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# VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

## DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

**DATE: 20/05/2026 (WEDNESDAY)**

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



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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. With reference to the religious practices during the Later Vedic Age, consider the following statements:

1. The prominence of sacrificial rituals led to the relative decline of simple pastoral deities in religious life.
2. The Upanishadic thinkers completely rejected the authority of the Vedas and sacrificial rituals.

How many of the above statements are correct?

**Options:**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined

**Correct Answer: (a) Only one**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct. During the Later Vedic phase, elaborate yajnas and priestly rituals became dominant. Earlier deities associated with natural and pastoral life gradually lost relative importance, while Prajapati, Vishnu, and Rudra gained prominence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Upanishadic thinkers criticized excessive ritualism and emphasized knowledge (*jnana*), self-realization, and Brahman, but they did not completely reject Vedic authority. The Upanishads themselves are part of Vedic literature.

Hence, only one statement is correct.

2. Which one of the following best explains the phenomenon of biological magnification in an ecosystem?

**Options:**

- (a) Increase in biomass at successive trophic levels due to greater energy availability
- (b) Progressive accumulation of non-biodegradable toxic substances at higher trophic levels
- (c) Gradual expansion of habitat range of invasive alien species in a food chain
- (d) Natural enrichment of soil nutrients through repeated decomposition cycles

**Correct Answer: (b) Progressive accumulation of non-biodegradable toxic substances at higher trophic levels**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Biological magnification (biomagnification) refers to the increasing concentration of toxic, non-biodegradable substances such as DDT, mercury, or PCBs as one moves upward through trophic levels in a food chain.

Primary producers absorb small quantities, herbivores consume larger cumulative amounts, and top carnivores accumulate the maximum concentration because these substances are not efficiently metabolized or excreted.

Option (a) relates to ecological pyramids and energy flow, not biomagnification.



**3. Consider the following statements regarding inflation and monetary management in India:**

1. Core inflation excludes food and fuel inflation because these categories exhibit high price volatility.
2. A rise in repo rate necessarily reduces inflation immediately by lowering aggregate demand.
3. Cost-push inflation may occur even during periods of stagnant aggregate demand.

How many of the above statements are correct?

**Options:**

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

**Correct Answer: (b) Only two**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct. Core inflation excludes food and fuel prices because these are highly volatile due to seasonal and external factors.

Statement 2 is incorrect. An increase in repo rate may reduce inflationary pressure over time by reducing liquidity and credit expansion, but the impact is neither immediate nor guaranteed.

Statement 3 is correct. Cost-push inflation arises from increased production costs (fuel, wages, raw materials) and may coexist with weak demand and slow growth.

Thus, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

**4. Consider the following statements regarding the functioning of the Indian Parliament:**

1. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha on the recommendation of the President.
2. The Rajya Sabha can amend a Money Bill, and the Lok Sabha is constitutionally bound to consider such amendments.
3. A joint sitting of Parliament can be summoned for a Constitutional Amendment Bill in case of deadlock between the two Houses.
4. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the final authority to decide whether a Bill is a Money Bill.

How many of the above statements are correct?

**Options:**

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

**Correct Answer: (b) Only two**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha with prior recommendation of the President.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Rajya Sabha can only recommend amendments within 14 days; Lok Sabha may accept or reject them.



Statement 3 is incorrect. Joint sitting under Article 108 does not apply to Constitutional Amendment Bills.

Statement 4 is correct. The Speaker's decision regarding whether a Bill is a Money Bill is final.

Therefore, Statements 1 and 4 are correct.

### 5. Assertion – Reason type -

**Assertion (A):** Tropical cyclones generally weaken after making landfall.

**Reason (R1):** Land surfaces reduce the continuous supply of moisture necessary for sustaining latent heat release.

**Reason (R2):** Surface friction over land disrupts the organized cyclonic circulation and lowers wind intensity.

#### Options:

- (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct, and both correctly explain A
- (b) Both R1 and R2 are correct, but only one of them explains A
- (c) R1 is correct, but R2 is incorrect
- (d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct

**Correct Answer: (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct, and both correctly explain A**

#### Detailed Explanation:

The assertion is correct. Tropical cyclones derive energy primarily from warm ocean waters and latent heat released during condensation.

Reason 1 is correct because once the cyclone moves over land, its supply of warm, moist air from the ocean is cut off.

Reason 2 is also correct because increased surface friction over land disrupts the cyclone's organized circulation and weakens wind intensity.

Hence, both reasons correctly explain the assertion.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

6. With reference to “Mission Drishti” launched by GalaxEye, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to deploy a constellation of satellites capable of providing all-weather Earth observation capability.
2. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology enables imaging even through cloud cover and during nighttime conditions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

#### Options:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined



**Correct Answer: (b) Both**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct. Mission Drishti is associated with development of a satellite constellation intended for persistent Earth observation and strategic surveillance.

Statement 2 is also correct. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) actively emits microwave signals and can capture imagery irrespective of cloud cover, haze, smoke, or darkness, making it highly useful for defence surveillance, disaster response, and border monitoring.

Thus, both statements are correct.

**7. Which one of the following best explains the primary objective behind the deployment of a Cell Broadcast System (CBS)?**

**Options:**

- (a) To provide encrypted satellite-based communication to armed forces during conflict situations
- (b) To enable location-specific mass dissemination of emergency alerts without network congestion
- (c) To establish direct communication between telecom operators and internet service providers
- (d) To facilitate blockchain-based storage of citizen communication records for national security

**Correct Answer: (b) To enable location-specific mass dissemination of emergency alerts without network congestion**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Cell Broadcast System (CBS) is used to send emergency alerts to all mobile users within a defined geographic area.

Unlike SMS-based alerts, CBS broadcasts messages simultaneously through cell towers and does not face significant delays during network congestion.

It is particularly useful during:

- earthquakes
- tsunamis
- cyclones
- industrial disasters
- security emergencies

Hence, option (b) is correct.

**8. Consider the following statements regarding the recently released guidance document on Diabetes Mellitus in Children:**

1. Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus in children primarily results from autoimmune destruction of pancreatic beta cells.
2. Childhood obesity and sedentary lifestyle can contribute to rising incidence of Type 2 diabetes among children.
3. Insulin therapy is generally unnecessary in Type 1 diabetes if dietary regulation is maintained effectively.



How many of the above statements are correct?

**Options:**

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

**Correct Answer: (b) Only two**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disorder causing destruction of insulin-producing pancreatic beta cells.

Statement 2 is correct. Increasing obesity, unhealthy diets, and reduced physical activity have contributed to rising Type 2 diabetes among children.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Type 1 diabetes involves absolute insulin deficiency, making insulin therapy essential for survival.

Therefore, only Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

**9. Consider the following statements regarding the military exercise “CINBAX-II 2026”:**

1. It is a bilateral military exercise conducted between India and Cambodia.
2. The exercise focuses primarily on counter-terrorism operations and United Nations peacekeeping scenarios.
3. Such military exercises enhance interoperability and coordinated operational capability between participating armed forces.

How many of the above statements are correct?

**Options:**

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

**Correct Answer: (c) All three**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct. CINBAX-II is a bilateral military exercise between India and Cambodia.

Statement 2 is correct. The exercise focuses on counter-terrorism drills and simulated UN peacekeeping operations.

Statement 3 is also correct. Joint military exercises improve:

- interoperability
- communication coordination
- tactical preparedness
- operational efficiency

Hence, all three statements are correct.

**10. With reference to *Prosopis juliflora*, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an invasive alien species introduced in several semi-arid regions of India.
2. The species is known to reduce native biodiversity and alter local ecological balance.
3. Its extensive root system can contribute to depletion of groundwater in water-stressed regions.
4. It is classified as an endemic species of the Western Ghats by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

How many of the above statements are correct?

**Options:**

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

**Correct Answer: (c) Only three**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct. *Prosopis juliflora* was introduced in India for afforestation and fuelwood purposes.

Statement 2 is correct. It aggressively invades habitats and suppresses native vegetation, thereby reducing biodiversity.

Statement 3 is correct. Its deep and extensive root system may worsen groundwater stress in ecologically fragile areas.

Statement 4 is incorrect. *Prosopis juliflora* is not endemic to the Western Ghats; it is an invasive alien species originating from the Americas.

Thus, only three statements are correct.

**11. Consider the following pairs regarding locations associated with Rajaji National Park:**

Pair River/Region	Associated with Rajaji National Park
1. Shivalik Hills	Yes
2. Ganga River	Yes
3. Nilgiri Hills	Yes
4. Dehradun–Haridwar region	Yes

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

**Options:**

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

**Correct Answer: (c) Only three**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Pair 1 is correctly matched. Rajaji National Park lies in the Shivalik range.

Pair 2 is correctly matched. The Ganga river ecosystem is associated with the broader park landscape.

Pair 3 is incorrect. Nilgiri Hills are located in southern India and have no connection with Rajaji National Park.

Pair 4 is correctly matched. Rajaji National Park extends across parts of Dehradun, Haridwar, and adjoining districts in Uttarakhand.

Therefore, three pairs are correctly matched.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS Paper – 1

**Q1. Drawing examples from themes discussed in NCERT Class 12 History book *Themes in Indian History*, examine how urban centres in ancient India reflected both economic specialization and social hierarchy.**

#### Sample Answer

Ancient Indian urban centres were not merely settlements of population concentration; they represented sophisticated socio-economic systems marked by occupational specialization, administrative organization, and deeply embedded social hierarchies. Urbanization in ancient India, especially during the Harappan period and later during the Mahajanapada age, reflected the gradual evolution of political authority, trade networks, and social differentiation.

[Relevant Picture Suggestion: Urban planning of Mohenjo-Daro showing drainage systems and granaries]

One of the most striking features of ancient urban centres was economic specialization. Archaeological findings from Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Lothal, and Dholavira reveal evidence of bead-making industries, metallurgy, pottery production, dockyards, and standardized weights and measures. Such specialization indicates the presence of skilled artisans and organized production systems. The existence of long-distance trade with Mesopotamia further demonstrates that cities acted as centres of commercial exchange and wealth accumulation.

The later urban centres of the Gangetic plains such as Pataliputra, Kaushambi, and Ujjain also reflected advanced economic functions. Guilds or 'shrenis' emerged as organized associations of merchants and craftsmen. These guilds regulated production, maintained quality, and influenced local administration. The use of punch-marked coins further indicates monetization of the economy and increasing commercial sophistication.

However, urban centres simultaneously reflected social hierarchy. In the Harappan civilization, differentiation in housing patterns suggests varying socio-economic status among residents. Large houses with private wells contrasted sharply with smaller dwellings, indicating unequal access to resources.



In later periods, the varna system increasingly shaped urban social relations. Brahmanas occupied positions of ritual authority, Kshatriyas dominated political power, Vaishyas controlled trade and commerce, while Shudras often performed labor-intensive occupations. Access to education, property, and social prestige was unequally distributed.

Religious institutions also contributed to social stratification. Temples and monasteries accumulated wealth and patronage from ruling elites and merchants, reinforcing hierarchical social structures.

Therefore, ancient Indian urbanization was not merely an economic phenomenon. It reflected a complex interaction between trade, governance, occupational specialization, and social inequality. Urban centres became symbols of both prosperity and structured hierarchy, shaping the trajectory of Indian civilization.

## GS Paper – 2

**Q2. Discuss the significance of local self-government institutions in strengthening Indian democracy. Also examine the major challenges limiting their effectiveness.**

### Sample Answer

Local self-government institutions constitute the foundation of democratic decentralization in India. Inspired by the vision of Mahatma Gandhi's Gram Swaraj and strengthened through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were envisioned as instruments of participatory democracy and grassroots governance.

[Relevant Picture Suggestion: Gram Sabha meeting in a village Panchayat]

The significance of local self-government lies primarily in democratic participation. These institutions bring governance closer to the people and allow citizens to directly engage in decision-making processes. Gram Sabhas provide a platform for discussion of local development issues, ensuring greater accountability and transparency.

Secondly, local bodies promote inclusive governance. Reservation for women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes has enabled historically marginalized communities to participate in governance. Women's representation in Panchayats has transformed rural political culture and improved focus on issues such as sanitation, education, drinking water, and health.

Thirdly, local governments improve administrative efficiency. Since local representatives better understand regional problems, they can formulate context-specific solutions. Rural roads, irrigation systems, primary healthcare, and waste management are often implemented more effectively through decentralized institutions.

Local self-government also strengthens federalism by distributing power beyond the Union and State governments. It creates a three-tier democratic structure and enhances political awareness among citizens.

However, despite constitutional status, several challenges continue to limit their effectiveness.

One major issue is inadequate financial autonomy. Many Panchayats remain dependent on state governments for grants and lack independent revenue-generating capacity. Delays in fund transfer weaken implementation of welfare schemes.

Secondly, administrative capacity remains weak. Many local bodies suffer from shortage of trained staff, technical expertise, and institutional infrastructure.



Political interference from state governments also reduces autonomy. State governments frequently supersede local bodies or restrict devolution of powers.

Social inequalities further weaken grassroots democracy. In many regions, caste hierarchies, patriarchy, and elite domination influence local decision-making. Proxy representation of women representatives remains another challenge.

Corruption and lack of transparency in local administration can also undermine public trust.

Thus, while local self-government institutions have deepened Indian democracy by promoting participation and inclusion, genuine decentralization requires greater fiscal autonomy, administrative reforms, capacity building, and social empowerment.

### GS Paper – 3

**Q3. Explain the role of science and technology in India's economic development. Discuss the challenges India faces in translating scientific innovation into inclusive growth.**

#### Sample Answer

Science and technology have emerged as critical drivers of India's economic transformation. From the Green Revolution to the digital economy, technological advancements have significantly contributed to productivity, industrialization, communication, healthcare, and governance.

[Relevant Picture Suggestion: ISRO launch vehicle and Digital India infrastructure]

One of the most important contributions of science and technology has been in agriculture. The Green Revolution introduced high-yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, irrigation systems, and mechanization, enabling India to achieve food security. Biotechnology and precision farming continue to improve agricultural productivity.

In the industrial sector, technology has increased manufacturing efficiency and global competitiveness. Automation, robotics, and digital platforms have enhanced production systems and supply chain management.

India's information technology sector represents a major success story. Cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune have become global IT hubs, generating employment and export earnings. Digital initiatives such as UPI, Aadhaar, and Digital India have revolutionized governance and financial inclusion.

Space technology has also strengthened India's strategic and developmental capabilities. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has contributed to communication, weather forecasting, disaster management, navigation, and remote sensing.

In healthcare, scientific research enabled rapid vaccine development, telemedicine expansion, and improved diagnostics.

Despite these achievements, India faces several challenges in converting scientific progress into inclusive development.

First, research and development expenditure remains relatively low compared to developed countries. Limited private sector investment in innovation constrains technological advancement.



Second, there exists a significant digital divide between urban and rural populations. Unequal access to internet connectivity, digital literacy, and technological infrastructure limits inclusive benefits.

Third, technological growth has not always generated adequate employment. Automation and artificial intelligence may displace low-skilled workers.

Brain drain also remains a concern, as highly skilled professionals often migrate abroad for better research opportunities.

Environmental concerns linked to industrialization and technological expansion further complicate sustainable development.

Moreover, weak industry-academia collaboration limits commercialization of scientific research.

Therefore, India's future growth depends upon strengthening innovation ecosystems, increasing investment in research, improving digital access, promoting skill development, and ensuring that technological progress remains socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

## GS Paper – 4

**Q4. 'Ethics in public administration is not merely about adherence to rules, but about commitment to public welfare.' Discuss.**

### Sample Answer

Ethics in public administration refers to the moral principles and values guiding the conduct of public officials in governance and decision-making. While laws, rules, and procedures provide the structural framework of administration, ethical governance goes beyond legal compliance and emphasizes integrity, accountability, compassion, and commitment to public welfare.

[Relevant Picture Suggestion: Civil servant interacting with citizens during public grievance redressal]

Public administration directly affects citizens' lives through implementation of welfare schemes, law enforcement, disaster management, healthcare, and education. Therefore, administrators are expected not only to follow regulations but also to act in the larger public interest.

For example, during natural disasters, strict procedural formalities may delay relief measures. Ethical administrators often demonstrate compassion and responsiveness by prioritizing human welfare over bureaucratic rigidity. Such actions reflect the spirit of public service.

Similarly, integrity is essential for maintaining public trust. Corruption, nepotism, and misuse of power undermine democratic governance and weaken institutional legitimacy. Ethical conduct ensures fairness and impartiality in decision-making.