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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 27/10/2026 (TUESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. With reference to the political developments during the late colonial period in India, consider the following statements:

1. The August Offer of 1940 explicitly conceded the demand for a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise.
2. The Cripps Proposals permitted provinces to opt out of the proposed Indian Union after the war.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is incorrect. The August Offer (1940) did not concede a Constituent Assembly based on adult franchise. It merely proposed expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council and recognized the right of Indians to frame their constitution in the future, without accepting a sovereign Constituent Assembly elected through universal adult franchise.

Statement 2 is correct. The Cripps Mission (1942) proposed that after the war, an Indian Union would be established and provinces unwilling to join could retain a separate constitutional position. This provision was sharply criticized as it implicitly accepted the possibility of partition and weakened the idea of a compulsory federal union.

Therefore, only one statement is correct.

2. Which one of the following best explains why endemic species are generally considered more vulnerable to extinction than widely distributed species?

(a) They necessarily occupy higher trophic levels in ecosystems
(b) They are incapable of adapting to climatic variations
(c) Their restricted geographical distribution makes them highly susceptible to habitat disturbance
(d) They invariably possess lower reproductive capacity than migratory species

Answer: (c)

Explanation:
Endemic species are those confined to a particular geographical region and found nowhere else naturally. Their restricted range makes them particularly vulnerable to habitat destruction, environmental disturbances, invasive species, and climate-related changes.

Option (a) is incorrect because endemicity has no necessary relation with trophic level.

Option (b) is too absolute; endemic species may adapt to some changes, but limited distribution remains the principal risk.

Option (d) is incorrect because vulnerability is not invariably linked with reproductive capacity.

Thus, limited geographical spread and habitat specialization make endemic species especially extinction-prone.

3. Consider the following statements regarding economic reforms and external sector management in India:

1. Currency devaluation necessarily leads to improvement in the trade balance irrespective of import demand conditions.
2. Liberalization of imports may initially widen the current account deficit even while supporting long-term industrial competitiveness.
3. Exchange rate adjustment alone can permanently eliminate structural balance of payments pressures.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is incorrect. Devaluation does not *necessarily* improve the trade balance. Its impact depends on the elasticity of demand for exports and imports, captured in the Marshall–Lerner condition. If import dependence remains high and demand is inelastic, the trade deficit may persist or worsen.

Statement 2 is correct. Import liberalization can increase import expenditure in the short run, thereby widening the current account deficit. However, access to better technology, machinery, and inputs may improve productivity and competitiveness in the long term.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Exchange rate adjustment alone cannot permanently resolve structural balance of payments problems arising from low export diversification, technological backwardness, or weak competitiveness.

Hence, only one statement is correct.

4. With reference to constitutional governance in India, consider the following statements:

1. Every Money Bill is a Financial Bill, but every Financial Bill is not necessarily a Money Bill.
2. A Bill certified as a Money Bill by the Speaker can be rejected by the Rajya Sabha.
3. The President may either accept or reject a Money Bill presented for assent but cannot return it for reconsideration.
4. The recommendation of the President is required before introduction of all categories of Financial Bills.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. Money Bills are a subset within the broader category of Financial Bills. Therefore, every Money Bill is financial in nature, but not every Financial Bill qualifies as a Money Bill under Article 110.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Rajya Sabha cannot reject or amend a Money Bill. It may only recommend changes and must return the Bill within 14 days. The Lok Sabha may accept or reject those recommendations.

Statement 3 is correct. Under Article 111, the President cannot return a Money Bill for reconsideration, unlike ordinary Bills. The President may give assent or withhold assent.

Statement 4 is correct. Financial Bills involving expenditure or taxation provisions require prior Presidential recommendation before introduction.

Thus, three statements are correct.

5. Assertion Reason type -

Assertion (A): Regions dependent predominantly on monsoon rainfall often exhibit considerable inter-annual agricultural variability.

Reason (R1): Monsoon rainfall in many tropical regions is characterized by temporal and spatial unevenness.

Reason (R2): Agricultural systems relying heavily on rain-fed conditions remain directly exposed to fluctuations in precipitation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
The Assertion is correct. Agricultural variability is often pronounced in monsoon-dependent regions because crop productivity depends substantially upon rainfall quantity, timing, and distribution.

Reason 1 is correct and explains the assertion. Monsoon systems frequently display uneven distribution across time and space. Delayed onset, prolonged dry spells, or localized concentration of rainfall can affect sowing and yields.

Reason 2 is also correct and independently explains the assertion. Rain-fed agriculture lacks the buffering effect of assured irrigation and therefore becomes highly sensitive to rainfall fluctuations.

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

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. With reference to the School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines, 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The Guidelines replaced the earlier separate governance structures for primary and secondary schools with a unified SMC framework extending from Balvatika to Class XII.
2. Under the Guidelines, private unaided schools receiving no government aid are mandatorily required to constitute SMCs under the Right to Education framework.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. The SMC Guidelines 2026 introduced a unified governance structure by integrating earlier SMC and SMDC arrangements into a single body covering Balvatika to Class XII.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Ministry clarified that private unaided institutions not receiving government aid are exempt from mandatory SMC provisions under the RTE-related framework.

Therefore, only one statement is correct.

2. The Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) is primarily designed to:

(a) Model long-term planetary methane cycles using interplanetary probes
(b) Detect and communicate major methane emissions using satellite-based observations for mitigation action
(c) Regulate international methane trading through carbon credit exchanges
(d) Forecast volcanic eruptions by monitoring atmospheric methane anomalies

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
MARS, developed under UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), is the first public global satellite detection and notification system designed to identify large methane emissions and notify governments and companies for timely mitigation. It integrates satellite data, scientific analysis, and AI-based systems.

Options (a), (c), and (d) incorrectly describe unrelated functions.

3. With reference to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) and developments surrounding the IBCA Summit, 2026, consider the following statements:

1. IBCA seeks to promote cooperation for conservation of seven major big cat species globally.
2. India is the only country hosting all seven recognized big cat species under the IBCA framework.
3. The inaugural IBCA Summit aims to evolve a common declaration on big cat conservation cooperation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. IBCA focuses on conservation cooperation concerning seven major big cat species—tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India hosts five of the seven species, not all seven. Jaguars and pumas are absent in India.

Statement 3 is correct. The inaugural summit and the proposed "Delhi Declaration" aim to institutionalize conservation commitments and international collaboration.

Hence, two statements are correct.

4. With reference to the Governor's role in a Hung Assembly, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution expressly lays down a mandatory sequence of preference for government formation in a hung assembly.
2. The Governor may require a floor test when majority support of a ministry is doubtful.
3. Discretion exercised by the Governor in government formation is entirely beyond judicial scrutiny.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is incorrect. The Constitution does not prescribe an explicit sequence of preference in hung assemblies; conventions and judicial principles guide the Governor's discretion.

Statement 2 is correct. The Governor may require a floor test when legislative majority is uncertain or disputed. Judicial decisions have repeatedly emphasized the floor of the House as the proper forum to test majority.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Gubernatorial discretion is not completely immune from judicial review, especially where constitutional impropriety or arbitrariness is alleged.

Thus, only one statement is correct.

5. With reference to the recently discussed Germanium-Free Drone Imaging Technology, consider the following statements:

1. The technology seeks to avoid dependence on germanium-based infrared optical components.

2. The system is intended exclusively for civilian aerial photography and lacks surveillance applications.
3. Such imaging payloads can support long-range detection while remaining suitable for compact drone platforms.
4. The technology is incapable of functioning under extreme climatic conditions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct. The technology emphasizes reducing dependence on germanium-based optical systems in thermal imaging and drone payload design.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Such systems have strong surveillance, border monitoring, and counter-drone applications.

Statement 3 is correct in capability terms, but the question asks **how many statements are correct**—thus Statements 1 and 3 are correct, making **two correct statements**. However, Statement 4 is incorrect because the technology is designed for operation under difficult climatic conditions including high and low temperatures.

6. Consider the following volcanoes and their locations:

Mayon Volcano is located in:

(a) Indonesia – Sumatra Island
(b) Philippines – Luzon Island
(c) Japan – Kyushu Island
(d) Papua New Guinea – New Britain Island

Answer: (b)

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Explanation:
Mayon Volcano is an active stratovolcano located in **Albay Province on Luzon Island in the Philippines**. It is internationally known for its near-perfect conical shape and belongs to the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Options (a), (c), and (d) refer to other volcanically active regions but not Mayon. The UPSC often frames such map questions by combining volcanic landforms with island geography, making location precision important.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. "The colonial urban centres in India reflected both economic modernization and social segregation." Discuss with reference to the development of colonial cities in India.

Introduction

Colonial urbanization in India emerged as a consequence of British political domination and commercial interests. Unlike traditional Indian cities that evolved around pilgrimage, administration, or indigenous trade networks, colonial cities developed according to imperial priorities. Ports, cantonments, and administrative centres became symbols of modernization while simultaneously reinforcing racial and socio-economic divisions.

Body

The British transformed cities such as Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras into centres of trade and governance. Railways, telegraph, docks, drainage systems, and municipal institutions introduced modern urban infrastructure. Bombay became a leading commercial hub linked with global cotton trade, while Calcutta functioned as the capital of British India and an administrative nerve centre. These developments encouraged migration, industrial employment, and the rise of an educated middle class.

However, modernization under colonialism was selective and exclusionary. Urban planning was deeply influenced by racial ideologies. British officials often regarded indigenous settlements as overcrowded and unhygienic. Consequently, cities were divided into "White Towns" and "Black Towns." Europeans occupied spacious, well-serviced civil lines and cantonments, whereas Indians largely lived in congested localities with limited civic facilities.

Public health concerns further intensified segregation. Epidemics such as plague led to aggressive sanitary measures, demolitions, and displacement of poorer communities. Improvement trusts and municipal regulations often prioritized commercial and European interests over the welfare of native populations. Even architecture symbolized imperial power, with Gothic and Indo-Saracenic buildings designed to project British authority.

At the same time, colonial cities became centres of political awakening. Newspapers, educational institutions, and public associations fostered nationalist consciousness. Urban spaces hosted meetings, protests, and intellectual debates that eventually challenged colonial rule.

Conclusion: Thus, colonial cities represented a paradox. They introduced modern infrastructure and connected India with global commerce, yet their planning and administration institutionalized segregation and inequality. Colonial urbanization therefore embodied both modernization and imperial domination.

Q2. Discuss the significance of local self-government in strengthening Indian democracy. Examine the challenges limiting its effectiveness.

Introduction

Local self-government represents democracy at the grassroots level. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments institutionalized Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, recognizing citizen

participation as central to governance. These institutions were intended to deepen democracy by decentralizing power and bringing administration closer to people.

Body

Local self-government strengthens democracy in multiple ways. First, it promotes participatory governance by enabling citizens to influence decisions affecting local development. Gram Sabhas, ward committees, and municipal forums provide platforms for public deliberation.

Second, decentralization improves administrative responsiveness. Local bodies are better positioned to identify community needs relating to water supply, sanitation, roads, education, and healthcare. Decision-making becomes more context-specific and efficient.

Third, these institutions foster political inclusion. Constitutional reservations for women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes have transformed leadership patterns. Women representatives, in particular, have enhanced attention to welfare, education, and health-related issues. Grassroots democracy has therefore broadened political participation beyond traditional elites.

However, several challenges constrain their effectiveness. Financial dependence remains a major issue. Many Panchayats and municipalities lack adequate taxation powers and rely heavily on state grants. This undermines autonomy and long-term planning.

Administrative limitations also persist. Local bodies often face shortages of trained personnel and technical expertise. Bureaucratic dominance sometimes weakens elected representatives and limits genuine decentralization.

Political interference and irregular functioning of Gram Sabhas reduce accountability. In some regions, local elites capture institutions, diluting democratic participation. Urban governance additionally suffers from fragmented authority among municipalities, development authorities, and state agencies.

Another significant challenge is the incomplete devolution of powers envisaged under the Constitution. Although subjects are listed in the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules, actual transfer varies considerably across states.

Conclusion: Local self-government remains indispensable for democratic deepening in India. While constitutional reforms created an institutional framework for grassroots democracy, meaningful empowerment requires financial autonomy, administrative capacity, and genuine political decentralization.

Q3. “Human development is a more comprehensive measure of progress than economic growth alone.” Critically examine.

Introduction

Economic growth has traditionally been measured through indicators such as Gross Domestic Product and per capita income. However, growth alone does not necessarily translate into improved quality of life. The concept of human development, popularized by the United Nations Development Programme, shifted the focus from income to human well-being.

Body

Human development emphasizes expansion of people’s capabilities and opportunities. It incorporates indicators such as education, health, and standard of living, represented through the Human Development

Index (HDI). This approach recognizes that development should enhance human freedoms rather than merely increase production.

The superiority of human development as a measure becomes evident in several contexts. Countries with high economic growth may still experience poor health outcomes, educational inequalities, and social deprivation. Income growth without investment in human capital can produce unequal and exclusionary societies.

Education improves skills, productivity, and social mobility. Health enhances labour efficiency and life expectancy. Consequently, societies investing in these sectors achieve sustainable and inclusive development. Kerala's social indicators despite moderate income levels and some resource-rich regions with weak social outcomes illustrate this contrast.

Human development also addresses regional and social disparities. It highlights gender inequality, poverty, and exclusion that GDP figures may conceal. Development policies guided by HDI encourage welfare-oriented governance and social justice.

Nevertheless, human development is not entirely free from limitations. Measurement challenges persist since quality of education, social security, environmental sustainability, and subjective well-being are difficult to quantify. Economic growth remains necessary because resources for welfare programmes depend on productive capacity and revenue generation.

Thus, growth and human development should not be viewed as mutually exclusive. Sustainable progress requires their integration.

Conclusion: Human development provides a broader and more humane framework for assessing progress than economic growth alone. While income generation remains important, development ultimately acquires meaning only when it expands human capabilities, dignity, and opportunities.

Q4. "Ethical governance requires not merely adherence to rules but also compassion and moral courage." Examine with suitable examples.

Introduction

Governance in a democratic society is expected to operate according to constitutional values, laws, and administrative procedures. However, merely following rules does not always guarantee justice or public welfare. Ethical governance goes beyond procedural legality and incorporates values such as compassion, empathy, integrity, and moral courage. Public officials frequently encounter situations where rigid compliance with rules may conflict with humanitarian concerns, making ethical judgment essential.

Body

Ethical governance involves decision-making guided by public interest and moral responsibility. Rules provide predictability and accountability, but governance often deals with complex social realities that cannot be addressed solely through mechanical application of regulations.

Compassion is a critical component of ethical administration. It allows public servants to understand the hardships of vulnerable sections and respond with sensitivity. For instance, during natural disasters, administrators often relax procedural requirements to ensure immediate relief and rehabilitation. Similarly, welfare delivery involving elderly persons, persons with disabilities, or disaster victims may require humane interpretation of administrative provisions.

However, compassion without accountability may lead to arbitrariness. Therefore, ethical governance requires balancing empathy with institutional integrity. This is where moral courage becomes important. Moral courage refers to the willingness to uphold ethical principles despite pressure, criticism, or personal risk.

Indian administrative history provides several examples. Officers resisting political pressure in matters of illegal land acquisition, corruption, or communal violence demonstrate moral courage. Such actions protect constitutional values and strengthen public trust. Internationally, whistle-blowers exposing institutional wrongdoing also exemplify ethical commitment despite personal consequences.

Conversely, several governance failures illustrate the consequences of ethical deficit. Bureaucratic indifference during humanitarian crises, denial of welfare due to excessive paperwork, and reluctance to challenge unethical directives reveal that legality alone cannot ensure justice.

Ethical governance also aligns with constitutional morality. Principles of equality, dignity, and social justice require administrators to combine procedural fairness with humane judgment. Training in ethics, transparent institutions, and accountable leadership can cultivate such values.

Conclusion: Ethical governance is therefore not confined to obedience to rules. It requires compassionate engagement with citizens and moral courage to defend justice and public interest. Rules remain necessary, but governance acquires legitimacy only when exercised with humanity and ethical conviction.

Q5. "The rise of Artificial Intelligence presents both transformative opportunities and serious regulatory challenges." Discuss in the context of recent global and Indian developments.

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the twenty-first century. From healthcare and education to defence and finance, AI applications are reshaping economic systems and governance structures. Recent developments, including generative AI tools, global debates on AI safety, and India's expanding digital ecosystem, have intensified discussions regarding responsible AI governance.

Body

AI offers significant developmental opportunities. In healthcare, AI-assisted diagnostics improve disease detection and treatment planning. Agriculture benefits through predictive analytics, precision farming, and climate-resilient advisories. Educational technologies use AI for personalized learning, while public administration increasingly employs AI for grievance redressal, fraud detection, and service delivery.

For India, AI aligns with the broader vision of digital transformation and economic growth. Government initiatives promoting innovation, semiconductor development, and digital public infrastructure seek to position India as a major AI ecosystem. AI can enhance productivity, improve governance efficiency, and generate employment in emerging technology sectors.

However, these opportunities are accompanied by substantial risks. Algorithmic bias may reinforce discrimination if datasets are socially skewed. Concerns regarding privacy, surveillance, and misuse of personal data have intensified with AI-driven analytics. Deepfakes and misinformation threaten electoral integrity and social harmony.

Employment displacement presents another challenge. Automation may disproportionately affect routine and low-skilled occupations, demanding reskilling and social protection measures. Moreover, concentration of AI capabilities among a few corporations and technologically advanced states raises concerns regarding digital inequality and monopolistic power.

Globally, countries and regional organizations are debating regulatory frameworks balancing innovation with safety. Issues such as transparency, accountability, explainability, and ethical use dominate policy discussions. India too faces the challenge of designing a governance model that encourages innovation while protecting constitutional rights and democratic values.

Effective AI governance therefore requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, industry, academia, and civil society. Ethical guidelines, data protection frameworks, and international cooperation are essential.

Conclusion: Artificial Intelligence represents both an unprecedented developmental opportunity and a complex governance challenge. The future of AI will depend not merely on technological advancement but on humanity's ability to regulate it ethically, inclusively, and responsibly.

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