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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 01/05/2026 (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 ideological foundations of early Indian nationalism:

1. The early nationalist leadership consistently rejected the use of constitutional methods because they believed British rule was structurally incapable of reform.
2. The idea of economic critique of colonialism preceded political demands for self-government in the Indian nationalist discourse.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. Early nationalists (Moderates) like Dadabhai Naoroji, Gokhale, and Pherozeshah Mehta strongly believed in **constitutional agitation**, petitions, resolutions, and dialogue. They did not initially reject constitutional methods; rather, they considered them the most effective tools under British liberal traditions.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Economic nationalism—particularly the critique of colonial drain of wealth—**preceded explicit political demands** like Swaraj. Naoroji's Drain Theory and Ranade's economic arguments laid the ideological base before political self-rule became a mass demand.

Thus, only one statement is correct.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the historical significance of the Ilbert Bill controversy?

- (a) It marked the first organised nationalist movement involving Indian peasants.
- (b) It exposed racial discrimination as a central contradiction of British liberalism in India.
- (c) It directly led to the formation of the Indian National Congress.
- (d) It resulted in the immediate withdrawal of British judicial authority over Indians.

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

The Ilbert Bill (1883) proposed allowing Indian judges to try European offenders, triggering fierce opposition from the European community. The controversy **exposed the racial hypocrisy** of British claims of equality, liberty, and rule of law.

It did not involve peasants (a), nor did it directly form the INC (c), though it contributed to political consciousness. British judicial authority was not withdrawn (d); instead, the bill was diluted.

Hence, option (b) is the most accurate analytical explanation.



Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Swadeshi Movement:

1. The movement led to the emergence of parallel national institutions in education and industry.
2. It witnessed a complete rejection of constitutional politics across all regions of India.
3. The ideological divide between Moderates and Extremists crystallised during this phase.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. Institutions like National College (Calcutta), Bengal Chemical Works, and indigenous enterprises emerged as part of constructive swadeshi efforts.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. While Extremists rejected constitutional methods, Moderates continued to believe in them, and regional variations existed. The rejection was neither complete nor uniform.

Statement 3 is **correct**. The Swadeshi phase intensified ideological differences, culminating in the Surat Split (1907).

Thus, two statements are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding revolutionary nationalism in India before the First World War:

1. Revolutionary groups primarily emerged in regions where constitutional politics had failed to produce political concessions.
2. Revolutionary nationalism was ideologically uniform across Bengal, Punjab, and Maharashtra.
3. The British response to revolutionary activities relied more on preventive detention than open trials.
4. Revolutionary movements failed to influence mainstream nationalist politics.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. Revolutionary nationalism gained ground where constitutional politics seemed ineffective, especially after repressive measures post-Swadeshi.



Statement 2 is **incorrect**. Ideology varied significantly—Bengal focused on secret societies, Punjab had diasporic and militaristic elements, while Maharashtra combined radicalism with social reform ideas.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Laws like the Defence of India Act, preventive detention, and internment were frequently used.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**. Revolutionary nationalism influenced nationalist rhetoric, British repression, and even Gandhian mass mobilisation indirectly.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason Type -

Assertion (A):

The Home Rule Movement failed to transform into a mass movement despite favourable international conditions.

Reason (R1):

The movement was largely confined to urban, educated Indians and lacked a peasant-based programme.

Reason (R2):

British authorities successfully co-opted Indian political elites through constitutional concessions.

- (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct and both explain A
- (b) Both R1 and R2 are correct but only R1 explains A
- (c) Only one of R1 and R2 is correct
- (d) Neither R1 nor R2 is correct

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

The Home Rule Movement (1916–17) did not evolve into a mass movement.

R1 is **correct**: It remained limited to educated urban groups and did not address agrarian distress or mobilise peasants.

R2 is **also correct**: British announcements like the August Declaration (1917) diluted urgency and placated elites.

Both reasons **jointly explain** why the movement failed to become a broad-based mass struggle.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Coconut Root Wilt Disease:

1. The disease is caused by a phytoplasma that affects the vascular system of coconut palms.
2. The disease is transmitted by an insect vector belonging to the leafhopper group.
3. Removal of infected palms is the only officially recommended control strategy.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. Coconut Root Wilt Disease is caused by a **phytoplasma**, which disrupts the vascular tissues, leading to yellowing and wilting.

Statement 2 is **correct**. The disease is transmitted by **leafhopper vectors**, especially *Proutista moesta*.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. The recommended strategy is **Integrated Disease Management**, including nutrient management, vector control, and intercropping; mass removal is not advised except in severe cases.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q2. With reference to Dugongs, consider the following:

1. They are exclusively found in freshwater ecosystems.
2. They are listed as “Critically Endangered” under the IUCN Red List.
3. India has identified dugongs as its national aquatic animal.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. Dugongs are **marine mammals** found in shallow coastal waters, seagrass meadows.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. Dugongs are listed as **Vulnerable**, not Critically Endangered.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Dugong has been declared **India’s national aquatic animal**.

Thus, only one statement is correct.



Q3. Which one of the following best describes the significance of the Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme?

- (a) It focuses on semiconductor fabrication through foreign direct investment
- (b) It aims at training manpower in chip design and system-level innovation
- (c) It is a production-linked incentive scheme for electronic manufacturing
- (d) It seeks to establish India's first commercial chip foundry

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

The **C2S Programme**, under MeitY, focuses on **training students and startups in chip design, embedded systems, and system-level innovation**, bridging academia and industry.

It is not an FDI scheme (a), not a PLI scheme (c), and does not establish a foundry (d).

Hence, option (b) is correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Second Range-wide Dolphin Survey in India:

- 1. It covers both riverine and marine dolphin species found in India.
- 2. The survey is implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- 3. It uses acoustic monitoring techniques in addition to visual census.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. The survey includes **river dolphins (Gangetic, Indus)** as well as **marine dolphins**.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. It is implemented by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through Wildlife Institute of India**, not directly by the Ministry alone.

Statement 3 is **correct**. **Acoustic methods** are used to detect dolphins in turbid waters.

Thus, only two statements are correct.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the BRICS Plus Naval Exercise:

- 1. The exercise includes naval forces from BRICS members along with invited partner countries.
- 2. It aims to enhance interoperability in maritime security and humanitarian assistance.
- 3. It is conducted under the institutional framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- 4. India has consistently participated in all editions of the exercise.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. “BRICS Plus” includes **non-BRICS invited partners**.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Objectives include **maritime security, HADR, and interoperability**.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. It is **not under SCO**; BRICS is a separate platform.

Statement 4 is **incorrect**. India’s participation has not been uniform across all editions.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q6. Mount Elbrus is located in:

- (a) The Balkan Mountains and is the highest peak of Europe
- (b) The Caucasus Mountains and is the highest peak of Russia
- (c) The Ural Mountains and marks the boundary of Europe and Asia
- (d) The Altai Mountains and is the highest volcanic peak of Asia

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Mount Elbrus is located in the **Caucasus Mountains of Russia** and is considered the **highest peak in Europe** by many geographers. It is a **dormant volcano**, but not in the Altai range.

Thus, option (b) is correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1 (World History)

Q1. “The First World War was not merely a military conflict but a structural breakdown of the 19th-century international order.”

Analyse the statement.

Model Answer

The First World War (1914–1918) represented a decisive rupture in the long-standing 19th-century international system rather than just a contest of arms. The war exposed the fragility of the European balance



of power and marked the collapse of the political, economic, and ideological frameworks that had governed international relations since the Congress of Vienna (1815).

Politically, the war destroyed major empires—the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, Russian, and German—each of which had been pillars of the old order. Their collapse led to the emergence of new nation-states in Central and Eastern Europe, many of which were ethnically fragmented and politically unstable. This shattered the conservative equilibrium that had restrained revolutionary nationalism for nearly a century.

Economically, the war ended the era of laissez-faire capitalism and free trade that characterised the pre-war world. Wartime mobilisation forced states to intervene heavily in economies through price controls, rationing, and state planning. Post-war reconstruction, war debts, and reparations destabilised global finance, contributing to inflation, unemployment, and eventually the Great Depression.

Ideologically, the war discredited classical liberalism and the belief in inevitable progress. The Russian Revolution of 1917 introduced socialism as a global ideological alternative, while the social trauma of the war later facilitated the rise of fascism and authoritarian regimes in Europe. Thus, the ideological consensus of the 19th century collapsed.

At the international level, the war exposed the inadequacy of secret diplomacy, alliance systems, and militarism. The creation of the League of Nations represented an attempt to replace power politics with collective security, though its weaknesses became evident in the inter-war period.

In essence, the First World War dismantled the foundations of the old international order and inaugurated a turbulent era marked by ideological conflict, economic instability, and recurrent crises, ultimately paving the way for the Second World War.

GS–2 (Polity, Governance, International Relations)

Q2. Critically examine the role of Parliamentary Committees in ensuring executive accountability in India.

Model Answer

Parliamentary Committees are central to India's system of executive accountability, functioning as specialised bodies that enable detailed scrutiny of legislation, public expenditure, and policy implementation. Given the increasing complexity of governance and limited time for parliamentary debate, committees act as the “workhorses” of Parliament.

One major strength of Parliamentary Committees is their **non-partisan and expert-driven functioning**. Members across party lines deliberate in closed settings, encouraging constructive debate rather than political grandstanding. Department-related Standing Committees (DRSCs), for instance, examine Demands for Grants, policy frameworks, and Bills in detail, enhancing legislative quality.

Committees such as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) play a vital role in financial accountability by scrutinising audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). They ensure that public money is spent efficiently, lawfully, and for intended purposes.

However, the effectiveness of committees has declined in recent years. A growing number of Bills have been passed without being referred to committees, reducing opportunities for stakeholder consultation and evidence-based lawmaking. Committee recommendations are advisory in nature and often ignored by the executive, weakening follow-up accountability.



Additionally, committees lack independent research capacity and depend heavily on government-provided data, which can compromise objective scrutiny. Frequent disruptions in Parliament also reduce the time available for committee work.

To strengthen committee oversight, reforms such as mandatory referral of major Bills, greater transparency in implementation of recommendations, enhanced research support, and longer tenures for committee members are required.

In conclusion, while Parliamentary Committees remain indispensable for executive accountability, their potential can only be realised through institutional strengthening and renewed political commitment to parliamentary democracy.

GS–3 (Economy, Environment, Security)

Q3. Discuss how climate change is emerging as a non-traditional security challenge for India.

Model Answer

Climate change has evolved into a critical non-traditional security challenge for India, transcending environmental concerns to impact economic stability, social cohesion, and national security. Unlike conventional threats, climate change operates as a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

India's agricultural sector, which supports nearly half the population, is highly climate-sensitive. Erratic monsoons, rising temperatures, and frequent droughts threaten food security and farmers' livelihoods, potentially increasing rural distress and migration. Such migration, when unmanaged, can strain urban infrastructure and fuel social tensions.

Water security is another major concern. Melting Himalayan glaciers and unpredictable rainfall patterns affect river flows, intensifying inter-state and transboundary water disputes. Climate-induced water scarcity can aggravate regional conflicts, especially in already stressed basins.

From a security perspective, climate change impacts border management and disaster response. Coastal erosion and sea-level rise threaten naval installations and island territories, while extreme weather events increase the burden on armed forces for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

Climate change also has geopolitical implications. India's neighbourhood, particularly South Asia, is highly climate-vulnerable. Natural disasters and resource scarcity in neighbouring states can lead to instability, refugee flows, and increased humanitarian responsibilities for India.

While India has adopted initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change and disaster-resilient infrastructure, climate adaptation and mitigation need deeper integration with national security planning.

Thus, climate change must be recognised not merely as an environmental issue but as a core strategic challenge requiring coordinated action across economic, diplomatic, and defence domains.



GS-4 (Ethics, Integrity, Aptitude)

Q4. “Ethical governance requires not only personal integrity but also institutional safeguards.”

Discuss with suitable examples.

Model Answer

Ethical governance is a combination of individual moral conduct and robust institutional frameworks. While personal integrity of public officials is essential, it alone cannot ensure ethical outcomes without systemic safeguards that promote transparency and accountability.

Personal integrity involves honesty, impartiality, and commitment to public service. Civil servants with strong ethical values can resist undue influence, uphold constitutional principles, and prioritise public interest. However, reliance solely on individual morality is risky, as personal values vary and ethical fatigue can set in under systemic pressures.

Institutional safeguards provide structural reinforcement to ethical behaviour. Mechanisms such as independent vigilance bodies, audit institutions, and judicial oversight reduce discretion and deter misconduct. For example, the Comptroller and Auditor General ensures financial accountability irrespective of individual honesty.

Transparency tools like the Right to Information Act empower citizens to act as watchdogs, making governance more open. Similarly, clear rules, codified procedures, and digitisation reduce opportunities for corruption by minimising human discretion.

Conversely, absence of institutional safeguards can undermine even well-intentioned individuals. A system that rewards compliance over conscience or lacks protection for whistle-blowers discourages ethical conduct.

Therefore, ethical governance requires a dual approach: nurturing ethical values through training and leadership, while simultaneously strengthening institutions that enforce accountability. Sustainable integrity emerges when individual virtue and institutional design reinforce each other.

Current Affairs (India's Minerals Diplomacy)

Q5. Analyse the significance of India's minerals diplomacy in the context of global energy transition and strategic autonomy.

Model Answer

India's minerals diplomacy has emerged as a crucial pillar of its foreign policy, driven by the global energy transition and the need for strategic autonomy. The shift towards renewable energy, electric mobility, and advanced manufacturing has sharply increased demand for critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements, and copper.

India's domestic reserves of many critical minerals are limited, making it heavily import-dependent. This creates vulnerabilities in supply chains, particularly given the concentration of mineral processing in a few countries. Minerals diplomacy seeks to mitigate these risks by securing diversified and reliable access through international partnerships.

India has pursued bilateral and multilateral agreements with mineral-rich countries in Latin America, Africa, and Australia for exploration, mining, and processing. Initiatives such as overseas asset acquisition by Indian



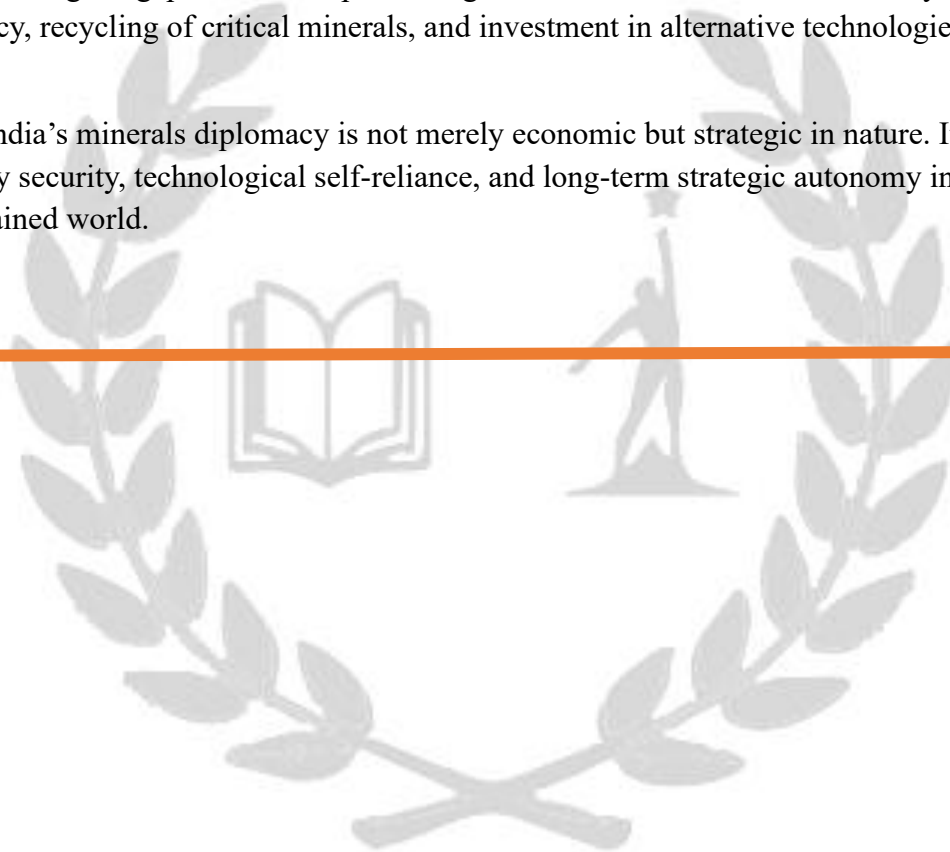
public sector enterprises and participation in global mineral supply chains aim to reduce strategic dependence.

Minerals diplomacy also complements India's clean energy ambitions. Securing lithium and cobalt is essential for battery manufacturing, which underpins electric vehicles and grid-scale energy storage. Without assured access, India's energy transition and climate commitments could be jeopardised.

Strategically, minerals diplomacy strengthens India's geopolitical positioning. By collaborating with like-minded countries, India reduces exposure to coercive supply disruptions and enhances its role in shaping global norms around responsible and sustainable mining.

However, challenges remain. Competition from other major economies, environmental concerns in mining regions, and technological gaps in mineral processing need to be addressed. Domestically, reforms in exploration policy, recycling of critical minerals, and investment in alternative technologies are equally important.

In conclusion, India's minerals diplomacy is not merely economic but strategic in nature. It is vital for achieving energy security, technological self-reliance, and long-term strategic autonomy in an increasingly resource-constrained world.



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