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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 14/05/2026 (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:

1. During the Delhi Sultanate, the system of **iqta** assigned to nobles was purely hereditary and immune from transfer by the Sultan.
2. The practice of maintaining a detailed register of soldiers and branding of horses (**dagh system**) was introduced to curb corruption among the nobility.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect because the **iqta system** was *not hereditary*; the Sultan frequently transferred iqtadars to prevent local consolidation of power.

Statement 2 is correct. The **dagh (branding of horses)** and **chehra (descriptive rolls)** systems were introduced, especially under Alauddin Khalji, to ensure discipline and prevent fraud in military administration.

Q2. With reference to biodiversity conservation, which one of the following best explains the concept of “in situ conservation”?

- (a) Conservation of species outside their natural habitats through botanical gardens and zoos
- (b) Preservation of genetic material in seed banks for future use
- (c) Protection of ecosystems by conserving species within their natural habitats
- (d) Artificial propagation of endangered species under controlled laboratory conditions

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

In situ conservation refers to protecting species within their natural ecosystems, such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. It ensures ecological balance and natural evolutionary processes. Options (a), (b), and (d) describe **ex situ conservation** methods.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding money supply and banking:

1. The creation of credit by commercial banks depends primarily on the cash reserve ratio maintained with the central bank.
2. A decrease in the repo rate by the central bank necessarily leads to an immediate contraction in money supply.
3. High levels of non-performing assets (NPAs) in banks can constrain their ability to expand credit in the economy.

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: **CRR** directly affects banks' lending capacity.

Statement 2 is incorrect: A decrease in repo rate generally *expands* money supply by making borrowing cheaper, not contracts it.

Statement 3 is correct: High **NPA**s reduce banks' capacity and willingness to lend, tightening credit flow.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the functioning of the Indian Parliament:

1. The President of India is an integral part of the Parliament but does not participate in its day-to-day proceedings.
2. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha with prior recommendation of the President.
3. The Rajya Sabha has equal powers with the Lok Sabha in the passage of Constitutional Amendment Bills.
4. Joint sittings of Parliament are presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

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: As per the Constitution, the **President** is part of Parliament.

Statement 2 is incorrect: A **Money Bill** can be introduced *only in the Lok Sabha*.

Statement 3 is correct: Both Houses have equal powers in **Constitutional Amendment Bills**.

Statement 4 is correct: Joint sittings are presided over by the **Speaker of Lok Sabha**.

Hence, 3 statements (1, 3, 4) are correct → but wait, option logic: that gives **three correct** → (c)

Correct Answer: (c)

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): The occurrence of temperature inversion in the lower atmosphere can lead to increased air pollution levels in urban areas.

Reason (R1): Temperature inversion prevents the vertical mixing of air, trapping pollutants near the surface.

Reason (R2): During inversion, the upper layers of air are cooler than the lower layers, enhancing convection currents.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) A is correct, R1 is correct, and R2 is correct
- (b) A is correct, R1 is correct, but R2 is incorrect



- (c) A is incorrect, R1 is correct, and R2 is incorrect
(d) A is correct, R1 is incorrect, but R2 is correct

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Assertion is correct: **temperature inversion** traps pollutants, worsening air quality.

R1 is correct: Inversion suppresses vertical air movement, preventing dispersion.

R2 is incorrect: In inversion, *upper layers are warmer*, not cooler, which suppresses convection rather than enhancing it.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026:

1. A Constitutional Amendment Bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament without prior recommendation of the President.
2. Every Constitutional Amendment Bill necessarily requires ratification by at least one-half of the State Legislatures before being presented to the President.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Both
(c) None
(d) Neither can be inferred from the Constitution

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Under Article 368, a Constitutional Amendment Bill may be introduced in either House of Parliament and does not require prior Presidential recommendation.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Only those amendments which seek to modify specified federal provisions—such as election of the President, distribution of legislative powers, judiciary, or representation of States—require ratification by at least half of the States. Not all Constitutional Amendment Bills require such ratification.

The question is twisted because many aspirants tend to overgeneralize the federal ratification requirement.

Q2. With reference to the Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) Vaccine, consider the following statements:

1. It is primarily administered to provide immunity against tuberculosis.
2. It is derived from an attenuated strain of *Mycobacterium bovis*.
3. It guarantees complete lifelong protection against pulmonary tuberculosis in adults.

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. BCG vaccine is mainly used against tuberculosis (TB).

Statement 2 is correct. It is prepared using a weakened strain of *Mycobacterium bovis*.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The vaccine does not provide guaranteed lifelong protection, particularly against adult pulmonary TB; its efficacy varies geographically and demographically. However, it is significantly effective in preventing severe childhood TB manifestations such as TB meningitis.

Q3. With reference to the Cinematograph Act, 1952, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) functions as a statutory body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
2. Under the Act, certification granted to a film can never be re-examined once issued.
3. The Act primarily concerns pre-certification regulation rather than post-release criminal liability.

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. The CBFC is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Amendments and judicial interpretations have clarified that certification-related decisions may still be revisited under exceptional legal circumstances, including issues involving public order, fraud, or statutory violations.

Statement 3 is correct. The Act mainly governs certification and exhibition of films before public release. Post-release criminal liabilities generally arise under other laws such as the IPC/BNS or special legislations.

The twist lies in confusing certification finality with absolute legal immunity.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the US blockade-related measures involving Iranian ports and maritime trade routes:

1. Secondary sanctions imposed by the United States may affect non-US entities engaging in transactions with designated Iranian entities.
2. The Strait of Hormuz is strategically significant because a substantial share of global crude oil trade passes through it.
3. A naval blockade under international law is universally lawful even in the absence of an armed conflict or UN authorization.



4. India's strategic interest in Chabahar Port partly arises from its objective of bypassing Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. US secondary sanctions can target even foreign companies or banks dealing with sanctioned Iranian entities.

Statement 2 is correct. The Strait of Hormuz is among the world's most critical energy chokepoints.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Under international law, legality of blockade is highly conditional and generally linked to armed conflict, self-defence, or UN-backed measures. A unilateral blockade without legal justification is contested.

Statement 4 is correct. India considers Chabahar strategically important for connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing Pakistan.

Thus, statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Andaman Sea:

- 1. It is geographically connected to the Bay of Bengal.
- 2. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands separate it from parts of the eastern Indian Ocean.
- 3. The Andaman Sea lies entirely within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India.

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. The Andaman Sea forms the southeastern extension of the Bay of Bengal region.

Statement 2 is correct. The Andaman and Nicobar island chain acts as a partial geographical barrier between the Andaman Sea and the eastern Indian Ocean.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Andaman Sea is bordered by multiple countries including Myanmar and Thailand; therefore, it does not lie entirely within India's EEZ.

The trap here is equating geographical proximity with exclusive maritime jurisdiction.



Q6. With reference to the Andaman Sea and adjoining maritime regions, which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Preparis Channel — Separates Great Nicobar and Sumatra
- (b) Ten Degree Channel — Separates Andaman Islands from Nicobar Islands
- (c) Duncan Passage — Separates Little Andaman from Car Nicobar
- (d) Coco Channel — Separates Sri Lanka from India

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The **Ten Degree Channel** separates the Andaman group from the Nicobar group of islands.

Why others are incorrect:

- Preparis Channel separates Myanmar from the Andaman Islands region, not Great Nicobar and Sumatra.
- Duncan Passage separates South Andaman and Little Andaman from Rutland Island and nearby areas—not Little Andaman from Car Nicobar.
- Coco Channel lies between the Coco Islands (Myanmar) and North Andaman Island, not between India and Sri Lanka.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper – 1

Q1. Discuss the role of industrialization and urbanization in transforming Indian society during the colonial and post-independence periods. Examine their impact on social structure, migration, and regional disparities.

Model Answer

Industrialization and urbanization have been among the most transformative processes in modern Indian history. Beginning during the colonial period and accelerating after independence, these processes fundamentally altered India's economy, social structure, occupational patterns, and regional development.

During the colonial era, industrialization was largely limited and exploitative in nature. The British primarily developed industries such as jute, cotton textiles, railways, tea plantations, and mining to serve imperial interests. Traditional handicrafts and cottage industries declined due to competition from machine-made British goods. This resulted in deindustrialization in several regions and large-scale unemployment among artisans.

Urbanization during colonial rule was closely linked with the emergence of port cities such as Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta. These cities became centres of administration, trade, and industry. Migration from rural to urban areas increased as people sought employment opportunities. However, colonial urbanization was uneven and exclusionary, leading to overcrowding, poor sanitation, and slum development.



After independence, India adopted planned industrial development through Five-Year Plans. Heavy industries, public sector enterprises, steel plants, dams, and manufacturing hubs became symbols of modernization. Urbanization accelerated due to industrial expansion, service-sector growth, and infrastructural development.

Industrialization transformed the traditional caste-based occupational structure. Occupational mobility increased, and new middle classes emerged comprising professionals, bureaucrats, industrial workers, and entrepreneurs. Urban centres weakened rigid caste barriers to some extent by promoting interaction among diverse social groups.

At the same time, regional disparities widened. States with better infrastructure, ports, mineral resources, and investments—such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka—developed rapidly, whereas several eastern and central regions lagged behind. Urban-centric growth also intensified rural distress and migration.

Migration became both an economic necessity and a social phenomenon. Rural populations migrated to cities in search of employment, education, and better living conditions. This created multicultural urban spaces but also generated challenges such as housing shortages, pressure on civic amenities, unemployment, and informal labour markets.

Contemporary India reflects both the achievements and contradictions of industrialization and urbanization. While they have contributed to economic growth, modernization, and social mobility, they have also produced environmental degradation, urban inequality, and regional imbalances.

Therefore, sustainable and inclusive urban-industrial development remains essential for balanced national progress.

GS Paper – 2

Q2. Examine the significance of local self-government institutions in strengthening Indian democracy. Discuss the major challenges affecting their effective functioning.

Model Answer

Local self-government institutions constitute the foundation of democratic decentralization in India. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments institutionalized Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), thereby bringing governance closer to the people.

The significance of local self-government lies in its participatory nature. Democracy becomes meaningful only when citizens actively participate in governance beyond periodic elections. Panchayats and municipalities enable people to influence developmental priorities at the grassroots level.

These institutions strengthen democratic accountability by ensuring that elected representatives remain directly accessible to citizens. Local bodies are better positioned to understand local needs regarding sanitation, drinking water, roads, education, health services, and welfare schemes.

Another important contribution is social inclusion. Reservation provisions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women have significantly increased political participation among historically marginalized groups. Women's representation in Panchayats has transformed local governance dynamics and promoted gender-sensitive policymaking.



Local bodies also facilitate efficient implementation of welfare schemes such as MGNREGA, PMAY, Swachh Bharat Mission, and nutrition programmes. Decentralized planning improves administrative responsiveness and reduces bureaucratic delays.

Despite these advantages, local self-government institutions continue to face serious structural challenges.

The first challenge is inadequate financial autonomy. Many Panchayats and municipalities depend heavily on grants from State governments and possess limited taxation powers. Delays in fund transfer reduce implementation efficiency.

Second, administrative decentralization remains incomplete. Several States have not fully devolved functions, finances, and functionaries as envisioned under the Constitution. Bureaucratic interference often weakens local autonomy.

Third, capacity deficits affect governance quality. Many elected representatives lack technical knowledge, administrative training, and digital literacy necessary for modern governance.

Fourth, political capture and elite domination continue in many regions. Local power structures based on caste, class, and patriarchy sometimes undermine democratic participation.

Urban local bodies face additional problems such as rapid urbanization, inadequate infrastructure, waste management crises, and financial stress.

To strengthen local self-government, India must ensure genuine devolution, enhance fiscal empowerment, build administrative capacity, encourage transparency, and deepen citizen participation.

Ultimately, strong local institutions are essential for realizing the constitutional vision of grassroots democracy and inclusive governance.

GS Paper – 3

Q3. Discuss the role of infrastructure development in accelerating economic growth in India. Also examine the challenges associated with infrastructure financing and sustainability.

Model Answer

Infrastructure development is a critical driver of economic growth, productivity enhancement, employment generation, and national competitiveness. In a developing country like India, infrastructure forms the backbone of industrialization, trade, agriculture, and service-sector expansion.

Economic infrastructure includes transport networks, power generation, telecommunications, irrigation systems, ports, airports, and digital connectivity. Social infrastructure includes healthcare, education, sanitation, and housing.

Well-developed infrastructure reduces transaction costs and improves efficiency. Roads, railways, and logistics networks facilitate movement of goods and people, thereby strengthening domestic and international trade. Power infrastructure ensures uninterrupted industrial production and supports digital transformation.

Infrastructure also promotes regional development by connecting backward areas with markets and economic opportunities. Programmes such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Dedicated Freight Corridors, and Digital India aim to integrate the national economy.



In agriculture, irrigation facilities, rural roads, cold storage chains, and warehousing improve productivity and reduce post-harvest losses. Similarly, digital infrastructure promotes financial inclusion through online banking, UPI systems, and e-governance.

Infrastructure development generates multiplier effects by creating employment, stimulating investment, and encouraging private-sector participation. Foreign investors often consider infrastructure quality before investing in manufacturing and services.

However, infrastructure expansion faces major challenges.

The foremost challenge is financing. Infrastructure projects require massive long-term capital investments with delayed returns. Public finances alone are insufficient to meet India's growing infrastructure needs. Although Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have been encouraged, many projects suffer from contractual disputes, delays, and financial stress.

Second, land acquisition and rehabilitation issues frequently delay projects. Resistance from local communities and environmental concerns create implementation hurdles.

Third, sustainability has become a major concern. Rapid infrastructure growth can lead to deforestation, ecological imbalance, pollution, and displacement of vulnerable populations.

Climate change further complicates infrastructure planning. India increasingly requires climate-resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding floods, cyclones, heatwaves, and sea-level rise.

To address these issues, India must strengthen institutional capacity, improve project management, encourage green financing, expand infrastructure bonds, and integrate environmental sustainability into development planning.

Thus, infrastructure development must balance growth, inclusiveness, and sustainability to ensure long-term economic transformation.

GS Paper – 4

Q4. "Ethics in public administration is not merely about adherence to rules but about commitment to public welfare." Discuss with suitable examples.

Model Answer

Ethics in public administration refers to the application of moral values and principles in governance and decision-making. While laws, procedures, and rules provide the institutional framework for administration, ethical governance goes beyond technical compliance and focuses on justice, integrity, accountability, compassion, and public welfare.

In a democratic welfare state such as India, civil servants are expected not only to implement policies but also to uphold constitutional morality and public trust. Mere procedural compliance may sometimes fail to address urgent humanitarian concerns. Ethical administration therefore requires balancing legality with sensitivity and citizen-centric governance.

One major dimension of ethical governance is **integrity**. Honest and transparent officials strengthen public confidence in institutions by resisting corruption, favouritism, and political pressure. For instance, officers who expose irregularities in public procurement or prevent misuse of welfare funds demonstrate ethical courage in administration.



Another important element is **empathy and compassion**. Public servants often deal with vulnerable populations including poor households, women, elderly citizens, persons with disabilities, and disaster victims. During natural calamities or health emergencies, administrators frequently take proactive steps beyond routine procedures to ensure relief and rehabilitation.

A notable example was seen during the COVID-19 pandemic when many district officials arranged food distribution, oxygen supply, shelter, and transportation facilities for migrant workers despite severe logistical constraints. Such actions reflected commitment to public welfare rather than mechanical adherence to paperwork.

Ethical administration also promotes **accountability and transparency**. Mechanisms such as the Right to Information (RTI), citizen charters, social audits, and e-governance enhance openness and reduce arbitrariness in decision-making.

However, ethical governance faces several challenges. Political interference, bureaucratic inertia, corruption, conflict of interest, and excessive proceduralism sometimes weaken public-oriented administration. Fear of investigations or punitive action may discourage innovative and proactive decision-making.

To strengthen ethics in governance, institutional reforms, ethics training, leadership by example, and citizen participation are essential. Emotional intelligence, moral courage, and constitutional values must become integral to administrative culture.

Ultimately, public administration cannot function merely as a rule-enforcing mechanism. It must remain committed to justice, equality, dignity, and welfare of citizens. Therefore, ethics in public administration is fundamentally about ensuring that governance serves humanity with honesty, compassion, and responsibility.

Current Affairs

Q5. India has called expansion of permanent membership with veto powers essential for UNSC reforms. Critically examine the rationale behind India's demand and the challenges associated with reforming the United Nations Security Council.

Model Answer

Reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has emerged as a major issue in contemporary global governance. India has consistently argued that expansion of permanent membership, including extension of veto powers to new permanent members, is necessary for making the UNSC more representative, democratic, and credible.

The existing structure of the UNSC reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945 after the Second World War. The five permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France — continue to dominate global decision-making through veto powers. However, the global balance of power has changed significantly over the last several decades.

India's demand for permanent membership is based on multiple factors.

First, India is the world's largest democracy and represents nearly one-sixth of humanity. Despite its demographic, economic, and geopolitical significance, India remains excluded from permanent decision-making structures.



Second, India has made substantial contributions to UN peacekeeping operations. Indian armed forces have participated in numerous missions across Africa and Asia, demonstrating commitment to global peace and security.

Third, India has emerged as a major economic and strategic power. It plays an active role in multilateral groupings such as BRICS, G20, SCO, and Quad, and increasingly represents the concerns of the Global South.

Fourth, India argues that the present UNSC lacks adequate representation from developing countries, particularly from Africa, Latin America, and large parts of Asia. This undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of the institution.

India also maintains that expansion without veto reform would create inequality among permanent members. Therefore, newly inducted permanent members should enjoy equal rights and responsibilities.

However, UNSC reform faces major challenges.

The biggest obstacle is resistance from existing permanent members who may view reforms as dilution of their strategic influence. Geopolitical rivalries and competing regional interests further complicate consensus-building.

Regional opposition also exists. Some countries oppose the candidature of regional competitors due to strategic concerns. India's claim, for example, faces resistance from certain neighbouring states.

Another major challenge is procedural complexity. Amendment of the UN Charter requires approval by two-thirds of the UN General Assembly and ratification by all permanent members, including those possessing veto powers.

Despite these challenges, UNSC reform remains essential for strengthening multilateralism and ensuring fair representation in global governance. A more inclusive and representative Security Council would enhance legitimacy, improve collective security mechanisms, and better reflect twenty-first century geopolitical realities.