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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 02/10/2026 (FRIDAY)

- **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 regarding traditional puppetry in India:

1. In *Tolpavakoothu* of Kerala, leather puppets are used to depict stories from the *Ramayana*, and performances are synchronised with temple rituals.
2. The *Kathputli* of Rajasthan employs rod puppets and is traditionally accompanied by the *Pakhawaj* and *Sarangi*.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Both
(c) None
(d) Cannot be determined from the given information

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:
Statement 1 is **correct**. *Tolpavakoothu* is a shadow puppetry tradition of Kerala using leather puppets to enact episodes from the *Kamba Ramayana*, often performed in temples dedicated to Bhagavati.
Statement 2 is **incorrect**. *Kathputli* uses *string puppets* (not rods). It is associated with Rajasthan's nomadic *Bhat* community, accompanied typically by *dholak* or local string instruments—not *Pakhawaj* and *Sarangi*.
Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q2. Which one of the following regions is *most recently* recognised as part of the global biodiversity hotspots as per the updated classification by Conservation International?

(a) Sundaland
(b) Indo-Burma
(c) Eastern Himalaya
(d) Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa

Answer: (d) Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa

Explanation:
The list of biodiversity hotspots is periodically reviewed by *Conservation International*. While Sundaland, Indo-Burma, and Eastern Himalaya are long-established Asian hotspots, the *Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa* were more recently delineated (as part of hotspot redefinition). These forests extend along the coasts of Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique and are known for high endemism.
Hence, option (d) is correct.

Q3. Consider the following statements about *Money Market instruments* in India:

1. Treasury Bills are issued at a discount and redeemed at par, while Commercial Papers can be issued at either a discount or interest-bearing basis.
2. Certificates of Deposit (CDs) can be issued by both scheduled commercial banks and selected financial institutions, but not by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
3. Call Money Market deals exclusively in funds lent for a period not exceeding 14 days, whereas Notice Money Market deals in funds with maturity beyond 14 days but less than one year.

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:** Correct. T-Bills are zero-coupon securities issued at a discount and redeemed at par. Commercial Papers (CPs) are short-term, unsecured promissory notes issued by corporates, usually at a discount, though some can be interest-bearing.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. CDs are issued by scheduled commercial banks and select All-India Financial Institutions (like NABARD, SIDBI), not by NBFCs.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. Call Money is for *1 to 14 days*, while Notice Money is *2 to 14 days*. Funds with maturity beyond 14 days fall under *Term Money Market*.
  Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q4. With reference to the *scope of Article 21 of the Constitution of India*, consider the following statements:

1. It includes the right to live with dignity and not merely physical existence.
2. It has been interpreted to encompass environmental protection and right to pollution-free air.
3. It provides for the right to privacy as a part of personal liberty.
4. It explicitly mentions the right to die with dignity in the constitutional text.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only three

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Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. In *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)*, the Supreme Court held that the right to life includes the right to live with dignity.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. In *Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar (1991)*, the Court recognised the right to pollution-free environment under Article 21.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. The *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)* judgment affirmed the right to privacy as part of personal liberty under Article 21.
- **Statement 4:** Incorrect. The Constitution does *not* explicitly mention the right to die; however, the *Common Cause (2018)* judgment recognised passive euthanasia under Article 21 through judicial interpretation.
  Hence, only three statements are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -
Assertion (A): The North Atlantic Drift keeps the western coasts of Europe relatively warm even in high latitudes.

Reason 1 (R_1): It originates as a continuation of the Gulf Stream and carries warm equatorial waters northwards.
Reason 2 (R_2): The prevailing westerlies help in transferring its warmth onto the adjacent coastal lands.

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

(a) Both R_1 and R_2 are correct, and both explain A.
(b) Both R_1 and R_2 are correct, but only R_1 explains A.
(c) R_1 is correct, but R_2 is incorrect.
(d) A is true, but both R_1 and R_2 are false.

Answer: (a) Both R_1 and R_2 are correct, and both explain A.

Explanation:
The **North Atlantic Drift** (a branch of the Gulf Stream) carries warm water from the tropics towards northwestern Europe, moderating the climate even in regions like Norway and the British Isles. This warmth is further distributed inland by **prevailing westerlies**, which carry maritime air over the land. Thus, both reasons are correct and jointly explain the assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Question 1. Consider the following statements regarding SEMICON India 2026:

1. The event adopts an end-to-end value-chain approach extending from semiconductor materials and equipment to chip design, fabrication, packaging, and system integration.
2. The transition to Semicon 2.0 is confined primarily to expanding fabrication capacity, with advanced packaging, semiconductor equipment, and talent development remaining outside its principal areas of intervention.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

Options:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Ans: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** SEMICON India 2026 was structured around an end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem model ("Silicon to Systems"), showcasing every stage from raw materials and equipment to design, fabrication, advanced packaging, and full system integration.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Semicon 2.0 expands the policy vision beyond basic fabrication. It explicitly incorporates critical ecosystem components such as domestic equipment manufacturing, specialty chemicals and gases, silicon photonics, advanced packaging (OSAT/ATMP), design-led startups, R&D, and skill development.

Question 2. With reference to India's first farm-level soil-carbon payments, consider the following:

The initiative is significant because it attempts to convert verified changes in soil carbon and greenhouse-gas emissions into a market-linked financial incentive for smallholder farmers, rather than treating regenerative agricultural practices merely as publicly funded conservation measures.

Which one of the following best explains the underlying mechanism?

Options:

a. Farmers receive a fixed government subsidy for every hectare converted to organic farming, irrespective of independently verified emission outcomes.
b. Farmers generate verified agricultural carbon credits through specified practices, which can subsequently be monetised in the voluntary carbon market.
c. Farmers receive payments exclusively from the National Clean Energy Fund after their farms cross a prescribed soil-organic-carbon threshold.
d. Farmers sell agricultural produce at a carbon-adjusted minimum support price, with the carbon component calculated by State governments.

Correct Ans: (b)

Explanation: The Aadi programme (implemented by Grow Indigo with technical guidance from ICAR) connects regenerative practices—such as Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), minimal tillage, and residual crop management—to verified carbon outcomes. Soil organic carbon sequestered and greenhouse gas emissions avoided are subjected to Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) standards to issue certified carbon credits. These credits are sold on the voluntary carbon market, allowing market revenue to flow directly back to smallholder farmers. It operates as an outcome-linked market mechanism rather than a flat government subsidy.

Question 3. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed associate-member relationship between Canada and the European Union:

1. The proposed arrangement is intended to enable deeper strategic and economic cooperation without automatically conferring full EU institutional membership upon Canada.
2. An associate member under the proposed model would automatically obtain voting rights in the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.
3. The expression “associate member” already constitutes a formally recognised membership category under the foundational treaties of the European Union.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Ans: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The framework aims to deepen transatlantic cooperation in critical sectors (e.g., critical raw materials, clean energy, defence, supply chain security, and AI) without making Canada a full member state.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Associate/strategic arrangements intentionally exclude non-EU countries from core decision-making organs. Canada would not gain voting rights in either the European Parliament or the Council of the EU.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Foundational EU treaties (Treaty on European Union - TEU, and Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - TFEU) do **not** contain a pre-existing formal category termed "associate member." Legal frameworks for non-member cooperation rely on specific Association Agreements (e.g., Article 217 TFEU) rather than a treaty-defined membership tier.

Question 4. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Vann Green Initiative:

1. It employs the Miyawaki method, characterised by dense, multilayered planting using indigenous vegetation.
2. Its ecological rationale is restricted to increasing tree cover and does not substantially relate to urban heat-island mitigation or particulate pollution.
3. The initiative incorporates a maintenance period intended to improve sapling survival before the plantation becomes substantially self-sustaining.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

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Ans: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bharat Vann micro-forests utilize the Miyawaki afforestation technique, planting native species densely (3–4 saplings per sq. metre) to accelerate growth and canopy structure.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Its environmental mandate specifically addresses key urban ecological challenges, including trapping fine particulate matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}/\text{PM}_{10}$) and mitigating the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect through localized evapotranspirative cooling and canopy shading.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The initiative incorporates a structured 36-month monitoring and maintenance period (supported via CSR frameworks like IIFCL) to guarantee high sapling survival rates until the ecosystem establishes self-sustainability.

Question 5. Consider the following statements regarding Elias 2-24 b:

1. It is a young gas-giant exoplanet associated with a very young star-forming environment.
2. Its estimated age is less than one million years, making it important for studying planetary formation at an exceptionally early stage.
3. It orbits its host star at approximately 55 astronomical units, placing it at a distance comparable in scale to the outer realm of the Solar System.
4. Its detection was primarily enabled by submillimeter interferometry (ALMA) analyzing circumstellar disk gaps and carbon monoxide gas kinematics.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Ans: (d) All four

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Elias 2-24 b is a young, massive planet candidate embedded in the protoplanetary disk of the star Elias 2-24 (located in the Ophiuchus star-forming complex).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** At less than 1 million years old, it offers direct observational insight into protoplanetary disk evolution and early gas-giant assembly mechanisms (e.g., core accretion vs. gravitational instability).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Situated at roughly 55 AU from its host star, its orbital radius is significantly larger than Neptune's (~30 AU), placing it in the far outer architecture of its planetary system.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Instead of standard near-infrared coronagraphic imaging, this planet was identified by the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) through high-resolution radio/submillimeter maps showing pronounced gaps in dust distribution and localized velocity perturbations (kinematic kinks) in CO gas flow.

Question 6. With reference to the location of Sohar Port, consider the following map-oriented question:

Which one of the following correctly describes the geographical position of Sohar Port?

Options:

a. Located on Oman's southern coast along the Arabian Sea, immediately east of Salalah and outside the Gulf of Oman
b. Located in northern Oman, facing the Gulf of Oman, and positioned outside the Strait of Hormuz
c. Located on the Iranian side of the Strait of Hormuz, providing direct access to the Persian Gulf
d. Located in the United Arab Emirates on the eastern coast of the Musandam Peninsula, overlooking the Gulf of Oman

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

Sohar Port and Freezone is situated in the Al Batinah North Governorate of northern Oman along the coastline of the Gulf of Oman. Its major strategic value lies in being situated **outside the Strait of Hormuz**, allowing commercial shipping to bypass the maritime chokepoint while retaining efficient access to Arabian Peninsula trade corridors.

- Options (a), (c), and (d) introduce clear geographical errors regarding country jurisdiction, region, or coastal orientation.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. ***"Agrarian reforms in India were envisioned to restructure rural society and empower the peasantry, yet their outcomes have remained uneven and incomplete."*** **Critically examine the evolution and efficacy of agrarian reforms since independence.**

Answer:
Agrarian reforms in India were aimed at dismantling the semi-feudal structure of rural society, ensuring equitable access to land, and increasing agricultural productivity. The process evolved through distinct phases since Independence, each reflecting socio-political priorities and structural limitations.

Phase I: Abolition of Intermediaries (1950s)
Post-Independence, the zamindari system was abolished to eliminate exploitative intermediaries. Around 20 million tenants gained ownership rights. However, due to *inadequate land records, poor implementation, and political resistance*, large tracts of land remained with rural elites.

Phase II: Tenancy Reforms and Ceiling Laws (1960s–70s)
Tenancy regulation and land ceilings sought to redistribute surplus land to the landless. In practice, these reforms were *circumvented through benami transfers and legal loopholes*. The green revolution further benefited larger farmers, reinforcing inequalities in some regions.

Phase III: Land Consolidation and Co-operative Farming
Efforts at land consolidation improved efficiency in states like Punjab and Haryana. Yet, *fragmentation* persisted elsewhere. Cooperative farming largely failed due to *lack of trust and weak institutional support*.

Phase IV: Post-1990s Focus — Livelihood and Inclusion
The reform discourse shifted towards *livelihood security, watershed management, and women's land rights*. The Forest Rights Act (2006) and digitisation of land records (Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme) represent a new phase of inclusive reform.

Evaluation:
While agrarian reforms achieved *partial social justice*, structural inequalities persist. Landless labourers still form nearly 55% of rural households, and women own less than 13% of land holdings.

Way Forward:
Reforms must now focus on *land leasing liberalisation*, *gender parity in ownership*, *agrarian digitisation*,

and *rural non-farm employment linkages*. Agrarian transformation is no longer only about land—it is about integrating equity with sustainability and technology-driven growth.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. *"The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 marked a paradigm shift from welfare to rights-based governance. Yet, its implementation continues to face institutional and logistical challenges."* Examine critically.

Answer:
The *National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013* embodies India's commitment to transforming food entitlements into a **legal right**, ensuring that no citizen goes hungry. It seeks to provide subsidised food grains to nearly **75% of rural** and **50% of urban** populations through the *Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)*.

Rights-Based Architecture:
NFSA represents a *justiciable entitlement*, unlike earlier welfare schemes. It integrates several pre-existing programmes — *Mid-Day Meal, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)*, and *Maternity Benefits* — under a single legal framework.

Achievements:

- **Enhanced Coverage:** Nearly 80 crore beneficiaries under the *One Nation, One Ration Card* (ONORC) scheme ensure portability and inclusion.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Women are recognised as the head of beneficiary households.
- **Nutritional Security:** Diversification beyond cereals has begun in some states.

Challenges:

- **Identification and Exclusion:** Census 2011 data still forms the basis of beneficiary lists; millions of deserving citizens remain excluded.
- **Leakages and Diversion:** Despite digitisation, PDS leakages continue, especially in transport and distribution chains.
- **Nutritional Deficit:** Focus remains cereal-centric, neglecting protein and micronutrient security.
- **Fiscal Strain:** The food subsidy bill exceeds ₹2 lakh crore annually, raising questions on sustainability.

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Way Forward:
To strengthen NFSA's impact:

1. Update beneficiary databases with dynamic exclusion–inclusion mechanisms.
2. Integrate *nutri-cereals (millets)* and pulses into the PDS.
3. Promote decentralised procurement and community grain banks.
4. Use AI and blockchain for real-time monitoring of supply chains.

Conclusion:
NFSA stands as a milestone in *rights-based governance*, but its promise of "food with dignity" will be realised only when digital efficiency converges with local accountability and nutritional adequacy.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3.*"Money laundering is not just an economic crime but a threat multiplier for governance, security, and democracy."* Discuss in light of India's evolving anti–money laundering framework.

Answer:
Money laundering — the process of concealing illicit funds to appear legitimate — corrodes the financial system, fuels terrorism, and undermines governance. For a growing economy like India, its implications go far beyond fiscal losses.

Magnitude and Mechanism:
Black money arises from *tax evasion, corruption, trade misinvoicing,* and *crime syndicates*. Laundered money often re-enters the economy through *shell companies*, *havala routes*, or *real estate* transactions.

Institutional and Legal Framework:

1. **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002:** The cornerstone law; criminalises laundering of proceeds of crime.
2. **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND):** Collects and analyses suspicious transaction reports (STRs).
3. **Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 2016:** Targets property held in fictitious names.
4. **FATF and Egmont Group Participation:** Enhances India's compliance with global anti-laundering standards.

Challenges:

- **Judicial Bottlenecks:** Low conviction rates and long trials.
- **Misuse Allegations:** Concerns about selective enforcement under PMLA.
- **Cross-border Complexity:** Offshore havens and cryptocurrency make tracing difficult.
- **Informal Sector Dominance:** Cash-based transactions create opacity.

Recent Developments:

- The inclusion of *cryptocurrency service providers* under PMLA (2023) broadens the compliance net.
- Enhanced cooperation with global enforcement agencies has improved asset recovery.

Way Forward:

1. Strengthen *data-sharing and forensic capacity* among agencies.
2. Balance enforcement with *due process and transparency*.
3. Encourage financial literacy and digital transactions to formalise the economy.

Conclusion:
Money laundering is a silent threat to economic democracy. India's progress must rest not merely on more laws, but on building *institutional integrity, accountability,* and *international collaboration* to prevent the economy from becoming a sanctuary for illicit wealth.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. *"Ethical governance is not merely about adhering to rules but about cultivating moral imagination in public life."* Discuss with suitable illustrations.

Answer:
Ethical governance transcends compliance; it is about applying moral reasoning to complex situations where rules alone may not suffice. The "moral imagination" in governance refers to the ability to envision and act upon what is *right*, *fair*, and *humane* beyond procedural correctness.

Dimensions of Ethical Governance:

1. **Integrity:** Commitment to truth, transparency, and impartiality in public decisions.
2. **Empathy:** Understanding citizens' lived realities — e.g., IAS officer Armstrong Pame personally mobilising funds for road construction in Manipur.
3. **Moral Courage:** Standing up against unethical orders or corruption, as exemplified by whistleblowers like Ashok Khemka.

Why Rules Alone Are Insufficient:
Rules define *minimum standards*, but governance demands *value-based judgments*. For instance, a bureaucrat facing an ethical dilemma between legal rigidity and humanitarian urgency — such as permitting food relief in a flood without formal sanction — must rely on *moral imagination*.

Institutionalising Ethical Governance:

- Training civil servants in *ethical decision-making* and *emotional intelligence*.
- Promoting *citizen charters* and *social audits* for accountability.
- Integrating *values education* in policy design.

Conclusion:
Ethical governance is the bridge between legality and legitimacy. The true measure of a civil servant lies not just in obeying the rulebook but in upholding the spirit of justice and humanity that underpins it. In essence, morality must be the compass, and not merely the map, of governance.

Current Affairs –

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Q5. *"At 80, the United Nations remains both a symbol of global possibility and a mirror of geopolitical contradictions."* Critically analyse the UN's contemporary relevance in maintaining international peace and justice.

Answer: The United Nations (UN), established in 1945, embodies humanity's collective aspiration for peace, justice, and cooperation. At 80, it stands as both an *institution of promise* and an *arena of paralysis*.

Achievements as a Symbol of Possibility:

1. **Conflict Resolution:** The UN has helped end wars (e.g., Cambodia, Namibia) and deployed over 70 peacekeeping missions.
2. **Norm Building:** It pioneered global norms on *human rights (UDHR)*, *climate action (Paris Agreement)*, and *sustainable development (SDGs)*.
3. **Global Health and Relief:** The WHO-led campaigns (smallpox eradication, COVID-19 response) and WFP's humanitarian interventions highlight its indispensable humanitarian role.

Limitations and Contradictions:

- **Security Council Paralysis:** The veto power of five permanent members (P5) often subverts collective will—as seen in the Ukraine conflict or Gaza crisis.
- **Representation Deficit:** Africa, Latin America, and India remain excluded from permanent membership, undermining legitimacy.
- **Funding Inequality:** Dependence on major powers limits independence and action.
- **New Challenges:** Cybersecurity, climate migration, and AI governance remain under-regulated by current UN structures.

Relevance and Reform Imperatives:

- Democratisation of the *UN Security Council*.
- Strengthening *peacebuilding institutions* and *early warning systems*.
- Integrating Global South leadership into agenda-setting.

Conclusion:
The UN's 80th anniversary is a moment of reflection. It remains humanity's most ambitious experiment in global governance—imperfect, yet indispensable. Its enduring relevance lies not in its perfection, but in its capacity for reform and moral leadership amid rising nationalism and fragmentation.

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