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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 08/09/2026 (TUESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The Amara-nayaka system was a purely military arrangement without any civil or judicial responsibilities.
2. The Rayas exercised direct control over temple administration mainly to centralize agrarian surplus rather than for religious patronage alone.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **incorrect**. The Amara-nayaka system, though inspired by the Iqta system, was **not purely military**. Amara-nayakas had civil, fiscal, and sometimes judicial functions within their territories, though sovereignty remained with the Raya.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Temple control under Vijayanagara rulers had a **clear economic rationale**—temples functioned as landholders, employers, and redistribution centers, helping the state extract and manage agrarian surplus efficiently.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains why tropical rainforests contribute disproportionately to global biodiversity despite covering a relatively small land area?

- (a) Higher net primary productivity due to uninterrupted sunlight throughout the year
- (b) Structural complexity leading to niche diversification across vertical strata
- (c) Absence of seasonal stress ensuring lower extinction rates
- (d) Greater soil fertility caused by rapid nutrient cycling

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The key driver of exceptional biodiversity in tropical rainforests is **structural complexity**—multiple vertical layers (canopy, understory, forest floor) create numerous ecological niches.

Option (a) is insufficient alone; productivity does not automatically ensure diversity.

Option (c) is partially true but not decisive.

Option (d) is incorrect—tropical rainforest soils are often **nutrient-poor**, with nutrients locked in biomass.

Q3. With reference to the Indian economy, consider the following statements:

1. A decline in Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) necessarily implies improvement in total factor productivity.
2. Fiscal consolidation during an economic slowdown can be expansionary if private investment is crowded in through expectations.
3. A current account deficit financed predominantly by foreign direct investment is less vulnerable than one financed by short-term debt.



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 **incorrect**. A lower ICOR indicates better capital efficiency, but it does **not necessarily reflect improvements in total factor productivity**, which also depends on labor efficiency and technological change.

Statement 2 is **correct** under the theory of **expansionary fiscal contraction**, where credible consolidation improves investor confidence.

Statement 3 is **correct**. FDI is stable and long-term, unlike volatile short-term debt, making the CAD structurally safer.

Q4. With reference to the constitutional and political system of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Anti-Defection Law applies only to votes that determine the survival of the government.
2. The Speaker's decision under the Tenth Schedule is subject to judicial review on limited grounds.
3. The original Constitution did not contain provisions for disqualification on grounds of defection.
4. The concept of "split" in a legislature party was removed to curb political opportunism.

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 **incorrect**. The Anti-Defection Law applies to **any vote or abstention** contrary to party direction, not just confidence motions.

Statement 2 is **correct**, as held in *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu*, judicial review is permitted on grounds such as mala fides or violation of constitutional mandates.

Statement 3 is **correct**. The Tenth Schedule was added by the **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985**.

Statement 4 is **correct**. The **91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** removed the "split" provision to prevent engineered defections.

Q5. Assertion (A): Western coastal regions of India experience heavy rainfall during the Southwest Monsoon even in the absence of strong monsoon depressions.

Reason I (R1): The Western Ghats force moisture-laden winds to rise, causing orographic precipitation.

Reason II (R2): The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon carries higher moisture content due to higher sea surface temperatures.



Which of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct; both R1 and R2 are correct and together explain A
- (b) A is correct; only R1 is correct and explains A
- (c) A is correct; both R1 and R2 are correct but only one explains A
- (d) A is incorrect

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The assertion is **correct**—heavy rainfall along the western coast does not require monsoon depressions. Reason I is **correct** and provides the **immediate physical mechanism** through orographic uplift. Reason II is **also correct** and explains the **source of abundant moisture**. Together, R1 and R2 **comprehensively explain** why intense rainfall occurs along the Western Coast.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to UIDAI's launch of the Aadhaar mascot *Udai*, consider the following statements:

1. The mascot initiative is aimed primarily at improving last-mile digital literacy and trust among first-time Aadhaar service users.
2. The introduction of *Udai* marks the first time UIDAI has delegated statutory authentication responsibilities to a non-human interface.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is **correct**. The mascot *Udai* is a **communication and awareness tool**, meant to humanise Aadhaar services, enhance trust, and improve citizen engagement, especially for first-time or digitally marginal users.

Statement 2 is **incorrect**. No statutory or authentication function is delegated. Aadhaar authentication remains strictly governed by the Aadhaar Act and associated regulations; mascots have **no legal or functional role** in authentication.

Q2. The Dust Experiment (DEX), recently in news, is best understood as an initiative to:

- (a) Quantify the role of mineral dust in altering cloud microphysics and monsoon rainfall patterns
- (b) Monitor transboundary movement of industrial pollutants using satellite-based LIDAR
- (c) Study desertification trends through long-term soil moisture profiling
- (d) Assess health impacts of particulate matter in urban boundary layers



Answer: (a)

Explanation:

DEX focuses on understanding how **mineral dust aerosols** influence **cloud formation, radiative balance, and monsoon dynamics**.

Options (b) and (d) relate to pollution monitoring, not dust-climate coupling.

Option (c) concerns land degradation, which is not the core objective of DEX.

Q3. With reference to the PANKHUDI portal, consider the following statements:

1. It integrates data from multiple ministries to track outcomes of schemes related to women and child development.
2. The portal enables real-time grievance redressal linked directly to district-level implementing agencies.
3. The primary objective of PANKHUDI is to serve as a compliance-monitoring dashboard for international conventions ratified by 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**. PANKHUDI functions as a **convergent digital platform**, integrating scheme-level data across departments for monitoring outcomes.

Statement 2 is **correct**. It strengthens **implementation feedback loops**, including grievance tracking at the field level.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. While data may inform international reporting, the portal's primary aim is **domestic scheme monitoring**, not treaty compliance.

Q4. With reference to child marriage in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act treats all child marriages as void ab initio.
2. NFHS data indicate a sharper decline in child marriage prevalence among rural males than rural females.
3. Economic shocks and school discontinuation have been identified as structural drivers of child marriage persistence.

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 **incorrect**. Under the Act, child marriages are **voidable**, not automatically void, except in specific aggravated circumstances.

Statement 2 is **correct**. Data show relatively faster reduction among males, reflecting gendered social norms.

Statement 3 is **correct**. Poverty shocks, pandemics, and school dropouts are well-documented drivers sustaining the practice.

Q5. With reference to Spina Bifida, consider the following statements:

1. It results from improper closure of the neural tube during early embryonic development.
2. Folic acid supplementation before conception significantly reduces its incidence.
3. Spina Bifida is classified exclusively as a genetic disorder with no environmental determinants.
4. Early diagnosis through prenatal screening can improve postnatal management outcomes.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statements 1, 2, and 4 are **correct**. Spina Bifida is a **neural tube defect**, strongly linked to folate deficiency, and early detection aids clinical planning.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**. The condition has **multifactorial causes**, involving nutritional, environmental, and genetic factors.

Q6. Greenland is best described as:

- (a) An autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark located between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans
- (b) A sovereign island nation with permanent membership in the Arctic Council
- (c) A continental landmass entirely within the Arctic Circle
- (d) A territory administered jointly by Denmark and Norway under international treaty

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Greenland is an **autonomous territory of Denmark**, strategically located between the **Arctic and Atlantic Oceans**.

Option (b) is incorrect—Greenland is not sovereign.

Option (c) is incorrect—parts lie south of the Arctic Circle.

Option (d) is factually incorrect.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS – I

Q1. Examine the role of geomorphic processes in shaping the physiography of the Indian subcontinent. How do these processes influence human activities and settlement patterns?

Sample Answer:

The physiography of the Indian subcontinent is the cumulative outcome of long-term **endogenic and exogenic geomorphic processes**, operating over geological time scales. Endogenic processes such as **plate tectonics, folding, faulting, and volcanism** have provided the broad structural framework, while exogenic processes like **weathering, erosion, transportation, and deposition** have sculpted the surface features.

The collision of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate led to the formation of the **Himalayan mountain system**, one of the most prominent geomorphic features. This ongoing orogenic process not only defines northern India's relief but also influences climate by acting as a barrier to cold Central Asian winds and shaping the monsoon system. In contrast, the **Peninsular Plateau** represents one of the oldest and most stable landmasses, shaped primarily by prolonged denudation rather than active tectonics.

Exogenic processes have played a decisive role in forming the **Indo-Gangetic plains**, where fluvial deposition by rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, and Brahmaputra has resulted in deep alluvial soils. These fertile plains support dense populations and intensive agriculture, illustrating the strong link between geomorphology and human settlement. Similarly, coastal processes have created features such as **deltas, estuaries, and lagoons**, which facilitate fishing, port development, and trade.

However, geomorphic processes also generate constraints. Himalayan regions are prone to **landslides, earthquakes, and soil erosion**, limiting large-scale infrastructure development. Arid landforms in Rajasthan, shaped by aeolian processes, impose water scarcity and restrict settlement density.

Thus, geomorphic processes not only shape physical landscapes but also determine **resource availability, hazard vulnerability, agricultural potential, and settlement patterns**. Understanding these processes is essential for sustainable land use planning and disaster risk reduction in India.

GS – II

Q2. Critically examine the role of the Governor in India's federal structure. Has the office strengthened or weakened cooperative federalism?

Sample Answer:

The office of the Governor occupies a unique and often controversial position in India's federal system. Conceived as a **constitutional head of the state**, the Governor is expected to act as a neutral link between the Union and the states. However, in practice, the role has frequently raised questions about federal balance and democratic accountability.

Constitutionally, the Governor is appointed by the President and functions under Articles 153–167. While most powers are to be exercised on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, discretionary powers—such as reserving bills for the President, recommending President's Rule under Article 356, and appointing the Chief Minister in hung assemblies—provide significant scope for interpretation.



In several instances, the office has been accused of **partisan behaviour**, particularly in government formation, delay in assent to bills, and frequent use of Article 356 in the past. Such actions have been viewed as instruments of **central interference**, thereby weakening cooperative federalism. The Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions highlighted these concerns and recommended clearer conventions and restraint in the use of discretionary powers.

At the same time, the Governor can play a constructive role. In situations of constitutional breakdown, political instability, or breakdown of law and order, the Governor acts as a **constitutional safeguard**. During crises such as pandemics or natural disasters, the Governor can facilitate coordination between the Centre and the states.

Recent judicial interventions, including Supreme Court guidelines on floor tests and time-bound decisions, have attempted to curb misuse. However, persistent ambiguities remain.

Overall, while the institution of the Governor was designed to **strengthen federal unity**, its functioning has often strained Centre–State relations. Strengthening cooperative federalism requires codified conventions, transparency in appointments, and adherence to constitutional morality rather than political expediency.

GS – III

Q3. Discuss how climate change is emerging as a non-traditional security threat for India. Suggest policy measures to address this challenge.

Sample Answer:

Climate change has increasingly emerged as a **non-traditional security threat**, transcending environmental concerns and directly affecting economic stability, social cohesion, and national security. For India, with its vast population and ecological diversity, the implications are particularly severe.

Rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, and extreme weather events threaten **food and water security**. Agriculture, which supports a large section of India's population, is highly climate-sensitive. Frequent droughts and floods disrupt livelihoods, intensify rural distress, and contribute to migration pressures, potentially leading to urban instability.

Climate change also aggravates **resource conflicts**, especially over water. Melting Himalayan glaciers and changing river flows affect transboundary rivers, adding a geopolitical dimension to climate risks. Coastal erosion and sea-level rise threaten major cities and critical infrastructure, including ports and naval installations, thereby impacting maritime security.

Internally, climate-induced displacement can strain governance systems and exacerbate inequalities. Regions already affected by fragility and insurgency may witness heightened vulnerability, as environmental stress compounds socio-economic grievances.

Addressing this challenge requires a **multi-dimensional policy approach**. Strengthening climate-resilient agriculture, investing in early warning systems, and integrating climate risks into national security planning are crucial. India must also accelerate renewable energy transition to reduce emissions while ensuring energy security.

At the institutional level, climate adaptation should be mainstreamed into development planning, disaster management, and foreign policy. International cooperation on climate finance, technology transfer, and data sharing remains vital.



Thus, climate change is no longer a distant environmental issue but a **core security concern**, demanding proactive, integrated, and long-term responses.

GS – IV

Q4. What is meant by ethical leadership? Discuss its relevance in public administration with suitable examples.

Sample Answer:

Ethical leadership refers to the practice of leading by **moral principles, integrity, accountability, and public interest**, rather than personal or political gain. In public administration, ethical leadership is fundamental to democratic governance, as public officials wield authority on behalf of the people.

An ethical leader demonstrates values such as honesty, transparency, empathy, and fairness. Such leadership fosters trust between the state and citizens, which is essential for effective policy implementation. For example, a civil servant who resists political pressure to favour vested interests upholds the principle of impartiality, reinforcing institutional credibility.

Ethical leadership is particularly relevant in contexts involving discretionary powers. Decisions related to resource allocation, law enforcement, or welfare delivery often involve ethical dilemmas. Leaders guided by ethical reasoning ensure that outcomes align with constitutional values such as justice, equality, and dignity.

Historical and contemporary examples highlight its importance. Leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri exemplified personal integrity and simplicity, which strengthened moral authority. At the administrative level, whistle-blowers and reform-oriented officers who expose corruption or improve service delivery demonstrate ethical leadership in action.

Moreover, ethical leadership creates an enabling environment within institutions. When senior officials model ethical behaviour, it shapes organisational culture, discourages भ्रष्टाचार, and motivates subordinates to act responsibly.

In an era of declining trust in institutions, ethical leadership is not optional but essential. It bridges the gap between **legal authority and moral legitimacy**, ensuring that governance remains people-centric and value-driven.

Current Affairs

Q5. Madhav Gadgil is often described as the conscience of people-centred conservation in India. Critically examine this statement in the context of sustainable development.

Sample Answer:

Madhav Gadgil's contribution to environmental governance in India represents a paradigm shift from technocratic, exclusionary conservation models to **people-centred, participatory sustainability**.

Describing him as the "conscience of people-centred conservation" reflects his consistent emphasis on ecological democracy, decentralisation, and community rights.

As the chairperson of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), Gadgil advocated a scientifically rigorous yet socially sensitive approach to conservation. His report emphasised **local self-governance, graded ecological sensitivity, and community participation**, challenging the dominant model that often sidelines local populations in the name of environmental protection.



Gadgil's approach recognised that conservation cannot succeed without addressing **livelihood concerns and traditional ecological knowledge**. He argued that communities living closest to nature are not threats but custodians of ecosystems. This perspective aligns closely with the principles of sustainable development, which seek to balance environmental protection with social equity and economic viability.

However, his recommendations faced strong resistance from political and industrial interests, as well as fears of developmental restrictions. Critics argued that strict ecological zoning could hamper infrastructure and economic growth. Yet, subsequent environmental crises—landslides, floods, and biodiversity loss—have reinforced the relevance of Gadgil's warnings.

In the contemporary context of climate change and ecological degradation, Gadgil's ideas underscore the need for **ethical environmental governance**, where development decisions are informed by science, democratic participation, and long-term sustainability rather than short-term gains.

Thus, Madhav Gadgil's legacy lies not merely in policy recommendations but in reminding India that environmental stewardship is inseparable from **social justice, local empowerment, and constitutional values**—making him truly the conscience of people-centred conservation.

