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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
& STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 12/07/2025 (SATURDAY)

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

QUIZ TIME!

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding Madhvacharya, a prominent medieval philosopher:

1. Madhvacharya's Dvaita philosophy asserted the absolute distinction between the individual soul and the Supreme God.

2. He rejected the authority of the Vedas and proposed a non-Vedic Bhakti-centric model.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Madhvacharya (1238–1317 CE), a key proponent of the **Dvaita (dualism)** school of Vedanta, argued that **God (Vishnu)** and the **individual soul (Jiva)** are eternally separate. His philosophy contradicted Advaita Vedanta's monism.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Unlike some Bhakti reformers, Madhvacharya **did not reject Vedic authority.** In fact, his teachings were firmly rooted in Vedic tradition. He interpreted the **Upanishads, Brahmasutras, and Bhagavad Gita** in support of dualism and theism.

Question 2: With reference to the concept of ecological succession, consider the following statements:

1. Primary succession can occur on recently formed volcanic islands and retreating glaciers.

2. Secondary succession leads to the formation of pioneer species like lichens and mosses.

3. Climax communities are always composed of evergreen forest species in all ecosystems.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Primary succession starts in lifeless areas such as **bare rock**, **newly cooled lava**, or **glacial retreat zones**, where no prior community existed.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect. Secondary succession** occurs in areas that previously had life but were disturbed (like forest fires, floods). Pioneer species like **lichens and mosses** are typical of **primary succession**, not secondary.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect. Climax communities vary** depending on the ecosystem—**not all are evergreen forests.** For example, in grasslands, the climax community might be grasses, not trees.

Question 3: Consider the following statements regarding the role of credit rating agencies (CRAs) in India:

1. CRAs are registered under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations.

2. Ratings given by CRAs are legally binding on investors before they make any investment.

3. CRAs also rate the creditworthiness of sovereign nations besides private firms.

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** In India, CRAs like CRISIL, ICRA, and CARE are **regulated by SEBI** under the **SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999**.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Credit ratings are **not legally binding** on investors. They are **opinions** on the creditworthiness of issuers and **not investment recommendations**.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** Some CRAs, especially global ones like **Moody's, S&P**, and **Fitch**, rate **sovereign nations** based on their ability to repay external debt.

Question 4: Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary Privileges in India:

1. They are explicitly defined in the Constitution under Article 105 and Article 194.

2. Breach of privilege can be punished by the concerned House without judicial review.

3. These privileges are available to members of both Parliament and State Legislatures.

4. The privileges include exemption from civil liability but not from criminal liability.

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Article **105** (for Parliament) and **194** (for State Legislatures) mention privileges but do **not exhaustively define** them. They are to be the same as those of the British Parliament until defined by law.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** Parliament or State Legislatures can punish for breach of privilege, and though this power is largely considered non-justiciable, **some aspects have been brought under judicial review** in rare cases.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** Privileges apply to **both MPs and MLAs** under respective constitutional articles.

- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Privileges include immunity from **civil liability for speech in the House**, but not from **criminal acts** done outside or even inside the House (e.g., bribery cases).

Question 5: Assertion-Reason Type
Assertion (A): The Astra missile system enhances India's Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air combat capability.
Reason (R): Astra is a radar-guided surface-to-air missile developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

Codes:
(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.** Astra is an **indigenously developed BVR air-to-air missile**, designed by **DRDO**, capable of engaging targets up to 110+ km away depending on variant. It enhances India's aerial strike capability and is deployed on **Sukhoi-30 MKI** and other fighter aircraft.

- **Reason is incorrect.** Astra is **not a surface-to-air missile**, nor was it part of the **IGMDP** (which included Prithvi, Agni, Akash, Trishul, and Nag). It is a **separate DRDO project focused on air-to-air combat**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the "Donkey Route":

1. The Donkey Route is an informal term used for a clandestine international migration path used by illegal migrants to reach countries like the USA and UK.

2. The route is a direct sea-based corridor from Gujarat to the Middle East and then onto Europe.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The **Donkey Route** is a **slang term** for a **complex overland and sea-based network** used by illegal migrants, especially from Punjab and Haryana, to enter countries like **USA, UK, and Canada**, often via **Central and South America**.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The route is **not a direct sea-based corridor** from India to Europe. It typically involves **air travel to South American countries** with liberal visa rules (e.g., Ecuador), and then **land movement through jungles and dangerous terrains like the Darien Gap**, with assistance from human traffickers.

Q2. Which of the following statements best describes the significance of the Astra missile in India's defense arsenal?
(a) It is India's first submarine-launched cruise missile.
(b) It is an indigenous nuclear-capable ballistic missile.
(c) It is a long-range air-to-air missile with beyond visual range capability.
(d) It is a drone-based loitering munition with autonomous targeting.

Answer: (c) It is a long-range air-to-air missile with beyond visual range capability.

Explanation:

- The **Astra missile** is India's **first indigenously developed BVR air-to-air missile**, developed by **DRDO**, with a range of up to **110+ km** in Mark-1 variant.

- It is **radar-guided**, designed to be launched from fighter jets like **Su-30MKI, Mirage-2000**, and **Tejas**, and aims to engage enemy aircraft at large distances **before visual contact**.

Q3. With reference to Operation SHIVA, consider the following statements:

1. It was a counter-infiltration military exercise conducted by the Indian Army along the Line of Control.

2. It was launched to ensure the safe and secure conduct of the Amarnath Yatra.

3. The operation involved deployment of high-altitude surveillance systems and drone-based monitoring.

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Operation SHIVA is **not a combat exercise** but a **security operation conducted by J&K Police, Indian Army, CRPF, and BSF** to **secure the Amarnath Yatra route**, especially after past terror threats.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** It is aimed at **protecting pilgrims**, maintaining law and order, and countering **terrorist threats** during the annual **Amarnath pilgrimage**.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** Modern surveillance tools like **drones, CCTV grids, RFID tracking, and high-altitude radars** are deployed during Operation SHIVA.

Q4. With reference to Operation Fire Trail, consider the following statements:

1. It was conducted by Indian intelligence agencies to intercept illegal smuggling of wildlife products.

2. The operation focused on identifying and rescuing Indian nationals trapped in human trafficking networks across Southeast Asia.

3. It involved collaboration with countries like Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia.

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: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Operation Fire Trail was **not related to wildlife smuggling**.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** It was launched to **rescue Indian citizens**, especially from Tamil Nadu and other southern states, who were **tricked into jobs in Southeast Asia** and then trapped in cybercrime syndicates.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** The operation was **multi-country**, coordinated with **Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand**, and aimed at busting human trafficking and cybercrime networks luring Indians through fake job offers.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Maratha Military Landscapes recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List:

1. The fort systems reflect a unique synthesis of Mughal and Portuguese architectural styles.

2. The listed forts span across both western coastal regions and inland Deccan plateau zones.

3. They were strategically located to utilize natural defenses like hilltops, cliffs, and water bodies.

4. The nomination represents an example of serial cultural property under UNESCO guidelines.

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

Answer: (a) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Maratha Military Forts are **distinctive for their indigenous architecture**, which **minimized ornamentation** and used the natural topography. They **do not represent a synthesis of Mughal or Portuguese styles**.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** The 12 selected forts are spread across **Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu**, including **coastal and Deccan highlands**, showcasing a **pan-regional defense strategy**.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** Marathas used **terrain-based warfare**, placing forts on **hilltops, ridges, cliffs, and islands** (e.g., Raigad, Shivneri, Gingee).

- **Statement 4 is correct.** The recognition is under **UNESCO's 'serial nomination' criteria**, which groups **culturally related sites across different locations**.

Q6. The Appalachian Mountain range, which influences the climatic and ecological patterns of eastern North America, passes through which of the following countries?

1. Canada

2. United States of America

3. Mexico

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The **Appalachian Mountains** are an ancient fold mountain system located in **eastern North America**, extending from **Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada)** in the north to **Alabama (USA)** in the south.

- **They do not extend into Mexico**. Hence, option 3 is incorrect.

- These mountains play a crucial role in **climatic division**, **biodiversity**, and **coal and mineral resources** in eastern USA and southern Canada.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. Discuss the geomorphological features and environmental significance of the Western Ghats. Why have they been recognized as a biodiversity hotspot? (10M / 150 words)

Answer:
The **Western Ghats**, also known as the **Sahyadri Hills**, are a chain of mountains running parallel to the western coast of India from **Gujarat to Kerala**, covering Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. These ranges are among the **oldest geological formations**, originating during the **breakup of Gondwanaland**.

Geomorphological Features:

- They are a **faulted block** formed during the uplift of the Deccan Plateau.

- The western escarpment is steep while the eastern slope merges gradually with the plateau.

- Rivers like Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri originate here.

- Presence of **laterite soils**, rugged topography, and deeply incised valleys.

Environmental Significance:

- Declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

- Recognized as one of the **eight "hottest hotspots" of biodiversity** globally.

- Home to over **7,400 species of flora and fauna**, many endemic (e.g., Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque).

- Critical for **monsoon regulation** and **climate stabilization** of peninsular India.

- Acts as a **watershed** for peninsular rivers.

Threats and Conservation:

- **Deforestation**, monoculture plantations, hydropower projects, and mining are degrading the ecosystem.

- The **Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committees** highlighted the need for ecologically sensitive zones.

Conclusion:

The Western Ghats are not only a **geomorphological marvel** but a **climate and ecological regulator**. Protecting them is crucial for India's sustainable development and biodiversity heritage.

GS Paper 2

Q2. "There exists a conflict but also a complementary relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy." Elucidate with reference to constitutional provisions and judicial interpretation. (15M / 250 words)

Answer:
The **Fundamental Rights (FRs)** in Part III and the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)** in Part IV of the Constitution are designed to work in tandem to achieve **justice – social, economic, and political**. However, their **justiciability status** and **nature of enforceability** have often led to tensions.

Conflict Aspect:

- FRs are **justiciable** and can be enforced in a court of law, while DPSPs are **non-justiciable**, meant as moral guidelines.

- In **Champakam Dorairajan (1951)**, the Supreme Court held that in case of conflict, **FRs shall prevail**.

- This created a situation where social justice initiatives under DPSPs (e.g., reservation, land reform) were struck down for violating FRs like equality and property rights.

Complementary Relationship:

- The **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)** laid the foundation for **harmonious construction** of both parts.

- **Minerva Mills (1980)** emphasized that **FRs and DPSPs are complementary and should be balanced** to achieve the goals of the Constitution.

- **Article 31C** (inserted by 25th Amendment) gives primacy to laws enacted under **Articles 39(b) & 39(c)** even if they violate Article 14 or 19.

Judicial Trends:

- The judiciary has increasingly recognized **DPSPs as tools to interpret the scope of FRs**.

- In **Unni Krishnan case (1993)**, the right to education was derived from **Article 45 (DPSP)** and included under **Article 21 (FR)**.

Conclusion:
Though historically seen as conflicting, FRs and DPSPs today reflect a **synergistic relationship**, with the courts playing a pivotal role in **balancing individual rights with collective welfare**, thereby upholding the constitutional vision.

GS Paper 3

Q3. Evaluate India's cybersecurity challenges in the context of its expanding digital infrastructure. What measures are needed to ensure a secure digital future? (15M / 250 words)

Answer:
India's rapid digitization—spurred by **Digital India**, UPI, Aadhaar, and increased smartphone penetration—has made it vulnerable to sophisticated **cybersecurity threats**. The growing dependence on digital platforms for governance, banking, health, and communication has elevated the **attack surface**.

Key Cybersecurity Challenges:

- **Ransomware and phishing attacks** targeting individuals, banks, and critical infrastructure (e.g., AIIMS server breach).

- **State-sponsored attacks** from adversarial nations aiming to disrupt critical services.

- Poor **cyber hygiene**, lack of awareness, and unregulated digital service providers.

- **Data privacy breaches**, especially with growing reliance on cloud and AI tools.

- Inadequate workforce in cybersecurity and under-resourced **CERT-In** (Computer Emergency Response Team).

Policy and Institutional Framework:

- **National Cyber Security Policy (2013)**: needs urgent update.

- **CERT-In Guidelines (2022)**: enforce reporting of breaches within 6 hours.

- **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**: aims at securing personal data.

- India also established the **National Cyber Coordination Centre**.

Way Forward:

- Update and implement a **revised National Cybersecurity Strategy**.

- Develop **public-private partnerships** for threat intelligence sharing.

- Promote **cyber literacy** at school and university levels.

- Invest in **indigenous cybersecurity tools and R&D**.

- Collaborate globally through platforms like **Bilateral CERT partnerships** and **Budapest Convention**.

Conclusion:

India must treat cybersecurity as a **strategic national imperative**, comparable to physical security. A **proactive, multi-stakeholder approach** combining legal, technical, and institutional mechanisms is the need of the hour.

GS Paper 4

Q4. In the context of public service, discuss the importance of empathy and compassion in decision-making. Support your answer with examples. (10M / 150 words)

Answer:

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, while **compassion** involves taking action to alleviate their suffering. In public administration, these are **core emotional competencies** that ensure people-centric governance.

Importance in Public Service:

- **Empathy** allows civil servants to appreciate the hardships faced by citizens, especially the marginalized, thereby shaping **inclusive policies**.

- It enhances **public trust** and humanizes bureaucratic processes.

- **Compassion** leads to ethical discretion. For example, a field officer ensuring rations to a poor family even when documentation is incomplete.

Examples:

- **IAS officer Armstrong Pame** mobilized funds to build a road in a remote area, showing empathetic leadership.

- During COVID-19, many officials arranged transportation and relief for migrants out of **compassionate concern**, beyond their call of duty.

Conclusion:

A public servant without empathy is like a machine—efficient but indifferent. Ethical governance demands that **technical competence be balanced with emotional intelligence** for a just and humane administration.

Current Affairs

Q5. The Gender Gap Report 2025 indicates both progress and persistent challenges in achieving gender equality. Analyze India's performance and suggest policy interventions for bridging the gender gap. (15M / 250 words)

Answer:

The **World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report 2025** ranks **India at 131st out of 148 countries**, indicating slight improvement but persistent gender inequalities.

India's Performance (2025):

- **Educational Attainment**: High parity achieved in primary and secondary levels, but female dropout rates remain a concern in higher education.

- **Economic Participation**: Female labor force participation still low (~26%), with large gender wage gaps and concentration in informal sectors.

- **Political Empowerment**: Some progress due to women's representation in Panchayats and reserved seats in Parliament (through the 128th Constitutional Amendment), but national-level representation remains skewed.

- **Health and Survival**: Continued concerns over sex ratio at birth and access to maternal health.

Challenges:

- **Social norms**, **patriarchal mindsets**, and **lack of safety** in public spaces deter participation.

- **Unpaid care work** burden remains high for women.

- **Digital divide** affecting access to skills and job opportunities.

Policy Interventions:

- Ensure implementation of **equal pay for equal work** and expand **Maternity Benefit coverage**.

- Provide **affordable childcare** and promote **flexible work models**.

- Strengthen gender budgeting and monitoring at all levels of governance.

- Promote **STEM education for girls** and digital literacy.

- Increase gender-sensitive infrastructure, especially in rural areas.

Conclusion:
Bridging the gender gap is not just a moral imperative but an **economic necessity**. A gender-equal India could potentially **add $700 billion to its GDP** by 2025 (McKinsey). Holistic, intersectional, and rights-based approaches are essential for sustained progress.