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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 28/03/2026 (SATURDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to Ashoka's early military campaigns before the Kalinga War, consider the following statements:

1. The Junagarh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman provides indirect evidence of Mauryan administrative continuity rather than Ashoka's personal military expedition to western India.
2. The Maski inscription is significant because it is the only inscription that unambiguously establishes the personal name of Devanampiya Piyadasi as Ashoka in a military context.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. The Junagarh inscription of Rudradaman (Shaka ruler, 2nd century CE) primarily records the repair of Sudarshana Lake originally constructed during Chandragupta Maurya and maintained under Ashoka through provincial governors. It **does not provide evidence of Ashoka's personal military adventure** in western India, only administrative continuity.

Statement 2 is **correct**. The Maski inscription (Karnataka) is the **first clear epigraphical proof that "Devanampiya Piyadasi" was Ashoka**, which helps connect the edicts to the historical Ashoka, though not strictly military narration but firmly personal identification.

Q2. The primary ecological significance of the "Mass Coral Bleaching Threshold of 1.5°C above long-term summer maxima" lies in:

- (a) The permanent loss of coral-associated nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria
- (b) The breakdown of symbiotic zooxanthellae–coral relationships causing trophic collapse
- (c) The sudden dominance of invasive macro-algae through eutrophication feedback
- (d) The irreversible shift of reef ecosystems into deep-water cold current regimes

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Coral bleaching fundamentally occurs due to the **expulsion of zooxanthellae (symbiotic algae)** from coral tissues under thermal stress. These algae provide nearly **90% of the coral's energy needs** via photosynthesis. Their loss leads to starvation, structural weakening, and large-scale reef collapse, disrupting entire trophic webs. Other options describe secondary or incorrect ecological processes.

Q3. With reference to India's Balance of Payments (BoP), consider the following statements:

1. A surplus in the capital account necessarily implies an equivalent accumulation of foreign exchange reserves by the Reserve Bank of India.



2. Invisible receipts in the current account may offset merchandise trade deficits without reducing net investment inflows.
3. External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) improve the capital account but worsen the International Investment Position (IIP) in the long run.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. A capital account surplus does **not automatically mean reserve accumulation**; it may also finance a current account deficit without increasing reserves.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Remittances, software services, and tourism (invisibles) can compensate for trade deficits without affecting capital inflows.

Statement 3 is **correct**. ECBs generate inflows now, improving the capital account, but increase **future external liabilities**, worsening India's **Net International Investment Position (NIIP)**.

Q4. With reference to the judicial expansion of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The right to privacy under Article 21 is an absolute right immune from reasonable restrictions.
2. The right to a pollution-free environment is derived from a combined reading of Articles 21, 48A, and 51A(g).
3. The right to digital access has been explicitly recognized as a fundamental right under Article 21 by the Supreme Court.
4. Procedural fairness under Article 21 now includes substantive due process, reversing the ratio of A.K. Gopalan.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. In *Puttaswamy (2017)*, privacy was declared a fundamental right but **subject to reasonable restrictions** based on legality, necessity, and proportionality.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Environmental rights flow from **judicial interpretation** of these three constitutional provisions.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. While access to internet has been linked to freedom of expression and education



(*Anuradha Bhasin*), it is **not declared an independent fundamental right under Article 21**.

Statement 4 is **correct**. *Maneka Gandhi (1978)* transformed Article 21 by introducing **substantive due process**, overruling the narrow interpretation of *A.K. Gopalan*.

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type Question (Geography – La Niña)

Assertion (A):

La Niña years are generally associated with enhanced monsoon rainfall over the Indian subcontinent.

Reasons:

R1. La Niña strengthens the Walker Circulation, intensifying easterly trade winds across the Pacific.

R2. Strengthened trade winds promote warmer sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific, increasing convection over India.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Assertion is **correct**: La Niña generally strengthens the Indian monsoon.

R1 is **correct**: Stronger Walker circulation enhances ascending motion over the western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

R2 is **incorrect**: La Niña causes **cooling**, not warming, of the **central and eastern Pacific**, while the warming shifts toward the western Pacific near Indonesia. Enhanced Indian monsoon rainfall is a secondary atmospheric response, not due to central Pacific warming.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. With reference to the HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) Precision Weapon System, consider the following statements:

1. HAMMER is a stand-alone cruise missile system that does not require integration with host aircraft avionics.
2. HAMMER enables conventional gravity bombs to acquire both standoff capability and guidance under all-weather conditions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both



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

Answer: (a) Only one

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. HAMMER is **not a stand-alone missile**; it is a **guidance and propulsion kit attached to conventional bombs**, which requires **integration with aircraft avionics** for targeting. Statement 2 is **correct**. HAMMER converts dumb bombs into **precision-guided standoff munitions**, capable of GPS/INS/infrared guidance in **all-weather conditions**, extending range beyond 70 km.

Q2. In India's National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), the principal function of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) is best described as:

- (a) Manual seasonal sampling of particulate matter for regulatory reporting
- (b) High-frequency real-time tracking of multiple gaseous and particulate pollutants
- (c) Satellite-based estimation of aerosol optical depth
- (d) Episodic pollution measurement during public health emergencies

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

CAAQMS provide **real-time continuous monitoring** of pollutants such as PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, CO, O₃ etc., enabling dynamic air-quality indexing, forecasting, and policy response. Manual stations under NAMP operate with delayed periodic sampling.

Q3. With reference to the Fujiwhara Effect observed in tropical cyclone dynamics, consider the following statements:

1. The Fujiwhara Effect occurs primarily due to differential Coriolis force acting on vertically aligned cyclonic vortices.
2. The interacting cyclones may rotate around a common centroid if their separation distance falls below a critical threshold.
3. The Fujiwhara interaction always results in the merger of the two cyclonic systems into a single intensified storm.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. Fujiwhara interaction arises due to **mutual advection of vorticity fields**, not primarily due to Coriolis force.

Statement 2 is **correct**. When cyclones come within about **1,200–1,500 km**, they begin rotating around a



common center.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. Fujiwhara interaction **does not always result in merger**; one cyclone may dominate and absorb the other, or both may deflect.

Q4. With reference to the Hayli Gubbi volcanic system in the East African Rift region, consider the following statements:

1. Hayli Gubbi is associated with continental rifting and magma upwelling due to crustal thinning.
2. The volcanic activity in this region is primarily driven by subduction of the African Plate beneath the Eurasian Plate.
3. Hayli Gubbi lies within a tectonic setting that represents the early stage of ocean basin formation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. The East African Rift is a **continental divergence zone** caused by lithospheric thinning and mantle plume activity leading to volcanism.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. There is **no subduction** here; volcanism is due to **rifting**, not convergent tectonics.

Statement 3 is **correct**. The rift represents the **incipient stage of ocean basin development**, similar to the early Red Sea formation.

Q5. With reference to Exercise Suryakiran, consider the following statements:

1. It is a bilateral military exercise conducted between India and Nepal.
2. The exercise alternates between the two countries on an annual basis.
3. It exclusively focuses on air-combat doctrines and integrated air-defence operations.
4. It aims at enhancing interoperability in counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance operations.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Only three

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. Exercise Suryakiran is a **India–Nepal joint military exercise**.

Statement 2 is **correct**. It is conducted **alternately in both countries**.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. Suryakiran is a **land forces exercise**, not an exclusive air-combat drill.



Statement 4 is **correct**. It strengthens cooperation in **counter-terrorism, disaster relief, jungle warfare, and humanitarian operations**.

Q6. The Ningaloo Reef, recently seen in news due to coral bleaching concerns, is located along the coast of:

- (a) Western Australia bordering the Indian Ocean
- (b) Eastern Australia bordering the Coral Sea
- (c) Southern Africa bordering the South Atlantic
- (d) Southeast Asia bordering the South China Sea

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

Ningaloo Reef is located on the **western coast of Australia** along the **Indian Ocean**. It is one of the world's **largest fringing reef systems**, unlike the Great Barrier Reef which lies on the eastern coast bordering the Coral Sea.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS-I:

Q1. The Mahad Satyagraha (1927) is regarded as one of the earliest human rights movements in India. Discuss how the Mahad Satyagraha(s) shaped India's social reform discourse and contributed to the ethical foundations of the Constitution. (300+ words)

Sample Answer

The Mahad Satyagraha of 1927, led by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, is considered a watershed moment in India's socio-political history as it brought the issues of caste discrimination, untouchability, and human dignity into the nation's public conscience. Unlike earlier reform movements that worked within the social framework, Ambedkar's approach challenged caste hierarchy at its ideological, social, and legal roots, paving the way for constitutional guarantees of equality.

Mahad, part of Bombay Province, became the centre of resistance when Dalits were denied access to public water resources such as the Chavadar Tank. The precursor to the movement—the Bole Resolution (1923)—affirming Dalits' access to public places, provided the legal basis for Ambedkar's assertion of rights. The first Mahad Satyagraha (March 1927) marked the transition from petition-based reform to rights-based struggle. It symbolised the claim that Dalits were entitled to civic rights, such as access to water—a fundamental element of human survival.

The second Mahad Satyagraha (December 1927) deepened the ideological challenge. The burning of Manusmriti rejected the philosophical basis of caste oppression and asserted the need for a modern, egalitarian social order. This satyagraha was inclusive, emphasising gender equality and engaging women as equal participants—a progressive departure even from global revolutions like the French Revolution, which excluded women.



The ethical foundations of India's Constitution—liberty, equality, fraternity, and dignity—were shaped partly by the Mahad experience. Ambedkar later incorporated these principles into the Preamble and Fundamental Rights (Articles 14, 15, 17, 21). The abolition of untouchability (Article 17) and constitutional morality were direct reflections of the values articulated at Mahad.

Thus, the Mahad Satyagraha was not merely a protest over water but a larger philosophical project redefining citizenship, rights, and equality. It continues to inspire movements for social justice and remains central to India's democratic ethos.

GS-II:

Q2. India–Russia relations have witnessed both continuity and recalibration amid changing global geopolitics. Analyse how high-level visits, like President Putin's recent 27-hour tour, reinforce strategic autonomy and shape India's contemporary foreign policy choices. (300+ words)

Sample Answer

India–Russia relations have endured for nearly eight decades through Cold War realignments, post-Soviet transitions, and current multipolar shifts. President Vladimir Putin's short but symbolically significant 27-hour visit to India highlights both the resilience of this partnership and the changing contours of India's foreign policy strategies.

At a time when India–U.S. relations face turbulence—marked by high tariffs on Indian goods and sanctions linked to Russian crude imports—India's engagement with Russia underscores its commitment to *strategic autonomy*. Prime Minister Modi receiving Putin at the airport and hosting a private dinner reflects the political signalling that India attaches to the partnership.

The visit set the groundwork for the 23rd India–Russia Summit, focusing on defence, nuclear energy, trade mechanisms insulated from Western sanctions, and cooperation in emerging sectors like small modular reactors. These sectors are instrumental in strengthening India's long-term strategic capabilities—particularly defence self-reliance, energy security, and diversification of technological partnerships.

Geopolitically, Russia's briefing to India on Ukraine diplomacy reinforces India's role as a balancing power advocating dialogue and de-escalation. India continues to maintain neutrality without succumbing to Western pressure, aligning with its principle of multi-alignment.

Economically, the visit aims to address the widening trade deficit due to India's high reliance on Russian oil imports. Agreements on labour mobility, logistics support, and media cooperation further diversify the relationship.

This visit also reflects India's calibrated foreign policy: deepening ties with Western nations while preserving historical partnerships with Russia. It enhances India's influence in the Indo-Pacific and Eurasian regions while offering flexibility in global governance forums such as SCO, BRICS, and G20.

Ultimately, such high-level visits uphold India's strategic autonomy, provide manoeuvring space in a polarised world, and reinforce India's identity as an independent, multipolar actor.

**GS-III:**

Q3. Large-scale diversion of forest land for development projects presents a critical challenge for India's ecological security. Examine the implications of diverting over 99,000 hectares of forest land (2020–2025) and suggest policy reforms for sustainable land use. (300+ words)

Sample Answer

India's diversion of over 99,000 hectares of forest land since 2020 for roads, mining, hydroelectric and irrigation projects reflects development pressures in a rapidly expanding economy. While infrastructure is essential, such large-scale diversion poses significant ecological, socioeconomic, and governance challenges.

Environmentally, forest diversion leads to fragmentation of wildlife habitats, decline in biodiversity, loss of carbon sinks, and disruption of hydrological systems. Given that India aims to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent under its Paris Agreement commitments, deforestation undermines climate efforts.

Socially, diversion affects forest-dependent communities, including Scheduled Tribes and OTFDs, whose livelihoods, cultural identity, and resource access are tied to forests. The absence of data on the number of people affected, as noted in the government reply, highlights gaps in transparency and rights-based governance. This also risks violating provisions of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, which requires Gram Sabha consent prior to forest diversion.

Economically, while projects may boost growth, inadequate compensatory afforestation and poor monitoring lead to long-term ecological degradation that imposes hidden costs—such as soil erosion, floods, loss of ecosystem services, and displacement.

Policy reforms must prioritise sustainable land governance. First, environmental impact assessments (EIA) need to be strengthened with cumulative impact evaluation, not project-by-project clearance. Second, implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act (2023) must ensure that exemptions for linear projects do not result in unregulated diversion. Third, FRA compliance and Gram Sabha approval must be strictly enforced. Fourth, compensatory afforestation must shift from numerical plantation targets to ecological restoration using native species.

Digital mapping, community-based monitoring, and climate-sensitive land-use planning can improve accountability. Balancing development with conservation is essential for India's ecological security and long-term sustainability.

GS-IV:

Q4. Discuss how the Mahad Satyagraha reflects the ethical foundations of social justice, dignity, and constitutional morality. What lessons does it offer for public servants in contemporary India? (300+ words)

Sample Answer

The Mahad Satyagraha, led by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in 1927, was not merely a social reform movement but a profound ethical assertion of dignity, equality, and justice. It embodies the core values later enshrined in the Indian Constitution. For public servants, its ethical legacy offers timeless lessons for governance, empathy, and constitutional morality.



Ethically, the Mahad movement challenged the deeply entrenched caste-based hierarchies that denied Dalits access to basic resources such as water. Access to drinking water symbolised a larger struggle for human dignity. Ambedkar's insistence that "we are not going to the tank to drink water, but to assert our rights" highlights the moral dimension of rights-based struggle.

The burning of Manusmriti during Mahad 2.0 was a symbolic rejection of oppressive social norms, emphasising ethical responsibility over blind adherence to tradition. It demonstrated that moral courage is necessary to dismantle unjust structures, a key principle of ethical governance.

The movement also advanced gender justice. Ambedkar's engagement with women at Mahad and his articulation of a gendered understanding of caste reinforced inclusivity as an ethical imperative. This aligns with constitutional morality—acting in accordance with values such as equality, justice, and fraternity rather than majoritarian sentiment.

For public servants, Mahad offers multiple lessons:

- **Empathy and sensitivity** toward marginalised communities.
- **Duty to uphold constitutional values** even when social norms resist change.
- **Moral courage** in confronting discriminatory practices.
- **Commitment to equity** in public service delivery.
- **Understanding structural injustice**, not just individual cases, to ensure holistic governance.

Thus, Mahad remains an ethical compass, reminding administrators that governance is not merely procedural but deeply moral, aimed at protecting dignity and fostering justice.

Current Affairs:

Q5. India's numeracy gap remains a major developmental challenge despite rising enrolments. Discuss the key structural issues behind India's numeracy deficits and suggest a multi-tiered strategy to bridge this learning gap. (300+ words)

Sample Answer

India's numeracy gap—especially evident in foundational arithmetic skills—remains a critical challenge for human capital development. Reports such as ASER highlight that many children in Classes 3–5 struggle with basic division, subtraction, and number recognition. This gap persists despite near-universal enrolment, indicating deeper systemic issues.

Key structural challenges include poor foundational learning in early grades due to inadequate teacher training, overcrowded classrooms, and lack of activity-based pedagogy essential for conceptual numeracy. The pandemic widened these gaps, disproportionately affecting children from low-income and rural backgrounds. Additionally, rote-learning practices dominate many classrooms, preventing comprehension-based learning. Language barriers, especially in multilingual contexts, further impede mathematical understanding.

Socioeconomic inequalities worsen the gap. Children lacking access to home learning support, digital devices, or remedial programmes fall behind early and rarely recover. Assessment systems often focus on memory rather than problem-solving, masking deeper deficits. Teachers themselves often lack continuous professional development in modern numeracy pedagogy.



Bridging the gap requires a multi-tiered strategy aligned with NEP 2020 and the NIPUN Bharat Mission. First, foundational learning must be prioritised through competency-based curricula and experiential learning models. Second, teacher capacity-building is crucial—introducing diagnostic tools, continuous training, and mentorship programmes. Third, targeted remedial interventions such as peer tutoring, community learning camps, and technology-assisted personalised learning should be scaled.

Fourth, assessments must shift from summative to formative methods, identifying learning gaps early. Fifth, parents and communities must be engaged through awareness campaigns and simple numeracy activities. Finally, digital inclusion must be strengthened to ensure equitable access to learning tools.

Closing the numeracy gap is essential for economic mobility, employability, and national productivity. A strong numeracy foundation will determine India's ability to harness its demographic dividend and achieve inclusive growth.



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