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

## **DAILY MCQ'S**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 18/03/2026 (WEDNESDAY)**

- **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:

1. In the context of early Indian inscriptions, the term “Prashasti” was primarily used for land grant charters issued to Brahmanas.
2. The Allahabad Pillar inscription of Samudragupta provides both genealogical details and political conquests, thereby combining eulogy with historical narrative.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Neither one nor two
- (d) Both are incorrect

### 2. Which one of the following best describes “Ecological Succession” in a highly disturbed habitat?

- (a) Immediate establishment of climax community without intermediate stages
- (b) Sequential colonization by pioneer species leading gradually to a stable climax community
- (c) Permanent dominance of invasive alien species without ecological balance
- (d) Cyclic disappearance and reappearance of identical species without directional change

### 3. Consider the following statements:

1. A rise in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) necessarily reduces the lending capacity of commercial banks but does not directly affect money supply.
2. Open Market Operations (OMOs) conducted by the central bank involve the buying and selling of government securities to regulate liquidity.
3. Inflation targeting in India is solely determined by the Ministry of Finance without institutional autonomy.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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### 4. Consider the following statements:

1. The concept of “Procedure Established by Law” under the Indian Constitution allows courts to examine the fairness and reasonableness of a law.
2. The doctrine of “Basic Structure” was evolved through judicial interpretation and limits the amending power of Parliament.
3. The President of India is bound to give assent to a Constitutional Amendment Bill once it is duly passed by Parliament.
4. The Supreme Court can strike down a Constitutional Amendment if it violates Fundamental Rights alone.



How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**5. Assertion (A):**

Tropical cyclones do not form over the equator despite high sea surface temperatures.

**Reason (R1):**

The Coriolis force is negligible near the equator, preventing the development of cyclonic rotation.

**Reason (R2):**

Vertical wind shear is always absent at the equator, which inhibits cyclone formation.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answers**

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (a)

**Detailed Explanations**

**1.**

Statement 1 is incorrect. *Prashastis* were not primarily land grant charters; rather, they were eulogistic inscriptions praising kings, often detailing their achievements, conquests, and virtues. Land grants were typically issued through copper plates.

Statement 2 is correct. The Allahabad Pillar inscription of Samudragupta is a classic example combining genealogy, political achievements, and eulogy—making it a vital historical source.

Hence, only one statement is correct.

**2.**

Ecological succession refers to a gradual and directional process where life colonizes a disturbed or barren area. It begins with pioneer species (like lichens or grasses), followed by intermediate communities, and eventually reaches a climax community in equilibrium with the environment.

(a) is incorrect because climax is not immediate.

(c) is incorrect because invasive dominance is not the defining feature.

(d) is incorrect as succession is directional, not cyclic repetition.

Thus, (b) is correct.

**3.**

Statement 1 is incorrect. CRR directly impacts money supply because it reduces the funds available with banks for lending, thereby contracting money supply.

Statement 2 is correct. OMOs are a key monetary tool used by the RBI to regulate liquidity via government



securities.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Inflation targeting in India is determined by the Monetary Policy Committee

(MPC), which has statutory autonomy—not solely by the Ministry of Finance.

Thus, only one statement is correct.

4.

Statement 1 is incorrect. “Procedure Established by Law” (Article 21) originally did not include substantive due process, but judicial interpretation (especially after Maneka Gandhi case) expanded it to include fairness—however, the original concept itself did not inherently allow such examination.

Statement 2 is correct. The Basic Structure doctrine (Kesavananda Bharati case) limits Parliament’s amending power.

Statement 3 is correct. The President must give assent to a Constitutional Amendment Bill—no veto power exists here.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Amendments can be struck down for violating the Basic Structure, not merely Fundamental Rights.

Thus, two statements are correct.

5.

Assertion is correct. Cyclones do not form at the equator.

Reason (R1) is correct and is the primary explanation: Coriolis force is essential for rotation and is absent at the equator.

Reason (R2) is incorrect. Vertical wind shear is not “always absent” at the equator; moreover, its absence would actually favor cyclone formation, not inhibit it.

Therefore, (a) is the correct answer.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 1. Consider the following statements:

1. Operation Epic Fury is associated with a coordinated cyber and kinetic military response involving non-state actors targeting critical infrastructure.
2. It highlighted the increasing integration of artificial intelligence in real-time battlefield decision-making systems.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Neither one nor two
- (d) Both are incorrect

### 2. With reference to Israel’s Multi-Layered Defence System, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The Iron Dome system is primarily designed to intercept intercontinental ballistic missiles at exo-atmospheric levels



- (b) The David's Sling system is optimized for short-range artillery rockets
- (c) The Arrow system is intended for long-range ballistic missile interception, including outside the atmosphere
- (d) All components operate independently without integration into a unified command network

**3. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Oleum gas is a mixture of sulfur trioxide dissolved in sulfuric acid and is highly reactive with water.
- 2. The Oleum gas leak case led to the evolution of the principle of "Absolute Liability" in Indian environmental jurisprudence.
- 3. Unlike strict liability, absolute liability allows certain exceptions such as act of God and third-party intervention.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**4. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The Ruddy Shelduck is a migratory bird commonly found in India during winter and is associated with wetlands and riverine habitats.
- 2. The Hudson River flows entirely within the United States and has historically served as a major trade and transport corridor.
- 3. The Durand Line demarcates the border between Iran and Afghanistan and has been internationally recognized without dispute.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**5. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The Durand Line was established during the colonial period as an agreement between British India and Afghanistan.
- 2. It continues to be a contentious boundary primarily between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- 3. The line divides Pashtun tribal regions, contributing to geopolitical tensions.
- 4. It is officially recognized by Afghanistan as its international boundary with Pakistan.



How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**6. With reference to Karbi Anglong, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an autonomous district located in Assam under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. It shares its boundary with Nagaland and Meghalaya.
3. It is characterized by hilly terrain and forms part of the Karbi Plateau.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answers**

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (c)

**Detailed Explanations**

**1.**

Statement 1 is incorrect. Operation Epic Fury is not associated with non-state actors; rather, it relates to structured military or strategic operations involving state actors.

Statement 2 is correct as modern military operations increasingly integrate AI-driven systems for surveillance, targeting, and decision-making.

Thus, only one statement is correct.

**2.**

Iron Dome is for short-range rockets, not ICBMs → (a) incorrect.

David's Sling targets medium-range threats → (b) incorrect.

Arrow system is designed for long-range ballistic missile interception, even outside the atmosphere → correct.

All systems are integrated → (d) incorrect.

Hence, (c) is correct.

**3.**

Statement 1 is correct. Oleum is indeed  $\text{SO}_3$  dissolved in  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and reacts violently with water.

Statement 2 is correct. The Oleum Gas Leak case (M.C. Mehta case) led to the evolution of Absolute Liability.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Absolute Liability has **no exceptions**, unlike Strict Liability.

Thus, two statements are correct.



4.

Statement 1 is correct. Ruddy Shelduck (Brahminy duck) is a migratory wetland bird visiting India in winters.

Statement 2 is correct. Hudson River is entirely in the USA and historically significant for trade (e.g., Hudson Valley).

Statement 3 is incorrect. Durand Line is between Afghanistan and Pakistan, not Iran, and is disputed. Thus, two statements are correct.

5.

Statement 1 is correct. It was drawn in 1893 between British India and Afghanistan.

Statement 2 is correct. Today it separates Pakistan and Afghanistan and is disputed.

Statement 3 is correct. It divides Pashtun populations, leading to tensions.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Afghanistan has **not officially recognized** it as an international boundary.

Thus, three statements are correct.

6.

Statement 1 is correct. Karbi Anglong is an autonomous district under the Sixth Schedule in Assam.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It shares boundary with Nagaland but not Meghalaya directly.

Statement 3 is correct. It is a hilly region forming part of the Karbi Plateau.

Thus, (c) is correct.

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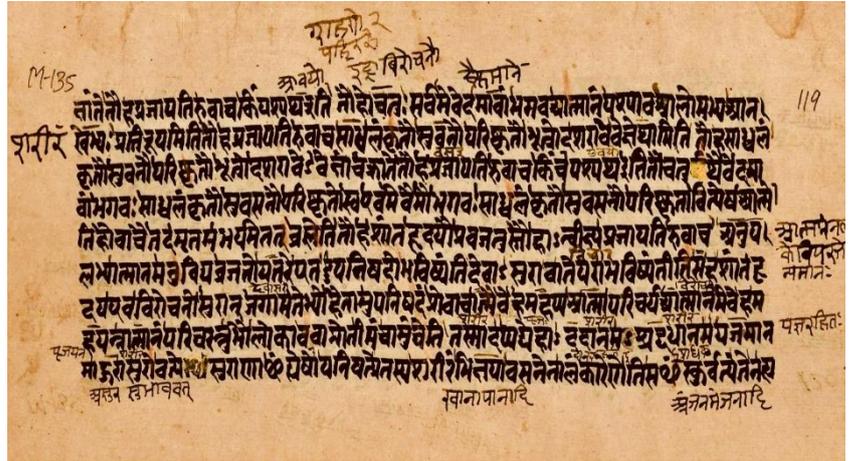
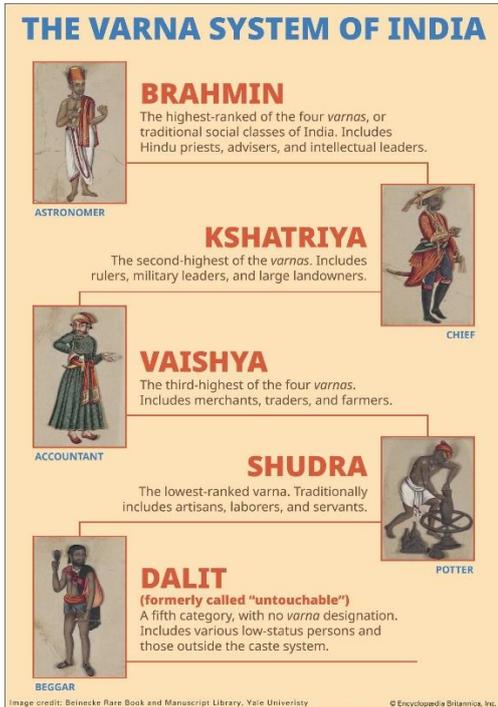
## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### All Questions

1. Discuss the nature of religious developments during the Later Vedic Period. How did these transformations influence social structure and philosophical thought in ancient India?
2. Examine the significance of the separation of powers in the Indian Constitution. To what extent does India follow this principle in practice?
3. Analyze the role of fiscal policy in managing economic growth and inflation in India. Highlight the challenges faced in balancing these objectives.
4. "Ethics in public administration is not merely about compliance but about cultivating moral responsibility." Discuss with suitable examples.
5. The increasing frequency of urban floods in India reflects deeper governance and planning failures. Critically examine with reference to recent initiatives like the Delhi Urban Flood Mitigation Program.

All Answers

1. Answer



4

The Later Vedic Period (c. 1000–600 BCE) marked a significant transition in religious, social, and philosophical dimensions of ancient Indian civilization. Unlike the relatively simple and nature-centric beliefs of the Early Vedic Period, this phase witnessed increasing ritualism, social stratification, and intellectual inquiry.

One of the most prominent developments was the growing complexity of **rituals (yajnas)**. Sacrifices such as *Ashvamedha* and *Rajasuya* became elaborate and required the mediation of priests (Brahmanas). This led to the **rise of priestly dominance**, consolidating the authority of the Brahmin class.

Simultaneously, religion became more **formalized and hierarchical**, moving away from spontaneous devotion to structured ceremonies. The emphasis on rituals over spirituality led to dissatisfaction among sections of society.

This discontent paved the way for the emergence of **philosophical speculation**, especially reflected in the **Upanishads**. Thinkers began questioning the nature of reality, leading to concepts like *Brahman* (ultimate reality) and *Atman* (self). This marked a shift from external rituals to **internal spiritual realization**.

Socially, the period saw the consolidation of the **varna system**, transitioning from a flexible occupational classification to a rigid hereditary hierarchy. This stratification was justified through religious doctrines, reinforcing inequality.

Thus, the Later Vedic transformations were dual in nature—while ritualism strengthened social hierarchy, philosophical developments laid the foundation for later spiritual traditions like Buddhism and Jainism. The period represents a crucial phase of transition from ritual-centric religion to introspective philosophy.



## 2. Answer

The doctrine of **separation of powers**, propounded by Montesquieu, is fundamental to modern constitutional governance. It envisages the division of state power among the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary to prevent concentration of authority and ensure checks and balances.

In India, the Constitution does not explicitly mention the doctrine but incorporates it **implicitly** through structural provisions.

Articles such as 50 (separation of judiciary from executive) and provisions defining powers of different organs reflect this principle.

The **Legislature** makes laws, the **Executive** implements them, and the **Judiciary** interprets them. However, India follows a **partial separation**, not a strict one.

For instance, the Executive (Council of Ministers) is drawn from the Legislature, indicating a **fusion of powers**, typical of the parliamentary system. Similarly, the Judiciary exercises **judicial review**, enabling it to invalidate laws passed by the Legislature—acting as a check.

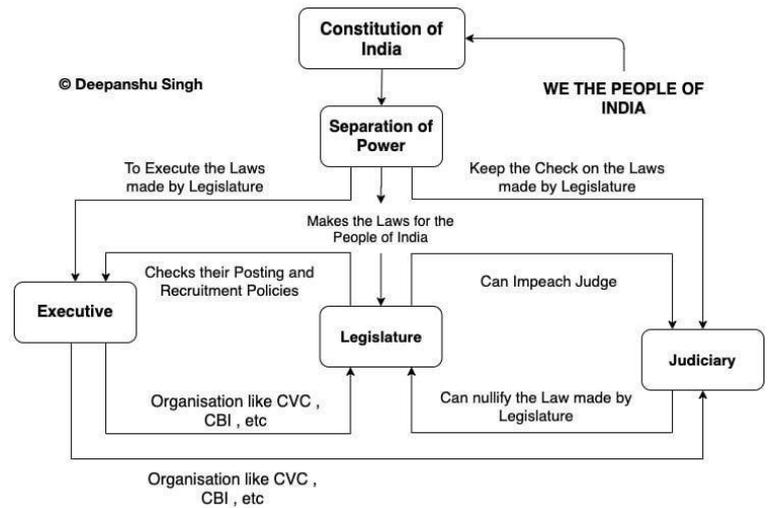
Moreover, mechanisms like **ordinance-making power** of the President and **delegated legislation** blur the boundaries further.

Despite these overlaps, checks and balances exist:

- Judiciary checks legislative excess through review.
- Legislature controls executive via motions and questions.
- Executive influences judiciary through appointments.

Thus, India adopts a **functional separation with institutional interdependence**, ensuring flexibility and accountability.

However, challenges like judicial overreach, executive dominance, and legislative inefficiency raise concerns. Strengthening institutional autonomy while maintaining coordination is essential.



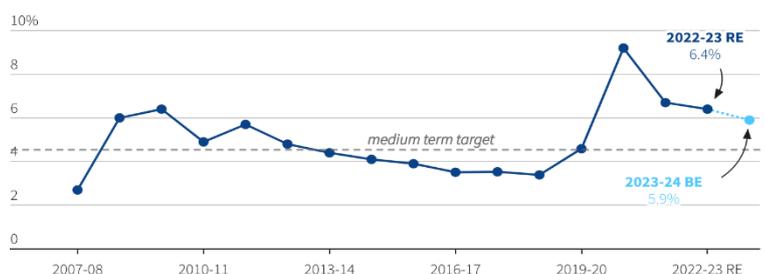
## 3. Answer

Fiscal policy, involving government taxation and expenditure, plays a crucial role in managing economic growth and inflation in India.

To stimulate growth, the government increases **public expenditure** on infrastructure, welfare, and capital formation. This generates employment, boosts demand, and promotes

### India's fiscal deficit

(as a % of GDP)



Note: BE is budget estimates, RE is revised estimates, rest are actual figures

Source: Budget speech, Indian budget documents, Economic survey | Reuters, Feb. 1, 2023 | By Kripa Jayaram and Aftab Ahmed



long-term development. Tax incentives and subsidies further encourage investment.

Conversely, to control inflation, the government may reduce expenditure or increase taxes, thereby curbing excess demand. Thus, fiscal policy operates as a **counter-cyclical tool**.

However, balancing growth and inflation poses significant challenges:

First, expansionary fiscal policy often leads to **fiscal deficits**, increasing public debt. Persistent deficits can crowd out private investment.

Second, excessive spending may fuel **demand-pull inflation**, especially when supply constraints exist.

Third, India faces structural issues like supply bottlenecks, making inflation less responsive to fiscal tightening.

Fourth, political compulsions often lead to populist measures (e.g., subsidies), undermining fiscal discipline.

Additionally, coordination with **monetary policy** is critical. Divergence between RBI and government objectives can reduce effectiveness.

Recent reforms like **FRBM Act** aim to ensure fiscal prudence, but deviations occur during crises (e.g., COVID-19).

Thus, fiscal policy in India requires a **delicate balance**—promoting growth while ensuring macroeconomic stability. A focus on productive expenditure, tax efficiency, and fiscal discipline is essential.

#### 4. Answer



Ethics in public administration extends beyond rule-following; it involves **internalizing values like integrity, accountability, and compassion**.

Compliance ensures adherence to laws, but ethical governance demands **moral responsibility**, where officials act in public interest even in ambiguous situations.

For instance, a bureaucrat strictly following rules may deny urgent help due to procedural constraints. However, an ethical officer may exercise discretion to ensure justice.

The concept of “**probity in governance**” emphasizes transparency and honesty. Similarly, **empathy** enables administrators to understand citizens’ needs.

Real-life examples illustrate this distinction:

- Whistleblowers expose corruption despite personal risks, guided by moral conviction.
- During disasters, officials often go beyond duty to provide relief.



Ethical dilemmas frequently arise, such as balancing political pressure with fairness. In such cases, values like **objectivity and courage** become crucial.

Institutional mechanisms like codes of conduct, training, and vigilance bodies promote ethics, but ultimately, **individual conscience** is decisive.

Thus, ethics transforms governance from mechanical rule enforcement to **value-driven service delivery**, enhancing public trust and legitimacy.

## 5. Answer

Urban flooding in India has emerged as a recurrent crisis, reflecting systemic failures in planning, governance, and infrastructure.

Rapid urbanization has led to **encroachment of natural drainage systems**, wetlands, and floodplains. Cities like Delhi have witnessed flooding due to obstruction of the Yamuna floodplains.

Poor **drainage infrastructure**, unplanned construction, and inadequate waste management exacerbate waterlogging.

Climate change further intensifies extreme rainfall events, overwhelming urban systems.

Governance issues play a central role:

- Fragmented institutional responsibilities
- Lack of coordination among agencies
- Weak enforcement of regulations

The **Delhi Urban Flood Mitigation Program** aims to address these challenges through:

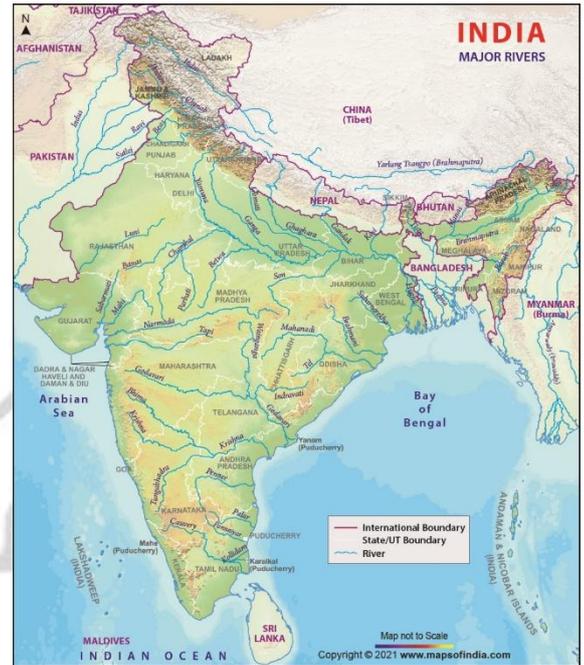
- Improving drainage networks
- Early warning systems
- Restoration of water bodies
- Use of GIS-based planning

While such initiatives are promising, challenges remain:

- Implementation gaps
- Funding constraints
- Public participation deficit

A sustainable solution requires:

- Integrated urban planning
- Protection of ecological buffers





- Adoption of sponge city concepts
- Strengthening local governance

Thus, urban flooding is not merely a natural phenomenon but a **man-made crisis**, requiring systemic reforms and long-term planning.

### All Explanations

1. Focuses on transition from ritualism to philosophy and its socio-political impact.
2. Tests conceptual clarity + application in Indian polity.
3. Links theory (fiscal policy) with real-world economic challenges.
4. Evaluates ethical reasoning with practical examples.
5. Integrates current affairs with governance and urban planning issues.

