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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 7/07/2025 (MONDAY)

- **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 Chola administration:

1. The **ur** communities were assemblies of Brahmin settlements responsible for local administration.
2. The Chola kings promoted the concept of **sabha** in non-Brahmin villages to strengthen centralized control.

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: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The **ur** was the general assembly of non-Brahmin (common) villages, not Brahmin settlements. Brahmin villages had **sabhas** (or mahasabhas), which were more sophisticated and autonomous.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The **sabha** was specifically a Brahmin assembly. The Chola kings did not promote **sabha** in non-Brahmin villages; rather, **sabhas** were autonomous and managed land grants and resources, often reducing centralized control rather than strengthening it.

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Black carbon deposits on Himalayan glaciers accelerate melting by decreasing surface albedo.
2. Nitrogen deposition in forest soils can increase carbon sequestration capacity in all ecosystems.
3. Methane has a higher global warming potential than CO₂ but has a shorter atmospheric lifetime.

Which of the statements given above 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. Black carbon reduces reflectivity (albedo) of snow and ice, thereby accelerating melting.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Excess nitrogen deposition can disturb soil nutrient balance, sometimes leading to forest decline rather than universal enhancement of carbon sequestration.
- Statement 3 is correct. Methane has ~25 times the global warming potential of CO₂ but stays in the atmosphere for about 12 years, compared to centuries for CO₂.



Q3. Consider the following statements about India's external sector:

1. A rise in India's net invisible receipts always ensures a current account surplus.
2. The "Primary Income" component in the balance of payments includes remittances from Indian workers abroad.
3. An increase in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) allocation by IMF improves India's foreign exchange reserves directly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Higher net invisible receipts (like services and remittances) can reduce the current account deficit but do not guarantee a surplus, as the trade deficit might still be large.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Remittances are classified under "Secondary Income" in the current account, not "Primary Income". Primary Income includes investment income, compensation of employees abroad (but not personal remittances).
- Statement 3 is correct. IMF's SDR allocation directly adds to a country's foreign exchange reserves.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the office of the Governor in India:

1. The Governor can reserve a bill for the consideration of the President even if it is not explicitly against the Constitution.
2. The discretionary power of the Governor includes the power to recommend President's Rule under Article 356.
3. There is a time limit prescribed in the Constitution for the Governor to decide on bills passed by the state legislature.
4. The Governor is constitutionally bound to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers in all situations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The Governor may reserve a bill even if it is not clearly unconstitutional but is against the larger interests or policies of the Union.



- Statement 2 is correct. Recommending President's Rule is indeed a discretionary power.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Constitution does not prescribe any time limit for the Governor to decide on a bill.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. The Governor can act at his/her discretion in certain situations, such as when appointing a Chief Minister if no party has a clear majority.

Q5. Assertion-Reason

Assertion (A): Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems are increasingly used to monitor marine ecosystems and detect illegal fishing activities.

Reason (R): AI algorithms can analyze satellite images and real-time vessel data to identify suspicious patterns and activities.

- (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: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

- The assertion is true. AI is now widely used in ocean monitoring for illegal fishing detection.
- The reason is true and explains the assertion properly: AI can process huge volumes of satellite and Automatic Identification System (AIS) data to detect anomalies in vessel movement, indicating potential illegal activities.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. India's first National Biobank, established at the National Institute of Pathology, aims primarily to store biological samples exclusively for cancer research.
2. It facilitates global collaborative studies by enabling sharing of human biological samples in accordance with ICMR guidelines.

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) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The National Biobank is not exclusively for cancer; it stores samples related to various diseases for broader biomedical and translational research.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Biobank follows ICMR National Guidelines, which allow sharing of human biological materials with strict ethical oversight, facilitating international research collaborations.

Q2. Which of the following is a key feature that distinguishes Nipah virus from most other zoonotic viruses?

- (a) It can cause severe encephalitis in humans and has a documented potential for human-to-human transmission.
- (b) It is primarily transmitted only through vector insects such as mosquitoes.
- (c) It has been eradicated globally and no longer causes outbreaks.
- (d) It only affects humans and has no animal reservoirs.

Answer: (a) It can cause severe encephalitis in humans and has a documented potential for human-to-human transmission.

Explanation:

- Nipah virus (NiV) causes severe respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis in humans.
- It is known for human-to-human transmission, particularly via body fluids and close contact, unlike many other zoonoses which remain limited to animal-to-human transmission.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The treaty aims to ensure farmers' rights to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seeds.
2. It establishes a multilateral system to facilitate access to a specified list of plant genetic resources.
3. India is a signatory to the treaty but has not yet ratified it.

Which of the statements given above 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 treaty recognizes and promotes farmers' rights, including saving and exchanging seeds.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It provides a multilateral system to access 64 food crops and forages important for food security.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** India signed and ratified the treaty in 2002 and is an active party.



Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Penico archaeological site is believed to have been an important ceremonial center predating the Inca civilization.
2. Recent excavations at Penico suggest a highly centralized administrative system with large-scale urban planning.
3. Artifacts found at Penico provide evidence of extensive maritime trade with Polynesian islands.

Which of the statements given above 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.** Penico is thought to have been a ceremonial site used before the rise of the Inca.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Excavations show structured urban features suggesting centralized authority.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** There is no credible archaeological evidence yet to suggest maritime trade links with Polynesia; contacts were mostly regional.

Q5. Consider the following statements about the 17th BRICS Summit:

1. The summit adopted a "Beijing Declaration" focusing on strengthening multilateralism and reforming global governance institutions.
2. One of the major outcomes was the establishment of a BRICS reserve currency backed entirely by gold reserves.
3. Discussions included strengthening cooperation in emerging technologies, including AI and digital health.
4. The summit marked the first participation of Argentina as a full BRICS member.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The "Beijing Declaration" emphasized multilateralism and UN reforms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** No BRICS reserve currency backed by gold has been established; such proposals remain under discussion.



- **Statement 3 is correct.** The summit highlighted cooperation in AI, digital transformation, and healthcare.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Argentina did not join as a full member during this summit.

Q6. The Seine River passes through which of the following major French cities before emptying into the English Channel?

- (a) Lyon
- (b) Marseille
- (c) Paris
- (d) Bordeaux

Answer: (c) Paris

Explanation:

- The Seine flows through Paris, shaping much of its historical and cultural landscape.
- It then moves northwest and empties into the English Channel near Le Havre.
- Lyon and Marseille are connected to the Rhône River system; Bordeaux lies on the Garonne River.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1: Indian Society

Question 1: "Urbanization in India has given rise to new forms of social exclusion and inequality." Discuss.

Sample Answer (Approx. 300 words)

Urbanization in India, while offering economic opportunities and infrastructural development, has paradoxically exacerbated social exclusion and inequality. The migration of rural populations to urban centers is often driven by aspirations for better livelihoods but results in the growth of informal settlements and slums. These urban poor are frequently denied basic services such as sanitation, potable water, healthcare, and secure housing.

Caste-based segregation, traditionally associated with rural India, has found new expressions in cities. Marginalized communities continue to face discrimination in housing and employment. The "gated communities" phenomenon further deepens class divides, spatially segregating the affluent from the economically weaker sections.

Moreover, urban employment is largely informal, lacking job security and social benefits. Women, migrants, and lower caste groups are overrepresented in these precarious jobs, worsening their vulnerability. The urban poor also suffer disproportionately from environmental hazards, such as air and water pollution, and face eviction drives without adequate rehabilitation.



Social exclusion in urban areas is also visible in digital divides and access to educational opportunities. While cities are hubs for modern education and digital services, marginalized sections remain deprived due to economic constraints.

Policy interventions, such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), Smart Cities Mission, and AMRUT, aim to make urban spaces inclusive. However, implementation gaps, lack of participatory planning, and inadequate targeting often limit their effectiveness.

In conclusion, urbanization, if not accompanied by inclusive planning, can intensify existing inequalities and create new forms of exclusion. Urban development must integrate principles of equity, social justice, and participatory governance to build inclusive cities. Addressing social exclusion in urban India is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

GS Paper 2: Governance & Polity

Question 2: "Federalism in India is more cooperative than competitive, yet tensions continue to emerge." Critically analyze.

Sample Answer (Approx. 300 words)

The Indian Constitution establishes a federal structure with a strong unitary bias. While cooperative federalism emphasizes collaboration between the Centre and states for national development, competitive federalism encourages states to compete in attracting investments and improving governance.

Cooperative federalism is reflected in bodies like the Inter-State Council and the NITI Aayog, which promote consultation and joint decision-making. Central schemes, such as PMGSY and Swachh Bharat Mission, are implemented through state machinery, requiring close coordination.

However, tensions persist. Issues such as the imposition of centrally sponsored schemes without adequate consultation, delays in GST compensation, and the recent controversy over the extension of the BSF's jurisdiction highlight the friction. States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala often argue that excessive centralization undermines their autonomy, violating the spirit of federalism.

Competitive federalism, while incentivizing performance, can lead to disparities as richer states may attract more investments, further marginalizing poorer ones. Moreover, competition over fiscal incentives sometimes promotes a "race to the bottom," compromising labor and environmental standards.

Additionally, the role of the Governor, perceived as an agent of the Centre, has been contentious, especially in opposition-ruled states. The frequent use of Article 356 in the past also strained Centre-state relations.

Despite these challenges, federalism in India has generally ensured unity in diversity. Mechanisms like Finance Commission transfers and Centrally Sponsored Schemes support less developed states, promoting balanced regional growth.

In conclusion, while India's federalism leans towards cooperation, tensions emerge due to political, economic, and administrative factors. Strengthening institutions of intergovernmental dialogue, ensuring fiscal autonomy, and respecting state diversity are crucial to nurture true cooperative federalism. The ideal balance lies in complementing cooperation with healthy competition, safeguarding the constitutional mandate of a strong yet accommodative federal structure.



GS Paper 3: Economy

Question 3: "Green hydrogen can play a transformative role in India's energy transition." Examine the opportunities and challenges.

Sample Answer (Approx. 300 words)

India's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 necessitates a significant transformation in its energy sector. Green hydrogen, produced through electrolysis of water using renewable energy, has emerged as a promising alternative.

Opportunities abound. First, green hydrogen can decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors such as steel, cement, and heavy transport. India's abundant solar and wind resources make it suitable for low-cost renewable energy production, vital for competitive green hydrogen. The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to make India a global hub for its production and export, supporting energy security and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Moreover, green hydrogen can serve as an energy storage medium, addressing the intermittency of renewables. It can also be blended with natural gas to lower emissions in the existing infrastructure, aiding a smoother transition.

However, challenges are significant. The current cost of green hydrogen production (\$4-6 per kg) is higher than grey hydrogen from natural gas (\$1-2 per kg), making it less competitive. High capital costs for electrolyzers and the need for robust transport and storage infrastructure pose additional hurdles.

Technological barriers, lack of skilled manpower, and absence of comprehensive regulations further impede large-scale adoption. There is also the risk of water scarcity, as electrolysis requires substantial freshwater, a critical concern in arid regions.

Policy measures, including production-linked incentives, viability gap funding, and tax benefits, are crucial to encourage investments. International collaborations for technology transfer and establishing green hydrogen corridors can accelerate progress.

In conclusion, green hydrogen offers a transformative pathway for India's energy security and climate goals. While opportunities are immense, realizing them demands concerted policy support, technological innovation, and infrastructure development. Balancing economic viability with environmental sustainability will be key to harnessing the full potential of green hydrogen.

GS Paper 4: Ethics

Question 4: "Empathy is central to ethical governance, but often missing in bureaucratic functioning." Discuss with examples.

Sample Answer (Approx. 300 words)

Empathy, defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, is a fundamental value in ethical governance. It fosters compassion, improves service delivery, and builds trust between the state and citizens.

In public administration, empathetic officers better understand ground realities and design policies that truly address people's needs. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, officers who listened to migrant workers' grievances and arranged transport or food relief exemplified empathetic governance.



However, bureaucratic functioning in India often suffers from procedural rigidity, hierarchical mindset, and apathy, leading to alienation of citizens. For example, denial of welfare benefits to eligible individuals due to minor documentary lapses reflects a lack of empathy. Similarly, rigid enforcement of rules during eviction drives without considering humanitarian aspects results in public distress.

Empathy enhances participatory governance. An officer engaging with marginalized groups before implementing developmental projects reduces conflict and enhances effectiveness. The participatory model of Kudumbashree in Kerala is an example where empathy and inclusiveness transformed women's lives.

Training programs focusing on emotional intelligence can nurture empathy among civil servants. Regular field visits, grievance redressal camps, and direct interactions can sensitize officers to citizens' concerns.

On the other hand, excessive empathy might blur objectivity and compromise rule-based functioning. Thus, it must be balanced with principles of justice and fairness to avoid favoritism.

In conclusion, empathy is not just a moral virtue but a practical tool for effective governance. By bridging the gap between administration and citizens, it enhances public service outcomes and democratic legitimacy. Institutionalizing empathy in governance through training, policy design, and accountability mechanisms can transform bureaucracy into a truly citizen-centric instrument.

Current Affairs

Question 5: "India falls into the 'moderately low' inequality category, yet economic disparities remain a significant concern." Critically examine.

Sample Answer (Approx. 300 words)

India's recent categorization into the 'moderately low' inequality group, as per international indices like the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII), reflects a mixed reality. While it indicates moderate success in inclusive policies, significant challenges persist.

Economic inequality in India manifests in income, wealth, and access to opportunities. The top 1% controls over 40% of total wealth, while a large segment struggles with poverty and underemployment. Regional disparities, urban-rural divides, and social stratification exacerbate inequality.

Progressive taxation, social welfare schemes, and targeted subsidies have helped reduce extreme poverty. Programs like MGNREGA, PM-KISAN, and Ayushman Bharat aim to support vulnerable populations. Additionally, recent initiatives like PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana during the pandemic addressed food insecurity effectively.

However, structural issues persist. The informal sector, employing around 90% of the workforce, lacks social security and fair wages. Educational and health inequalities impede social mobility, perpetuating inter-generational poverty.

Furthermore, economic growth has not translated into equitable job creation, resulting in "jobless growth." Rapid urbanization has marginalized rural and tribal communities, worsening social exclusion.

On the policy front, underfunding of public services, regressive indirect taxes, and concentration of capital have limited redistribution efforts. Weak labor laws enforcement and digital divides further entrench inequality.

To address these challenges, India needs a multipronged strategy: strengthening direct tax regimes, improving public health and education systems, and ensuring better labor protections. Policies should focus



on inclusive growth, creating quality jobs, and empowering marginalized sections through skill development and social security.

In conclusion, while India's categorization as 'moderately low' inequality indicates relative progress, it masks deep-seated and multidimensional disparities. Sustained and inclusive policy measures are essential to ensure equitable development and realize the constitutional vision of social and economic justice.

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