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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE**

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 2/07/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Question 1: With reference to the Mughal administration, consider the following statements:

1. The *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions the Mansabdari system as being purely based on hereditary rights.
2. The *Zat* rank of a Mansabdar determined his personal status and salary, while the *Sawar* rank determined his cavalry responsibility.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Mansabdari system, as detailed in the *Ain-i-Akbari* by Abul Fazl, was **not based on hereditary principles**. Mansabs (ranks) were **assigned by the emperor** based on merit and could be increased, decreased, or withdrawn.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The *Zat* rank indicated the **status, pay, and personal strength** of a mansabdar, while the *Sawar* rank specified the number of cavalymen a mansabdar was required to maintain. This **dual ranking** allowed better military and administrative categorization.

Question 2: Consider the following statements regarding ecological pyramids:

1. In most terrestrial ecosystems, the pyramid of biomass is always upright.
2. Pyramid of energy is always upright as energy decreases at successive trophic levels.
3. In a pond ecosystem, the pyramid of numbers is always inverted due to a single predator controlling a large population of prey.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** In **terrestrial ecosystems**, the pyramid of biomass is usually **upright**, but **not always**. In **forests**, trees have high biomass but fewer in number, making it potentially **inverted**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **pyramid of energy** is **always upright** due to the **Second Law of Thermodynamics** — only about 10% of energy is transferred to the next trophic level.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In a **pond ecosystem**, the **pyramid of numbers** is generally **upright**, starting from numerous phytoplankton to fewer top carnivores. The idea of a single predator controlling many prey applies more to **forest ecosystems**.

Question 3: Consider the following statements with reference to Fiscal Consolidation in India:

1. The FRBM Act mandates that the Central Government must reduce its fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP by a fixed deadline.
2. Revenue deficit includes both interest payments and capital expenditure.
3. A primary deficit indicates the total fiscal deficit excluding interest payments.

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) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act** aims at **fiscal discipline**, including a target of **3% fiscal deficit**, though deadlines have been revised multiple times.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **Revenue deficit** = Revenue Expenditure – Revenue Receipts. It does **not include capital expenditure**. Interest payments are part of revenue expenditure, but capital expenditure is not.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **Primary deficit** = Fiscal Deficit – **Interest Payments**. It shows how much the government is borrowing **to meet expenses other than interest payments**.

Question 4: Which of the following provisions are present under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act?

1. State Election Commission conducts panchayat elections and is appointed by the President of India.
2. Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in every Panchayat in proportion to their population.
3. The tenure of every Panchayat is fixed for a period of five years.
4. The Act mandates that the Gram Sabha shall exercise powers and perform functions at the village level.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) All of the above



Answer: (b) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **State Election Commission** conducts panchayat elections but is **appointed by the Governor**, not the President.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 243D provides for **reservation of seats** for SCs/STs in every panchayat in proportion to their population.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Article 243E states that the **tenure of panchayats is five years**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The 73rd Amendment provides for **Gram Sabha** as the foundation of the Panchayati Raj system with certain **powers and functions** at the village level.

Question 5: Assertion-Reason Type

Assertion (A): Deepfake technologies pose a significant threat to electoral integrity and democratic discourse.

Reason (R): Deepfakes rely on blockchain networks to modify original video and audio content.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- (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) A is true, but R is false

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct:** Deepfakes—AI-generated synthetic media—can be used to **manipulate public perception, discredit individuals**, and influence **elections**, making them a serious concern for democracies.
 - **Reason is incorrect:** Deepfakes use **AI/ML techniques like Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)**, **not blockchain**. Blockchain may be used to **detect or authenticate content**, but **not to create deepfakes**.
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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding Project 17A frigates:

1. The Project 17A class frigates are being built only by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
2. The UDAYGIRI stealth frigate delivered in 2024 to the Indian Navy incorporates advanced stealth features and is named after a mountain range in Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Project 17A frigates are being built by **both Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE),** Kolkata.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** INS Udaygiri, the third ship under Project 17A, is **named after a mountain range in Andhra Pradesh.** It features **advanced stealth technologies, weapons, and sensors,** enhancing survivability in naval warfare.

Question 2: Which of the following is a major innovation proposed under the National Sports Policy 2025 approved by the Union Cabinet?

- (a) Institutionalization of “One State-One Olympic Medal” scheme
- (b) Integration of sports in school curriculum from Class 1 onwards
- (c) Mandating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending in sports infrastructure
- (d) Creation of a National Sports Governance Code under the Constitution

Answer: (b) Integration of sports in school curriculum from Class 1 onwards

Explanation:

The **National Sports Policy 2025** focuses on making **sports an integral part of education**, starting from the **primary level**, and aims to **increase grassroots participation**, introduce a **sports code**, and develop a **national database of athletes**. It also includes improved transparency and governance in sports bodies but **does not mandate CSR nor constitutionalize governance code**.

Question 3: With reference to the phenomenon of ‘Backdoor Layoffs’, consider the following statements:

1. Backdoor layoffs typically involve informal methods such as performance-based exits or forced resignations without formal termination notices.
2. They are most commonly observed in the public sector due to rigid labor laws.



- Such layoffs often bypass regulatory oversight, enabling firms to avoid compensation or retrenchment formalities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** “Backdoor layoffs” refer to **indirect retrenchments**, where employees are asked to resign **voluntarily** or are pressured through appraisal processes.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This practice is mostly seen in **private sector**, particularly IT and startups, due to **flexibility in contract terms**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Companies often use this method to **bypass compensation norms**, avoid **grievance redressal** or scrutiny under **labor laws**.

Question 4: Consider the following statements about the Santhal Rebellion of 1855–56:

- It was primarily directed against the exploitative practices of zamindars, moneylenders, and colonial officials.
- Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, the tribal leaders, declared independence and set up parallel administrative structures.
- The rebellion was suppressed with the help of local peasant communities who sided with the British.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Santhals revolted due to exploitation by **zamindars, mahajans (moneylenders)** and **British revenue officials**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu** mobilized thousands and even tried to set up an **independent administrative system** in the **Rajmahal Hills**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Many local peasants, especially tribal populations, **supported the rebellion**, not the British. The British crushed the rebellion using military force.

Question 5: Which of the following statements about Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is/are correct?

- SECI functions as a profit-driven Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Power.



2. It plays a key role in implementing Renewable Energy Parks and VGF schemes.
3. SECI is the designated implementing agency for green hydrogen and wind-solar hybrid projects in India.
4. SECI has also ventured into international solar project financing through the ISA framework.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (c) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** SECI is a **not-for-profit** PSU under the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, not the Ministry of Power.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** SECI plays a crucial role in **Renewable Energy Parks** and **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** schemes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is the nodal agency for **Green Hydrogen, Wind-Solar Hybrid, and Floating Solar Projects**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Through **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, SECI is expanding into **international solar project partnerships and funding**.

Question 6: Which of the following correctly lists the Hawaii Islands from northwest to southeast, based on their strategic and geographic relevance in the Pacific Ocean?

- (a) Kauai – Oahu – Molokai – Maui – Hawaii
- (b) Maui – Hawaii – Molokai – Oahu – Kauai
- (c) Oahu – Maui – Kauai – Molokai – Hawaii
- (d) Hawaii – Maui – Oahu – Molokai – Kauai

Answer: (a) Kauai – Oahu – Molokai – Maui – Hawaii

Explanation:

The **Hawaiian island chain**, from **northwest to southeast**, is:

- **Kauai** (northwest-most)
- **Oahu** (hosts Pearl Harbor, strategic naval base)
- **Molokai**
- **Maui**
- **Hawaii (Big Island)** (southeast-most)

This positioning is relevant due to **US Indo-Pacific command** operations and **climate vulnerability** of Pacific islands.



SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. Evaluate the contributions and limitations of the Aligarh Movement in shaping Muslim identity and modern education in colonial India.

Answer:

The Aligarh Movement, led by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in the 19th century, was a pivotal reform initiative aimed at uplifting Indian Muslims by promoting modern Western education and rational thinking.

Contributions:

- **Promotion of Modern Education:** The founding of Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College (later Aligarh Muslim University) in 1875 became a hub for Western-style learning among Muslims, emphasizing English, science, and rationalism alongside Islamic values.
- **Bridging East and West:** Sir Syed encouraged Muslims to embrace British legal and administrative systems, believing cooperation with the British was essential for community progress post-1857 revolt.
- **Cultural Renaissance:** The movement revitalized Muslim society intellectually and culturally. Urdu journalism and literature flourished under its influence, giving a voice to emerging Muslim middle classes.
- **Community Mobilization:** It fostered a distinct Muslim political consciousness, which later influenced organizations like the Muslim League and gave rise to demands for separate electorates.

Limitations:

- **Elitist Orientation:** The movement catered primarily to upper-class, North Indian Muslims. Rural and poorer Muslims remained largely unaffected.
- **Neglect of Women's Education:** Despite advocating modern education, it did little to uplift the status of Muslim women.
- **Communal Overtones:** By emphasizing a distinct Muslim identity and collaboration with the British, the movement inadvertently laid the foundation for political separatism, which later intensified communal divisions.
- **Alienation from Nationalist Movements:** The movement's caution towards the Indian National Congress and distancing from the 1857 Revolt narratives created a rift between Muslim and broader nationalist causes.

Conclusion:

The Aligarh Movement was a landmark in modern Indian Muslim socio-educational reform. Though progressive in educational terms, its communal undertones and elite orientation limited its inclusivity and long-term impact on national integration.

GS Paper 2



Q2. Discuss the challenges in implementing cooperative federalism in India, with suitable examples. How can India move towards true fiscal and administrative federalism?

Answer:

Cooperative federalism refers to a governance model in which the Centre and states work as equal partners in policy formulation and implementation. In India, the Constitution envisages a quasi-federal structure. However, several impediments prevent genuine cooperative federalism.

Challenges:

- **Centralised Fiscal Powers:** Despite the recommendations of the Finance Commissions, the Centre holds a dominant share in tax revenues and decides the terms of transfers through Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), curtailing states' autonomy.
- **Political Differences:** Differing political ideologies between the Centre and states often hamper consensus-based decision-making in bodies like the GST Council or NITI Aayog.
- **Use of Article 356 and Governors' Role:** The misuse of Article 356 and the partisan role of Governors often disrupt Centre-State harmony, particularly in opposition-ruled states like West Bengal or Tamil Nadu.
- **Lack of Coordination in Policy Implementation:** Health and education, being concurrent subjects, often witness overlapping roles. During COVID-19, there were disputes over vaccine distribution and lockdown implementation.

Way Forward:

- **Strengthen Inter-State Council and NITI Aayog:** Regular meetings, agenda-based discussions, and consensus-oriented mechanisms can improve Centre-State dialogue.
- **Rationalise CSS:** States should be given greater flexibility in fund usage with outcome-based audits instead of one-size-fits-all guidelines.
- **Transparent GST Processes:** Dispute resolution mechanisms in the GST Council should be made time-bound and impartial.
- **Independent Role of Governors:** A code of conduct or independent selection panel for Governors can reduce friction.

Conclusion:

India's federal structure is dynamic and needs reform in line with evolving political and economic realities. Strengthening cooperative federalism is crucial for inclusive development and ensuring India's governance model remains participative and accountable.

GS Paper 3

Q3. What are the implications of India's growing dependence on solar energy imports for its energy security and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative? Suggest measures to strengthen domestic solar manufacturing.

Answer:



India has set an ambitious target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, with solar energy playing a critical role. However, around **80% of India's solar modules and 100% of solar wafers are imported**, primarily from China, which poses serious challenges.

Implications:

- **Strategic Vulnerability:** Overdependence on a single country for critical components threatens energy security, especially during geopolitical tensions like the Galwan crisis.
- **Trade Deficits:** High solar imports contribute to India's trade imbalance, undermining the goals of self-reliance under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- **Stagnation of Domestic Industry:** Cheap imports undercut domestic manufacturers, limiting economies of scale and technological upgrades in the indigenous sector.
- **Job Creation Loss:** Solar manufacturing has the potential to generate lakhs of jobs. Over-reliance on imports hampers this employment potential.

Measures for Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing:

- **PLI Scheme for Solar Modules:** The government has launched the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme for high-efficiency solar PV modules with a budget of ₹24,000 crore to boost domestic production.
- **Basic Customs Duty (BCD):** Imposition of 40% duty on imported solar modules from April 2022 aims to protect Indian manufacturers.
- **Research & Development Support:** Encourage public-private partnerships for next-gen solar technologies like perovskite cells.
- **Stable Policy Environment:** Clear long-term procurement and tariff policies can provide certainty to domestic players.
- **Encourage Backward Integration:** From polysilicon to ingots, incentivize the entire value chain to avoid import-dependence on upstream components.

Conclusion:

Solar energy is a cornerstone of India's clean energy future. Balancing climate goals with strategic autonomy necessitates a robust domestic solar manufacturing ecosystem. A mix of incentives, protection, and innovation is key to ensuring energy self-reliance.

GS Paper 4

Q4. You are a district magistrate in a flood-prone area. Despite multiple warnings, some locals refuse to evacuate their homes. How will you handle the situation ethically and effectively?

Answer:

As a **District Magistrate**, I have a legal and moral responsibility to safeguard lives while respecting individual autonomy. This situation poses a classic ethical dilemma: **individual rights vs. collective safety**.

Ethical Principles Involved:

- **Utilitarianism:** Maximum good for maximum people. Saving lives must be the priority.



- **Duty Ethics:** As a public servant, my duty is to enforce the Disaster Management Act.
- **Empathy and Compassion:** Understanding the attachment people have to their homes.

Steps I would take:

1. **Persuasive Communication:** Use trained personnel and community leaders to explain risks in local dialects. Transparency about threat levels builds trust.
2. **Incentives for Evacuation:** Offer relocation allowances, food, and free transport to evacuation shelters. Ensure shelters are well-equipped and dignified.
3. **Address Concerns:** Often, people stay back fearing theft or livestock loss. Arrange for **local police patrols** and animal shelters to address such fears.
4. **Use of Technology:** Real-time flood mapping and audio-visual communication can make the threat more tangible to residents.
5. **Enforce as Last Resort:** If persuasion fails, and lives are at imminent risk, I will use my authority under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, to forcibly evacuate for the greater good.
6. **Post-Event Engagement:** Once the immediate danger passes, I would hold community meetings to reflect, review, and improve future responses collaboratively.

Conclusion:

Balancing compassion with administrative efficiency is the cornerstone of ethical governance. In crisis situations, empathy-driven enforcement—backed by law and public welfare—ensures both legality and legitimacy.

Current Affairs

Q5. Do the words “Socialist” and “Secular” in India’s Preamble reflect substantive constitutional values or mere symbolic declarations? Critically examine in light of recent developments.

Answer:

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976) inserted the words “**Socialist**” and “**Secular**” into the Preamble. These words are not ornamental but reflect the **basic structure** of the Constitution, reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in multiple judgments.

Socialist: Meaning & Relevance

- Implies **economic justice**, reduction of inequality, and protection of the marginalized.
- Reflected in laws such as the **MRTTP Act, land reforms, Right to Education, MGNREGA**, and welfare schemes like **PM Garib Kalyan Yojana**.
- However, **privatisation, corporate dominance**, and increasing **inequality** raise questions about India’s socialist commitments.

Secular: Meaning & Relevance

- Secularism in India entails **equal respect for all religions**, not separation as in the West.
- Constitution guarantees **freedom of religion (Art. 25–28)** and prohibits discrimination (Art. 15).



- Recent controversies—on **hate speech**, **bulldozer politics**, **communal polarisation**, and judicial delays—have sparked debates on **selective secularism**.

Symbolic vs Substantive Debate:

- Courts, in **S.R. Bommai (1994)** and **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**, affirmed that **socialism and secularism are foundational**.
- Critics argue that in practice, these ideals are often diluted by political expediency.
- However, constitutional morality and civil society activism keep these principles alive.

Conclusion:

“Socialist” and “Secular” are not mere slogans but guiding principles. Their true realization depends not just on legal safeguards but on **political will**, **institutional integrity**, and **citizen vigilance**. Strengthening them is crucial for India’s democratic and inclusive future.
