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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 09/03/2026 (MONDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements regarding a classical Indian dance tradition:

1. It evolved primarily in temple premises where the dancer symbolically represented a divine consort.
2. The dance form historically included *Sadir* and was later systematized during the colonial period into a modern classical format.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- Statement 1: The dance form referred to is **Bharatanatyam**, which historically developed in temples of Tamil Nadu where *devadasis* performed ritual dances symbolizing devotion to the deity.
- Statement 2: The earlier form called **Sadir** underwent reform and revival in the early 20th century through efforts of figures like Rukmini Devi Arundale and E. Krishna Iyer. During this process, it was codified and renamed **Bharatanatyam**, adapting the form into a stage performance tradition.

2. Which one of the following best explains the ecological significance of keystone species in an ecosystem?

- (a) They occupy the largest biomass in a trophic level.
- (b) Their presence has a disproportionately large influence on ecosystem structure relative to their abundance.
- (c) They are the primary producers responsible for most energy fixation in the ecosystem.
- (d) They are species that migrate seasonally between ecosystems.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

A **keystone species** is one whose ecological role is critical in maintaining the structure and functioning of an ecosystem.

- Their influence is **disproportionately large compared to their population size**.
- Removal of a keystone species often leads to cascading trophic effects and ecosystem collapse.
- Example: Sea otters control sea urchin populations in kelp forests; wolves regulate herbivore populations in Yellowstone.

3. Consider the following statements regarding inflation dynamics in a developing economy:

1. Cost-push inflation may occur even when aggregate demand remains stable.



2. A rise in policy interest rates by the central bank necessarily reduces food inflation in the short term.
3. Structural bottlenecks in supply chains can intensify inflationary pressures independent of monetary expansion.

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:** Cost-push inflation arises due to increased production costs (wages, energy, raw materials), not necessarily due to increased demand.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Monetary tightening may reduce demand-side inflation but **food inflation often depends on supply factors** such as weather, storage, and logistics; hence interest rate hikes may not immediately reduce it.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Structural supply constraints—like inadequate infrastructure, storage losses, or logistics inefficiencies—can raise prices independent of monetary conditions.

Thus, **two statements (1 and 3) are correct.**

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Parliamentary Committee system in India:

1. Departmentally Related Standing Committees examine Demands for Grants of ministries before they are voted upon in Parliament.
2. Members of the Rajya Sabha cannot be part of Financial Committees such as the Public Accounts Committee.
3. Parliamentary Committees function outside the direct control of the presiding officers of the Houses.
4. The reports of Parliamentary Committees are generally recommendatory and not binding on the government.

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 – Correct:** Departmentally Related Standing Committees scrutinize **Demands for Grants** before discussion in Parliament, enhancing legislative oversight.



- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Members from **both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha** serve in Financial Committees such as the Public Accounts Committee and Estimates Committee (though the Estimates Committee has only Lok Sabha members, but PAC includes both Houses). Hence the statement is incorrect as a general claim.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Committees operate **under the authority of the Speaker or Chairman** of the respective Houses.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Their recommendations are **not legally binding** but carry persuasive value.

Thus, **statements 1 and 4 are correct.**

5. Assertion (A):

Regions located on the western margins of continents between about 30° and 40° latitudes experience a Mediterranean type of climate.

Reason (R1):

These regions lie under the influence of subtropical high-pressure belts during summer, causing dry conditions.

Reason (R2):

During winter, the poleward shift of the westerlies brings cyclonic rainfall to these regions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Assertion – Correct:** Mediterranean climates occur on the **western margins of continents** roughly between **30°–40° latitude** (e.g., Mediterranean Basin, California, Chile, South Africa, Southwest Australia).
- **Reason 1 – Correct:** In **summer**, the subtropical high-pressure belt expands poleward, producing **descending dry air**, which leads to hot and dry conditions.
- **Reason 2 – Correct:** In **winter**, the subtropical high shifts equatorward, allowing **mid-latitude westerlies and cyclonic systems** to move in and bring rainfall.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Prahaar Anti-Terror Policy recently discussed in the context of India's internal security architecture:

1. It emphasizes coordinated intelligence-sharing among central armed police forces, state police, and specialized counter-terror units through a unified digital grid.
2. The policy proposes the use of predictive data analytics and AI-assisted surveillance to identify potential terror modules before operationalization.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Neither can be inferred from available information

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- **Statement 1:** The **Prahaar Anti-Terror Policy** has been discussed as a framework aiming to integrate multiple intelligence and enforcement agencies through a **shared digital intelligence architecture**. The objective is faster detection of terror networks and improved operational coordination.
- **Statement 2:** Modern counter-terror frameworks increasingly rely on **AI-based predictive analytics, big data monitoring, and digital surveillance tools** to detect suspicious communication patterns and radicalization networks before attacks occur.

The policy reflects the shift toward **technology-driven counter-terror operations** rather than purely reactive approaches.

2. With reference to INS Anjadip, recently commissioned into the Indian Navy, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It is an indigenous nuclear-powered attack submarine developed under Project-75I.
- (b) It is a fast attack craft designed primarily for coastal defence and high-speed interception operations.
- (c) It is a fleet tanker meant for long-range logistics support in the Indian Ocean Region.
- (d) It is an amphibious assault ship capable of deploying marine brigades for expeditionary warfare.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **INS Anjadip** is a **Fast Attack Craft (FAC)** of the Indian Navy.
- These vessels are designed for **high-speed coastal patrol, interception of hostile vessels, anti-smuggling operations, and maritime security missions**.



- Fast attack craft are particularly useful in **littoral warfare environments**, where agility and rapid response are essential.
- They enhance **India's coastal defence architecture**, especially in areas vulnerable to infiltration or maritime security threats.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0):

1. It aims to unlock value from existing public infrastructure assets by transferring revenue rights to private entities for a fixed concession period.
2. Unlike the earlier NMP, NMP 2.0 primarily focuses on disinvestment of public sector enterprises rather than asset monetisation.
3. Sectors such as transport, power transmission, telecom infrastructure, and warehousing are expected to constitute major components of the monetisation framework.

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:**
NMP 2.0 continues the approach of **monetising brownfield public assets** (existing infrastructure) by granting private players the right to operate and collect revenue for a specified concession period.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:**
NMP is **not about selling assets or disinvestment**. Ownership generally remains with the government while operational rights are leased.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
Major sectors in the monetisation strategy include:
 - highways and railways
 - power transmission lines
 - telecom towers and fibre networks
 - logistics parks and warehouses.

Thus, **two statements are correct (1 and 3)**.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation:

1. The awards recognize conservation projects that successfully preserve built heritage while maintaining authenticity and community participation.



2. Projects receiving the award must necessarily be government-funded restoration initiatives.
3. The awards aim to promote the adaptive reuse of historic buildings as a strategy for sustainable urban development.

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:**
The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards acknowledge projects that demonstrate **high standards of heritage conservation**, authenticity, and involvement of local communities.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:**
Projects **do not have to be government-funded**. Many award-winning initiatives are undertaken by **private organizations, NGOs, or community groups**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
UNESCO encourages **adaptive reuse**, meaning historic buildings are repurposed for modern uses while preserving heritage value, supporting sustainable urban development.

Thus, **statements 1 and 3 are correct**.

5. Consider the following statements regarding The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 1977 of the United States:

1. It empowers the U.S. President to regulate international commerce after declaring a national emergency in response to unusual and extraordinary foreign threats.
2. The Act allows the President to impose economic sanctions, freeze foreign assets, and restrict financial transactions.
3. The Act requires prior approval of the United Nations Security Council before economic sanctions can be implemented.
4. Many U.S. sanctions regimes targeting foreign states, entities, and individuals are implemented using this Act.

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 – Correct:**
The **IEEPA (1977)** authorizes the U.S. President to regulate international economic transactions when an **extraordinary threat from abroad** is declared as a national emergency.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:**
It enables measures such as:
 - freezing foreign assets
 - blocking financial transactions
 - imposing trade restrictions.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:**
The Act **does not require UN Security Council approval**. Sanctions under IEEPA are **unilateral executive powers of the United States**.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:**
Many U.S. sanctions programs (e.g., against certain countries, terror groups, or individuals) are executed under **IEEPA authority**.

Hence, **three statements are correct (1, 2, and 4)**.

6. With reference to the geographical location of Mexico, consider the following statements:

1. Mexico is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Gulf of Mexico to the east.
2. The Tropic of Cancer passes approximately through the central part of the country.
3. Mexico shares a land border with Guatemala and Belize to the south.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:**
Mexico lies between two major water bodies:
 - **Pacific Ocean (west)**
 - **Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea (east).**
- **Statement 2 – Correct:**
The **Tropic of Cancer (~23.5°N latitude)** passes roughly through the middle of Mexico, dividing the country into **tropical and subtropical climatic zones**.



- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
Mexico’s southern land borders are with:
 - **Guatemala**
 - **Belize**

Mexico’s strategic location connects **North America and Central America**, and its geography strongly influences regional climate, biodiversity, and trade routes.

Thus, **all three statements are correct.**

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper I – World History

Q1. “The Industrial Revolution was not merely an economic transformation but a civilizational shift that reshaped global political and social structures.” Discuss. (15 Marks)

Sample Answer

The **Industrial Revolution (late 18th–19th century)** began in Britain and later spread to Europe, North America, and other parts of the world. While commonly viewed as a technological and economic transformation, it fundamentally reshaped **societies, governance structures, labor relations, and global power dynamics**, making it a profound civilizational shift.

1. Economic Transformation

The Industrial Revolution replaced **handicraft-based production with mechanized manufacturing**. Innovations such as the **steam engine, spinning jenny, and power loom** drastically increased productivity. Industrial capitalism emerged, leading to the rise of factory systems and large-scale industrial enterprises.

This also created new economic classes:

- **Industrial capitalists (bourgeoisie)**
- **Urban working class (proletariat)**



These new class relations later influenced ideological developments such as **socialism and Marxism**.

2. Social Transformation

Industrialization triggered massive **urbanization**. Rural populations migrated to cities seeking employment, leading to:

- **Overcrowded cities**
- **Poor living conditions**



- Emergence of labour unions and workers' movements.

Reform movements emerged demanding **labour rights, minimum wages, and better working conditions.**

3. Political Implications

The Industrial Revolution contributed to the rise of **modern democratic politics.**

Industrial workers demanded political representation, leading to reforms such as:

- **Reform Acts in Britain**
- Expansion of voting rights
- Rise of political ideologies like **liberalism, socialism, and communism.**

4. Global Power Shifts

Industrialized nations gained enormous economic and military advantages. This enabled **European imperial expansion in Asia and Africa** during the 19th century.

Industrial powers required:

- Raw materials
- Overseas markets

This intensified **colonialism and global economic integration.**

5. Long-Term Civilizational Impact

The Industrial Revolution laid the foundations for:

- Modern capitalism
- Technological progress
- Globalization
- Mass consumer culture

Conclusion

Thus, the Industrial Revolution was not just an economic phenomenon but a **transformative civilizational shift** that reshaped social hierarchies, political ideologies, and global power structures. Its legacy continues to shape the modern world.

GS Paper II – Governance

Q2. “Good governance in India requires both institutional reforms and active citizen participation.” Discuss in the context of transparency and accountability.

Sample Answer

Governance refers to the processes through which public institutions **manage resources and deliver services to citizens.** In a democratic polity like India, **good governance** depends on transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and citizen participation.



1. Role of Institutional Reforms

Institutional mechanisms ensure that government actions remain transparent and accountable.

Important reforms include:

Right to Information Act (2005)

- Empowers citizens to access government records.
- Reduces secrecy in administration.

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)

- Provides institutional mechanisms to investigate corruption.

E-Governance initiatives

- Platforms such as **Digital India**, **Aadhaar-enabled services**, and **online grievance portals** enhance efficiency and reduce bureaucratic delays.

Social Audit mechanisms

- Used in schemes like **MGNREGA** to check corruption.

2. Importance of Citizen Participation

Governance improves when citizens actively engage in decision-making.

Examples include:

- **Gram Sabha participation in Panchayati Raj institutions**
- Public consultations in urban planning
- Community monitoring of welfare schemes.

Citizen participation strengthens **democratic legitimacy and responsiveness**.

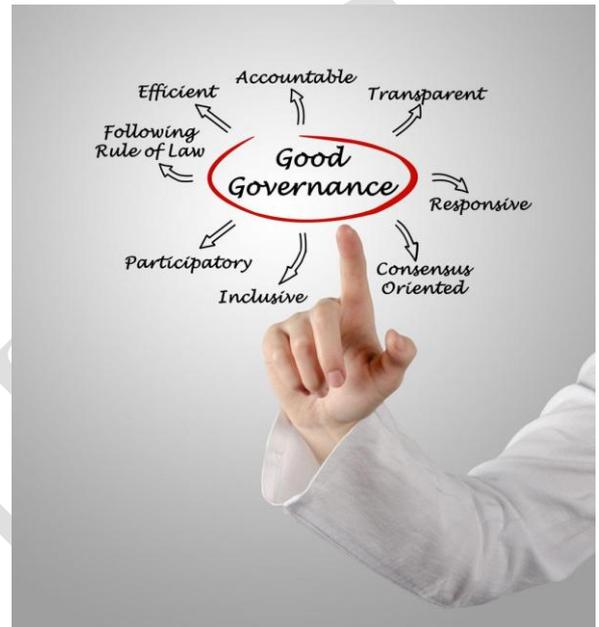
3. Challenges in Governance

Despite reforms, governance faces several challenges:

- Corruption and bureaucratic inertia
- Low awareness of citizens about their rights
- Digital divide affecting access to e-governance
- Weak enforcement of accountability mechanisms.

4. Way Forward

To improve governance:





- Strengthen **institutional autonomy of oversight bodies**
- Promote **open data and transparency**
- Encourage **participatory budgeting**
- Enhance **civic education and digital literacy**

Conclusion

Good governance cannot be achieved by institutions alone. It requires a **synergy between robust institutions and empowered citizens**, ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusive development.

GS Paper III – Environment

Q3. Discuss the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss. Suggest strategies for sustainable conservation.

Sample Answer

Biodiversity refers to the **variety of life forms on Earth**, including plants, animals, microorganisms, and ecosystems. However, global biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate due to human activities.

1. Causes of Biodiversity Loss

Habitat destruction

Deforestation, urbanization, mining, and agriculture destroy natural ecosystems.

Climate change

Rising temperatures and extreme weather events alter ecosystems and threaten species survival.

Pollution

Industrial waste, plastics, pesticides, and chemical runoff degrade ecosystems.

Overexploitation

Unsustainable fishing, hunting, and logging reduce species populations.

Invasive species

Non-native species disrupt ecological balance and threaten native species.

2. Consequences

Ecosystem instability

Loss of species weakens ecosystem resilience and functioning.

Food security threats

Many crops depend on pollinators and biodiversity for survival.

Economic losses

Biodiversity supports industries like agriculture, tourism, and pharmaceuticals.

Increased risk of pandemics

Disturbed ecosystems can increase human exposure to zoonotic diseases.



3. Conservation Strategies

Protected Areas

National parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and biosphere reserves protect habitats.

Community-based conservation

Local communities can sustainably manage forests and biodiversity.

International agreements

Global frameworks like the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** promote conservation.

Sustainable development

Integrating environmental considerations into economic planning.

Restoration initiatives

Programs such as **reforestation, wetland restoration, and marine conservation** help recover ecosystems.

Conclusion

Biodiversity is the foundation of ecological stability and human well-being. Effective conservation requires **global cooperation, sustainable policies, and community participation** to ensure ecological balance for future generations.

GS Paper IV – Ethics Case Study

Q4. Case Study

You are the District Magistrate of a district where a major infrastructure project is being planned. The project promises economic development but requires displacement of several villages.

Local communities oppose the project citing environmental damage and loss of livelihood.

What ethical issues are involved? How would you balance development and justice for the affected communities?

Sample Answer

The case presents a classic **ethical dilemma between economic development and social justice**.

1. Ethical Issues Involved

Development vs livelihood

Infrastructure projects bring economic benefits but can disrupt traditional livelihoods.

Environmental sustainability

Large projects may damage ecosystems and biodiversity.

Justice and fairness

Displacement raises concerns about **equitable compensation and rehabilitation**.





Public participation

Affected communities must have a voice in decisions affecting their lives.

2. Stakeholders

- Local villagers
- Government authorities
- Private project developers
- Environmental groups
- Future generations benefiting from development.

3. Ethical Principles to Apply

Utilitarianism

Maximize overall public benefit while minimizing harm.

Justice and equity

Ensure fair treatment and compensation for displaced communities.

Transparency

Decision-making should be transparent and inclusive.

Sustainability

Development must not compromise ecological integrity.

4. Possible Course of Action

1. Conduct **transparent environmental and social impact assessments**.
2. Hold **public consultations with affected communities**.
3. Ensure **fair compensation and rehabilitation packages**.
4. Provide **alternative livelihood opportunities**.
5. Explore **project redesign to minimize environmental damage**.

Conclusion

Ethical governance requires balancing **economic growth with social justice and environmental sustainability**. By ensuring transparent dialogue, fair compensation, and sustainable planning, development can be made **inclusive and ethical**.

Current Affairs

Q5. “Independence of the Election Commission is fundamental to preserving the integrity of democracy in India.” Examine the challenges to its independence and suggest reforms.

Sample Answer

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is a constitutional body responsible for conducting free and fair elections. Its independence is essential to maintain **public trust in democratic processes**.



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1. Constitutional Status

Article **324 of the Constitution** vests the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission.

The Commission conducts elections to:

- Parliament
- State Legislatures
- President and Vice-President.

2. Importance of Independence

Ensuring free and fair elections

Neutral oversight prevents manipulation of electoral processes.

Maintaining democratic legitimacy

Independent elections ensure that governments truly represent the people's mandate.

Protecting political equality

The ECI ensures a level playing field among political parties.

3. Challenges to Independence

Appointment process

Election Commissioners are appointed by the executive, raising concerns about neutrality.

Financial dependence

The Commission relies on government funding.

Political pressure

Allegations of bias during enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct sometimes arise.

Increasing electoral complexities

Issues like social media misinformation and money power challenge the Commission's regulatory capacity.

4. Suggested Reforms

Collegium-based appointment system

A committee including the **Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and Chief Justice of India** could enhance transparency.

Financial autonomy

Budgetary independence similar to the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)**.

Strengthening legal powers

Grant statutory backing to the **Model Code of Conduct**.

Regulation of digital campaigning

Stronger oversight of social media and political advertisements.





Conclusion

The credibility of Indian democracy depends significantly on the **independence and integrity of the Election Commission**. Strengthening institutional safeguards will ensure that elections remain **free, fair, and transparent**.

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