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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 30/10/2026 (FRIDAY)

- **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

Q1. Match the following pairs of Classical dance forms with their associated features:

List – I (Dance form)	List – II (Associated feature)
A. Mohiniyattam	1. Use of *Kavutuvam* and narrative passages from *Yakshagana* tradition
B. Kuchipudi	2. Emphasis on *Lasya* with circular movements and white–gold costume
C. Odissi	3. Sculptural *Tribhangi* posture inspired by temple architecture
D. Kathakali	4. Dominance of *Tandava* elements with elaborate facial make-up

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) A–2, B–1, C–3, D–4
(b) A–3, B–2, C–1, D–4
(c) A–2, B–3, C–1, D–4
(d) A–1, B–2, C–3, D–4

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- Mohiniyattam is known for *Lasya*, gentle circular movements, and the white-gold costume → 2.
- Kuchipudi traditionally includes narrative elements and *Kavutuvam*, with roots in Yakshagana → 1.
- Odissi emphasizes the *Tribhangi* posture inspired by temple sculptures → 3.
- Kathakali is marked by strong *Tandava* elements and elaborate make-up → 4.
  Hence, A–2, B–1, C–3, D–4 is correct.

Q2. With reference to ecological succession in tropical ecosystems, consider the following:

Which one of the following best explains why secondary succession is usually faster than primary succession?

(a) Presence of higher rainfall in secondary sites
(b) Availability of soil seed bank, microbes and organic matter
(c) Greater solar radiation in disturbed landscapes
(d) Absence of climax community competition

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:
Secondary succession occurs in areas where a disturbance has removed vegetation but soil, microbes, nutrients and often a seed bank remain. This pre-existing biotic and abiotic base accelerates colonisation compared to primary succession, where soil itself has to form first. Rainfall, radiation or competition alone do not fundamentally explain the speed difference.

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Q3. With reference to the Repo operation of the Reserve Bank of India, consider the following statements:

1. A repo operation always expands liquidity in the banking system in the short run.
2. Government securities are used as collateral in repo transactions.
3. An increase in the repo rate directly raises the cost of short-term funds for banks from the RBI.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

1. Incorrect: Repo can expand liquidity when RBI lends, but in reverse repo or tightening phases, net effect may not be expansion. The statement uses "always", making it wrong.
2. Correct: Repos are collateralised by government securities.
3. Correct: Higher repo rate increases the cost of borrowing from RBI.
   Thus, only statements 2 and 3 are correct → two statements.

Q4. With reference to Fundamental Rights (FRs) and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs), consider the following statements:

1. Both FRs and DPSPs are justiciable in courts.
2. DPSPs can override Fundamental Rights through constitutional amendment.
3. Fundamental Rights aim at establishing political democracy, while DPSPs aim at social and economic democracy.
4. A law implementing DPSPs can be invalid if it violates the basic structure of the Constitution.

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How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

1. Incorrect: FRs are justiciable; DPSPs are non-justiciable.
2. Correct: Through amendments (e.g., Articles 31C), certain DPSPs were given precedence, though subject to basic structure.

3. Correct: This is a classic distinction in constitutional philosophy.
4. Correct: Even DPSP-implementing laws/amendments are subject to the basic structure doctrine. Thus, statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct → three statements.

Q5. Assertion (A): At higher altitudes in tropical mountains, natural vegetation shifts from dense forests to alpine grasslands.

Reasons:
R1. Decrease in temperature with altitude limits tree growth and shortens the growing season.
R2. Strong winds and shallow soils at high elevations hinder the establishment of deep-rooted trees.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) A is correct and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A
(b) A is correct, but only one of R1 and R2 is a correct explanation of A
(c) A is correct, but neither R1 nor R2 is a correct explanation of A
(d) A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:
The assertion correctly describes altitudinal zonation of vegetation in tropical mountains.
R1 explains thermal limitation and reduced growing period for trees.
R2 explains mechanical and edaphic constraints at high altitudes.
Both reasons are valid and together explain the shift from forests to alpine grasslands.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. With reference to the *Natyashastra*, consider the following statements:

1. It systematises the doctrine of *Rasa* as the aesthetic outcome of performance and treats *Bhava* as its cause.
2. It confines itself only to dance (*Nritya*) and excludes drama and music from its scope.

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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)

Detailed Explanation:
Statement 1 is correct: The *Natyashastra* of Bharata Muni elaborates the *Rasa–Bhava* theory, where *Rasa* (aesthetic experience) arises from *Bhava* (emotions) expressed through performance.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The text is encyclopaedic in scope, covering drama (*Natya*), dance, music, stagecraft, gestures, costumes, and aesthetics.
Hence, only statement 1 is correct.

Q2. Bondi Beach, often seen in the news, is best described as:

(a) A coral atoll off the eastern coast of Australia forming part of the Great Barrier Reef
(b) A sandy beach on the Tasman Sea coast within the metropolitan area of Sydney
(c) A rocky headland facing the Southern Ocean in southern Australia
(d) A tidal estuary beach located at the mouth of the Murray River

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:
Bondi Beach is a world-famous sandy beach located in Sydney, New South Wales, opening into the Tasman Sea (part of the Pacific Ocean). It lies within the urban metropolitan area, making option (b) correct.

Q3. With reference to Emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II, consider the following statements:

1. He belonged to the Mutharaiyar dynasty that ruled parts of the Kaveri delta before the rise of the Cholas.
2. He was a feudatory of the Pallavas and is known from rock-cut cave inscriptions in Tamil Nadu.
3. His reign marks the complete political subordination of the Mutharaiyars under the Rashtrakutas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

1. Correct: The Mutharaiyars were an early medieval Tamil dynasty in the Kaveri region, preceding Chola dominance.
2. Correct: Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II is associated with Pallava overlordship and inscriptions in cave temples such as at Narthamalai.
3. Incorrect: There is no evidence that his reign marked subordination under the Rashtrakutas; Pallava suzerainty is more relevant.
   Thus, only statements 1 and 2 are correct → two statements.

Q4. With reference to the recent discovery in Brazil of one of the youngest-known rhynchosaurs, consider the following statements:

1. Rhynchosaurs were herbivorous reptiles that flourished mainly during the Triassic period.

2. The Brazilian find suggests their survival till the Late Triassic, close to the Triassic–Jurassic boundary.
3. Such discoveries are crucial for understanding mass extinctions triggered primarily by the Chicxulub impact.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

1. Correct: Rhynchosaurs were plant-eating archosauromorph reptiles dominant in the Triassic.
2. Correct: The "youngest" specimens indicate survival into the Late Triassic, just before their extinction.
3. Incorrect: The Chicxulub impact is linked to the end-Cretaceous extinction, not the Triassic–Jurassic events.
   Hence, only statements 1 and 2 are correct → two statements.

Q5. With reference to the Dandami Maria tribe, consider the following statements:

1. They are a sub-group of the Gond tribes inhabiting parts of the Bastar region of central India.
2. Their language belongs to the Dravidian family.
3. They are traditionally associated with shifting cultivation and forest-based livelihoods.
4. They are predominantly found along the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

1. Correct: Dandami Maria are a sub-tribe of the Gonds in Bastar (Chhattisgarh).
2. Correct: Their language is of the Dravidian family.
3. Correct: Livelihoods traditionally include shifting cultivation and forest resources.
4. Incorrect: They inhabit central Indian highlands, not the Western Ghats.
   Thus, statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct → three statements.

Q6. Consider the map below showing a country in West Asia.
It is bounded by the Dead Sea to the west and has access to the Gulf of Aqaba in the south.

Which one of the following countries is shown in the map?

(a) Israel
(b) Jordan
(c) Saudi Arabia
(d) Iraq

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:
Jordan lies east of the Dead Sea and has a narrow southern coastline at Aqaba on the Gulf of Aqaba (Red Sea arm). It is bordered by Israel/West Bank to the west, Saudi Arabia to the south and east, Iraq to the northeast, and Syria to the north. Hence, the correct answer is Jordan.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper I – World History

Q1. "The unification of Germany in 1871 was not merely a product of nationalist sentiment but a result of calculated statecraft and diplomacy." Critically examine.

Sample Answer:

The unification of Germany in 1871 marked a watershed in European history, transforming a fragmented region of numerous states into a powerful nation-state. While nationalist aspirations provided the emotional backdrop, the decisive force behind unification was the astute statecraft and diplomacy of Prussia under Otto von Bismarck.

Nationalism had been growing since the Napoleonic Wars. The ideas of cultural unity based on common language, history and traditions were promoted by intellectuals, poets and student associations like the *Burschenschaften*. The 1848 Frankfurt Parliament attempted to unify Germany through liberal constitutional means, but its failure demonstrated that idealistic nationalism alone could not overcome political realities.

Bismarck's policy of *Realpolitik* shifted the course of unification. He subordinated ideology to power politics, aiming to strengthen Prussia rather than pursue abstract national ideals. Through economic integration under the Zollverein, Prussia emerged as the leader of German states, marginalising Austria. This economic unity laid the material foundation for political consolidation.

Diplomacy and carefully engineered wars were central. The Danish War (1864) against Denmark over Schleswig-Holstein projected Prussia as a defender of German interests. The Austro-Prussian War (1866) was orchestrated to exclude Austria from German affairs; Bismarck ensured limited aims to avoid prolonged hostility. Finally, the Franco-Prussian War (1870–71) exploited French fears and German nationalism, rallying the southern German states behind Prussia.

Bismarck's diplomatic brilliance lay in isolating adversaries. He secured Russian neutrality, placated Britain, and avoided antagonising other powers, ensuring Prussia fought each war on favourable terms. The

proclamation of the German Empire in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles symbolised not only national triumph but Prussian dominance.

However, nationalism was not irrelevant. Popular enthusiasm legitimised Prussia's leadership and provided mass support during wars. Without nationalist sentiment, diplomatic manoeuvres alone might not have sustained unity.

In conclusion, German unification was the product of an interaction between nationalist forces and Bismarckian statecraft. Yet, it was the calculated use of diplomacy, war and power politics by Prussia that ultimately translated nationalist dreams into political reality, making unification more a triumph of strategy than sentiment.

GS Paper II – Polity & Governance

Q2. "The Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025 seeks to redefine work–life boundaries in India's digital economy." Examine its significance, challenges and way forward.

Sample Answer:

The Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025 reflects India's attempt to respond to changing workplace dynamics in an era of remote work, digital platforms and 24/7 connectivity. The Bill proposes to give employees the right to not engage in work-related communications beyond prescribed working hours, except in emergencies.

The significance of the Bill lies in safeguarding workers' mental health and dignity. With smartphones and digital tools blurring the line between office and personal life, employees often face burnout, stress and reduced productivity. Recognising a right to disconnect aligns with Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life with dignity, and with international trends seen in countries like France and Spain.

The Bill also promotes gender justice. In India, unpaid care work disproportionately falls on women, and constant work demands aggravate this burden. By enforcing clear boundaries, the law can help create a more inclusive workforce. Moreover, healthier employees contribute to long-term organisational efficiency and innovation.

However, the Bill faces several challenges. First, India's large informal sector and gig economy make enforcement difficult. Platform workers and freelancers may remain outside its ambit. Second, global business models, time zone differences and client-driven services, especially in IT and BPO sectors, complicate rigid working-hour norms. Third, small enterprises may find compliance costly, and employers fear reduced flexibility and competitiveness.

There is also the issue of cultural mindset, where long working hours are often equated with commitment and productivity. Legal provisions alone may not change entrenched practices.

The way forward lies in a balanced approach. The Bill should allow sector-specific flexibility through social dialogue and collective bargaining. Clear definitions of "working hours" and "emergency" are essential to avoid misuse. Digital monitoring mechanisms, grievance redressal systems, and awareness campaigns can aid implementation. The law must also integrate with labour codes and data protection frameworks.

In conclusion, the Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025 is a progressive step towards humane and sustainable work culture in India's digital economy. If implemented with flexibility and stakeholder consultation, it can redefine productivity not as constant availability but as balanced and meaningful engagement.

GS Paper III – Indian Economy

Q3. "A market economy is often associated with efficiency and innovation, yet criticised for inequality and instability." Discuss the pros and cons in the context of India.

Sample Answer:

A market economy is one where production and distribution decisions are guided primarily by market forces of demand and supply, with limited state intervention. Since the economic reforms of 1991, India has increasingly embraced market-oriented policies, making this debate particularly relevant.

Among its advantages, efficiency stands out. Competition incentivises firms to minimise costs and improve quality, leading to better allocation of resources. In India, liberalisation led to the growth of sectors such as IT, telecom and pharmaceuticals, enhancing productivity and global integration. Innovation is another benefit, as profit motives encourage research, entrepreneurship and adoption of new technologies, evident in India's start-up ecosystem.

Market economies also expand consumer choice and can accelerate economic growth. Higher growth enlarges the tax base, enabling governments to fund welfare programmes. The rise of a middle class in India reflects these gains.

However, market economies have inherent drawbacks. Inequality is a major concern, as market outcomes often favour those with capital, skills and access to opportunities. In India, despite growth, disparities persist across regions, social groups and between urban and rural areas. Unregulated markets can also lead to monopolies, crony capitalism and exploitation, as seen in issues of corporate concentration and informal labour.

Another limitation is instability. Market economies are prone to business cycles, speculative bubbles and financial crises. India's exposure to global capital flows makes it vulnerable to external shocks. Moreover, markets often underprovide public goods such as health, education and environmental protection, since profits are uncertain.

Environmental degradation is a further cost, as market signals may ignore ecological externalities. Climate change challenges demand state intervention beyond market logic.

Thus, the Indian experience shows the need for a mixed approach. Strategic regulation, social safety nets, progressive taxation and investment in human capital can mitigate market failures while retaining efficiency.

In conclusion, a market economy offers dynamism and growth but cannot be left unchecked. For India, the challenge lies in harnessing market forces for development while ensuring equity, stability and sustainability through an enabling and accountable state.

GS Paper IV – Ethics

Q4. "In public life, ethical integrity is not only about personal honesty but also about institutional responsibility." Discuss with suitable examples.

Sample Answer:

Ethical integrity in public life refers to adherence to moral principles such as honesty, accountability, fairness and commitment to public interest. While personal probity of individuals is vital, ethical governance cannot be sustained without institutional frameworks that promote and enforce ethical conduct.

At the individual level, integrity demands that public servants resist corruption, conflicts of interest and abuse of power. For example, a district magistrate refusing political pressure in land acquisition cases reflects personal courage and moral conviction. However, relying solely on individual virtue is inadequate in complex administrative systems.

Institutional responsibility ensures that ethical behaviour becomes the norm rather than an exception. Transparent procedures, clear rules, independent oversight bodies and strong grievance redressal mechanisms reduce discretion and opportunities for wrongdoing. Institutions like the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and Lokpal embody this principle by subjecting public actions to scrutiny.

Ethical institutions also create a culture of accountability. When decision-making is documented and subject to review, it discourages arbitrariness. For instance, e-governance initiatives such as direct benefit transfer reduce human interface and leakages, reinforcing ethical outcomes through system design.

Moreover, institutions must protect whistle-blowers and encourage ethical dissent. The absence of such safeguards often leads to silence in the face of wrongdoing, as seen in several scams where fear of reprisal prevented early exposure.

Yet, institutions themselves can become compromised if leadership lacks integrity or if norms are weakly enforced. Therefore, ethical governance requires a synergy between virtuous individuals and robust systems.

In a democracy, public trust is rooted not only in honest officers but in credible institutions. Ethical lapses erode legitimacy and weaken social cohesion.

In conclusion, while personal integrity is the foundation of ethical public life, institutional responsibility provides its structure and sustainability. A morally upright individual within an unethical system is constrained, whereas strong institutions empower ethical individuals to serve the public good effectively. Both are indispensable for ethical governance.

Current Affairs

Q5. "Empanelment of Heritage Conservation Architects reflects a shift towards professionalising heritage management in India." Discuss its relevance, challenges and potential impact.

Sample Answer:

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India's vast and diverse cultural heritage, ranging from ancient monuments to historic urban precincts, faces increasing threats from urbanisation, neglect and climate change. In this context, the recent move to empanel Heritage Conservation Architects by government agencies marks a significant step towards professionalising heritage conservation.

The relevance of this initiative lies in bridging the gap between modern development and heritage preservation. Conservation architects bring specialised expertise in historical construction techniques, material science, structural stability and cultural significance. Their involvement ensures that restoration projects adhere to global standards such as those laid down in the Venice Charter, while remaining sensitive to local contexts.

Empanelment also introduces accountability and quality control. By creating a vetted pool of professionals, governments can avoid ad-hocism and ensure that public funds are used effectively. It promotes

interdisciplinary collaboration with archaeologists, historians, urban planners and local communities, enabling holistic conservation.

Furthermore, this move aligns with India's commitments under UNESCO conventions and enhances the potential of heritage tourism, which can generate livelihoods and foster local pride.

However, several challenges remain. First, there is a shortage of trained conservation professionals in India, and empanelment may initially concentrate opportunities among a limited group. Second, coordination between multiple agencies such as ASI, state departments and urban bodies is often weak, leading to overlaps and delays. Third, conservation is sometimes seen as an obstacle to development, creating conflicts with infrastructure and real estate interests.

Another concern is community participation. Without involving local stakeholders, conservation risks becoming top-down and detached from living heritage.

The way forward includes expanding training programmes, integrating conservation into urban planning, and ensuring transparent criteria for empanelment. Public-private partnerships and community-led models can enhance sustainability.

In conclusion, empanelment of Heritage Conservation Architects is a forward-looking reform that can transform heritage management from a bureaucratic exercise into a professional and participatory endeavour. If supported by capacity-building and institutional coordination, it can safeguard India's cultural legacy while enabling responsible development.

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