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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 13/03/2026 (FRIDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian National Movement during the early twentieth century:

1. The Surat Split of 1907 resulted primarily from disagreement over the methods to be adopted for the anti-partition movement in Bengal.
2. The Moderates believed that constitutional agitation within the British framework could eventually lead to self-government for India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The **Surat Split (1907)** occurred due to deep differences between Moderates and Extremists regarding leadership and methods of struggle. The immediate issue was the presidency of the Congress session and broader ideological differences such as boycott, swadeshi, and passive resistance. It was **not primarily due to disagreement over the Bengal anti-partition movement**, though that movement intensified ideological differences. Hence **Statement 1 is incorrect**.

The **Moderates** such as Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Pherozeshah Mehta believed in **constitutional agitation, petitions, resolutions, and dialogue with the British** to gradually secure self-government. Thus **Statement 2 is correct**.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(b) 2 only**.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the ecological significance of keystone species in an ecosystem?

- (a) They are species that dominate an ecosystem only in terms of population size.
- (b) Their removal from an ecosystem leads to disproportionately large changes in ecosystem structure and functioning.
- (c) They are species that occupy the highest trophic level in every ecosystem.
- (d) They are species that exclusively regulate the nutrient cycles of ecosystems.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

A **keystone species** is one whose ecological impact is **disproportionately large relative to its abundance**. When such species are removed, the **structure, composition, and functioning of the ecosystem may collapse or undergo major change**.

For example, sea otters regulate sea urchin populations; without them, kelp forests decline.

- Option (a) is incorrect because keystone species need not be numerically dominant.



- Option (c) is incorrect because keystone species can exist at **any trophic level**, not necessarily the highest.
- Option (d) is incorrect because their role is **broader than nutrient cycling**.

Thus, **(b)** correctly captures the ecological meaning of keystone species.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding fiscal deficit and public finance in India:

1. Fiscal deficit represents the excess of total government expenditure over total receipts excluding borrowings.
2. A rise in fiscal deficit necessarily implies an equivalent rise in the revenue deficit of the government.
3. Borrowings undertaken to finance fiscal deficit automatically increase the public debt of the government.

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.

Fiscal deficit is defined as **total expenditure minus total receipts excluding borrowings**. It indicates the **borrowing requirement of the government**.

Statement 2: Incorrect.

Fiscal deficit includes **revenue deficit as well as capital expenditure components**. A fiscal deficit can rise due to **capital expenditure (like infrastructure investment)** even if revenue deficit remains unchanged.

Statement 3: Correct.

To finance fiscal deficit, the government usually **borrow from the market or other sources**, which leads to **increase in public debt**.

Thus, **Statements 1 and 3 are correct**, making **two statements correct**.

Correct answer: **(b)**.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) in India:

1. Directive Principles are legally enforceable by courts, but Fundamental Rights are not.
2. The Constitution originally provided that Directive Principles would override Fundamental Rights in case of conflict.
3. The Supreme Court in the *Minerva Mills case* held that harmony between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles is a basic feature of the Constitution.



4. Parliament has the power to amend Fundamental Rights to implement Directive Principles.

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.

Fundamental Rights are **justiciable and enforceable**, whereas Directive Principles are **non-justiciable**.

Statement 2: Incorrect.

Originally, the Constitution **did not provide that DPSPs override Fundamental Rights**. Instead, Fundamental Rights had primacy in case of conflict.

Statement 3: Correct.

In the **Minerva Mills (1980) judgment**, the Supreme Court declared that **balance and harmony between Fundamental Rights and DPSPs is part of the basic structure**.

Statement 4: Correct.

Parliament can amend Fundamental Rights under **Article 368**, including amendments aimed at implementing Directive Principles, provided the **basic structure doctrine is not violated**.

Hence, **two statements (3 and 4) are correct**.

Correct answer: **(b)**.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A):

The temperature range in desert regions is usually much higher than in coastal regions.

Reason (R1):

Desert regions generally have very low humidity and cloud cover, allowing rapid heating during the day and rapid cooling at night.

Reason (R2):

Coastal regions experience the moderating influence of large water bodies due to the high specific heat capacity of water.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A.
- (b) A is correct, but only R1 is the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is correct, but only R2 is the correct explanation of A.
- (d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct.

Answer: (a)

**Explanation:**

The **diurnal temperature range** (difference between day and night temperature) is typically **very high in desert areas** and **lower in coastal regions**.

- **Reason R1:** Correct.
Low humidity and lack of clouds in deserts allow intense solar heating during the day and rapid loss of heat by radiation at night.
- **Reason R2:** Correct.
Water has a **high specific heat capacity**, meaning it **heats and cools slowly**, moderating temperature in coastal areas.

Together, these two reasons explain why deserts have a **large temperature range** while coastal regions experience **equable climates**.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(a)**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the proposal to rename the State of Kerala as “Keralam”:

1. The change of a State’s name in India requires a constitutional amendment under Article 368.
2. Before Parliament can enact a law for changing the name of a State, the President must refer the proposal to the concerned State Legislature for expressing its views.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The **Kerala Legislative Assembly** recently passed a resolution seeking to rename the State as **“Keralam”** in the Constitution and official records.

Statement 1: Incorrect.

Changing the name of a State **does not require a constitutional amendment**. Under **Article 3 of the Constitution**, Parliament can change the name of a State by **ordinary legislation**, not by the Article 368 amendment procedure.

Statement 2: Correct.

Under **Article 3**, when a Bill for altering the name, boundaries, or area of a State is introduced, **the President must first refer it to the concerned State Legislature for expressing its views** within a specified time. However, **Parliament is not bound by the State’s opinion**.



Hence, **only one statement is correct.**

Correct answer: **(a).**

Q2. With reference to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) HPV vaccines provide protection primarily against bacterial infections responsible for cervical cancer.
- (b) HPV vaccines are recommended mainly for adolescent girls before the onset of sexual activity.
- (c) HPV infection occurs only in females and therefore vaccination programmes exclude males.
- (d) HPV vaccines completely eliminate the need for cervical cancer screening tests.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** is a **virus**, not bacteria, responsible for a large proportion of **cervical cancer cases**.

- **Option (a)** is incorrect because HPV is a **viral infection**, not bacterial.
- **Option (b)** is correct. Vaccination is most effective **before exposure to the virus**, therefore it is recommended for **adolescent girls (often 9–14 years)** before sexual activity begins.
- **Option (c)** is incorrect because **HPV also infects males** and can cause other cancers; many countries vaccinate boys as well.
- **Option (d)** is incorrect because **screening (Pap smear, HPV testing)** is still required even after vaccination.

Thus, **(b)** is correct.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Lakes Mai-Ndombe and Tumba in the Congo Basin:

1. Both lakes lie within the Congo Basin and are hydrologically connected with the Congo River system.
2. Lake Tumba forms part of the Ramsar-listed wetland complex that includes the Central Congo peatlands.
3. Lake Mai-Ndombe drains directly into the Atlantic Ocean through an independent river system.

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.

Both **Lake Tumba** and **Lake Mai-Ndombe** are located in the **Congo Basin of the Democratic Republic of Congo** and are connected to the **Congo River drainage system**.

Statement 2: Correct.

Lake Tumba forms part of a large wetland complex in the Congo Basin that includes extensive **peatland ecosystems**, recognized internationally for their ecological importance and associated with Ramsar-designated wetlands.

Statement 3: Incorrect.

Lake Mai-Ndombe **does not drain directly to the Atlantic Ocean**. Instead, it drains through the **Fimi River**, which eventually joins the **Kasai River**, a major tributary of the **Congo River**, which then flows to the Atlantic.

Thus, **two statements are correct**.

Correct answer: **(b)**.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Green Ammonia as an emerging energy carrier:

1. Green ammonia is produced using hydrogen generated through electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources.
2. When used as a fuel, ammonia releases carbon dioxide during combustion similar to natural gas.
3. Ammonia can serve both as a hydrogen carrier and as a direct fuel in certain power generation technologies.

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.

Green ammonia is produced by combining **green hydrogen (from renewable-powered electrolysis)** with **nitrogen from air** through the **Haber–Bosch process**, without fossil fuels.

Statement 2: Incorrect.

Ammonia **does not contain carbon**, so its combustion **does not produce CO₂**. However, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) may form if not controlled.

Statement 3: Correct.

Green ammonia can be used:

- as a **carrier to transport hydrogen**, and
- **directly as a fuel** in turbines, marine engines, and potentially thermal power plants.



Thus, **two statements are correct.**

Correct answer: **(b).**

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC):

1. DTAC agreements ensure that income earned in one country by a resident of another country is taxed only in the country where the income originates.
2. DTAC agreements generally aim to prevent both double taxation and fiscal evasion through exchange of information mechanisms.
3. DTAC provisions override domestic tax laws automatically in all cases without legislative backing.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect.

DTAC **does not always assign exclusive taxing rights to the source country.** Taxation may occur in the **source country, residence country, or both**, with **tax credits or exemptions** provided to avoid double taxation.

Statement 2: Correct.

Modern DTAC agreements include **information-sharing provisions**, helping prevent **tax evasion, base erosion, and profit shifting (BEPS).**

Statement 3: Correct.

Under **Section 90 of the Income Tax Act**, DTAC provisions **can override domestic law where they are more beneficial to the taxpayer**, but they must have **statutory backing** through legislation.

Thus, **two statements are correct.**

Correct answer: **(b).**

Q6. With reference to the map of West Asia, consider the following places:

1. Gaza Strip
2. Golan Heights
3. West Bank
4. Sinai Peninsula

Which of the above territories **share a direct land boundary with Israel?**



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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Israel shares land boundaries with several territories and regions:

- **Gaza Strip** – Located on Israel’s southwestern border along the Mediterranean coast.
- **West Bank** – Lies to the east of Israel and is separated by the **Green Line**.
- **Golan Heights** – A strategic plateau captured by Israel from Syria in 1967.
- **Sinai Peninsula** – Located in Egypt; Israel shares a border with it in the southwest.

Thus, **all four listed regions share a land boundary with Israel.**

Correct answer: (c).

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. (GS–1)

Indian society has historically been characterised by diversity and syncretism. Examine how cultural interactions across centuries shaped the idea of composite culture in India.

Sample Answer

India’s social and cultural landscape has evolved through **continuous interactions among diverse communities, religions, languages and traditions**, producing what scholars often describe as **composite culture** or “**Ganga–Jamuni Tehzeeb**.” This cultural synthesis emerged not from uniformity but from **dialogue, adaptation, and coexistence across centuries**.

One of the earliest examples can be traced to the **interaction between Vedic traditions and indigenous cultures**, which shaped many aspects of Hindu philosophy, rituals, and regional customs. Over time, trade contacts with Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Mediterranean further enriched Indian cultural practices, introducing new artistic motifs and ideas.

The **medieval period** particularly witnessed deep cultural fusion. The **Bhakti and Sufi movements** played a crucial role in bridging religious divides. Bhakti saints like Kabir and Guru Nanak emphasised devotion beyond rigid religious identities, while Sufi saints promoted spiritual egalitarianism. Their teachings fostered **shared cultural spaces**, reflected in music, poetry, and architecture.



Architecture provides visible evidence of this synthesis. **Indo-Islamic architecture** combined Persian elements with indigenous craftsmanship, as seen in monuments such as the Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri. Similarly, the development of **Hindustani classical music** incorporated Persian musical traditions with Indian ragas.

Language evolution also demonstrates cultural interaction. **Urdu** developed from the interaction between Persian, Arabic, and local dialects such as Khari Boli, becoming a symbol of cultural fusion.

Festivals and everyday practices also show syncretism.

Communities across regions participate in celebrations such as **Holi, Eid, and local folk festivals**, demonstrating shared cultural participation.

In modern India, this composite culture became an important foundation for **national identity during the freedom movement**, with leaders emphasising unity in diversity as a core principle.

Thus, India's composite culture is not static but a **dynamic process shaped by centuries of interaction, accommodation, and mutual influence**, forming the basis of India's pluralistic society today.



Q2. (GS-2)

Discuss the significance of federalism in India's governance framework. Examine the challenges faced by cooperative federalism in recent years.

Sample Answer

Federalism is a cornerstone of India's constitutional design, balancing **unity with regional autonomy**. The Constitution establishes India as a "**Union of States**", creating a system where powers are distributed between the **Union and State governments** through the Union, State, and Concurrent Lists.

Federalism is significant for several reasons. First, it accommodates India's **immense linguistic, cultural, and regional diversity**. By allowing states autonomy in certain matters such as agriculture, police, and public health, federalism enables policies tailored to local needs.

Second, federalism enhances **democratic participation**. Decentralised governance ensures that decisions are taken closer to citizens, strengthening accountability and responsiveness.

Third, federalism promotes **balanced regional development**. Institutions such as the **Finance Commission and the GST Council** facilitate fiscal cooperation and resource sharing between the Union and States.

In recent years, the concept of **cooperative federalism**—where the Union and States work collaboratively—has gained prominence. Initiatives such as the **NITI Aayog**, GST Council, and centrally sponsored schemes aim to promote policy coordination.

However, several challenges have emerged.

One major issue is **fiscal imbalance**. States often depend heavily on transfers from the Union, and concerns have arisen regarding delayed GST compensation and reduced fiscal autonomy.

Second, **centralisation of decision-making** has been debated. Some states argue that centrally designed schemes limit their flexibility in addressing local priorities.

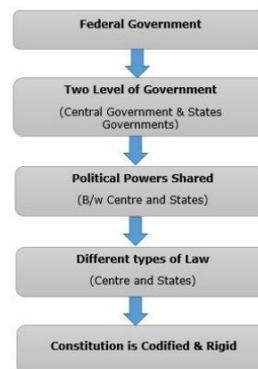


Third, political differences between the Union and state governments sometimes lead to **intergovernmental tensions**, affecting policy implementation.

Fourth, disputes over subjects such as **governor's role, use of central agencies, and legislative powers** have also raised concerns about the functioning of cooperative federalism.

Despite these challenges, India's federal structure remains resilient due to constitutional safeguards and institutional mechanisms for dialogue.

Going forward, strengthening federalism requires **greater fiscal autonomy for states, institutional dialogue, and trust-based cooperation between different levels of government**. Such measures will ensure that federalism continues to support both national unity and regional aspirations.



Q3. (GS-3)

Green hydrogen and green ammonia are increasingly seen as critical components of the global energy transition. Discuss their potential for India's energy security and decarbonisation goals.

Sample Answer

The transition toward low-carbon energy systems has accelerated globally due to climate change concerns. In this context, **green hydrogen and green ammonia** are emerging as promising energy carriers capable of transforming industrial, transport, and power sectors.

Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water through electrolysis using renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. When hydrogen is used as fuel, it produces **water as the only by-product**, making it an attractive alternative to fossil fuels.

Green ammonia is produced by combining green hydrogen with nitrogen from air. It serves both as a **fuel and a hydrogen carrier**, enabling easier storage and transportation.

For India, these technologies offer several strategic advantages.

First, they enhance **energy security**. India currently imports a significant portion of its fossil fuel requirements. Domestic production of green hydrogen using abundant solar and wind resources can reduce dependence on imported fuels.

Second, they support **decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors**. Industries such as steel, fertilisers, refining, and shipping rely heavily on fossil fuels. Green hydrogen and ammonia provide cleaner alternatives for these sectors.

Third, they create opportunities for **economic growth and exports**. India aims to become a global hub for green hydrogen production through the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, which encourages investment, infrastructure development, and innovation.





Fourth, green ammonia can play a role in **energy storage and long-distance transportation**, addressing challenges associated with hydrogen storage.

However, several challenges remain. High production costs, limited infrastructure, and technological barriers currently restrict large-scale adoption. Additionally, safety standards, storage facilities, and global supply chains need further development.

Despite these constraints, India's abundant renewable resources, expanding industrial base, and supportive policies position the country well to lead the green hydrogen economy.

Thus, green hydrogen and green ammonia represent not only tools for **decarbonisation** but also opportunities for **energy independence, technological innovation, and sustainable economic growth**.

Q4. (GS-4)

Public servants often face ethical dilemmas while balancing legal obligations with humanitarian considerations. Discuss with examples.

Sample Answer

Public administration frequently involves situations where officials must balance **legal mandates with humanitarian concerns**. Such situations create ethical dilemmas because rigid adherence to rules may conflict with compassion and public welfare.

One classic example involves disaster management. During natural disasters, strict procedural rules regarding procurement or fund utilisation may delay relief operations. Ethical public servants often prioritise **saving lives and providing immediate relief**, while ensuring accountability later.

Another example arises in **law enforcement**. Police officers may encounter vulnerable individuals such as homeless persons or migrants who violate minor regulations due to circumstances beyond their control. A purely legalistic approach may lead to punishment, whereas a humanitarian perspective may encourage counselling or assistance.

Similarly, in welfare schemes, bureaucrats sometimes face cases where beneficiaries lack certain documents required for eligibility. While the law requires documentation, rigid enforcement may deprive genuinely needy individuals of essential support. Ethical administrators attempt to find **legally permissible solutions** that uphold both the spirit of the law and human dignity.

Balancing these considerations requires adherence to certain ethical principles.

First, **integrity and accountability** ensure that humanitarian actions are not misused for personal or political gain.

Second, **compassion and empathy** allow public servants to recognise the human impact of administrative decisions.

Third, **prudence and proportionality** help officials determine when flexibility is justified without undermining the rule of law.

Public/Civil Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration

Status, Problems; Ethical Concerns and Dilemmas

- Integrity
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Citizen-Centric





Ethical governance also depends on institutional frameworks such as **codes of conduct, training in ethics, and transparent decision-making processes**.

Ultimately, the goal of public administration is not merely mechanical implementation of rules but the promotion of **public welfare and justice**. Therefore, ethical public servants must strive to harmonise legal requirements with humanitarian values, ensuring that governance remains both **lawful and humane**.

Q5. (Current Affairs)

The proposed India–GCC Free Trade Agreement has strategic and economic implications. Analyse its potential benefits and challenges for India.

Sample Answer

The **India–Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** is gaining strategic importance as India seeks to deepen economic integration with the Gulf region. The GCC includes **Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain**, which collectively represent one of India's most important economic partners.

The Gulf region holds significant importance for India's trade, energy security, and diaspora connections. India imports a large share of its **crude oil and natural gas** from GCC countries, while millions of Indian workers reside in the region.

An FTA between India and the GCC could generate several economic benefits.

First, it would enhance **trade expansion** by reducing tariffs and improving market access. Indian exports such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, food products, and engineering goods could gain wider access to Gulf markets.

Second, the agreement could strengthen **energy cooperation**. Closer economic ties may facilitate long-term energy contracts, investment in renewable energy, and collaboration in sectors such as **green hydrogen and petrochemicals**.

Third, it could boost **investment flows**. GCC sovereign wealth funds have shown increasing interest in infrastructure, logistics, and technology sectors in India. An FTA may further encourage capital inflows.

Fourth, the agreement may improve **supply chain connectivity** through emerging initiatives such as the **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.

However, certain challenges must also be considered.

One concern is the potential **trade imbalance**, as India imports large volumes of hydrocarbons from the Gulf region. Liberalisation could increase imports in some sectors.

Another issue involves **regulatory standards and market access barriers**, which require careful negotiation to ensure fair opportunities for Indian exporters.

There are also concerns related to **sensitive sectors such as petrochemicals and agriculture**, where domestic industries may face competition.

Despite these challenges, the India–GCC FTA represents a significant opportunity to deepen strategic and economic relations. With careful negotiation and balanced provisions, the agreement could contribute to



energy security, trade diversification, and long-term economic partnership between India and the Gulf region.

