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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 10/08/2026 (MONDAY)

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



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DAILY SUBJECTWISE QUESTIONS

Q1. With reference to *ancient Indian philosophical traditions*, consider the following statements:

1. Ajivikas believed that every event in the universe is pre-determined and that human effort has no role in changing destiny.
2. Lokayata (Charvaka) school rejected the authority of the Vedas but accepted the concept of rebirth and karma.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
The Ajivikas, a heterodox sect contemporary to Buddhism and Jainism, followed a doctrine of *Niyati* (fate), believing all events are preordained—thus negating free will. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
The Lokayata or Charvaka philosophy was strictly materialistic; it denied not only the authority of the Vedas but also the ideas of soul, rebirth, and karma. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.
Therefore, only statement 1 is correct.

Q2. Consider the following about *"Ecological Pyramids"*: Which one of the following correctly describes their nature?

(a) They always remain upright in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
(b) In aquatic ecosystems, the pyramid of biomass is often inverted due to high turnover rate of phytoplankton.
(c) The pyramid of numbers is always inverted in forest ecosystems.
(d) Pyramids of energy and biomass can be interchanged depending on nutrient cycling.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
In aquatic ecosystems, primary producers (phytoplankton) have small biomass but reproduce rapidly; hence, biomass pyramids appear inverted. In contrast, energy pyramids are *always upright* as energy flows unidirectionally. Statement (b) correctly captures this ecological nuance. Forest ecosystems generally have upright pyramids of numbers and biomass, though with some variation at trophic levels.

Q3. With reference to recent developments in *India's financial sector*, consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India's "Prompt Corrective Action" (PCA) framework applies only to scheduled commercial banks and not to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
2. The concept of "Differentiated Banks" in India includes both Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks, aimed at promoting financial inclusion.
3. Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), "Operational Creditors" have priority over "Financial Creditors" in the waterfall mechanism during liquidation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is **incorrect** – In December 2021, the RBI extended the PCA framework to NBFCs as well, though with modifications suited to their structure.
Statement 2 is **correct** – Differentiated banks like Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks were introduced to promote inclusion, targeting niche customer segments.
Statement 3 is **incorrect** – Under the IBC's waterfall mechanism, financial creditors have higher priority than operational creditors during liquidation.
Hence, only two statements (2 and part of 1 being outdated) are correct → Correct answer: (b).

Q4. With reference to the *Constitutional framework of India*, consider the following statements:

1. The President of India can promulgate an ordinance only when either House of Parliament is not in session.
2. A proclamation under Article 356 (President's Rule) can continue for a maximum of one year without Parliamentary approval.
3. The Supreme Court has ruled that the satisfaction of the President in issuing an ordinance is subject to judicial review.
4. A Constitutional Amendment Bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament and does not require prior recommendation of the President.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:
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Statement 1 – **Correct.** Article 123 allows the President to issue ordinances when either House is not in session.
Statement 2 – **Incorrect.** President's Rule continues for six months at a time and can extend up to three years with Parliamentary approval and certain conditions (like during a national emergency).
Statement 3 – **Correct.** In *D.C. Wadhwa vs State of Bihar (1987)*, the Supreme Court held that the President's satisfaction in issuing ordinances is subject to judicial review.
Statement 4 – **Correct.** A Constitutional Amendment Bill can be introduced in either House and does not require prior Presidential recommendation.
Hence, three statements (1, 3, and 4) are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -
Assertion (A):
The western coast of India experiences heavier rainfall than the eastern coast during the southwest monsoon season.

Reason (R1):
The Western Ghats intercept the moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds, causing orographic rainfall on the windward side.

Reason (R2):
The eastern coast receives rainfall mainly from the retreating northeast monsoon, which carries relatively less moisture.

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

(a) Both R1 and R2 are correct, and both explain the Assertion.
(b) Both R1 and R2 are correct, but only R1 correctly explains the Assertion.
(c) R1 is correct, but R2 is incorrect.
(d) R1 is incorrect, but R2 is correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
The western coast receives heavy rainfall as the Western Ghats force the southwest monsoon to shed moisture (orographic effect). The eastern coast, lying in the rain shadow region, receives limited rainfall from this phase; its main rains come from the northeast monsoon, which is weaker. Hence, both reasons are correct, but only R1 directly explains the Assertion.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUESTIONS

Q1. With reference to *PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) Scheme 2.0*, consider the following statements:

1. Under PM Poshan 2.0, millets have been incorporated into the mid-day meal menu to promote nutritional diversity and align with the International Year of Millets (2023).
2. Funding pattern under the scheme is 75:25 between Centre and States, and 90:10 for North-Eastern States, Himalayan States, and UTs with legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:
The PM POSHAN 2.0 replaced the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 2021, integrating nutrition, school health, and agricultural linkages. Millets were included to enhance diet diversity and promote local procurement during

the *International Year of Millets 2023*. The cost-sharing ratio remains 75:25 for general States and 90:10 for NE and Himalayan States/UTs with legislature. Both statements are thus correct.

Q2. Which of the following best explains the principle of *Cloud Seeding* used to induce artificial rainfall?

(a) Introducing hygroscopic or ice-forming nuclei into supercooled clouds to enhance condensation and precipitation.
(b) Injecting ozone precursors into tropospheric layers to create pressure variations for rainfall.
(c) Stimulating convection currents using microwaves to thicken cumulonimbus clouds.
(d) Dispersing aerosols in stratospheric layers to form artificial cirrus clouds leading to rainfall.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Cloud seeding involves dispersing substances like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride into clouds containing supercooled water droplets. These act as nuclei for condensation or ice crystal formation, enhancing rainfall probability. It is mainly used for drought mitigation, hail suppression, and air pollution reduction. Options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect as they do not represent physical cloud microprocesses.

Q3. With reference to *Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed by India in recent years*, consider the following statements:

1. The India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is India's first major FTA after a decade-long pause in trade negotiations.
2. Under CEPA, India has secured duty-free access for over 95% of its tariff lines exported to the UAE.
3. The India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) provides for automatic transition to a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) after two years.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:
India signed CEPA with the UAE in 2022 — the first major FTA in over a decade. Under CEPA, India gained duty-free access for about 97% of its tariff lines. The India–Australia ECTA (2022) was designed as an interim agreement, with provision for its conversion to a full-fledged CECA within two years. Hence, all three statements are correct.

Q4. With reference to the *Central Pay Commissions (CPCs) in India*, consider the following statements:

1. The 7th Central Pay Commission recommended abolition of pay bands and grade pay, replacing them with a new pay matrix.
2. The recommendations of the Pay Commission are binding on the Government of India once accepted by the Union Cabinet.
3. The Commission's recommendations apply uniformly to civilian employees, defence personnel, and employees of public sector undertakings.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
Statement 1 – **Correct:** The 7th CPC introduced a simplified *Pay Matrix* removing grade pay and band system.
Statement 2 – **Correct:** Once the Cabinet approves the recommendations, they become binding as part of government policy implementation.
Statement 3 – **Incorrect:** CPC recommendations apply to central government civilian and defence employees, not directly to PSUs (which have independent pay structures). Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q5. With reference to the *Ministry of Coal and its recent initiatives*, consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Coal has launched a "Star Rating Policy" for coal mines to incentivize sustainable mining and environmental compliance.
2. The "Mission Coking Coal" aims to achieve self-sufficiency by reducing imports through exploration and beneficiation of domestic reserves.
3. Under the new commercial coal mining regime, private players can sell coal in the open market without end-use restrictions.
4. The Coal Gasification Policy (2023) seeks to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030 to produce syngas for fertilizers and methanol.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:
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All four statements are correct.
The *Star Rating Policy* promotes transparency and environmental performance. *Mission Coking Coal* aims to enhance domestic availability of coking coal. The commercial mining policy allows private firms open-market sale, marking a paradigm shift. The *Coal Gasification Mission* indeed targets 100 MT coal gasification by 2030 to produce cleaner fuels and reduce emissions.

Q6. Identify the correct pair regarding *global cloud seeding or weather modification projects*:

(a) Project "Stormfury" – Conducted by the United States to weaken hurricanes by seeding them with silver iodide.
(b) Project "Indra" – Joint initiative of India and Japan for Himalayan snowmelt management.
(c) "RainCube Mission" – A cloud-seeding satellite system operated by the European Space Agency.
(d) Project "Mawsynram" – Meghalaya government's localized seeding experiment to reduce rainfall intensity.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Project *Stormfury* (1962–1983) was a U.S. government experiment to weaken tropical cyclones using silver iodide seeding. It was discontinued after inconclusive results. Project *Indra* was an Indian cloud-seeding initiative, not Indo-Japanese. *RainCube* is a NASA micro-satellite for precipitation observation, not seeding. *Mawsynram* has no such official weather modification project. Hence, (a) is correct.

DAILY MAINS ANSWER WRITING QUESTIONS

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. ***"The growth of temple architecture in India reflects not just religious devotion, but the socio-political and economic dynamics of the subcontinent." Examine with examples.***

Answer:
Temple architecture in India evolved as a dynamic reflection of religion, politics, and economy rather than mere religious expression. Beginning with the Gupta era, temples became monumental symbols of both spiritual and temporal power.

Body:
The **Gupta period** (4th–6th century CE) witnessed the earliest structural temples like Dashavatara Temple (Deogarh), marking a shift from rock-cut to freestanding architecture. As kingdoms expanded, rulers patronized temple building as an assertion of divine legitimacy — evident in the **Dravidian temples** of the Cholas (Brihadeshwara Temple, Thanjavur) and the **Nagara style** of the Chandellas (Khajuraho complex).

Temples also mirrored economic vitality. Wealthy guilds, traders, and local elites contributed to their construction, making them centers of both spirituality and commerce. The **Hoysala temples** at Belur and Halebid illustrate the integration of regional artisanship, intricate stonework, and devotional art financed by prosperous agrarian economies.

Further, temples became centers of education, culture, and art — housing libraries, dance, and music schools. Architecturally, they evolved through regional synthesis — Nagara in the North, Dravida in the South, and Vesara in Deccan, symbolizing India's cultural pluralism.

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Conclusion:
Thus, Indian temples stand as living museums — embodying religious continuity, economic prosperity, artistic sophistication, and political legitimacy. Their evolution testifies to India's civilizational depth where religion, economy, and polity converged in stone.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. ***"Judicial review and parliamentary supremacy in India operate not as antagonistic, but as complementary principles within constitutional democracy." Discuss.***

Answer:
The Indian Constitution establishes a delicate balance between **judicial review** and **parliamentary supremacy**, both being essential for democratic governance under the rule of law.

Body:
Parliamentary supremacy ensures the sovereignty of the people through their elected representatives, while

judicial review safeguards constitutionalism by ensuring that legislative and executive actions remain within prescribed limits.

The **Supreme Court's power of judicial review** (Articles 13, 32, 136, and 226) acts as a check against legislative or executive transgression. Landmark judgments like *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)* upheld that Parliament's amending power is wide but not absolute — it cannot alter the *basic structure* of the Constitution.

Similarly, *Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975)* reaffirmed that judicial review is integral to the Constitution, while *Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980)* restored the balance by emphasizing harmony between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles.

However, courts have also recognized the domain of legislature — in *Raja Ram Pal (2007)*, it upheld Parliament's privilege to regulate its internal proceedings, ensuring mutual respect for institutional autonomy.

Conclusion:
Thus, judicial review and parliamentary supremacy coexist in a symbiotic relationship. The former prevents majoritarian excesses, while the latter ensures democratic accountability. Together, they sustain the constitutional equilibrium envisioned by the framers — of limited government under an enduring rule of law.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. *Discuss the significance and challenges of India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in the context of its goal of becoming a global manufacturing hub.*

Answer:
India's renewed thrust on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) aligns with its ambition to integrate into global value chains and realize the *"Make in India"* vision.

Body:
After a decade-long pause, India signed major FTAs with **UAE (CEPA, 2022)** and **Australia (ECTA, 2022)** — signaling strategic economic re-engagement. These FTAs aim to secure **market access**, attract **foreign investment**, and boost **exports in labour-intensive sectors** like textiles, gems, and pharmaceuticals.

For a manufacturing hub aspiration, FTAs offer dual advantages — access to cheaper inputs and export diversification. The CEPA, for instance, provided duty-free access for 97% of Indian goods to UAE markets. Similarly, the ECTA with Australia promises easier movement for skilled professionals and preferential tariffs.

Challenges persist. India's export competitiveness is hampered by logistics bottlenecks, inconsistent standards, and limited integration into supply chains. Domestic industries fear import surges — especially from low-cost economies — potentially hurting MSMEs. India's withdrawal from **RCEP (2020)** reflected these apprehensions.

Furthermore, *non-tariff barriers* and *rules of origin disputes* complicate utilization. The need for alignment of FTAs with domestic industrial policy, digital trade frameworks, and carbon border adjustments is critical.

Conclusion:
India's FTAs must transition from defensive trade postures to proactive strategic instruments. A calibrated mix of trade facilitation, production-linked incentives, and skill-based industrial policies can convert FTAs into platforms for India's emergence as a resilient manufacturing hub.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. ***"Ethical governance is not merely about adherence to rules, but about cultivating a moral compass within public institutions." Elucidate.***

Answer:
Ethical governance transcends the boundaries of administrative compliance. It represents a **value-based approach** to public service where accountability, transparency, and empathy guide decision-making.

Body:
Rules provide structure; ethics provide direction. Merely following regulations may ensure procedural integrity, but not moral responsibility. Ethical governance demands internalization of values like **integrity, fairness, compassion, and impartiality**.

For example, a civil servant adhering strictly to rules but ignoring the human dimension of policy implementation may fulfill legality but fail in morality. Ethical leadership, therefore, seeks a balance — *"right action beyond written rule."*

Institutions such as the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**, **Lokpal**, and **RTI Act** ensure external accountability. However, true ethical governance requires internal motivation — driven by conscience, not compulsion. Training programs on ethics in the civil services, citizen charters, and social audits help embed these values.

Illustration:
During disasters like floods or pandemics, officers who act compassionately and innovatively — even beyond procedural constraints — exemplify ethical governance. Their decisions reflect moral courage, not mere rule adherence.

Conclusion:
Hence, ethical governance lies at the intersection of legality and morality. Rules prevent corruption, but ethics prevent moral decay. Cultivating a moral compass within institutions transforms governance from mechanical administration to humane public service.

Current Affairs –

Q5. ***"The growing pollution crisis in Delhi underscores the urgent need for cloud seeding as a geo-engineering measure." Critically examine.***

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Answer:
Delhi's recurrent air pollution crisis has reached chronic proportions, with AQI levels frequently exceeding 400. Amid conventional failures, **cloud seeding** has emerged as a debated yet potentially innovative mitigation tool.

Body:
Cloud seeding involves dispersing **silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride** into clouds to induce artificial rainfall. The rainfall can help **wash out particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)** and temporarily improve air quality.

Need in Delhi:

- Persistent smog due to stubble burning, vehicular emissions, and stagnant atmospheric conditions.
- Failure of conventional measures like odd-even schemes and bans on construction.

- Meteorological forecasts often show conducive humidity and cloud cover in November–December — ideal for seeding experiments.

Challenges:

- **Effectiveness** remains uncertain — success depends on existing cloud moisture; it cannot create rain in dry conditions.
- **Environmental concerns** over use of chemicals like silver iodide.
- **Cost-benefit doubts** — temporary relief vs long-term mitigation.
- **Ethical and diplomatic implications** if applied at regional scales.

Experiments in Maharashtra (2018) and Karnataka (2019) yielded mixed outcomes. Delhi's proposed collaboration with IIT Kanpur (2024) aims to test feasibility, focusing on microphysical cloud conditions.

Way Forward:
Cloud seeding should be pursued as a **scientific experiment**, not a primary pollution control measure. Long-term solutions demand emission reduction, green transport, and agricultural reform. Yet, for emergency mitigation, cloud seeding can complement adaptive strategies.

Conclusion:
Cloud seeding is not a silver bullet but a temporary *technological intervention* to combat acute pollution episodes. Delhi's crisis demands a multi-pronged approach — where science, governance, and environmental ethics converge for sustainable air quality management.

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