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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 26/10/2026 (MONDAY)

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



9972258970 & 9740702455

#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. With reference to the religious practices during the Later Vedic Age, consider the following statements:

1. The prominence of sacrificial rituals led to the relative decline of simple pastoral deities in religious life.
2. The Upanishadic thinkers completely rejected the authority of the Vedas and sacrificial rituals.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) Only one

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. During the Later Vedic phase, elaborate yajnas and priestly rituals became dominant. Earlier deities associated with natural and pastoral life gradually lost relative importance, while Prajapati, Vishnu, and Rudra gained prominence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Upanishadic thinkers criticized excessive ritualism and emphasized knowledge (*jnana*), self-realization, and Brahman, but they did not completely reject Vedic authority. The Upanishads themselves are part of Vedic literature.

Hence, only one statement is correct.

2. Which one of the following best explains the phenomenon of biological magnification in an ecosystem?

Options:
(a) Increase in biomass at successive trophic levels due to greater energy availability
(b) Progressive accumulation of non-biodegradable toxic substances at higher trophic levels
(c) Gradual expansion of habitat range of invasive alien species in a food chain
(d) Natural enrichment of soil nutrients through repeated decomposition cycles

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Correct Answer: (b) Progressive accumulation of non-biodegradable toxic substances at higher trophic levels

Detailed Explanation:
Biological magnification (biomagnification) refers to the increasing concentration of toxic, non-biodegradable substances such as DDT, mercury, or PCBs as one moves upward through trophic levels in a food chain.

Primary producers absorb small quantities, herbivores consume larger cumulative amounts, and top carnivores accumulate the maximum concentration because these substances are not efficiently metabolized or excreted.

Option (a) relates to ecological pyramids and energy flow, not biomagnification.

3. Consider the following statements regarding inflation and monetary management in India:

1. Core inflation excludes food and fuel inflation because these categories exhibit high price volatility.
2. A rise in repo rate necessarily reduces inflation immediately by lowering aggregate demand.
3. Cost-push inflation may occur even during periods of stagnant aggregate demand.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Core inflation excludes food and fuel prices because these are highly volatile due to seasonal and external factors.

Statement 2 is incorrect. An increase in repo rate may reduce inflationary pressure over time by reducing liquidity and credit expansion, but the impact is neither immediate nor guaranteed.

Statement 3 is correct. Cost-push inflation arises from increased production costs (fuel, wages, raw materials) and may coexist with weak demand and slow growth.

Thus, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the functioning of the Indian Parliament:

1. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha on the recommendation of the President.
2. The Rajya Sabha can amend a Money Bill, and the Lok Sabha is constitutionally bound to consider such amendments.
3. A joint sitting of Parliament can be summoned for a Constitutional Amendment Bill in case of deadlock between the two Houses.
4. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the final authority to decide whether a Bill is a Money Bill.

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How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha with prior recommendation of the President.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Rajya Sabha can only recommend amendments within 14 days; Lok Sabha may accept or reject them.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Joint sitting under Article 108 does not apply to Constitutional Amendment Bills.

Statement 4 is correct. The Speaker's decision regarding whether a Bill is a Money Bill is final.

Therefore, Statements 1 and 4 are correct.

5. Assertion – Reason type -
Assertion (A): Tropical cyclones generally weaken after making landfall.

Reason (R1): Land surfaces reduce the continuous supply of moisture necessary for sustaining latent heat release.
Reason (R2): Surface friction over land disrupts the organized cyclonic circulation and lowers wind intensity.

Options:
(a) Both R1 and R2 are correct, and both correctly explain A
(b) Both R1 and R2 are correct, but only one of them explains A
(c) R1 is correct, but R2 is incorrect
(d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct

Correct Answer: (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct, and both correctly explain A

Detailed Explanation:
The assertion is correct. Tropical cyclones derive energy primarily from warm ocean waters and latent heat released during condensation.

Reason 1 is correct because once the cyclone moves over land, its supply of warm, moist air from the ocean is cut off.

Reason 2 is also correct because increased surface friction over land disrupts the cyclone's organized circulation and weakens wind intensity.

Hence, both reasons correctly explain the assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme seeks to neutralise embedded duties and taxes on exported products that are not otherwise refunded or remitted, including certain taxes incurred at prior stages of production and distribution.

2. Since RoDTEP operates through remission of embedded taxes, the benefit necessarily constitutes a direct cash subsidy linked to the exporter's profit margin rather than to prescribed rates or value caps.

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. RoDTEP addresses the problem of unrefunded duties, taxes and levies embedded in exported goods. Its objective is to prevent domestic tax burdens from reducing the international competitiveness of Indian exports. The scheme covers eligible central, state and local levies, including certain prior-stage cumulative indirect taxes that are not otherwise refunded.

Statement 2 is incorrect. RoDTEP is not designed as a profit-linked subsidy. Benefits are determined using notified rates or fixed amounts per unit, subject to prescribed value caps and eligibility conditions. The scheme's remission mechanism is distinct from a general cash subsidy calculated on an exporter's profit margin. The government extended the scheme until 31 December 2026, retaining the existing rates and value caps during the extension.

UPSC trap: A tax-remission mechanism should not be equated with an unrestricted export subsidy or a reimbursement of every tax incurred by an exporter.

Q2. TAPAS-1, reported in recently in the context of India's private space sector, is primarily associated with which of the following capabilities?

(a) High-resolution thermal infrared observation of the Earth's surface for applications such as urban heat mapping and agricultural stress assessment
(b) Detection of subsurface mineral deposits exclusively through ground-penetrating radar mounted on a lunar rover
(c) Direct measurement of atmospheric ozone concentration through a geostationary ultraviolet spectrometer
(d) Deployment of a satellite-based navigation augmentation system designed exclusively for civilian aircraft

Answer: (a) High-resolution thermal infrared observation of the Earth's surface for applications such as urban heat mapping and agricultural stress assessment

Explanation:

TAPAS-1 is described in the October 2026 current-affairs report as a privately developed thermal-imaging payload associated with Satleo Labs. Its intended role is to capture thermal infrared information from the Earth's surface and convert it into useful observations.

Thermal infrared imaging can help identify variations in land-surface temperature. Such information has applications in urban heat-island analysis, agricultural monitoring, water-stress assessment, wildfire detection and industrial heat monitoring.

Option (b) incorrectly restricts the technology to lunar exploration and ground-penetrating radar. Option (c) describes atmospheric composition monitoring rather than terrestrial thermal imaging. Option (d) refers to navigation augmentation, a different satellite application.

UPSC trap: Thermal imaging measures emitted thermal radiation; it is not interchangeable with conventional visible-light photography, radar imaging or satellite navigation.

Q3. With reference to the reintroduction of a tigress into Buxa Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. Buxa Tiger Reserve is situated in the Dooars region of West Bengal, and the reintroduction initiative seeks to restore a viable tiger population in its historical range.

2. The release of a tigress from Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar, by itself, establishes that Buxa has already achieved a genetically viable, self-sustaining tiger population.

3. Ecological connectivity with neighbouring protected areas, prey availability and scientific post-release monitoring are relevant to the long-term success of tiger reintroduction.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Buxa Tiger Reserve is located in northern West Bengal, in the Dooars landscape. The October 2026 report describes the release of a tigress translocated from Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve as part of efforts to restore tigers in Buxa.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The release of a single animal is an initial conservation intervention, not proof of a self-sustaining population. Long-term viability requires successful establishment, survival, reproduction, adequate prey, suitable habitat and sufficient genetic diversity. Monitoring is also necessary to evaluate the success of the release.

Statement 3 is correct. Landscape connectivity can facilitate dispersal and gene flow, while prey restoration and habitat management support the ecological requirements of tigers. Camera traps, telemetry and veterinary monitoring can help assess the animal's movement, survival and adaptation after release.

UPSC trap: Distinguish between translocation, successful establishment and restoration of a self-sustaining population. These are different stages of a conservation programme.

Q4. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Unregulated tourist activity in high-altitude Himalayan meadows can adversely affect the foraging behaviour and ecological well-being of the Himalayan tahr, even when direct hunting is absent.

Reason I (R1): Repeated human disturbance, litter and the feeding of wild animals can alter natural foraging patterns and increase dependence on human-provided food.

Reason II (R2): The Himalayan tahr is a specialised high-altitude herbivore whose survival depends partly on suitable alpine and subalpine habitats and access to natural vegetation.

Which of the following is the most appropriate answer?

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

Answer: (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct, and both independently explain A.

Explanation:

Reason I is correct. Feeding wildlife can change natural feeding behaviour, while repeated disturbance and litter can degrade habitat quality and alter how animals use foraging areas. The absence of hunting does not mean that tourism is ecologically harmless.

Reason II is also correct. The Himalayan tahr (Hemitragus jemlahicus) is adapted to rugged mountain terrain and uses rocky slopes, alpine grasslands and associated habitats. Its dependence on natural vegetation makes habitat disturbance and changes in foraging conditions ecologically relevant.

Both reasons explain the assertion from complementary perspectives: R1 identifies the direct behavioural pathways through which human activity can affect the animal, whereas R2 explains why changes to habitat and access to natural food matter to the species.

The October 2026 report identifies the Himalayan tahr as a species of conservation concern and highlights the need to regulate human activity and improve cleanliness in high-altitude bugyals.

UPSC trap: The absence of direct killing does not eliminate indirect threats such as habitat degradation, food-conditioning and disturbance.

Q5. With reference to Kaliningrad and its strategic significance in Europe, consider the following statements:

1. Kaliningrad is a non-contiguous territory of Russia situated on the southeastern coast of the Baltic Sea.

2. It shares land borders with Poland and Lithuania, both of which are members of NATO and the European Union.

3. The Suwałki Gap is a corridor between Poland and Lithuania that connects the Baltic States with the rest of NATO's territory, while also lying between Kaliningrad and Belarus.

4. Kaliningrad became a Russian exclave following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, although its historical association before Soviet control was with East Prussia.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) All four

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Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Kaliningrad Oblast is Russia's westernmost region, geographically separated from mainland Russia and located along the Baltic Sea. Its position gives it considerable military and maritime significance.

Statement 2 is correct. Kaliningrad shares land borders with Poland to the south and Lithuania to the north and east. Both neighbouring countries are members of NATO and the European Union.

Statement 3 is correct. The Suwałki Gap is the strategically sensitive border region between Poland and Lithuania. It is important because it links the Baltic States by land to the other NATO allies while separating Kaliningrad from Belarus, a close Russian ally. Its geography makes it relevant to the security of the Baltic region.

Statement 4 is correct. Before the Second World War, the territory formed part of Germany's East Prussia, with Königsberg as its principal city. Following the war, the northern portion of East Prussia came under Soviet control and Königsberg was renamed Kaliningrad in 1946. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 left the region separated from mainland Russia by newly independent states.

Kaliningrad's importance therefore arises not merely from its location on the Baltic Sea, but also from its military infrastructure, maritime access and position within the NATO–Russia strategic environment.

UPSC trap: Do not confuse Kaliningrad's historical German association with its present-day sovereignty, or confuse the Suwałki Gap with a Russian-controlled land corridor.

Q6. Consider the following description of an island in India:

It is an offshore island in Mumbai Harbour, Maharashtra, used as a major marine oil terminal for handling petroleum cargo. It is located in the Arabian Sea, off the eastern waterfront of Mumbai, and is also historically known as Butcher Island.

Which of the following correctly identifies the island?

(a) Salsette Island
(b) Jawahar Dweep
(c) Elephanta Island (Gharapuri)
(d) Sagar Island

Answer: (b) Jawahar Dweep

Explanation:

Jawahar Dweep, historically known as Butcher Island, is located in Mumbai Harbour off the coast of Maharashtra. It is operated by the Mumbai Port Authority and is used for marine oil-terminal operations, including the handling of crude oil and petroleum products.



- Option (a) Salsette Island: Associated with the main urban island area of Mumbai and its northern suburbs.
- Option (b) Jawahar Dweep: Correct. It is an offshore petroleum-handling terminal in Mumbai Harbour.
- Option (c) Elephanta Island: Also known as Gharapuri, it is famous for its rock-cut cave temples and sculptures.
- Option (d) Sagar Island: Located in the Ganges delta in West Bengal, near the Bay of Bengal.

The key geographical distinction is that Jawahar Dweep lies within Mumbai Harbour on India's western coast, whereas Sagar Island belongs to the eastern coastal and deltaic landscape of West Bengal.

UPSC map tip: Remember the association Jawahar Dweep — Mumbai Harbour — Maharashtra — Arabian Sea — Butcher Island.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper – 1

Q1. Drawing examples from themes discussed in NCERT Class 12 History book *Themes in Indian History*, examine how urban centres in ancient India reflected both economic specialization and social hierarchy.

Sample Answer

Ancient Indian urban centres were not merely settlements of population concentration; they represented sophisticated socio-economic systems marked by occupational specialization, administrative organization, and deeply embedded social hierarchies. Urbanization in ancient India, especially during the Harappan period and later during the Mahajanapada age, reflected the gradual evolution of political authority, trade networks, and social differentiation.

[Relevant Picture Suggestion: Urban planning of Mohenjo-Daro showing drainage systems and granaries]

One of the most striking features of ancient urban centres was economic specialization. Archaeological findings from Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Lothal, and Dholavira reveal evidence of bead-making industries, metallurgy, pottery production, dockyards, and standardized weights and measures. Such specialization indicates the presence of skilled artisans and organized production systems. The existence of long-distance trade with Mesopotamia further demonstrates that cities acted as centres of commercial exchange and wealth accumulation.

The later urban centres of the Gangetic plains such as Pataliputra, Kaushambi, and Ujjain also reflected advanced economic functions. Guilds or 'shrenis' emerged as organized associations of merchants and craftsmen. These guilds regulated production, maintained quality, and influenced local administration. The use of punch-marked coins further indicates monetization of the economy and increasing commercial sophistication.

However, urban centres simultaneously reflected social hierarchy. In the Harappan civilization, differentiation in housing patterns suggests varying socio-economic status among residents. Large houses with private wells contrasted sharply with smaller dwellings, indicating unequal access to resources.

In later periods, the varna system increasingly shaped urban social relations. Brahmanas occupied positions of ritual authority, Kshatriyas dominated political power, Vaishyas controlled trade and commerce, while Shudras often performed labor-intensive occupations. Access to education, property, and social prestige was unequally distributed.

Religious institutions also contributed to social stratification. Temples and monasteries accumulated wealth and patronage from ruling elites and merchants, reinforcing hierarchical social structures.

Therefore, ancient Indian urbanization was not merely an economic phenomenon. It reflected a complex interaction between trade, governance, occupational specialization, and social inequality. Urban centres became symbols of both prosperity and structured hierarchy, shaping the trajectory of Indian civilization.

GS Paper – 2

Q2. Discuss the significance of local self-government institutions in strengthening Indian democracy. Also examine the major challenges limiting their effectiveness.

Sample Answer

Local self-government institutions constitute the foundation of democratic decentralization in India. Inspired by the vision of Mahatma Gandhi's Gram Swaraj and strengthened through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were envisioned as instruments of participatory democracy and grassroots governance.

[Relevant Picture Suggestion: Gram Sabha meeting in a village Panchayat]

The significance of local self-government lies primarily in democratic participation. These institutions bring governance closer to the people and allow citizens to directly engage in decision-making processes. Gram Sabhas provide a platform for discussion of local development issues, ensuring greater accountability and transparency.

Secondly, local bodies promote inclusive governance. Reservation for women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes has enabled historically marginalized communities to participate in governance. Women's representation in Panchayats has transformed rural political culture and improved focus on issues such as sanitation, education, drinking water, and health.

Thirdly, local governments improve administrative efficiency. Since local representatives better understand regional problems, they can formulate context-specific solutions. Rural roads, irrigation systems, primary healthcare, and waste management are often implemented more effectively through decentralized institutions.

Local self-government also strengthens federalism by distributing power beyond the Union and State governments. It creates a three-tier democratic structure and enhances political awareness among citizens.

However, despite constitutional status, several challenges continue to limit their effectiveness.

One major issue is inadequate financial autonomy. Many Panchayats remain dependent on state governments for grants and lack independent revenue-generating capacity. Delays in fund transfer weaken implementation of welfare schemes.

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Secondly, administrative capacity remains weak. Many local bodies suffer from shortage of trained staff, technical expertise, and institutional infrastructure.

Political interference from state governments also reduces autonomy. State governments frequently supersede local bodies or restrict devolution of powers.

Social inequalities further weaken grassroots democracy. In many regions, caste hierarchies, patriarchy, and elite domination influence local decision-making. Proxy representation of women representatives remains another challenge.

Corruption and lack of transparency in local administration can also undermine public trust.

Thus, while local self-government institutions have deepened Indian democracy by promoting participation and inclusion, genuine decentralization requires greater fiscal autonomy, administrative reforms, capacity building, and social empowerment.

GS Paper – 3

Q3. Explain the role of science and technology in India's economic development. Discuss the challenges India faces in translating scientific innovation into inclusive growth.

Sample Answer

Science and technology have emerged as critical drivers of India's economic transformation. From the Green Revolution to the digital economy, technological advancements have significantly contributed to productivity, industrialization, communication, healthcare, and governance.

[Relevant Picture Suggestion: ISRO launch vehicle and Digital India infrastructure]

One of the most important contributions of science and technology has been in agriculture. The Green Revolution introduced high-yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, irrigation systems, and mechanization, enabling India to achieve food security. Biotechnology and precision farming continue to improve agricultural productivity.

In the industrial sector, technology has increased manufacturing efficiency and global competitiveness. Automation, robotics, and digital platforms have enhanced production systems and supply chain management.

India's information technology sector represents a major success story. Cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune have become global IT hubs, generating employment and export earnings. Digital initiatives such as UPI, Aadhaar, and Digital India have revolutionized governance and financial inclusion.

Space technology has also strengthened India's strategic and developmental capabilities. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has contributed to communication, weather forecasting, disaster management, navigation, and remote sensing.

In healthcare, scientific research enabled rapid vaccine development, telemedicine expansion, and improved diagnostics.

Despite these achievements, India faces several challenges in converting scientific progress into inclusive development.

First, research and development expenditure remains relatively low compared to developed countries. Limited private sector investment in innovation constrains technological advancement.

Second, there exists a significant digital divide between urban and rural populations. Unequal access to internet connectivity, digital literacy, and technological infrastructure limits inclusive benefits.

Third, technological growth has not always generated adequate employment. Automation and artificial intelligence may displace low-skilled workers.

Brain drain also remains a concern, as highly skilled professionals often migrate abroad for better research opportunities.

Environmental concerns linked to industrialization and technological expansion further complicate sustainable development.

Moreover, weak industry-academia collaboration limits commercialization of scientific research.

Therefore, India's future growth depends upon strengthening innovation ecosystems, increasing investment in research, improving digital access, promoting skill development, and ensuring that technological progress remains socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

GS Paper – 4

Q4. 'Ethics in public administration is not merely about adherence to rules, but about commitment to public welfare.' Discuss.

Sample Answer

Ethics in public administration refers to the moral principles and values guiding the conduct of public officials in governance and decision-making. While laws, rules, and procedures provide the structural framework of administration, ethical governance goes beyond legal compliance and emphasizes integrity, accountability, compassion, and commitment to public welfare.

[Relevant Picture Suggestion: Civil servant interacting with citizens during public grievance redressal]

Public administration directly affects citizens' lives through implementation of welfare schemes, law enforcement, disaster management, healthcare, and education. Therefore, administrators are expected not only to follow regulations but also to act in the larger public interest.

For example, during natural disasters, strict procedural formalities may delay relief measures. Ethical administrators often demonstrate compassion and responsiveness by prioritizing human welfare over bureaucratic rigidity. Such actions reflect the spirit of public service.

Similarly, integrity is essential for maintaining public trust. Corruption, nepotism, and misuse of power undermine democratic governance and weaken institutional legitimacy. Ethical conduct ensures fairness and impartiality in decision-making.

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