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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 28/10/2026 (WEDNESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Vijayanagara Empire:

1. The "Amara-Nayaka system" under Vijayanagara resembled the feudal system of medieval Europe, but with greater central control by the king.
2. The "Mahanavami Dibba" built during the reign of Krishnadeva Raya symbolized the religious tolerance of the Vijayanagara rulers, as it was used for joint Hindu–Muslim rituals.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- The *Amara-Nayaka system* was indeed similar to European feudalism but with stricter central oversight. Amara-Nayakas held land revenues in return for military service and were periodically transferred to prevent local autonomy.
- The *Mahanavami Dibba* was used for state functions, victory celebrations, and Navaratri rituals—not joint Hindu–Muslim worship. Hence, statement 2 is wrong.

Q2. With reference to Mangroves in India, consider the following statements:

1. Mangroves in India are found only in estuarine and deltaic regions with high salinity, and never in inland saline swamps.
2. The Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is the only mangrove forest in India where tigers are found naturally.
3. Mangroves act as significant carbon sinks and are considered part of "blue carbon ecosystems."

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

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Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect → Mangroves are also found in inland saline swamps and intertidal mudflats, not only in estuaries/deltas.
- Statement 2 is correct → The Sundarbans is unique for having the Royal Bengal Tiger in mangrove habitat.
- Statement 3 is correct → Mangroves store large amounts of carbon in biomass and sediments, forming a crucial part of "blue carbon ecosystems" along with seagrasses and salt marshes.

Q3. With reference to India's Balance of Payments (BoP), consider the following statements:

1. A current account surplus necessarily indicates that a country's exports of goods and services are higher than imports.
2. A capital account deficit in India always implies net outflow of foreign capital.
3. The Reserve Bank of India intervenes in the foreign exchange market, which directly reflects in the BoP as a change in forex reserves.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect → Current account surplus may also occur due to large remittances (invisibles), not just merchandise exports.
- Statement 2 is incorrect → Capital account deficit may not always mean capital outflow; it could be due to debt repayments, changes in FDI inflows, or external borrowings.
- Statement 3 is correct → RBI's intervention (buying/selling forex) directly shows up under "BoP – capital account – change in reserves."

Q4. With reference to the office of the Governor in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President, but his removal can be challenged in a court of law if done arbitrarily.
2. A person can be appointed Governor for two or more states simultaneously under Article 153 of the Constitution.
3. The Governor is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in all matters without exception.
4. The Supreme Court has held that the power of the Governor to reserve a Bill for consideration of the President is not subject to judicial review.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct → Though Governor holds office during pleasure of President (Art.156), *B.P. Singhal case (2010)* held that removal cannot be arbitrary, and is subject to judicial review.

- Statement 2 is correct → Art.153 allows one person to be Governor of two or more states.
- Statement 3 is incorrect → In some cases (discretionary powers), Governor is not bound by ministerial advice.
- Statement 4 is incorrect → The decision of Governor to reserve a Bill can be subject to judicial review, as per SC judgments.

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type –

Assertion (A): Western Ghats receive more rainfall than Eastern Ghats during the southwest monsoon.

Reason (R): The Western Ghats are situated almost parallel to the Arabian Sea coast, and their windward side directly intercepts the moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds.

(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:

- Western Ghats run parallel to the Arabian Sea and rise abruptly to form a barrier. Moisture-laden SW monsoon winds hit the windward side, causing heavy orographic rainfall.
- Eastern Ghats are more dissected, lower in elevation, and not directly aligned with monsoon winds, hence receive lesser rainfall.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to ISRO's Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) under the Gaganyaan programme, consider the following statements:

1. In IADT-01, a simulated Crew Module carrying the *parachute-based deceleration system itself* was released from a heavy-lift helicopter at ~3 km altitude to validate end-to-end deployment from Apex Cover to Main parachutes.
2. The stated objective of IADT-01 was to validate heat-shield separation during the transonic regime; the parachute system was not part of this test.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
IADT-01 demonstrated the **end-to-end performance of the crew module's parachute-based deceleration system**. A simulated crew module was dropped by a helicopter at ~3 km altitude. The full parachute sequence (Apex Cover Separation → Drogues → Pilots → Mains) was validated. Heat-shield testing was not its objective.

Q2. In official U.S. Foreign Military Sales parlance, the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) cleared for India best refers to:

(a) A ship-borne Aegis/SM-2 area-defence suite for blue-water operations.
(b) A **NASAMS II–based, networked ground-based air-defence** architecture using **AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel radars** and **AIM-120 (AMRAAM) family missiles** for point defence of high-value areas.
(c) An indigenous layered network fusing Akash and MR-SAM under IACCS.
(d) A space-based early-warning plus orbital interceptor grid.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
IADWS is a **NASAMS II–based air defence system** approved by the U.S. for India. It uses AMRAAM/AMRAAM-ER missiles and Sentinel radars for defending high-value areas. It is not a naval or space system.

Q3. With reference to the legal position on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022** defines IAS and empowers the **Central Government** to regulate or prohibit their **import, trade, possession or proliferation** by notification.
2. The 2022 amendment authorises seizure and even **destruction** of notified IAS, and enables the Centre to issue **binding directions** to States for implementation.
3. India's statutory definition mirrors the IUCN's ecosystem-specific phrasing and treats a species as "alien" if **not native to a particular Indian ecosystem**, even if it is native to India elsewhere.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct → The 2022 amendment empowers the Centre to regulate/prohibit import, trade, possession, or proliferation of IAS.
- Statement 2 is correct → It allows seizure and destruction, and empowers the Centre to direct States.
- Statement 3 is incorrect → The Indian law defines IAS as "not native to India" (country-level), not ecosystem-level like IUCN.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and regulation around protected monuments:

1. ASI was founded in **1861**; the power to **declare** a monument/site "of national importance" under the **AMASR Act, 1958** vests in the **Central Government**, not in ASI.
2. Under the **AMASR Act, 1958** (as amended in 2010), a **minimum 100 m** zone around a centrally protected monument is a **Prohibited Area**, and the next **200 m** is a **Regulated Area**.
3. Permissions for construction-related activity in the Prohibited/Regulated Areas are processed with recommendations by the **National Monuments Authority (NMA)**.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct → Founded in 1861; declaration powers rest with the Central Government.
- Statement 2 is correct → 100 m Prohibited, 200 m Regulated zone applies.
- Statement 3 is correct → Permissions involve the NMA and Competent Authority.

Q5. Regarding ISRO's proposed Lunar Module Launch Vehicle (LMLV), consider the following statements:

1. It is envisaged as a **super heavy-lift** rocket targeting roughly **80-tonne to LEO** class, far beyond LVM3.
2. ISRO has indicated moving **away from the NGLV concept** in favour of LMLV.
3. Public reporting suggests a **first demonstration no earlier than the mid-2030s**.
4. The baseline design **dispenses with strap-on boosters** in favour of a single, very large first-stage engine.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct → LMLV is planned as a super heavy-lift (~80 t to LEO).
- Statement 2 is correct → ISRO is pivoting away from NGLV towards LMLV.
- Statement 3 is correct → Timelines suggest mid-2030s for a test flight.
- Statement 4 is incorrect → Strap-on boosters are part of the design; not removed.

Q6. Which of the following rivers cross the Line of Control (LoC) from Indian-administered to Pakistan-administered territory?

(a) Jhelum and Tawi only
(b) Kishanganga (Neelum) and Jhelum only
(c) Tawi and Ravi only
(d) Shyok and Chenab only

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Jhelum** crosses the LoC near Uri into Pakistan-administered territory.
- The **Kishanganga (Neelum)** crosses the LoC after Gurez/Teetwal into PoK.
- **Tawi** and **Ravi** cross the international border, not the LoC.
- **Shyok** is linked with Siachen/AGPL region, not the LoC proper.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1:

Q1. Examine the significance of Sangam Literature in understanding the social, economic, and political life of ancient Tamilakam.

Sample Answer:

Sangam Literature, dated approximately between 500 BCE and 300 CE, represents one of the earliest bodies of classical literature in India, composed in Tamil. It is traditionally divided into **Aham** (love/inner life) and **Puram** (public/social life) categories, encompassing poems, anthologies, and heroic narratives composed by poets across three Sangam assemblies.

From a **social perspective**, Sangam texts provide detailed accounts of caste hierarchies, occupational divisions, gender roles, and social norms. The literature highlights the **role of women**, both as nurturers and participants in social ceremonies, offering rare insights into matrilineal practices in some regions. The texts also describe customs such as marriage rituals, funerary practices, and festivals, reflecting a highly organized and value-based social order.

Economically, Sangam Literature portrays a flourishing **agrarian and trade-based economy**. References to paddy cultivation, irrigation methods, trade in beads, textiles, and spices indicate a sophisticated production and exchange system. Port towns like **Kaveripattinam and Muziris** emerge as centres of maritime commerce, highlighting early integration of Tamilakam with Southeast Asia and the Roman world. These texts also reveal taxation systems, royal grants, and patronage, which underlined economic governance.

Politically, Sangam poems describe **kings, chieftains (Velirs), and administrative structures**. Alliances, warfare, and diplomatic negotiations are detailed in epics like **Pattinappaalai** and **Paripadal**, reflecting the centrality of valor, patronage, and strategic statecraft. Moreover, Sangam texts indicate the existence of **local self-governance mechanisms**, including village assemblies and community oversight in both civil and military matters.

In conclusion, Sangam Literature is not merely literary heritage but a **historical sourcebook** that elucidates the socio-economic and political fabric of ancient Tamilakam. Its combination of aesthetic expression and factual description makes it indispensable for understanding early South Indian civilization and its contributions to India's cultural and historical continuum.

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GS-2:

Q2. Critically analyse the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 with respect to data sovereignty, individual rights, and regulatory challenges in India.

Sample Answer:

The **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023** (DPDPB) represents India's effort to establish a comprehensive legal framework for handling personal data in the digital ecosystem. It replaces the earlier Personal Data Protection Bill of 2019, reflecting global concerns like GDPR while contextualizing India's socio-technical realities.

Data sovereignty is central to the Bill. It asserts India's authority over data generated in its territory and mandates localisation for sensitive personal data. This provision aims to protect national security, economic interests, and user privacy. However, localisation could increase operational costs for multinational firms,

potentially affecting foreign investment, and has prompted debates about its necessity versus cross-border data flow facilitation.

The Bill strengthens **individual rights** by codifying principles like **consent, purpose limitation, data minimisation, and right to correction/deletion**. Users can request correction or erasure of inaccurate data and opt-out of certain processing. The Bill introduces accountability measures for data fiduciaries, including penalties for violations, thus promoting a **trust-based digital ecosystem**. Nevertheless, ambiguities persist regarding enforcement mechanisms, appeal processes, and the definition of sensitive vs critical data.

From a **regulatory perspective**, the Bill establishes a **Data Protection Board of India**, empowered to enforce compliance and adjudicate disputes. Challenges include the capacity of this board to oversee the vast digital landscape, technological expertise required, and coordination with sectoral regulators. The dynamic nature of technology, including AI and IoT, also poses enforcement challenges.

In conclusion, the DPDPB, 2023, balances **individual rights, commercial innovation, and state interests**, but its success depends on robust regulatory implementation, clarity in definitions, and global alignment. While India's approach signals maturity in **digital governance**, it also underscores the tension between **privacy, sovereignty, and innovation**, which policymakers must continually navigate.

GS-3:

Q3. Assess the implications of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme on India's energy security, agricultural economy, and environmental objectives.

Sample Answer:

The **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme**, initiated in 2003 and expanded under the National Policy on Biofuels, aims to blend ethanol with petrol (currently up to 10-20%) to reduce dependency on imported crude oil, improve farmer incomes, and mitigate vehicular pollution.

Energy security is a key benefit. India is heavily dependent on crude imports, which exposes the economy to global price fluctuations. EBP reduces **petroleum import bills** and enhances the proportion of domestically sourced fuel. It aligns with India's commitments under the **National Energy Policy** and contributes to a diversified fuel mix, integrating biofuels into the transport sector.

Economically, the programme incentivises **sugarcane and surplus food grain usage** for ethanol production. Farmers benefit from an alternative revenue stream through sale of molasses or directly cultivated energy crops. Local ethanol production stimulates rural employment, agro-industrial growth, and strengthens regional economies. However, critics argue about **food vs fuel trade-offs**, as increased diversion of sugarcane or maize could affect food prices if not carefully managed.

From an **environmental perspective**, ethanol blending reduces greenhouse gas emissions and particulate pollution from vehicles. Bioethanol is renewable and burns cleaner than fossil fuels, contributing to India's **climate mitigation goals under the Paris Agreement**. Blending higher percentages (20% or more) could significantly improve urban air quality and reduce carbon intensity in the transport sector. Nevertheless, lifecycle analysis indicates that water use, fertiliser inputs, and land-use changes must be managed sustainably to avoid unintended ecological impacts.

In conclusion, the EBP programme represents a **multi-pronged approach** linking energy security, rural development, and climate action. Its success hinges on sustainable feedstock management, infrastructure for ethanol distribution, and policy coordination between **energy, agriculture, and environmental ministries**. Strategic scaling to 20% ethanol blend by 2030 could make India a global leader in biofuel adoption while balancing economic and ecological considerations.

GS-4:

Q4. Discuss the ethical dilemmas faced by public servants when implementing welfare schemes with limited resources, and suggest ways to uphold integrity while ensuring equitable service delivery.

Sample Answer:

Public servants often face **ethical dilemmas** when implementing welfare programmes due to **resource constraints, political pressures, and conflicting priorities**. The core tension lies between **efficiency and equity**: deciding who receives benefits first, how to allocate scarce resources, and ensuring transparency while avoiding favoritism. Such dilemmas are compounded by corruption, bureaucratic inertia, and information asymmetry.

A common scenario is ration distribution or subsidy allocation, where officials must **balance procedural correctness with compassion**, sometimes making discretionary decisions in emergencies. Ethical principles such as **justice, fairness, and impartiality** must guide such decisions. Deviation from these principles can erode public trust, increase social inequality, and trigger legal consequences.

To uphold integrity, public servants should adopt a **values-based approach**:

1. **Transparency:** Maintain clear documentation, publish beneficiary lists, and follow codified eligibility norms.
2. **Accountability:** Ensure regular audits and reporting mechanisms to deter favoritism and malpractice.
3. **Equitable discretion:** Use objective criteria, and when discretion is unavoidable, apply it consistently with ethical guidelines.
4. **Citizen engagement:** Incorporate grievance redressal, social audits, and participatory mechanisms to empower communities.

Ethical training, leadership by example, and a strong **institutional framework** reinforce moral courage, enabling officials to make decisions that balance competing interests. In addition, leveraging technology (digital platforms, GIS, blockchain) can **minimise human discretion in allocation**, reducing scope for ethical lapses.

In conclusion, ethical dilemmas in welfare administration are inevitable but **resolvable** through principled decision-making, transparency, and accountability. Upholding integrity not only enhances service delivery but also strengthens citizens' trust in the governance system, which is foundational for a healthy democracy.

Current Affairs:

Q5. Critically evaluate the challenges and prospects of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme in achieving India's long-term sustainable energy objectives.

Sample Answer:

The **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme** represents India's strategic initiative to integrate renewable energy into the transport sector. By blending ethanol (from sugarcane, maize, or other feedstock) with petrol, the programme targets **energy security, rural economic empowerment, and environmental sustainability**.

Prospects:

1. **Energy Security:** Ethanol blending reduces crude import dependence, lowering vulnerability to global oil price fluctuations and trade deficits.
2. **Rural Economy:** Sugarcane and surplus food grains diverted to ethanol production provide **additional income for farmers**, while agro-industrial growth generates employment.
3. **Environmental Gains:** Ethanol burns cleaner than petrol, reducing **carbon intensity, particulate emissions, and urban air pollution**, contributing to India's Paris Agreement targets.

Challenges:

1. **Feedstock Sustainability:** Large-scale ethanol production may compete with food crops, potentially triggering price volatility and food insecurity. Lifecycle assessments highlight **water, land, and fertiliser use** as critical sustainability considerations.
2. **Infrastructure Limitations:** Storage, transport, and blending facilities are inadequate in some regions. Distribution networks must be expanded to avoid bottlenecks and ensure nationwide adoption.
3. **Market & Price Volatility:** Ethanol prices are subject to global sugar/maize markets, which could impact the economic viability of blending mandates.
4. **Technological Constraints:** Current vehicles are mostly compatible with up to 10–20% ethanol; higher blends require **flex-fuel technology adoption**, requiring additional investment and policy support.

Way Forward:

- **Integrated policy coordination** among Ministries of Petroleum, Agriculture, and Environment is needed for feedstock sustainability.
- **Scaling to 20% blend** with flex-fuel compatible vehicles should be encouraged to maximize environmental benefits.
- Promotion of **second-generation ethanol** from crop residue or lignocellulosic biomass can reduce food vs fuel conflict and improve lifecycle carbon efficiency.
- Use of **incentives, public-private partnerships, and R&D investment** can strengthen the programme's economic and technological feasibility.

In conclusion, the EBP programme has **immense potential** to advance India's sustainable energy goals while strengthening rural economies. Success depends on **coordinated policy, technological adaptation, and sustainable feedstock management**, making it a cornerstone of India's transition to a low-carbon transport sector.