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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 20/07/2026 (MONDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Swadeshi movement as a political economic strategy in the early twentieth century:

1. It was confined only to the boycott of foreign cloth and did not extend to indigenous enterprise.
2. It encouraged the development of national education, indigenous industry, and passive resistance as interconnected instruments.
3. Its influence remained limited to Bengal and had negligible impact on the wider nationalist movement.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect because Swadeshi was not merely a boycott campaign; it also promoted indigenous industries, national schools, and self-reliance. Statement 2 is correct because the movement linked economic boycott with national education and indigenous production as part of a broader nationalist strategy. Statement 3 is incorrect because although Bengal was the epicenter, the idea spread widely and influenced later nationalist movements across India.

2. Which one of the following is the most important ecological function of mangrove ecosystems?

- (a) Increasing salinity of coastal soils
- (b) Acting as a buffer against storm surges and coastal erosion
- (c) Accelerating coral bleaching
- (d) Reducing sediment deposition in estuaries

Answer: (b) Acting as a buffer against storm surges and coastal erosion

Explanation:

Mangroves are highly effective coastal protectors. Their dense root systems trap sediments, stabilize shorelines, reduce wave energy, and act as natural barriers against cyclones and storm surges. They also provide nursery habitats for fish and support biodiversity. The other options are contrary to their actual ecological role.

3. Consider the following statements about the fiscal multiplier in the Indian economy:

1. A higher fiscal multiplier implies that government spending has a stronger effect on aggregate demand.
2. The multiplier is generally lower when a large share of additional income leaks into imports.
3. Fiscal consolidation always increases the multiplier effect of public expenditure.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because a higher multiplier means each unit of government spending generates a larger rise in national income. Statement 2 is correct because import leakages reduce the domestic spending impact, lowering the multiplier. Statement 3 is incorrect because fiscal consolidation does not always increase the multiplier; its effect depends on the structure of the economy, monetary conditions, and demand-side constraints.

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Union Public Service Commission and constitutional bodies:

1. The Chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission can be removed by the President only on the recommendation of the Supreme Court.
2. The Constitution provides a fixed term for the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission.
3. The Union Public Service Commission's advice is binding on the government in all recruitment matters.
4. The same constitutional protection available to a member of the UPSC is also available to the Chairman with respect to service conditions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct in substance because removal on grounds such as misbehaviour or incapacity requires an inquiry by the Supreme Court. Statement 2 is correct because the Chairman has a constitutional tenure, ordinarily six years or until the age of sixty-five, whichever is earlier. Statement 3 is incorrect because UPSC advice is generally not binding; it is recommendatory. Statement 4 is incorrect because while both enjoy constitutional safeguards, service-condition protections are framed differently and should not be treated as identical in all respects.

5. Assertion (A): Mountain ranges on the western margins of continents in the subtropics often receive relatively high rainfall on their windward slopes.

Reason 1 (R1): Moist air forced to rise over the mountain cools adiabatically and condenses to form orographic rain.

Reason 2 (R2): Such regions always lie under the direct influence of equatorial convection throughout the year.



Select the correct answer:

- (a) A and R1 are correct, and R1 is the correct explanation of A; R2 is incorrect.
- (b) A is correct, but both R1 and R2 are incorrect.
- (c) A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct.
- (d) A and R2 are correct, and R2 is the correct explanation of A; R1 is incorrect.

Answer: (a) A and R1 are correct, and R1 is the correct explanation of A; R2 is incorrect.

Explanation:

The assertion is correct because windward slopes of mountains on western continental margins can receive substantial rainfall when moist maritime air is lifted. Reason 1 is correct and directly explains the process: rising air cools, condenses, and produces orographic precipitation. Reason 2 is incorrect because such rainfall does not depend on equatorial convection; it is mainly driven by relief and windward uplift, and many such regions are actually influenced by mid-latitude westerlies or seasonal wind systems.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Consider the following statements regarding the SUMAN Roadmap 2030:

- 1. It aims to reduce India's Maternal Mortality Ratio to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.
- 2. It is designed as a purely curative programme with no link to preventive or integrated maternal-care architecture.
- 3. It seeks to strengthen equitable, evidence-based maternal and newborn healthcare, especially in high-burden districts.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because the roadmap targets a Maternal Mortality Ratio below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030. Statement 2 is incorrect because SUMAN Roadmap 2030 is not only curative; it emphasizes integrated and continuum-based maternal and newborn care. Statement 3 is correct because the framework focuses on equitable, evidence-based maternal and newborn healthcare, especially in high-burden districts.

2. Which one of the following best describes the Improvement Notice Mechanism?

- (a) A punitive process that directly replaces all inspections with criminal prosecution
- (b) A facilitative compliance tool that gives first-time offenders a chance to correct specified procedural lapses within a prescribed time
- (c) A constitutional safeguard available only to public servants



(d) A mechanism applicable only to environmental offences

Answer: (b) A facilitative compliance tool that gives first-time offenders a chance to correct specified procedural lapses within a prescribed time

Explanation:

The Improvement Notice Mechanism is intended to reduce compliance burden and avoid unnecessary litigation for minor, first-time procedural violations. It allows the regulated entity a time window to correct the error before penal action is initiated. It is not a constitutional safeguard, not a blanket amnesty, and not limited to environmental offences.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Improvement Notice Mechanism under the Legal Metrology framework:

1. It applies only to first-time specified non-compliances and not to repeat violations.
2. If the defect is corrected within the stipulated time, the matter may be closed without penalty.
3. It is intended to increase the number of prosecutions so that deterrence becomes harsher.
4. It covers only manufacturers and excludes dealers, importers, and traders.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because the mechanism is restricted to first-time specified lapses. Statement 2 is correct because timely correction can lead to closure without penal consequences. Statement 3 is incorrect because the purpose is the opposite: to reduce unnecessary prosecution. Statement 4 is incorrect because the mechanism is not confined only to manufacturers.

4. Consider the following statements about the White-Rumped Vulture:

1. It is a scavenger that plays a key ecological role in disposing of carcasses.
2. It is classified as Critically Endangered.
3. It was unaffected by diclofenac poisoning because it feeds only on live prey.
4. Its conservation is important because vulture loss can increase disease risks in the ecosystem.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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



Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because vultures are obligate scavengers. Statement 2 is correct because the White-Rumped Vulture is Critically Endangered. Statement 3 is incorrect because it is a scavenger and was severely affected by diclofenac contamination in carcasses. Statement 4 is correct because vulture decline can leave carcasses exposed longer, increasing disease risks and zoonotic spread.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Project BRAHMANK:

1. It is associated with advanced defence or strategic capability development.
2. It is a purely civilian welfare programme with no technological orientation.
3. Such projects often reflect indigenous innovation and self-reliance in sensitive domains.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because the project is associated with strategic capability development. Statement 2 is incorrect because such projects are not civilian welfare schemes. Statement 3 is correct because strategic projects of this kind usually emphasize indigenous technology, operational autonomy, and self-reliance in sensitive sectors.

6. With reference to Saint Helena, consider the following statements:

1. It is a remote island in the South Atlantic Ocean.
2. It is located in the Indian Ocean near Madagascar.
3. It is known historically as a place of exile for Napoleon Bonaparte.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because Saint Helena is a remote island in the South Atlantic Ocean. Statement 2 is incorrect because it is not in the Indian Ocean. Statement 3 is correct because Napoleon was exiled there, making it historically significant.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1) GS 1

Question:

Discuss how cultural diversity in India acts both as a source of national strength and as a challenge to social cohesion. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples.

Sample Answer:

India's cultural diversity is one of its most defining features. It is rooted in differences of language, religion, ethnicity, region, caste, food habits, dress, festivals, and social customs. Rather than being a weakness, this diversity has historically given India resilience, adaptability, and civilizational depth. At the same time, when diversity becomes politicized or exclusionary, it can generate tensions and threaten social cohesion.

As a source of strength, diversity enriches Indian society through pluralism and creativity. Different communities have contributed to literature, art, architecture, music, cuisine, and philosophy. India's composite culture, visible in practices such as syncretic traditions, shared festivals, and regional variations, has strengthened the idea of unity in diversity. Diversity also encourages democratic accommodation. A society with many identities cannot be governed well without negotiation, tolerance, and federal balance. In this sense, diversity reinforces constitutional values such as equality, liberty, and fraternity. It also strengthens India's soft power globally by showcasing civilizational pluralism.

However, diversity can become a challenge when it is converted into rigid identities. Communal tensions, caste conflicts, linguistic chauvinism, and regionalism arise when groups begin to see identity in antagonistic terms. Political mobilization on narrow identity lines can weaken trust between communities. Uneven development across regions can also sharpen sub-national grievances. In extreme cases, diversity may be exploited for electoral polarization, leading to social fragmentation.

The challenge therefore is not diversity itself, but the failure to manage it inclusively. Indian society needs stronger social justice, equitable development, inter-community dialogue, and value-based education. Constitutional morality must be strengthened so that difference is respected without becoming division. Institutions, civil society, and political leadership all have a role in converting diversity into cooperation.

India's future depends on preserving diversity while ensuring that it does not harden into conflict. If managed well, diversity remains a civilizational asset; if mishandled, it can become a fault line.

2) GS 2

Question:

Examine the significance of cooperative federalism in India's governance structure. In what ways has it helped, and what limitations remain in practice?

Sample Answer:

Cooperative federalism refers to a system in which the Centre and the States work together as partners in governance while respecting their constitutional roles. In India, it is not merely a political ideal but a practical necessity because the Constitution creates a strong Union, yet the diversity of India requires shared responsibility. In recent years, cooperative federalism has become more important due to the complexity of issues such as health, taxation, disaster management, education, and welfare delivery.



Its significance lies in improving policy coordination. Institutions such as the GST Council, Inter-State Council, and Finance Commission help create structured dialogue between different levels of government. Cooperative federalism also enables better implementation of national programmes because many schemes require State-level execution. During crises such as pandemics, floods, or economic disruptions, coordination between Centre and States becomes essential. It also strengthens democratic legitimacy by giving States a voice in national decision-making.

At its best, cooperative federalism reduces conflict and creates policy consensus. For example, the goods and services tax regime was possible only through negotiation between the Centre and the States. Similarly, national health and infrastructure goals can succeed only if both levels of government align priorities and resources. The model also allows India to balance unity with diversity, which is a core constitutional objective.

However, the practice of cooperative federalism faces several limitations. Fiscal centralization often leaves States dependent on the Centre for funds. Political differences can lead to confrontational federalism, where trust weakens between governments ruled by different parties. Sometimes consultation is formal rather than substantive, and States feel excluded from major decisions. Delays in fund transfers, overlapping responsibilities, and unilateral policy announcements also weaken cooperative spirit. The challenge becomes sharper in areas where the Centre has greater financial power but the States bear the implementation burden.

The way forward is to deepen institutional consultation, improve fiscal autonomy of States, and make federal bodies more regular and meaningful. Cooperative federalism should not remain a slogan; it must become a daily administrative culture. Only then can India govern complexity effectively while preserving the spirit of constitutional partnership.

3) GS 3

Question:

Discuss the relevance of watershed-based water conservation for India's agrarian economy. How does this approach help address both ecological stress and rural livelihood insecurity?

Sample Answer:

Watershed-based water conservation is a landscape-level approach that treats land, water, vegetation, and human use as an interconnected system. Instead of focusing only on individual wells, tanks, or canals, it manages an entire drainage area to capture rainwater, reduce runoff, improve soil moisture, and recharge groundwater. For India, where agriculture remains highly dependent on monsoon variability, this approach is particularly relevant.

Its relevance begins with the reality of water stress. Large parts of rural India face declining groundwater tables, erratic rainfall, soil degradation, and drought vulnerability. Watershed development helps by slowing water flow, reducing soil erosion, and increasing infiltration. Structures such as check dams, contour bunds, farm ponds, and vegetative barriers improve local water availability. This has direct benefits for irrigation, crop diversification, and livestock support. Farmers can reduce dependence on tankers, minimize crop failure risk, and plan more stable agricultural activities.

From an ecological perspective, watershed management improves land productivity and restores degraded ecosystems. It helps reduce sedimentation in rivers and reservoirs, promotes vegetation cover, and supports biodiversity. By reducing surface runoff, it also lowers flood intensity in downstream areas. Thus, the



approach is both preventive and restorative. It links conservation with productivity rather than treating them as separate goals.

For rural livelihoods, the impact is substantial. Better water availability can increase cropping intensity, support horticulture and fodder cultivation, and create year-round employment. It also contributes to women's welfare, since water scarcity often increases their drudgery. In drought-prone areas, watershed projects can reduce distress migration by stabilizing local livelihoods. Community participation is another major advantage, because successful watershed management depends on local ownership and collective maintenance.

Nevertheless, the approach requires strong institutions, technical planning, and community coordination. It cannot succeed as a purely engineering exercise. Social equity matters too, because upper-catchment benefits must not come at the cost of downstream users.

Watershed-based conservation is therefore not just a water management technique; it is a strategy for ecological resilience and rural economic security. In a water-stressed country like India, it offers one of the most sustainable pathways to agrarian stability.

4) GS 4

Question:

A district collector discovers that a major public welfare contract has been awarded to a firm linked to a close relative of a senior political leader. The file is legally sound, but the situation raises concerns about conflict of interest and public trust. What should the collector do? Discuss the ethical principles involved.

Sample Answer:

This situation is a classic ethical dilemma involving legality, propriety, conflict of interest, and public trust. Even if the file is legally sound, the presence of a close relationship between the contractor and a powerful political figure creates the possibility of undue influence. The collector must remember that public administration is judged not only by legal compliance but also by fairness, transparency, and the appearance of integrity.

The first principle involved is conflict of interest. A public decision becomes ethically compromised when personal relationships or private interests can influence, or appear to influence, official judgment. The second principle is integrity, which requires the officer to act in a manner consistent with public duty, not personal convenience. The third is accountability, since public resources belong to citizens and must be distributed fairly. The fourth is public trust; even if no wrongdoing is proven, a perception of favoritism can damage the legitimacy of governance.

The collector should therefore proceed carefully and transparently. The facts should be verified objectively. If the process was indeed fair, complete records should be preserved, and the matter should be reported to the appropriate higher authority or vigilance channel, depending on rules and sensitivity. The collector should ensure that further monitoring of contract execution is rigorous so that no undue advantage is given. If there is any procedural ambiguity, legal and departmental advice should be sought immediately. The officer must avoid personal confrontation, emotional reaction, or informal compromise.

Ethically, the best approach is to separate legality from legitimacy. Something may be legal yet still questionable if it weakens trust in public institutions. The collector must act with courage, impartiality, and



procedural fairness. If necessary, recusal or independent scrutiny may be appropriate. The guiding values here are honesty, objectivity, courage, and service before self.

In public administration, the real test is not only whether rules were followed, but whether citizens can trust that the state acts without bias. The collector's response should therefore protect both institutional integrity and public confidence.

5) Current Affairs

Question:

Evaluate the significance of the Sujalam Sufalam Jal Abhiyan as a model of water conservation and participatory governance. What lessons does it offer for India's water security strategy?

Sample Answer:

The Sujalam Sufalam Jal Abhiyan is significant because it reflects a practical and participatory approach to water conservation. India's water crisis is not just about scarcity; it is also about poor management, depleted groundwater, encroachment of natural water bodies, and weak local maintenance. In this context, campaigns that combine physical restoration with public participation are crucial. Sujalam Sufalam Jal Abhiyan is important because it emphasizes community engagement, local water harvesting, desilting, recharge, and rejuvenation of traditional water sources.

Its value lies in the fact that it addresses water security at the grassroots level. Instead of relying only on large dams or centralized infrastructure, such campaigns focus on ponds, check dams, recharge structures, drainage cleaning, and catchment improvement. These interventions are often cheaper, faster, and more ecologically appropriate. They also help restore the local water cycle by increasing groundwater recharge and reducing surface runoff. For agrarian areas, this can improve irrigation reliability, drinking water access, and drought resilience.

Another major significance is participatory governance. Water conservation becomes durable only when communities feel ownership. Local bodies, citizens, civil society groups, and administrative institutions must work together. This creates social accountability and encourages maintenance beyond the initial campaign period. When people participate in desilting water bodies or reviving village ponds, they are more likely to protect them later. The campaign therefore strengthens both environmental stewardship and democratic participation.

The initiative also offers important lessons for India's broader water security strategy. First, water management must be decentralized and locally adapted. Second, conservation should be linked with livelihood benefits so that communities see tangible value. Third, traditional knowledge and modern planning should be combined. Fourth, convergence across departments is essential because water security depends on land use, agriculture, rural development, and environment policy. Finally, campaigns must move beyond one-time events and become part of a sustained institutional framework.

Thus, Sujalam Sufalam Jal Abhiyan is more than a cleanliness or revival drive. It is a reminder that water security in India will depend on local participation, ecological restoration, and administrative continuity. That makes it a useful model for future policy design.