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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 09/10/2026 (FRIDAY)

- **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 role of Indian revolutionaries in the early 20th century, consider the following statements:

1. The Berlin Committee, set up during World War I, received direct support from the German government to initiate anti-British activities in India.
2. The Ghadar Party's revolt was primarily successful in inciting mutinies among Indian soldiers stationed within India during 1915.

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) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Berlin Committee (also called the Indian Independence Committee) was formed in 1914 by Indian nationalists in Germany. It aimed to incite rebellion in India with German support. The Germans provided funds and strategic assistance, as they saw an opportunity to destabilize British rule during WWI.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Ghadar Party did attempt to instigate armed mutinies (notably the 1915 Ghadar Mutiny), but it largely failed due to leaks, British intelligence, and lack of coordination. It was **not successful** in inciting major mutinies within India.

Q2. Consider the following statements about ecosystem productivity and carbon dynamics:

1. Gross Primary Productivity (GPP) always increases with biodiversity in all terrestrial ecosystems.
2. Net Primary Productivity (NPP) can sometimes be lower than GPP even in fertile ecosystems due to high respiration loss.
3. Blue carbon ecosystems like mangroves and seagrasses are more efficient in long-term carbon sequestration than terrestrial forests.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** While biodiversity can contribute to productivity, **GPP does not always increase linearly with biodiversity**. In some ecosystems, there may be saturation or redundancy beyond a point.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** NPP = GPP – Respiration. High respiration by autotrophs can lead to lower NPP even if GPP is high.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Blue carbon ecosystems like mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes sequester carbon in **anaerobic soils** for **centuries to millennia**, making them more effective long-term carbon sinks than even tropical forests.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Fiscal Consolidation and Indian Budgetary Practice:

1. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act requires the Centre to reduce revenue deficit to 0% by 2025-26.
2. The concept of "Effective Revenue Deficit" excludes grants given to States for creation of capital assets from the revenue deficit.
3. Off-budget borrowings are included under the fiscal deficit target as per the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The FRBM Act originally aimed for 0 revenue deficit, but this was modified. **The current roadmap does not target a zero revenue deficit by 2025–26**, especially after pandemic disruptions.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** "Effective Revenue Deficit" = Revenue Deficit – Grants for capital asset creation. It was introduced in **Union Budget 2011–12**.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The 15th Finance Commission emphasized **transparency** and suggested inclusion of off-budget borrowings in fiscal indicators.

Q4. Which of the following provisions are explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of India?

1. The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
2. The Prime Minister shall be the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha.
3. The Vice President of India shall not hold any other office of profit.
4. The Speaker shall not vote in the first instance but has and shall exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 1 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Article 75(3): The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Constitution does **not** explicitly state that the PM shall be leader of the majority party. It's a **convention**, not a constitutional provision.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Article 66(4): The Vice President **shall not hold any office of profit**.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Article 100(1): The Speaker shall not vote in the first instance but shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type –

Assertion (A): Mitochondria have their own DNA and ribosomes, and are capable of synthesizing some of their own proteins.
Reason (R): Mitochondria originated as free-living prokaryotes that entered into a symbiotic relationship with early eukaryotic cells.

a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.
b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
d) A is incorrect, but R is correct.

Answer: a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct.** Mitochondria are semi-autonomous organelles with their **own DNA, ribosomes, and ability to synthesize certain proteins** essential for their functioning.
- **Reason is correct.** This supports the **Endosymbiotic Theory**, which proposes that mitochondria evolved from **aerobic prokaryotes (like α-proteobacteria)** engulfed by ancestral eukaryotic cells.
- R **correctly explains** A, as their genetic independence is due to their evolutionary origin.

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the extension of President's Rule in Indian states:

1. The President's Rule under Article 356 can be extended beyond three years only through a constitutional amendment.
2. The Parliament must approve every six-month extension of President's Rule through a resolution passed by a special majority in both Houses.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Article 356 allows President's Rule for **up to 3 years**, but extension **beyond 1 year** (not 3) requires fulfillment of **two conditions**:
    - National emergency must be in operation in the whole or part of the state (Article 352), and
    - The Election Commission must certify that elections cannot be held.
    - No constitutional amendment is needed to extend beyond 3 years; in fact, such an extension **is not allowed at all** unless conditions are reimposed and fresh proclamations are made.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Each extension requires **simple majority** in **both Houses**, not a **special majority**.

Q2. Which of the following countries has not signed a deal or expressed formal interest in acquiring the Indo-Russian BrahMos supersonic cruise missile as of 2025?
(a) Philippines
(b) Indonesia
(c) Vietnam
(d) Myanmar

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Answer: (d) Myanmar

Explanation:

- **Philippines** signed a deal with India in 2022, becoming the first foreign buyer.
- **Indonesia** has expressed interest and is in advanced negotiation stages.
- **Vietnam** has shown strategic interest, though formal signing hasn't occurred.
- **Myanmar** has not officially expressed interest or signed any deal for BrahMos, primarily due to diplomatic concerns.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Sunflower Sea Stars (Pycnopodia helianthoides):

1. They are classified as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List due to sea star wasting disease.
2. They are found exclusively along the Indian Ocean coastlines, particularly in coral reef ecosystems.
3. Their disappearance can trigger trophic cascades, affecting kelp forests due to sea urchin population booms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 3
(d) All three

Answer: (b) Only 1 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 2020, the species was listed as **Critically Endangered** due to a massive die-off caused by **sea star wasting disease**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sunflower Sea Stars are found along the **Pacific coasts** of North America (from Alaska to California), not the Indian Ocean.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** They prey on sea urchins. Their decline leads to a sea urchin boom, which devastates **kelp forests**, a classic case of a **trophic cascade**.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Nilgiri Tahr and recent conservation developments:

1. The species is endemic to the Eastern Himalayas and prefers high-altitude snowline habitats.
2. The 2025 population census recorded a 21% increase in Nilgiri Tahr population, primarily in Mukurthi National Park.
3. The Tamil Nadu government has launched a Nilgiri Tahr Conservation Project under the National Biodiversity Mission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) Only 2 and 3
(b) Only 1 and 2
(c) Only 1 and 3
(d) All three

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Answer: (a) Only 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Nilgiri Tahr is **endemic to the Western Ghats**, especially in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, not the Eastern Himalayas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A **21% population increase** was reported, with significant rise observed in **Mukurthi National Park** and **Eravikulam National Park**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Tamil Nadu launched the **Nilgiri Tahr Conservation Project** under state initiatives with convergence from central biodiversity and eco-tourism funds.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Haat on Wheels' initiative launched in India:

1. It is a rural marketing scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development aimed at promoting SHG (Self Help Group) products via mobile vans.
2. The initiative is linked to the DAY-NRLM mission and is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration series.
3. It allows e-commerce integration for SHGs to sell products via the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
4. It was first launched in Manipur to support the economic inclusion of women affected by ethnic violence.

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:** 'Haat on Wheels' is a mobile rural mart scheme under **MoRD**, promoting SHG products through **mobile marketing vans**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a part of **DAY-NRLM** and aligned with **Amrit Mahotsav** to showcase rural women entrepreneurs.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** SHGs are being integrated with **e-commerce and GeM**, expanding their market access.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The first launch was **not in Manipur** but in states like **Gujarat and Maharashtra**. It was **not specific to conflict-affected areas**.

Q6. Which of the following features are correctly matched with their location in Uttarkashi district?

1. **Gomukh Glacier** – Origin of the Bhagirathi River
2. **Gangotri National Park** – Part of Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
3. **Nelang Valley** – Strategic valley near Indo-China border
4. **Dodital Lake** – Source of Yamuna River

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) Only 1 and 3
(b) Only 2 and 4
(c) Only 1, 2 and 3
(d) All four

Answer: (c) Only 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Gomukh Glacier (1) is correct** – It is the snout of Gangotri Glacier and origin of **Bhagirathi**, one of the main tributaries of the Ganga.
- **Gangotri National Park (2) is correct** – It forms a part of the **larger Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve** buffer zone.
- **Nelang Valley (3) is correct** – It lies close to the **Indo-Tibetan border**, strategically important and under Army monitoring.
- **Dodital Lake (4) is incorrect** – It is the **source of Assi Ganga River**, not the **Yamuna**. Yamuna originates from **Yamunotri Glacier**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. Examine how the changing structure of the Indian family is influencing gender roles and intergenerational relationships. (15 marks)

Answer:

The Indian family, traditionally joint and patriarchal, is undergoing a significant transformation due to urbanization, economic mobility, migration, education, and changing aspirations. This evolving structure is deeply influencing gender roles and intergenerational dynamics.

Changing Gender Roles:

1. **Women in the Workforce:** More women are pursuing careers, leading to dual-income nuclear households. This challenges the traditional view of women as solely homemakers.
2. **Male Participation in Domestic Duties:** In urban India, men are increasingly contributing to domestic chores and child-rearing, though societal change is gradual.
3. **Questioning Patriarchy:** Younger generations are pushing back against rigid patriarchal norms. Women assert autonomy over decisions such as marriage, career, and motherhood.
4. **Emergence of Egalitarian Marriages:** Partnerships are increasingly based on mutual respect and negotiation, especially in middle-class urban families.

Impact on Intergenerational Relationships:

1. **Reduced Co-residence:** Nuclear families limit daily interaction with grandparents, weakening traditional intergenerational bonds and cultural transmission.
2. **Rise in Elder Vulnerability:** With children moving out, many elderly feel isolated or dependent on caregivers. This raises concerns about elder abuse and neglect.
3. **Generational Value Gaps:** Differing views on gender, sexuality, and career choices can cause friction. For instance, younger generations may value individualism over collectivism.

4. **Technology as a Bridge:** Digital tools (video calls, WhatsApp) help maintain intergenerational contact, albeit less intimate than physical proximity.

Conclusion:

While the nuclearization of families and modernization are reshaping gender roles and intergenerational relationships, this change is complex and region-specific. Policies must support both working women (e.g., maternity benefits, crèche facilities) and senior citizens (e.g., day-care centers, old-age homes) to accommodate the evolving family system while preserving core values of care and mutual respect.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. Discuss the significance of parliamentary committees in ensuring executive accountability. How can their functioning be made more effective? (15 marks)

Answer:

Parliamentary committees are crucial instruments of legislative oversight in a parliamentary democracy like India. These committees, operating in smaller groups, ensure in-depth scrutiny of government actions, policies, and finances, thus strengthening executive accountability.

Significance of Parliamentary Committees:

1. **Detailed Examination:** Committees like Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Estimates Committee conduct a deep analysis of CAG reports and budgetary spending.
2. **Bipartisanship:** These committees include members across party lines, promoting consensus rather than adversarial politics.
3. **Non-disruption:** Unlike the often chaotic Parliament, committees function behind closed doors, encouraging constructive dialogue.
4. **Expertise Building:** Long tenure in committees allows MPs to develop subject matter expertise in areas like defense, environment, or finance.
5. **Input in Legislation:** Department-Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) scrutinize bills, often suggesting critical amendments.

Challenges:

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1. **Low Discussion of Reports in Parliament:** Committee findings are not always debated, reducing their impact.
2. **Lack of Binding Powers:** Recommendations are advisory and often ignored by ministries.
3. **Infrequent Meetings:** Irregular sittings, especially post-COVID, have affected their efficacy.
4. **Politicization:** Partisan attitudes may still creep in, diluting objective scrutiny.

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. **Mandatory Discussion of Key Reports:** PAC/DRSC reports should be allotted time in Parliament sessions.
2. **Public Access to Reports:** Greater transparency and media coverage can build pressure for implementation.

3. **Capacity Building:** Regular training and support from research staff can enhance MPs' contributions.
4. **Codified Guidelines:** A formal framework for frequency of meetings, time-bound review of recommendations, and follow-up mechanisms is essential.

Conclusion:

Parliamentary committees are indispensable to democracy. By ensuring transparency, improving their deliberative capacity, and implementing their recommendations, India can significantly enhance parliamentary accountability and executive efficiency.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. Analyze the implications of climate change on India's agricultural productivity and food security. Suggest adaptive strategies to mitigate the risks. (15 marks)

Answer:

India's agriculture is highly climate-sensitive. With over 50% of cropland rainfed and small/marginal farmers constituting 85% of landholdings, even minor climatic changes can have disproportionate impacts on agricultural productivity and food security.

Implications of Climate Change:

1. **Erratic Monsoons:** Rainfall variability causes delayed sowing or crop failure. Unseasonal rains damage standing crops.
2. **Temperature Rise:** Heat stress reduces yields in wheat, rice, and pulses. Even a 1°C rise can reduce wheat production by 4–5 million tonnes.
3. **Increased Pests and Diseases:** Warmer, humid conditions favor pest outbreaks like locusts and fungal diseases.
4. **Water Scarcity:** Dwindling groundwater and glacier melt threaten irrigation and drinking water supply.
5. **Nutritional Security:** Climate change affects the nutritional quality of food crops (e.g., zinc, iron reduction in rice/wheat), worsening malnutrition.

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Adaptive Strategies:

1. **Climate-Resilient Crops:** Promoting drought- and flood-resistant varieties (e.g., Swarna Sub-1 rice) through ICAR and private innovation.
2. **Micro-Irrigation:** Schemes like PMKSY must be expanded to promote drip and sprinkler systems.
3. **Agro-Climatic Zoning:** Crop planning must align with regional climate data and soil profiles.
4. **Weather-Based Crop Insurance:** PMFBY must be strengthened with better grievance redressal and timely payouts.
5. **Digital Tools:** Use of AI and mobile apps for early warnings and weather advisories.
6. **Diversification:** Encouraging horticulture, pulses, and allied sectors like dairy and fisheries reduces dependence on climate-sensitive crops.

Conclusion:

India's food security hinges on adapting agriculture to a warming climate. A combination of scientific innovation, robust policy, and community-level resilience is necessary to secure the livelihoods of millions and ensure nutritional sufficiency for the future.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. "Ethical governance requires both a moral compass and institutional safeguards." Discuss with examples. (10 marks)

Answer:

Ethical governance refers to the conduct of public affairs based on integrity, fairness, accountability, and public interest. It is sustained by both **individual morality (moral compass)** and **external checks (institutional safeguards)**.

Moral Compass – Internal Ethics:

1. **Personal Integrity:** A civil servant with a strong moral compass resists corruption even in the absence of supervision.
    - *Example:* E. Sreedharan, the "Metro Man of India," is known for his ethical leadership and efficiency.
2. **Empathy & Compassion:** Ethical governance must be people-centric. Public officials should align policies with social justice, especially for marginalized communities.

Institutional Safeguards – External Controls:

1. **Laws and Codes:** Prevention of Corruption Act, Whistleblower Protection Act, and Conduct Rules guide ethical behavior.
2. **Oversight Bodies:** CAG, Lokpal, CVC, and RTI Act create systemic checks on abuse of power.
    - *Example:* The RTI Act has exposed multiple scams and administrative delays, fostering transparency.
3. **Citizen Charter & Grievance Mechanisms:** These ensure time-bound delivery and responsiveness.

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Synergy between Internal and External Ethics:

1. An ethical individual can resist systemic corruption but may burn out without institutional support.
2. Similarly, strong laws alone can't prevent unethical behavior if public servants lack integrity.
    - *Example:* Despite anti-corruption laws, scams like the Vyapam case emerged due to moral collapse within institutions.

Conclusion:

Ethical governance cannot be achieved through legislation alone. A combination of **internal virtues** like honesty, courage, and empathy and **external systems** like transparency laws and watchdog bodies is essential. Only then can public trust and democratic accountability be maintained.

Current Affairs –

Q5. How does the use of cryptocurrency facilitate money laundering in India? Examine the regulatory challenges and suggest a way forward. (15 marks)

Answer:

Cryptocurrencies, by design, offer pseudonymity, decentralization, and global transferability — traits that attract legitimate investors as well as criminals. In India, despite increased interest in crypto assets, regulatory ambiguity has enabled misuse, particularly in **money laundering**.

Facilitation of Money Laundering:

1. **Pseudonymity:** Transactions are recorded on public blockchains, but user identities are obscured. Launderers exploit this to layer illicit funds.
2. **Cross-border Transfers:** Crypto can move across borders without central oversight, bypassing FEMA/AML norms.
3. **Use of Mixers/Tumblers:** These tools obscure the transaction trail by mixing illicit crypto with clean ones.
4. **Shell Exchanges:** Launderers use unregistered or foreign crypto exchanges that lack KYC/AML compliance.
    - *Example:* In 2023, ED flagged several Chinese loan apps laundering money via crypto channels.

Regulatory Challenges:

1. **Lack of Clear Legal Status:** India has not yet legislated a comprehensive crypto law. The RBI had earlier banned, then lifted restrictions under Supreme Court directions.
2. **Jurisdictional Issues:** International nature of transactions makes enforcement difficult.
3. **Delayed FATF Compliance:** Though India has included VASPs (Virtual Asset Service Providers) under PMLA (2023), implementation remains weak.
4. **Limited Institutional Capacity:** ED, FIU, and state police often lack blockchain forensics expertise.

Way Forward:

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1. **Crypto-specific Legislation:** A dedicated law defining crypto assets, exchanges, wallets, and imposing AML/KYC norms is needed.
2. **Regulatory Sandboxes:** RBI/SEBI can supervise crypto innovation under tight scrutiny to balance innovation and control.
3. **International Cooperation:** MoUs with countries and crypto exchanges can help trace cross-border flows.
4. **Capacity Building:** Invest in training enforcement agencies in blockchain analysis and forensics.

Conclusion:

While cryptocurrencies offer technological and economic opportunities, unchecked growth poses national security and financial integrity threats. A balanced regulatory regime — neither a blanket ban nor a laissez-faire approach — is essential to harness crypto's potential while mitigating money laundering risks.