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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 12/10/2026 (MONDAY)

- **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 evolution of nationalist politics in colonial India, consider the following statements:

1. Certain constitutional reforms introduced by the British aimed simultaneously at limited political participation and preservation of imperial control.
2. Nationalist criticism of constitutional reforms was solely based on the absence of Indian representation in legislative bodies.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Neither one nor two
(d) Both 1 and 2

Answer: (a) Only one

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Several British constitutional reforms in India, including those introduced in the early twentieth century, attempted to create limited avenues of political participation while ensuring that real authority remained with the colonial administration. This dual strategy was intended to placate growing nationalist demands without surrendering substantive control.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Nationalist criticism was not solely about lack of Indian representation. Indian leaders objected to limited franchise, restricted powers of legislatures, executive dominance, communal electorates, and the fundamentally unrepresentative nature of colonial governance. Therefore, the criticism extended beyond mere numerical representation.

Hence, only one statement is correct.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains why ecological restoration of degraded ecosystems may not always recreate the original biodiversity structure?

(a) Ecological succession invariably restores identical species composition over time
(b) Species interactions, soil conditions, and anthropogenic disturbances may permanently alter ecosystem trajectories
(c) Restoration ecology primarily focuses on maximizing commercial plantation value
(d) Climate variability has no role in determining ecosystem recovery patterns

Answer: (b) Species interactions, soil conditions, and anthropogenic disturbances may permanently alter ecosystem trajectories

Detailed Explanation:
Ecological restoration seeks to recover ecosystem functions and biodiversity, but restored ecosystems do not necessarily replicate the exact historical ecological state. Soil degradation, invasive species, altered hydrology, habitat fragmentation, and continued human disturbances may change ecological succession pathways.

Option (a) is incorrect because succession does not guarantee restoration of identical biodiversity.
Option (c) is incorrect because restoration ecology primarily emphasizes ecological recovery rather than commercial plantation goals.
Option (d) is incorrect since climate variability strongly influences regeneration and species distribution.

Therefore, option (b) is the most appropriate answer.

Q3. With reference to macroeconomic management and public finance, consider the following statements:

1. A persistent revenue deficit implies that the government is borrowing even to finance part of its current consumption expenditure.
2. Fiscal deficit and public debt are identical concepts and may be used interchangeably.
3. Expansionary fiscal policy during economic slowdown may involve increased public expenditure or reduced taxation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Revenue deficit occurs when revenue expenditure exceeds revenue receipts. This suggests that borrowing may be used even for current expenditure rather than solely for capital formation.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Fiscal deficit and public debt are related but distinct concepts. Fiscal deficit refers to annual borrowing requirements, whereas public debt refers to accumulated liabilities over time.

Statement 3 is correct. Expansionary fiscal policy aims to stimulate aggregate demand during economic slowdown through higher government spending, tax reductions, or both.

Thus, Statements 1 and 3 are correct, while Statement 2 is incorrect.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q4. With reference to the constitutional framework and functioning of Indian democracy, consider the following statements:

1. Every constitutional amendment automatically requires ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures.
2. Judicial review is considered part of the constitutional scheme safeguarding constitutional supremacy.
3. Parliament may amend many provisions of the Constitution, but such power is subject to judicially evolved limitations.
4. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles are always mutually exclusive in constitutional interpretation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two

(c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is incorrect. Only certain constitutional amendments affecting federal provisions require ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures. Most amendments do not require such ratification.

Statement 2 is correct. Judicial review enables courts to examine legislative and executive actions for constitutional validity and is central to maintaining constitutional supremacy.

Statement 3 is correct. Though Parliament possesses wide amending powers, judicial doctrine has imposed limitations, particularly through the Basic Structure doctrine.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles are not inherently contradictory. Constitutional interpretation increasingly seeks harmony and balance between them.

Therefore, Statements 2 and 3 alone are correct.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q5. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): Regions receiving high annual rainfall may still experience seasonal water stress.

Reason I: Spatial and temporal concentration of rainfall may limit effective water availability despite high aggregate precipitation.

Reason II: Surface runoff, inadequate storage infrastructure, and groundwater over-extraction may intensify local water scarcity.

(a) Both Reason I and Reason II are correct and both explain Assertion (A)
(b) Both Reason I and Reason II are correct, but only one of them explains Assertion (A)
(c) Only one of the Reasons is correct
(d) Neither Reason I nor Reason II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Reason I and Reason II are correct and both explain Assertion (A)

Detailed Explanation:
The Assertion is correct. High annual rainfall does not automatically guarantee year-round water availability. Several regions receiving substantial rainfall still face seasonal shortages.

Reason I is correct and directly explains the Assertion. Rainfall may be concentrated in a few months, resulting in uneven temporal distribution and reduced availability during dry periods.

Reason II is also correct and independently explains the Assertion. Excessive runoff, poor storage capacity, weak water management systems, and groundwater depletion may cause water stress even in high-rainfall areas.

Since both reasons are correct and both explain the Assertion, option (a) is the correct answer.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) 2026–2033, consider the following statements:

1. COSOP is a strategic partnership framework between India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development for rural transformation and resilience.
2. The programme primarily focuses on sovereign debt restructuring and urban infrastructure financing.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Neither one nor two
(d) Both 1 and 2

Answer: (a) Only one

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. COSOP is an eight-year strategic framework between India and IFAD aimed at promoting rural prosperity, livelihood diversification, climate resilience, and inclusive agricultural growth.

Statement 2 is incorrect. COSOP is not an urban infrastructure or sovereign debt restructuring programme. Its emphasis lies on rural development, smallholder agriculture, institutional partnerships, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

Therefore, only one statement is correct.

Q2. The LEADS 2025 Report is primarily associated with:

(a) Measuring states' performance in logistics and supply-chain efficiency
(b) Assessing ecological carrying capacity of coastal regions
(c) Ranking Indian cities on digital governance indicators
(d) Evaluating States on renewable-energy transition targets

Answer: (a) Measuring states' performance in logistics and supply-chain efficiency

Detailed Explanation:
LEADS stands for **Logistics Ease Across Different States**. The report evaluates logistics performance across States and Union Territories using indicators related to infrastructure, logistics services, regulatory environment, warehousing, multimodal transport, and supply-chain facilitation.

Option (b) relates to environmental assessment.
Option (c) refers to digital governance indices.
Option (d) concerns energy transition assessments.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

Q3. With reference to the Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme seeks to promote conversion of coal and lignite into value-added products through gasification technology.
2. The scheme completely prohibits private sector participation in coal gasification projects.

3. Coal gasification may reduce dependence on certain imported feedstocks and chemicals.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. The scheme promotes surface coal/lignite gasification as a cleaner and value-addition pathway using coal resources for synthesis gas and downstream industrial products.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme does not prohibit private participation. Instead, it encourages investment and technological participation through different implementation mechanisms.

Statement 3 is correct. Coal gasification can produce syngas and chemical feedstocks that may reduce dependence on certain imports such as methanol, ammonia, and related industrial inputs.

Therefore, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q4. With reference to the Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD), consider the following statements:

1. It functions as a policy dialogue platform linked to Indian Ocean regional cooperation.
2. The Dialogue exclusively deals with naval military exercises among Indian Ocean littoral states.
3. Maritime security, blue economy, disaster resilience, and regional connectivity may form part of its deliberative agenda.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

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Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. The Indian Ocean Dialogue serves as a policy and strategic dialogue platform involving stakeholders concerned with the Indian Ocean region.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The IOD is not merely a military or naval exercise arrangement. It is broader in scope and addresses multidimensional regional concerns.

Statement 3 is correct. Deliberations commonly involve maritime governance, blue economy, security cooperation, connectivity, climate resilience, and disaster response.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q5. With reference to the Nicobarese opposition to proposed wildlife sanctuaries in the Nicobar region, consider the following statements:

1. Opposition emerged partly from concerns regarding consultation and implications for traditional community rights and livelihoods.
2. The proposed sanctuary debate has been discussed in the wider context of the Great Nicobar development initiatives.
3. Under Indian environmental governance, declaration of wildlife sanctuaries automatically extinguishes all customary and community concerns without any procedural engagement.
4. The debate reflects a broader tension between conservation objectives and indigenous participation in decision-making.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Only three

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Community concerns centred around consultation processes and implications for customary use and local livelihoods.

Statement 2 is correct. The sanctuary issue has been viewed in relation to broader developmental and environmental discussions surrounding Great Nicobar.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Wildlife sanctuary declaration involves legal and procedural processes. It does not automatically extinguish all concerns or negate consultation-related debates.

Statement 4 is correct. The issue reflects a wider policy challenge involving biodiversity conservation, strategic development, and indigenous participation.

Thus, three statements are correct.

Q6. With reference to Uzbekistan, consider the following statements:

1. Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country.
2. It shares borders with Kazakhstan and Afghanistan.
3. It has direct access to the Caspian Sea.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Uzbekistan is one of the world's few **doubly landlocked** countries, meaning that to reach an ocean, travel must pass through at least two countries.

Statement 2 is correct. Uzbekistan shares borders with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Uzbekistan does not have direct access to the Caspian Sea.

Hence, only two statements are correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS–1 (History)

Q1. ***"The Revolt of 1857 was not merely a sepoy mutiny but reflected wider social, political and economic discontent against British rule." Critically examine.***

Introduction

The Revolt of 1857 occupies a significant place in Indian history as one of the earliest and most widespread uprisings against British colonial rule. It began on 10 May 1857 at Meerut as a rebellion among Indian sepoys of the East India Company army and quickly spread to Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi and several other regions. Historians have debated whether it should be viewed merely as a military mutiny or as a broader anti-colonial movement. A critical examination suggests that while the revolt originated among soldiers, it soon incorporated the grievances of diverse sections of Indian society.

Body

The immediate cause of the revolt was the introduction of the Enfield rifle whose cartridges were allegedly greased with cow and pig fat. Since soldiers had to bite these cartridges before use, Hindu and Muslim sepoys perceived it as an attack on their religious beliefs. However, the uprising cannot be explained only through this incident.

Political grievances played a major role in generating resentment. The British policy of annexation, especially the Doctrine of Lapse introduced under Lord Dalhousie, resulted in the absorption of states such as Satara, Jhansi and Nagpur. The annexation of Awadh in 1856 created widespread anger among taluqdars, nobles and soldiers who had previously served under the local ruler. Traditional elites feared loss of status and authority.

Economic factors also contributed significantly. Heavy land revenue demands burdened peasants and zamindars. Artisans suffered due to the decline of traditional handicrafts caused by British manufactured imports. Moneylenders and revenue officials often exploited rural populations, creating widespread dissatisfaction. Such grievances explain why peasants and rural communities supported the revolt in many areas.

The revolt witnessed participation beyond the military. Leaders such as Bahadur Shah Zafar, Rani Lakshmibai, Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope and Kunwar Singh emerged as symbols of resistance. In several

regions, peasants, dispossessed landlords and local chiefs joined the uprising. This broad social participation suggests that the revolt represented more than a simple military mutiny.

Yet, the revolt had serious limitations. It lacked centralized leadership, common ideology and nationwide coordination. Southern and eastern India largely remained unaffected, while many princely states and communities supported the British. Therefore, it cannot be equated with later organized nationalist movements.

Conclusion

The Revolt of 1857 was neither merely a sepoy mutiny nor a fully developed national movement. It represented a combination of military rebellion and broader social, political and economic discontent against colonial rule. Although fragmented and regionally limited, it laid the psychological and political foundations for future anti-colonial nationalism in India.

GS–2 (Polity / Politics)

Q2. ***Discuss the significance of regional aspirations in strengthening Indian democracy.***

Introduction

India is a highly diverse country characterized by linguistic, cultural, ethnic and regional plurality. Such diversity naturally gives rise to regional aspirations, which may include demands for recognition, autonomy, development or even separate statehood. Since independence, India has witnessed numerous regional movements. While these aspirations are sometimes viewed as threats to national unity, democratic experience in India shows that accommodation of regional demands has often strengthened rather than weakened democracy.

Body

Regional aspirations emerged due to multiple reasons including linguistic identity, uneven economic development, cultural distinctiveness and perceived neglect by central authorities. The linguistic reorganization of states after independence provides a notable example. The formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1953 and the subsequent States Reorganisation Act of 1956 reflected democratic responsiveness to popular demands.

Regional aspirations strengthened democracy by deepening political participation. Regional parties became important vehicles for representing local concerns and marginalized voices. Parties such as the DMK, Shiv Sena, TDP and others brought regional issues into national discourse and expanded the representative character of Indian democracy. Through electoral competition and coalition politics, regional concerns became integrated into governance.

Another significant contribution of regional aspirations lies in promoting federalism. India's federal system allows accommodation of diversity through constitutional mechanisms. Demands for separate states such as Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Telangana were addressed through constitutional processes rather than violent suppression. This flexibility strengthened public faith in democratic institutions.

Regional movements have also highlighted developmental imbalances. Many demands arose due to unequal distribution of resources and lack of economic opportunities. By raising issues related to employment, infrastructure and regional neglect, such movements compelled governments to adopt more balanced development policies.

However, regional aspirations may create challenges when they assume separatist or violent forms. Insurgencies in Punjab and parts of the North-East, as well as tensions in Jammu and Kashmir, demonstrated the risks associated with unresolved grievances. Nevertheless, the Indian state largely relied upon dialogue, federal arrangements and democratic participation to address such concerns.

Conclusion

Regional aspirations are not inherently anti-national. In a diverse society like India, they represent democratic expressions of identity and development concerns. When addressed through constitutional and democratic mechanisms, regional aspirations strengthen federalism, broaden participation and make Indian democracy more inclusive and responsive.

Relevant Picture:
Map showing linguistic reorganisation of Indian states

GS–3 (Economy)

Q3. ***Explain the significance of the government budget in promoting economic growth and social justice in India.***

Introduction

The government budget is an annual financial statement presenting estimated receipts and expenditure for a particular fiscal year. Beyond its accounting function, the budget acts as a crucial instrument of fiscal policy through which the government seeks to promote economic growth, stability and welfare. In a developing country like India, the budget plays a particularly significant role in balancing developmental priorities with social justice.

Body

One of the primary functions of the government budget is promoting economic growth. Through public expenditure, the government invests in infrastructure, roads, railways, power generation and digital connectivity. Such investments create productive assets, stimulate private investment and generate employment. Increased capital expenditure often produces multiplier effects, boosting income and demand throughout the economy.

The budget also serves as an important tool for achieving social justice. India faces considerable socio-economic inequalities based on income, caste, gender and region. Through progressive taxation and welfare-oriented spending, the government attempts to reduce these disparities. Schemes related to education, health, nutrition and rural employment support vulnerable sections and improve human development indicators.

Budgetary policy influences resource allocation as well. The government can encourage priority sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy and MSMEs through subsidies, tax incentives and targeted expenditure. During economic slowdowns, expansionary fiscal policy through higher spending can support recovery and employment generation.

At the same time, fiscal discipline remains essential. Excessive fiscal deficits may generate inflationary pressures and increase public debt. Therefore, governments must maintain a balance between developmental expenditure and financial prudence. Institutions such as the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management framework aim to ensure sustainable public finances.

In recent years, Indian budgets have increasingly focused on infrastructure expansion, digital governance, financial inclusion and green development. Transfers to states through fiscal federal mechanisms further support balanced regional development and cooperative federalism.

Conclusion

The government budget is far more than an income-expenditure statement. It is a strategic instrument for directing economic activity, reducing inequalities and ensuring welfare-oriented development. A well-designed budget that balances growth with equity can significantly contribute to inclusive and sustainable development in India.

GS–4 (Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Q4. ***"Integrity in public life is essential for good governance." Discuss with suitable examples.***

Introduction

Integrity is one of the most fundamental values in public administration and governance. It refers to adherence to moral principles, honesty, ethical conduct and consistency between values and actions. In public life, integrity assumes greater significance because public officials exercise authority, manage public resources and influence policy outcomes. Good governance, characterized by transparency, accountability, efficiency and responsiveness, cannot be sustained without integrity among public institutions and officials.

Body

Integrity is essential because it strengthens public trust in institutions. Citizens expect public officials to perform duties fairly and impartially without favouritism or corruption. When integrity is compromised through bribery, nepotism or abuse of power, confidence in governance declines and democratic legitimacy suffers. Therefore, integrity acts as the moral foundation of public administration.

Integrity contributes directly to transparency and accountability. Public officials with integrity ensure that decisions are taken according to rules and public interest rather than personal gain. Transparent procurement procedures, fair recruitment and honest implementation of welfare schemes become possible only when officials maintain ethical standards. For example, leakages in welfare distribution are reduced when administrators honestly monitor implementation and ensure benefits reach intended beneficiaries.

Numerous examples demonstrate the importance of integrity in governance. Honest civil servants who resist political pressure and uphold constitutional values often improve administrative efficiency and public service delivery. The successful implementation of social welfare programmes, disaster relief operations and public health initiatives frequently depends on officials acting with dedication and ethical commitment.

Conversely, lack of integrity leads to corruption and governance failure. Scandals involving misuse of public funds, irregular contracts or favoritism not only cause economic losses but also weaken institutional credibility. Corruption diverts resources from development projects and disproportionately harms weaker sections of society. Thus, integrity is not merely a moral ideal but a practical necessity for effective governance.

Integrity is also closely associated with values such as courage, empathy, objectivity and accountability. Public servants may encounter pressure from political actors, vested interests or bureaucratic hierarchies. Upholding ethical standards despite such pressures requires moral courage. Whistleblowers and ethical administrators often face risks but play a vital role in protecting public interest.

Institutional mechanisms help promote integrity. Instruments such as the Right to Information Act, vigilance commissions, anti-corruption agencies, social audits and codes of conduct strengthen accountability. However, institutions alone cannot guarantee ethical behaviour unless individuals internalize moral values.

Conclusion

Good governance requires more than efficient institutions and policies; it requires ethical leadership and principled public servants. Integrity ensures that authority is exercised responsibly, resources are used honestly and citizens receive fair treatment. Therefore, integrity in public life remains indispensable for sustaining democracy, public trust and effective governance.

Current Affairs

Q5. ***Analyse the role of AI-powered financial inclusion in transforming India's economic landscape. Discuss the opportunities and associated concerns.***

Introduction

Financial inclusion refers to ensuring affordable and timely access to financial services such as banking, credit, insurance and digital payments for all sections of society. In India, despite significant progress through schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana and digital payment systems, many individuals and small enterprises continue to face barriers in accessing formal finance. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a transformative tool capable of bridging these gaps and accelerating inclusive economic development.

Body

AI-powered financial inclusion offers significant opportunities for India. Traditional banking systems often rely heavily on formal credit histories and collateral, excluding informal workers, small farmers and micro-enterprises. AI addresses this challenge by analysing alternative datasets such as transaction histories, mobile usage and digital payment behaviour to assess creditworthiness. This enables banks and fintech firms to provide loans and financial products to previously underserved populations.

India's digital public infrastructure provides a strong foundation for AI integration. The combination of Aadhaar-based identification, Jan Dhan accounts and UPI-enabled transactions has generated a large digital ecosystem. AI systems can analyse this data to design personalized financial products, improve customer support and enhance risk management. AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants further enable financial services in local languages, improving accessibility for rural populations.

AI also strengthens fraud detection and cybersecurity. Machine-learning algorithms can detect suspicious transactions in real time, thereby protecting users and reducing financial fraud. Such systems improve trust in digital financial platforms and encourage wider participation in formal financial systems.

AI-driven financial inclusion particularly benefits MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and rural households. Small businesses often face difficulties in obtaining institutional credit due to insufficient documentation. AI-based credit scoring helps reduce these barriers and promotes entrepreneurship, employment and economic productivity.

However, significant concerns accompany these opportunities. Data privacy and consent remain major issues. Large-scale collection and processing of personal financial information raise risks of misuse and surveillance. Algorithmic bias presents another challenge, as flawed datasets may produce discriminatory

lending decisions. Digital illiteracy and inadequate internet connectivity may further exclude vulnerable groups, creating a new form of digital inequality.

Regulatory oversight is therefore essential. Ethical AI frameworks, robust data protection laws and digital literacy initiatives are necessary to ensure responsible deployment.

Conclusion

AI-powered financial inclusion has transformative potential for India's economic landscape by expanding access, reducing transaction costs and empowering underserved communities. Nevertheless, technology must remain inclusive, transparent and accountable. A balanced approach combining innovation with strong regulation can ensure that AI becomes a tool for equitable and sustainable financial development.

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