is equally vulnerable: mountain communities face water insecurity, hazard exposure and livelihood disruption, while densely populated plains risk hydrological instability.

**Conclusion:**

The Himalayan cryosphere is a climate buffer and water tower for India. Its rapid degradation transforms both physical landscapes and human systems. Strengthening glacier monitoring, GLOF risk mapping, climate-resilient water planning and transboundary river cooperation is essential to safeguard India's environmental security.

**(GS-2: Polity & Governance)**

**Q2. Judicial review in India has expanded from procedural scrutiny to substantive governance oversight. Critically examine the evolution, significance and concerns associated with judicial activism in contemporary India.**



**Answer:**

Judicial review, rooted in Articles 13, 32 and 226, empowers Indian courts to examine legislative and executive actions for constitutional conformity. Over time, its scope has expanded from procedural legality to substantive governance oversight, often termed judicial activism.

**Evolution:**

Initially, courts adopted restraint, focusing on legislative competence and fundamental rights violations. Landmark cases like *Kesavananda Bharati* established the Basic Structure doctrine, enabling courts to review constitutional amendments. Later, Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the 1980s democratized access to justice, allowing courts to intervene in governance failures involving environment, labour rights and corruption. The judiciary thus moved from adjudicator to constitutional sentinel.

**Significance:**

Judicial activism has strengthened rights protection and accountability. It expanded Article 21 into a repository of socio-economic rights—clean environment, livelihood, education and dignity. Courts compelled administrative reforms (police reforms, prison conditions) and environmental governance (pollution control, forest conservation). In a context of weak enforcement and political inertia, activism has functioned as a corrective mechanism safeguarding constitutional morality.

**Concerns:**

However, expanding judicial oversight raises separation-of-powers concerns. Courts sometimes enter policy domains lacking institutional expertise, e.g., environmental regulation or economic policy. Frequent monitoring and continuing mandamus blur the line between adjudication and administration. PIL misuse and



judicial populism risk undermining democratic legitimacy. Critics argue excessive activism may weaken executive accountability by enabling policy outsourcing to courts.

**Balancing doctrine:**

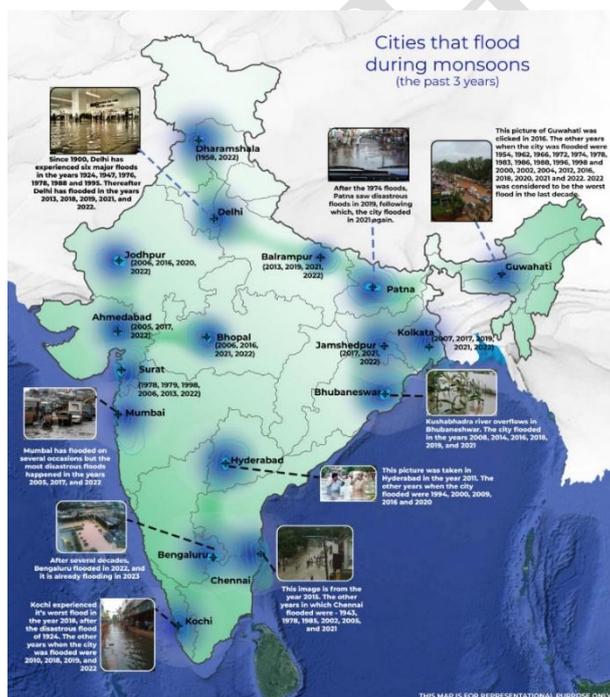
The Supreme Court itself has recognized limits through doctrines like judicial restraint and institutional competence. The principle should be: intervene where rights violations and governance vacuum exist, but defer where policy choices involve complex trade-offs better handled by elected branches.

**Conclusion:**

Judicial activism in India has evolved as a constitutional necessity in a developing democracy. While it has expanded rights and accountability, its legitimacy depends on calibrated restraint, respect for democratic processes and strengthening governance institutions so that courts remain guardians—not substitutes—of policy-making.

**(GS-3: Environment & Disaster Management)**

**Q3** Urban floods in India are no longer solely hydrological events but products of developmental choices. Analyse the drivers of urban flooding and suggest integrated mitigation strategies.



**Answer:**

Urban flooding in India reflects the interaction of extreme rainfall with anthropogenic landscape transformation. Rapid urbanisation, climate change and governance deficits have converted cities into flood-prone hydrological traps.

**Drivers:**

First, impervious surfaces—concrete roads, pavements and buildings—reduce infiltration and accelerate runoff. Second, wetland and floodplain encroachment removes natural storage buffers; cities like Chennai and Bengaluru lost lakes and marshes to real estate expansion. Third, inadequate stormwater drainage, often designed for lower rainfall intensities, fails under cloudbursts amplified by climate change. Fourth, solid-waste blockage of drains exacerbates waterlogging. Fifth, river channel modification and embankments alter natural flow, raising flood peaks



downstream. Governance fragmentation—multiple agencies managing land, water and drainage—prevents integrated planning.

**Impacts:**

Urban floods disrupt transport, damage property, contaminate water supply and disproportionately affect informal settlements located in low-lying zones. Economic losses and health risks (vector-borne diseases) impose recurring urban vulnerability.

**Mitigation strategies:**

A shift from grey to hybrid infrastructure is essential. Restoring wetlands, lakes and urban floodplains creates sponge landscapes capable of absorbing runoff. Permeable pavements, green roofs and rain gardens enhance infiltration. Updating drainage design to intensity-duration-frequency projections under climate change is critical. River-basin-scale urban planning must integrate land use with hydrology, preventing construction in natural drainage corridors.

Technological tools—LiDAR terrain mapping, flood modelling and early warning systems—enable anticipatory governance. Institutional reforms should create unified metropolitan water authorities to coordinate stormwater, sewage and land management. Community-based waste management and citizen monitoring of drains enhance maintenance. Insurance and risk-zoning can internalise flood risk into urban development decisions.

**Conclusion:**

Urban floods arise from ecological mismanagement rather than rainfall alone. Re-embedding hydrology into urban planning through nature-based solutions and institutional integration is key to building climate-resilient Indian cities.

**(GS-4: Ethics)**

**Q4 “Public office is a trust, not a privilege.” Discuss this statement in the context of civil service ethics and accountability. Illustrate with suitable examples.**



**Answer:**

The statement encapsulates the ethical foundation of democratic governance: authority exercised by public officials derives from citizens’ consent and must serve public welfare. Viewing office as trust implies fiduciary responsibility, integrity and accountability rather than entitlement.

**Ethical basis:**

Public trust theory holds that state power is delegated for collective good. Civil servants therefore act as custodians of resources and rights. Values such as integrity, impartiality, objectivity and compassion



operationalise this trust. Misuse of office—corruption, nepotism or arbitrariness—constitutes breach of fiduciary duty and erodes legitimacy.

### **Implications for conduct:**

First, decision-making must prioritise public interest over personal gain. For example, an officer resisting political pressure in procurement safeguards taxpayer funds. Second, transparency and accountability—proactive disclosure, reasoned orders, audit compliance—maintain trust. Third, empathy in service delivery ensures dignity, e.g., humane disaster relief distribution. Fourth, conflict-of-interest avoidance preserves impartiality.

### **Institutional reinforcement:**

Codes of conduct, vigilance mechanisms and whistle-blower protection embed ethical accountability. Citizen charters and social audits empower beneficiaries to evaluate performance, converting abstract trust into measurable service standards.

### **Illustrations:**

District officials who ensure fair compensation during land acquisition exemplify trusteeship, balancing development with rights. Conversely, diversion of welfare funds demonstrates privilege mentality, where office is exploited for personal networks. Ethical leadership also has multiplier effects: transparent grievance redress builds citizen confidence and administrative morale.

### **Challenges:**

Political interference, resource constraints and systemic corruption can distort incentives. Ethical resilience thus requires institutional safeguards and personal moral courage. Training in ethics and public service values strengthens internal motivation.

### **Conclusion:**

Public office as trust underscores that authority is morally bounded by citizens' welfare. Civil servants who internalise trusteeship transform governance from rule enforcement to public service, sustaining democratic legitimacy and social justice.

## **Current Affairs: International Relations**

**Q5. China's "Panda Diplomacy" reflects the strategic use of soft power in international relations. Analyse its objectives, evolution and geopolitical implications.**

### **Answer:**

"Panda Diplomacy" refers to China's practice of gifting or loaning giant pandas to foreign countries as symbols of goodwill. It exemplifies soft power—shaping preferences through attraction rather than coercion.



### **Evolution:**

Historically, Chinese emperors gifted rare animals as tribute symbols. Modern panda diplomacy began in the 1950s–70s when China presented pandas to allies such as the Soviet Union and the United States, signalling diplomatic rapprochement after the 1972 Nixon visit. Since the 1980s, China shifted from permanent gifts to long-term loans tied to conservation cooperation and substantial fees, reflecting market-oriented diplomacy.

### **Objectives:**

First, image projection: pandas, as charismatic and uniquely Chinese species, cultivate a benign national



image. Second, relationship signalling: loans often coincide with strategic partnerships or trade agreements, reinforcing bilateral ties. Third, economic gains: hosting countries pay conservation fees and invest in joint research. Fourth, agenda setting: panda programs embed China in global conservation networks, enhancing normative influence.

**Geopolitical implications:**

Panda allocations have mirrored geopolitical priorities—major partners in Europe, East Asia and North America host pandas, while withdrawals or non-renewals can signal diplomatic strain. Thus, panda diplomacy operates as symbolic leverage within broader foreign policy. It complements initiatives like the Belt and Road by humanising China’s global engagement.

However, critics view it as transactional soft power, where conservation narratives mask strategic influence. Host countries must adhere to strict breeding and ownership terms; offspring remain Chinese property, reinforcing asymmetrical dependence. Nonetheless, joint breeding programs have advanced panda conservation science and global biodiversity cooperation.

**Assessment:**

Panda diplomacy demonstrates how cultural and ecological symbols can serve statecraft. Its effectiveness lies in emotional resonance and media visibility, shaping public perceptions beyond traditional diplomacy. Yet its impact is contingent on broader geopolitical relations; soft power cannot substitute for trust in contentious contexts.

**Conclusion:**

China’s panda diplomacy illustrates strategic soft power blending conservation, culture and geopolitics. It underscores that in contemporary international relations, symbolic assets—wildlife, heritage and culture—can function as instruments of influence alongside economic and military power.