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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 31/10/2026 (SATURDAY)

- **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 Bahmani Kingdom:

1. The capital of the Bahmani Kingdom was initially at Bidar, which was later shifted to Gulbarga by Sultan Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah.
2. The Bahmani rulers encouraged the migration of Persian artisans and scholars, which deeply influenced the Indo-Islamic architecture of the Deccan.

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: (b)

- **Explanation:**
  The Bahmani Kingdom, founded by Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah in **1347 CE**, initially established its capital at **Gulbarga (Ahsanabad)**, not Bidar. Later, under **Ahmad Shah I (1422–1436 CE)**, the capital was shifted to **Bidar**, marking a cultural and architectural shift.
  The Bahmani rulers were known patrons of **Persian culture**, encouraging migration of **Persian and Central Asian scholars, architects, and artisans**, which led to the evolution of a distinctive **Indo-Persian-Deccan style** seen in structures like **Madarsa of Mahmud Gawan**.
  Hence, statement 1 is incorrect and statement 2 is correct.

Q2. Which one of the following missions under India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) primarily focuses on promoting energy efficiency in the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector?
(a) National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency
(b) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
(c) National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
(d) National Water Mission

Answer: (a)

- **Explanation:**
  The **National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)**, launched under **NAPCC in 2008**, seeks to strengthen market-based mechanisms to improve energy efficiency across industries, including MSMEs.
  Its key components—**Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT)** and **Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE)**—target the industrial sector for reducing energy intensity.
  The mission aligns with India's goals of reducing the **energy intensity of GDP** and supporting sustainable economic growth.

Q3. Consider the following statements about Ways and Means Advances (WMA) in India:

1. WMAs are short-term credit facilities provided by the Reserve Bank of India to the Central and State Governments to meet temporary mismatches in their receipts and payments.
2. The interest rate on WMAs is fixed annually by the Finance Commission.

3. The Central Government and each State Government have distinct limits for WMAs, determined in consultation with the RBI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

- **Explanation:**
  Ways and Means Advances (WMAs) are **temporary credit facilities** given by the **RBI** to the **Central and State Governments** to bridge short-term cash flow mismatches.
  The **interest rate** on WMAs is **linked to the RBI's repo rate**, not determined by the Finance Commission (hence statement 2 is incorrect).
  The **limits** for WMAs are periodically revised by the **RBI** in consultation with the **Central and State Governments**, based on fiscal trends and expenditure requirements.
  Thus, statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Lokpal and Lokayuktas in India:

1. The Lokpal consists of a Chairperson and a maximum of eight members, out of which fifty percent shall be from judicial background.
2. The Lokpal's jurisdiction covers the Prime Minister, but only with respect to allegations of corruption related to international relations and national security.
3. Every State is mandatorily required to establish a Lokayukta within one year of the commencement of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
4. The Lokpal is empowered to order attachment and confiscation of property obtained through corruption.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Answer: (a)

- **Explanation:**
  The **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** provides for a **Lokpal** with a **Chairperson and up to eight members**, with **50% judicial members** and **50% representation from SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, and women** (Statement 1 correct).
  The **Prime Minister** is covered under the Lokpal's jurisdiction, but **matters of international relations, external and internal security, atomic energy, and space** are **excluded**, not included (Statement 2 incorrect).
  The Act mandates States to **establish Lokayuktas within one year** (Statement 3 correct).
  The Lokpal has the power to **order attachment and confiscation of assets** acquired by corrupt means under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** (Statement 4 correct).
  Hence, statements 1, 3, and 4 are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -
Assertion (A): Hydrogen energy is considered a zero-emission fuel because its combustion releases only water vapor.
Reason (R): The industrial production of hydrogen through steam methane reforming is entirely renewable and carbon-free.

(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

Answer: (c)

- **Explanation:**
  Hydrogen, when used as a **fuel**, combines with oxygen to produce **water vapor**, making it a **zero-emission fuel at the point of use** (Assertion true).
  However, the most common industrial method of producing hydrogen—**Steam Methane Reforming (SMR)**—uses **natural gas** and emits **carbon dioxide**, making it **non-renewable and carbon-intensive** (Reason false).
  Only **green hydrogen**, produced through **electrolysis using renewable energy**, can be considered carbon-free.
  Hence, Assertion is true but Reason is false.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Question: Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY):

1. PMDDKY targets 100 districts identified on the basis of persistent low agricultural productivity and includes a six-year outlay of approximately ₹24,000 crore to improve irrigation, storage, and market linkages.
2. Under PMDDKY, private sector participation through Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) is explicitly disallowed; only government agencies and farmer collectives can implement infrastructure projects under the scheme.

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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)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **correct**. PMDDKY is a centrally sponsored scheme focusing on 100 low-performing agricultural districts. It aims to boost agricultural productivity through targeted interventions in irrigation (including micro-irrigation), storage, processing, diversification, and access to credit, with a financial outlay of around ₹24,000 crore over six years.

- Statement 2 is **incorrect**. The scheme allows participation from multiple stakeholders, including the private sector through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). It encourages infrastructure development via both government agencies and private actors, such as farmer collectives and cooperatives.

2. Question: Which one of the following correctly identifies a primary objective of SPARK–4.0 under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)?

(a) To commercialise Ayurvedic medicines through mandatory licensing of BAMS graduates.
(b) To provide undergraduate Ayurveda students hands-on research exposure and studentships for small investigational projects.
(c) To convert all Ayurvedic hospitals to a single national electronic health record platform by 2026.
(d) To replace traditional Ayurveda curricula with a purely evidence-based biomedical syllabus.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
SPARK–4.0 is the fourth edition of the Studentship Programme for Ayurveda Research. It is designed to foster research aptitude among undergraduate Ayurveda (BAMS) students by providing studentships, mentorship, and short-term exposure to research. It does not aim to commercialise medicines or alter the curriculum fundamentally.

3. Question: Consider the following statements about the Bharat Taxi initiative:

1. Bharat Taxi is conceptualised as a cooperative-owned national ride-hailing platform intended to offer drivers greater equity and reduce aggregator commissions; it is backed by government-led cooperative institutions.
2. The initiative's stated national launch timeline is December 2025 and it is being developed under the aegis of the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) as a public digital platform.
3. The initial governance structure declared for Bharat Taxi mandates a private venture capital (VC) majority on the board to expedite market scale and ensure investor protections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statements 1 and 2 are **correct**. Bharat Taxi is a cooperative-driven digital ride-hailing platform intended to provide better ownership and income terms for drivers. It is supported by cooperative institutions and is being developed with technical support from the NeGD, aiming for a national launch around December 2025.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect**. The governance model emphasizes cooperative leadership rather than venture capital majority control, with representation from cooperative sectors rather than private investors.

4. Question: Consider the following statements about the India–UK Connectivity & Innovation Centre (CIC):

1. The CIC is a bilateral India–UK initiative with a joint commitment of £24 million (spread over four years) aimed at applied research, testbeds and global standards work in telecommunications.
2. One of CIC's explicit goals is to develop commercial testbeds that can accelerate India's leadership in 6G standards and indigenous telecom productisation.
3. Funding for CIC is exclusively from the UK government; India's Department of Telecommunications is a technical partner but provides no financial contribution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statements 1 and 2 are **correct**. The CIC is a bilateral initiative between India and the UK, jointly committing around £24 million over four years. It focuses on collaborative research, testbeds, and establishing India's role in 6G and telecom standards.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect**. The funding is jointly contributed by both governments. India's Department of Telecommunications is both a technical and financial partner in the initiative.

5. Question: Consider the following statements about the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY):

1. District-level implementation will be coordinated by newly constituted District Dhan-Dhaanya Samitis with representation from 11 line departments.
2. The scheme mandates a uniform package of interventions to be implemented identically across all 100 districts to ensure standardisation.
3. Soil Health Card-based interventions and micro-irrigation (drip/sprinkler) are among the flagged priority components of the scheme.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Statements 1 and 3 are **correct**. The scheme is implemented at the district level through District Dhan-Dhaanya Samitis, which include members from multiple departments. It prioritises interventions like Soil Health Cards and micro-irrigation technologies.

- Statement 2 is **incorrect**. PMDDKY is designed to be flexible, with district-specific interventions tailored to local needs rather than applying a uniform model across all districts.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. Examine the rise of totalitarian ideologies such as Fascism, Communism, and Capitalism in the 20th century. How did they shape the global political and economic order?

Answer:

Introduction:
The 20th century witnessed the emergence of powerful ideologies — *Fascism, Communism, and Capitalism* — each seeking to redefine political authority and socio-economic structures. These ideologies were born out of post–World War I disillusionment, economic crises, and socio-political instability.

Main Body:

- **Fascism:**
  Originating in Italy under *Benito Mussolini* and later spreading to *Nazi Germany*, Fascism emphasized authoritarian nationalism, militarism, and suppression of dissent. It rejected democracy and socialism, glorifying the state over the individual.
  Impact: Led to expansionist aggression culminating in World War II and immense human suffering.
- **Communism:**
  Rooted in Marxist theory, it emerged as a response to capitalist exploitation. The 1917 *Bolshevik Revolution* in Russia under Lenin and Stalin institutionalized a command economy, one-party rule, and state ownership of resources.
  Impact: It polarized the world into capitalist and communist blocs during the *Cold War*, influencing revolutions in China, Cuba, and Eastern Europe.
- **Capitalism:**
  The United States and Western democracies championed a *free-market system* emphasizing individual enterprise, private property, and minimal state intervention.
  Impact: Post-WWII, capitalism spurred innovation, globalization, and consumerism, but also deepened income inequalities and environmental challenges.

Global Impact:
These ideologies shaped the geopolitical map:

- *Bipolar world* during the Cold War (USA vs USSR).
- *Decolonization movements* sought to balance socialist welfare with democratic governance.
- The eventual *collapse of Soviet communism* (1991) marked the global dominance of liberal capitalism.

Conclusion:
The ideological struggle of the 20th century not only defined global alliances but also continues to influence

modern governance, economic reforms, and debates on welfare versus market freedom. The 21st century seeks a synthesis — democratic capitalism with social justice.

GS Paper 2

Q2. Critically evaluate the role of the Election Commission of India as an independent institution in ensuring free and fair elections.

Answer:

Introduction:
The *Election Commission of India (ECI)*, established under **Article 324 of the Constitution**, is the guardian of electoral democracy. It conducts elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President.

Main Body:

- **Constitutional Mandate:**
  The ECI's powers extend to the entire process — from delimitation to counting. Its independence is ensured by security of tenure for the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and financial autonomy.
- **Achievements:**
  - Conducted elections for over 900 million voters — world's largest democratic exercise.
  - Introduced *Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)* and *VVPAT* for transparency.
  - Enforced *Model Code of Conduct (MCC)* to maintain level playing field.
  - Undertaken voter awareness campaigns (*SVEEP* program).
- **Challenges and Criticism:**
  - Allegations of *partisan behavior* and *delayed action* against ruling parties.
  - Lack of *collegium system* for CEC appointment raises concerns of executive influence.
  - Enforcement of MCC sometimes seen as selective.
  - Resource constraints and electoral violence in some states affect credibility.
- **Reforms Needed:**
  - *Independent appointment mechanism* (as suggested by the Supreme Court in 2023).
  - *Statutory backing* for MCC.
  - *Enhanced powers* to de-register parties violating electoral ethics.

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Conclusion:
The ECI remains the cornerstone of India's democracy. Strengthening its autonomy, transparency, and accountability will ensure that the "spirit of free and fair elections" continues to define India's democratic ethos.

GS Paper 3

Q3. Discuss the significance of Public–Private Partnership (PPP) models in infrastructure development. Highlight the challenges and suggest measures for effective implementation.

Answer:

Introduction:
Public–Private Partnership (PPP) refers to a cooperative arrangement between the government and private entities for delivering public infrastructure and services. It blends public accountability with private efficiency.

Main Body:

- **Significance:**
  - *Bridges investment gap* in infrastructure (India needs ~$1.5 trillion by 2030).
  - *Improves efficiency* through innovation and better project management.
  - *Risk-sharing mechanism* reduces government's financial burden.
  - Successful projects: *Delhi Metro (DMRC)*, *GMR Hyderabad Airport*, *National Highways via NHAI BOT models*.
- **Major PPP Models in India:**
  - *Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)*
  - *Design-Build-Finance-Operate (DBFO)*
  - *Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)*
  - *Viability Gap Funding (VGF)*
- **Challenges:**
  - *Contractual disputes* and poor risk allocation.
  - *Delayed land acquisition* and environmental clearances.
  - *Financial stress* on developers due to policy uncertainty.
  - Lack of capacity in public agencies for monitoring PPP contracts.
- **Reform Measures:**
  - Adoption of *Kelkar Committee* recommendations for PPP revival.
  - Creation of *3P India* institution for capacity building.
  - Transparent dispute-resolution mechanisms and realistic risk-sharing.
  - Encourage *sector-specific PPP models* (healthcare, education, logistics).

Conclusion:
PPP is vital for India's growth story. With institutional reforms and balanced risk management, PPP can ensure sustainable, inclusive, and resilient infrastructure development — a key enabler for *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

GS Paper 4 (Ethics)

Q4. "The integrity of public institutions depends on the integrity of individuals." Discuss this statement in light of ethical governance.

Answer:

Introduction:
Institutions derive strength not merely from their constitutional design but from the moral conduct of the individuals running them. Ethical governance rests upon *integrity, impartiality, and accountability*.

Main Body:

- **Meaning of Integrity:**
  Integrity implies consistency between one's values, principles, and actions — a core virtue in public service.
- **Importance in Public Institutions:**
  - Prevents misuse of authority and corruption.
  - Builds *citizen trust* and legitimacy.
  - Ensures *objectivity and transparency* in decision-making.
  - Strengthens democratic accountability.
- **Examples:**
  - *T.N. Seshan* (former CEC) transformed the Election Commission through moral courage.
  - *E. Sreedharan* upheld professional ethics in Delhi Metro construction.
  - Conversely, institutional decline occurs when individuals prioritize personal gain over public duty.
- **Promoting Ethical Conduct:**
  - Value-based training through *civil service ethics modules*.
  - Whistleblower protection and *code of conduct*.
  - Role modeling by leadership ("Tone at the Top").
  - Strengthening institutional checks like *CVC, CAG, and Lokpal*.

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Conclusion:
While laws and structures can curb wrongdoing, ethical governance thrives only when individuals embody integrity. As Gandhiji said, *"Be the change you wish to see in the world."* The moral character of public servants ultimately defines the health of democracy.

Current Affairs

Q5. Evaluate the potential of digital examinations as a sustainable and efficient alternative to traditional paper-based testing systems in India.

Answer:

Introduction:
Digital examinations represent a paradigm shift toward *technology-enabled education governance*. They

promise sustainability, efficiency, and integrity — aligning with India's *Digital India Mission* and *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020*.

Main Body:

- **Advantages:**
  - **Environmental Sustainability:** Drastic reduction in paper use and logistics.
  - **Efficiency:** Instant evaluation, reduced administrative delays, and lower costs over time.
  - **Transparency:** Minimizes malpractices like paper leaks.
  - **Inclusivity:** Remote and differently-abled candidates can participate with accessibility tools.
  - **Scalability:** Suitable for mass examinations like CUET, NEET, UPSC (prelims in future).
- **Challenges:**
  - *Digital divide* — rural and low-income students face connectivity issues.
  - *Cybersecurity threats* and data breaches.
  - *Infrastructure gaps* — power reliability and hardware maintenance.
  - *Resistance to change* in traditional institutions.
- **Policy and Reforms:**
  - NEP 2020 and *Digital India e-Gov framework* promote adaptive online testing.
  - *NTA's computer-based tests* show scalability potential.
  - Need for *AI-enabled proctoring* and *data privacy frameworks*.

Conclusion:
Digital exams can transform India's education system into a *green, transparent, and data-driven ecosystem*, provided digital equity, infrastructure, and cybersecurity are ensured. The transition must be inclusive to truly democratize access to opportunity.

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