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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE**

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 16/04/2026 (THURSDAY)

- **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 architectural and cultural synthesis during the Delhi Sultanate:

Statement-I: The use of the "true arch" and "dome" in India reached its structural perfection only after the introduction of the *double dome* technique during the Lodi period.

Statement-II: The *Indo-Islamic* style avoided the use of human and animal figures in ornamentation, instead relying heavily on calligraphy, arabesque, and *tessellation*.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement-I is correct as the double dome (seen in Humayun's Tomb later, but starting with the Lodi era) allowed for greater height and structural aesthetics. Statement-II is also correct as Islamic tenets forbade sentient figures, leading to the development of geometric (tessellation) and floral designs. However, the lack of figures is a religious/aesthetic choice and not the structural "explanation" for why the double dome was developed (which was an engineering solution for internal proportions).

Q2. In the context of "Organisms and Populations," which of the following best describes the phenomenon where a population's growth rate decreases as the population density increases, eventually reaching a plateau?

- (a) Geometric attenuation in r-selected species
- (b) Negative feedback of density-dependent regulation
- (c) Stochastic environmental stochasticity
- (d) Competitive exclusion principle of Gause

Answer: (b)

Explanation: This refers to the Logistic Growth model ($\frac{dN}{dt} = rN\left[\frac{K-N}{K}\right]$). As N approaches the carrying capacity (K), resources become limiting, leading to increased mortality or decreased natality. This is a classic example of density-dependent regulation acting as a negative feedback loop to stabilize the population at the carrying capacity.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the "Open Economy Macroeconomics" and the Balance of Payments:

1. A persistent deficit in the Current Account is always a sign of economic weakness, as it implies the country is a net debtor to the rest of the world.
2. The "Marshall-Lerner Condition" suggests that currency devaluation will improve the trade balance only if the sum of price elasticities of demand for exports and imports is greater than one.



3. Under a managed floating exchange rate system, the Central Bank intervenes in the foreign exchange market to strictly maintain a fixed parity with a basket of currencies.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: - Statement 1 is incorrect: A current account deficit can be a sign of strength if it is driven by high levels of investment (importing capital goods) that will boost future productivity.

- Statement 2 is correct: This is the fundamental condition for a successful devaluation to correct a trade deficit.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: In a "managed float," the Central Bank intervenes to reduce volatility, but there is no "strict fixed parity"; that would define a "Fixed Exchange Rate" system.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the "Challenges to and Restoration of the Congress System" in Indian Polity:

1. The "Syndicate" was an informal group of powerful Congress leaders from within the party who played a decisive role in the installation of Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi as Prime Ministers.
2. The 1967 General Elections are often described as a "Political Earthquake" because the Congress lost its majority in the Lok Sabha for the first time since Independence.
3. The abolition of "Privy Purses" was a key element of the "Ten Point Programme" adopted by Indira Gandhi to project a pro-poor, socialist image.
4. The Supreme Court upheld the government's decision to abolish Privy Purses in the famous *Maharaja Madhav Rao Scindia* case.

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 is correct: Leaders like K. Kamraj and S.K. Patil formed the Syndicate.

- Statement 2 is incorrect: In 1967, Congress retained its majority in the Lok Sabha (though with a reduced margin), but lost power in nine states.
- Statement 3 is correct: It was part of her leftward shift to consolidate power against the Syndicate.



- Statement 4 is incorrect: The Supreme Court originally struck down the Presidential Order abolishing Privy Purses; the government then had to bring a Constitutional Amendment (26th Amendment, 1971) to override the court.

Q5. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the others as Reason (R1 and R2):

Assertion (A): The "Great Plains of India" are characterized by an extremely high density of population and intensive subsistence agriculture.

Reason (R1): The region consists of deep alluvial deposits which provide highly fertile soil and a perennial supply of water through Himalayan rivers.

Reason (R2): The flat terrain of the plains facilitates the development of a dense network of transport and urban industrial clusters.

In the context of the latest UPSC pattern, which of the following is correct?

- (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct and are independent reasons for A
- (b) Both R1 and R2 are correct, but only R1 is the primary reason for A
- (c) R1 is correct but R2 is incorrect
- (d) Assertion A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Both reasons contribute to the high population density. R1 explains the agricultural productivity (intensive subsistence), which supports a large rural population. R2 explains the socio-economic infrastructure (transport and cities), which supports urban density. Together, they explain the "human geography" of the Indo-Gangetic plains.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS):

Statement-I: The Nagoya Protocol creates a legal framework that requires users of genetic resources to obtain Prior Informed Consent (PIC) from the provider country, even if the resources are sourced from ex-situ collections like gene banks located in non-provider countries.

Statement-II: The Protocol aims to provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources while strengthening the ability of indigenous and local communities to benefit from their traditional knowledge.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (d)



Explanation: Statement-I is incorrect because one of the major "loopholes" or points of contention in the Nagoya Protocol is its ambiguity regarding *ex-situ* collections (resources collected before the protocol entered into force or held in third-party countries). While it encourages benefit-sharing, the strict "Prior Informed Consent" (PIC) requirement is primarily triggered for *in-situ* resources within the jurisdiction of a Party. Statement-II is correct as it reflects the core objective of the Protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Q2. With reference to the Artemis II Mission, which of the following statements best captures its specific strategic objective in the current lunar exploration timeline?

- (a) It is the first mission designed to land a crewed vessel on the lunar South Pole to establish a permanent "Artemis Base Camp."
- (b) It serves as a crewed flight test to validate the Orion spacecraft's life-support systems in a high-earth orbit before proceeding to the Lunar Gateway.
- (c) It is a lunar flyby mission intended to test the Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion's performance with astronauts aboard for the first time.
- (d) It aims to deploy the first segment of the Foundation Habitat on the lunar surface using an uncrewed lunar lander.

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Artemis II is the first *crewed* mission under the Artemis program. Unlike Artemis III (which intends to land humans), Artemis II is a lunar flyby/circumlunar mission. It will carry four astronauts around the Moon to test the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft's performance with humans on board, paving the way for future landing missions.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched vessel 'Shachi' (Yard 1280):

- 1. It is the first of the Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) being built to enhance the Indian Navy's blue-water capability.
- 2. The vessel is primarily designed for high-speed commerce raiding and anti-aircraft carrier operations in the Indian Ocean Region.
- 3. It has been developed under the 'Make in India' initiative, featuring high indigenous content and state-of-the-art surveillance and communication systems.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statements 1 and 3 are correct. 'Shachi' is indeed the first of the NGOPVs. Statement 2 is incorrect; Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) are designed for maritime surveillance, search and rescue, anti-piracy, and monitoring sea lines of communication, rather than high-end "commerce raiding" or "anti-aircraft carrier" combat, which are roles for Frigates, Destroyers, or Submarines.

Q4. With reference to the Malwan (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft - ASW SWC) and the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Malwan is designed to replace the Abhay-class corvettes and is optimized for sub-surface surveillance in coastal waters and the placement of underwater sensors.



2. Nyaya Setu is an AI-driven interface launched by the Ministry of Law and Justice to provide legal aid and information about government schemes to citizens in multiple languages.
3. The ASW SWC project involves the construction of ships specifically by foreign shipyards under a Technology Transfer (ToT) agreement to bolster the "Act East" policy.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Malwan is the 4th ship of the ASW SWC class, built to perform anti-submarine warfare in shallow waters and coastal surveillance. Nyaya Setu is an AI chatbot launched to democratize legal information. Statement 3 is incorrect because these ships (including Malwan) are being built indigenously by Indian shipyards (GRSE and CSL), not foreign ones.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Bhavasagara Referral Centre and the general framework of healthcare initiatives in India:

1. The Bhavasagara Referral Centre is a specialized facility primarily dedicated to the treatment and research of rare tropical diseases and vector-borne ailments.
2. Referral centres in the Indian public health hierarchy are designed to provide tertiary care, acting as a link between Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and specialized medical institutes.
3. The establishment of such centres is part of a broader strategy to reduce the "out-of-pocket" expenditure for rural populations by localizing advanced diagnostic facilities.
4. Bhavasagara specifically integrates traditional Ayurvedic protocols with modern neuro-rehabilitation for patients suffering from stroke and neurological disorders.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statements 2, 3, and 4 are correct. The Bhavasagara Referral Centre (often associated with NIMHANS and the integration of traditional systems) focuses on the integration of Ayurveda and modern medicine for neurological disorders, specifically stroke rehabilitation. Statement 1 is incorrect as its primary focus is not "rare tropical diseases" or "vector-borne ailments," but rather specialized neuro-rehabilitation and chronic disease management.

Q6. Map-Based Question: Algeria

Consider the following geographical features and neighboring entities of **Algeria**:

1. Algeria is the largest country in Africa by total land area and shares a border with seven different countries.
2. The Atlas Mountains run through the northern part of the country, separating the Mediterranean coast from the Sahara Desert.



3. Algeria has a direct coastline on both the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, facilitating its role as a regional energy hub.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Algeria became the largest country in Africa after the secession of South Sudan from Sudan. It borders Tunisia, Libya, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Western Sahara, and Morocco (7 countries).
- Statement 2 is correct: The Tell Atlas and Saharan Atlas ranges are defining features of Northern Algeria.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Algeria has a long coastline on the Mediterranean Sea, but it **does not** touch the Red Sea. The Red Sea is on the eastern side of Africa (bordering Egypt, Sudan, etc.).

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1: History

Q1. "The mid-first millennium BCE is often regarded as a turning point in world history." In light of this statement, discuss how the emergence of new religious traditions in India challenged the existing social and philosophical order.

Sample Answer: The mid-first millennium BCE was a period of intense intellectual ferment across the globe, seeing the rise of Socrates in Greece, Zarathustra in Iran, and Mahavira and Buddha in India. In the Indian context, this era witnessed a significant departure from the **Vedic sacrificial tradition** toward internal philosophical inquiry and social egalitarianism.

Challenging the Social Order: The primary challenge was directed at the **Varna system**. Brahmanical texts emphasized birth-based hierarchy. In contrast, Buddhist and Jaina traditions provided a "counter-culture" by:

- **Universal Membership:** Opening the doors of the *Sangha* to all, regardless of caste or gender.
- **Rejection of Ritual Superiority:** The Buddha argued that social status was a human construct rather than a divine mandate. He emphasized *metta* (loving-kindness) and *karuna* (compassion) over ritual purity.

Philosophical Shifts: Philosophically, the era moved from the "sacrificial cult" to the "quest for liberation":

1. **Individual Agency:** Unlike the Vedas, which focused on pleasing deities through priests, the new thinkers emphasized that liberation was a result of individual effort and ethical conduct (*Ashtanga Marga*).



2. **Fatalism vs. Karma:** While the Ajivikas preached fatalism (*Niyati*), Buddhism and Jainism stressed the law of *Karma*—that one's actions determine their destiny, thus empowering the individual.
3. **Nature of Reality:** The debates in the *Kutagarashalas* (pointed-roof huts) focused on whether the soul (*Atman*) was permanent or whether the world was in a constant state of flux (*Anicca*).

Conclusion: This period transformed the Indian landscape from a ritual-centric society to a knowledge-centric one. The architectural legacy of this shift, seen in the Stupas of Sanchi and Bharhut, stands as a testament to the enduring influence of these "heretical" schools on Indian civilization.

GS-2: Polity

Q2. Assess the effectiveness of regional organizations like the European Union (EU) and ASEAN as "alternative centres of power" in a multi-polar world. To what extent do they limit the hegemony of traditional superpowers?

Sample Answer: With the collapse of the bipolar Cold War structure, regional organizations have emerged as formidable "alternative centres of power." The European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) represent two distinct models of this phenomenon.

The European Union: A Supranational Power The EU has evolved from an economic community to a political entity with its own flag, anthem, and currency (Euro).

- **Economic Clout:** Its share of world trade is nearly equal to that of the US, giving it massive leverage in the WTO.
- **Diplomatic Weight:** Two of its former/current members hold permanent seats in the UNSC. Its "Soft Power" in terms of environmental standards (GDPR, Green Deal) dictates global norms.
- **Limitations:** The EU lacks a unified military policy (e.g., internal divisions over the Iraq War or Ukraine) and faces "Euro-skepticism" and nationalism (e.g., Brexit).

ASEAN: The "ASEAN Way" ASEAN represents a more informal, cooperative model focused on sovereignty and non-interference.

- **Economic Integration:** Through the ASEAN Economic Community and FTAs with major powers, it has become a vital hub for global value chains.
- **Security Architecture:** The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is one of the few platforms where superpowers like the US, China, and Russia engage in security dialogue.
- **Limitations:** Its consensus-based approach often leads to paralysis in the face of crises like the Myanmar military coup or South China Sea disputes.

Conclusion: While these organizations cannot match the raw military power of traditional superpowers, they significantly constrain hegemony through **Institutionalism**. By creating "Rules-Based Orders" in their respective regions, they ensure that global power is not concentrated in a single capital, facilitating a more balanced, multi-polar world.



GS-3: Economy

Q3. Explain the concept of "Effective Demand" in Keynesian economics. How does an "unintended accumulation of inventories" act as a self-correcting mechanism in an economy facing a recessionary gap?

Sample Answer: In classical economics, supply was believed to create its own demand. However, the Great Depression proved this false, leading J.M. Keynes to propose the principle of **Effective Demand**—the level of aggregate demand that is actually "effective" in determining the level of output and employment in an economy.

The Principle of Effective Demand: Equilibrium in an economy is achieved when Ex-ante Aggregate Demand (\$AD\$) equals Ex-ante Aggregate Supply (\$AS\$).

$$AD = C + I + G + (X - M)$$

If AD is insufficient to buy the full-employment level of output, the economy settles at an "Under-employment Equilibrium."

The Role of Unintended Inventories: When \$AD\$ falls short of the planned output (\$AS > AD\$):

1. **Stock Accumulation:** Goods produced remain unsold. This is called "unintended accumulation of inventories."
2. **Signal to Producers:** To a firm, rising inventories are a signal that they have overproduced relative to market demand.
3. **Correction:** In the next production cycle, firms reduce their planned output and lay off workers to cut costs.
4. **New Equilibrium:** This process continues until output falls to a level where it matches the lower demand.

Critique: The Paradox of Thrift Keynes argued that if everyone tries to save more (increasing \$MPS\$) during a recession, AD will fall even further, leading to a deeper unintended inventory pile-up and an even lower equilibrium income. This "Paradox of Thrift" suggests that individual virtue (saving) can be a collective vice.

Conclusion: Understanding these dynamics is crucial for fiscal policy. When the "self-correction" through inventory reduction leads to mass unemployment, the government must intervene through **Autonomous Spending** to boost Effective Demand and lift the economy out of the recessionary trap.

GS-4: Ethics (Emotional Intelligence)

Q4. "Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you." Discuss the significance of EI for a civil servant in handling public grievances and maintaining communal harmony.

Sample Answer: Emotional Intelligence (EI), defined by Daniel Goleman through components like self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills, is often more critical for a public servant than technical IQ. In the volatile environment of Indian administration, EI acts as a buffer between impulse and action.



Handling Public Grievances: A civil servant often meets citizens who are frustrated, angry, or desperate.

- **Empathy:** By practicing active listening and empathy, an officer validates the citizen's feelings, which often de-escalates anger before a technical solution is even provided.
- **Self-Regulation:** An officer with high EI will not take verbal abuse personally. Instead of reacting with authority-driven ego, they remain calm, ensuring that the grievance cell remains a space for resolution rather than conflict.

Maintaining Communal Harmony: Communal tensions are often fueled by "emotional contagion"—the rapid spread of fear and hatred.

- **Social Skills:** During a riot-like situation, a DM or SP must negotiate with religious leaders. High social skills allow the officer to build trust across community lines.
- **Perception Management:** An ethically grounded, emotionally intelligent leader can sense the "pulse" of the crowd. By using the right language and symbols, they can replace fear with a sense of security.

Conclusion: In administration, "Power" is the tool, but "EI" is the lubricant. While laws provide the framework for action, EI provides the "touch" required to implement those laws in a diverse and emotive society. It transforms a "bureaucrat" into a "leader."

[Image showing the 5 components of Emotional Intelligence]

Current Affairs: Space Governance

Q5. The rapid commercialization of outer space has outpaced the existing international legal framework. Evaluate the challenges posed by "Mega-Constellations" and "Space Debris" to the sustainability of the Space Commons.

Sample Answer: The "New Space" era is characterized by a shift from state-led exploration to private-sector dominance. While this has lowered the cost of access to space, it has created a "Tragedy of the Commons" in Earth's orbits, threatening the long-term sustainability of space activities.

Challenges to Space Governance:

1. **Mega-Constellations:** Companies like SpaceX (Starlink) and Amazon (Project Kuiper) are launching thousands of satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). This leads to **orbital crowding**, increasing the risk of collisions and interfering with ground-based astronomy.
2. **Space Debris and the Kessler Syndrome:** With over 30,000 trackable pieces of "space junk," the threat of a "Kessler Syndrome"—a chain reaction of collisions rendering certain orbits unusable—is no longer theoretical.
3. **Outdated Legal Framework:** The **Outer Space Treaty (1967)** and the **Liability Convention (1972)** were designed for a world where only a few nations had space capabilities. They lack clear rules on:
 - *Space Traffic Management (STM).*
 - *Commercial mining of celestial bodies.*



- *Enforcement mechanisms for debris mitigation.*

Way Forward:

- **Space Situational Awareness (SSA):** Global cooperation in tracking and sharing data on space objects is mandatory. India's **Project NETRA** is a step in this direction.
- **Normative Evolution:** Transitioning from "voluntary guidelines" (like the UNCOUOS guidelines) to a legally binding "International Space Traffic Code."
- **Active Debris Removal (ADR):** Incentivizing technologies that can "harpoon" or "net" dead satellites to clear the orbital paths.

Conclusion: Space is a "Global Commons." If the current "Gold Rush" mentality continues without robust governance, we risk closing the high frontier for future generations. A new "Space Treaty 2.0" that balances commercial innovation with environmental stewardship is the need of the hour.

