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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE**


DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 23/06/2025 (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 economic impact of British rule in 19th century India:

1. The colonial economic structure led to the phenomenon of de-industrialization in India, especially in the textile sector.
2. The Permanent Settlement incentivized zamindars to invest in land productivity and rural infrastructure.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only 1

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** De-industrialization refers to the decline of indigenous industries, particularly **handicrafts and textiles**, due to British import policies, taxation, and destruction of local markets.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Permanent Settlement (1793)** gave hereditary rights to zamindars but **did not ensure investment in productivity**. Instead, **zamindars often extracted high rents and neglected agricultural development**, leading to stagnation.

Q2. Consider the following statements about carbon sequestration:

1. Biochar, derived from agricultural waste, can enhance carbon storage in soil and improve fertility.
2. Blue carbon ecosystems include only marine plankton and open-ocean carbon sinks.
3. The Paris Agreement explicitly sets country-specific targets for carbon sequestration projects.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** **Biochar** is a carbon-rich product made from biomass that improves **soil fertility and sequesters carbon** for long periods.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **Blue carbon** refers to carbon captured by **coastal ecosystems** like **mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes**, **not open-ocean plankton**.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **Paris Agreement (2015)** requires countries to submit **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, but it does **not set binding targets** for carbon sequestration projects.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding inflation targeting in India:

1. The Reserve Bank of India follows a flexible inflation targeting framework with a target of $4\% \pm 2\%$.
2. Inflation targeting focuses primarily on core inflation, excluding food and fuel.
3. Under Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, 1934, the inflation target is decided solely by the Monetary Policy Committee.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** India follows a **Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT)** framework with a band of $4\% \pm 2\%$, adopted formally in **2016**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While **core inflation** is an important focus, **headline CPI inflation** (which includes food and fuel) is the **official target** under the framework.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **inflation target is set by the Central Government in consultation with the RBI**, not solely by the MPC. Section 45ZA of the RBI Act empowers the government to notify the target.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the powers and functions of the President of India:

1. The President can issue ordinances when either House of Parliament is not in session.
2. The President can seek a reconsideration of advice from the Council of Ministers but must act upon the re-submitted advice.
3. The President can return a money bill to Parliament for reconsideration.
4. The President has the power to dissolve the Lok Sabha only upon the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only



Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ordinances can be promulgated by the President under **Article 123**, when **either House is not in session**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As per **Supreme Court in 1971 and later reaffirmed**, the President may ask the CoM to reconsider, but must accept the advice **if re-submitted**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** **Money Bills (Article 110)** cannot be returned by the President — he **must assent** to them.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The President **cannot dissolve Lok Sabha at his discretion**, only **on the advice** of the Council of Ministers (Article 74).

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type

Assertion (A): The Ajanta cave paintings display a sophisticated use of chiaroscuro technique and emotional depth rarely seen in contemporary classical art.

Reason (R): The Ajanta paintings were primarily commissioned during the Gupta period when classical Indian art was deeply influenced by Greco-Roman traditions.

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

Answer: (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct:** The **Ajanta cave paintings** (2nd century BCE to 6th century CE) are noted for their **use of light and shade (chiaroscuro)**, naturalistic style, and portrayal of **emotions and gesture**, a rare blend of technical mastery and spiritual expressiveness.
- **Reason is incorrect:** While Ajanta's later phase flourished under the **Gupta period**, the art was **not influenced by Greco-Roman traditions**. Instead, it developed **indigenous stylistic traditions** rooted in **Buddhist iconography** and Indian aesthetics.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Forecasting System (BFS):

1. BFS integrates Artificial Intelligence with Dynamical Core Models to generate probabilistic forecasts for events like monsoons, tropical cyclones, and extreme heatwaves.
2. It has been developed by the Ministry of Science and Technology in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only 1

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Bharat Forecasting System (BFS)** is a next-generation weather forecasting system developed by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It integrates **AI/ML algorithms with dynamical core models** for higher-resolution forecasts, especially for extreme weather events.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is being developed under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, not the Ministry of Science and Technology. ISRO is not the primary institution in its development, though satellite data may be utilized.

Q2. Which of the following correctly identifies the **novel application of a recently published method to detect topological invariants in quantum materials?**

- (a) It allows classical computing systems to simulate qubit entanglement directly.
(b) It reveals quantum topological phases without relying on wavefunction symmetries.
(c) It isolates the Higgs boson field as a geometric topology.
(d) It corrects energy loss in quantum circuits through wave collapse control.

Answer: (b) It reveals quantum topological phases without relying on wavefunction symmetries.

Explanation:

- Recent research has developed a **new method to detect topological invariants** using machine learning that bypasses the need to rely on **symmetry-based wavefunction analysis**.
- This is especially significant in **quantum materials** like **topological insulators**, where properties like edge states are hard to predict through conventional means.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics 2025:



1. The prize was awarded for discoveries relating to the quantum structure of spacetime emerging from black hole thermodynamics.
2. It is known as the “Oscars of Science” and carries a monetary award greater than that of the Nobel Prize.
3. The 2025 awardee’s research helped unify quantum mechanics with general relativity through successful loop quantum gravity formulation.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics was awarded for pioneering work that connected **black hole thermodynamics** with the quantum structure of spacetime—one of the most active areas in theoretical physics.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This prize is often referred to as the “**Oscars of Science**”, with a **monetary award of \$3 million**, which exceeds the Nobel Prize.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The awarded research did **not involve loop quantum gravity**, but rather **holographic principles and black hole information paradox**, areas distinct from LQG.

Q4. Consider the following statements about Madhubani and Gond art:

1. Madhubani art traditionally uses natural pigments derived from charcoal, turmeric, and flowers, while Gond art employs mechanical symmetry and is often monochromatic.
2. Madhubani art is more ritualistic and religious in theme, while Gond art incorporates myths and daily life from nature and tribal folklore.
3. Both styles are now part of the GI-tagged list of cultural heritage maintained by UNESCO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Madhubani art uses **natural colors** like turmeric, charcoal, leaves. Gond art uses **geometric patterns and dots** for texture, though it is **not strictly monochromatic**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Madhubani is **religious** in nature (Ramayana, Krishna), while **Gond** reflects **tribal stories**, flora, fauna, and spirits.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** UNESCO does not maintain a GI-tag list; that is handled by India's Geographical Indications Registry, and only Madhubani has been GI-tagged. Gond art is not yet officially GI-tagged.

Q5. Regarding customised gene-editing therapies recently applied in India, consider the following statements:

1. The therapy uses patient-specific CRISPR-Cas9 techniques for diseases caused by single-point mutations.
2. India's first use of customized gene-editing was done under compassionate grounds with CDSCO approval.
3. These therapies currently fall under the approved list of treatments under India's Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance scheme.
4. Customised gene-editing treatments can alter somatic and germline cells, both of which are legally permitted in India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The recent case in India used **CRISPR-Cas9** gene-editing for a **rare, inherited mutation**, specifically designed per patient.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The case was approved **on compassionate grounds** by CDSCO.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Such advanced gene-editing therapies are **not yet covered under Ayushman Bharat**, due to cost and regulatory status.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** India allows only **somatic gene editing**, while **germline editing is banned** under ICMR guidelines due to ethical concerns.

Q6. Which of the following mountain ranges lie within the geographical territory of Iran?

1. Zagros Mountains
2. Alborz Mountains
3. Kopet Dag Range
4. Caucasus Mountains

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Zagros Mountains:** Major mountain range in **western Iran**.
- **Alborz Mountains:** Located in **northern Iran**, separating the Caspian Sea from the Iranian plateau.
- **Kopet Dag Range:** Along the **northeastern border** of Iran and Turkmenistan.
- **Caucasus Mountains:** Located **north of Iran**, across the border in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan — **not in Iran**.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. Discuss the major issues related to land degradation in India. Examine the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and evaluate India's policy response in addressing land resource challenges.

Answer:

Introduction:

Land is a finite and critical natural resource supporting agriculture, biodiversity, water resources, and livelihoods. In India, increasing population pressure and unregulated land use have caused significant **land degradation**.

Major Issues of Land Degradation in India:

1. **Deforestation:** Clearing forests for agriculture, infrastructure, and mining.
2. **Overgrazing:** Livestock pressure in arid and semi-arid zones leads to vegetation loss and soil erosion.
3. **Unsustainable Agriculture:** Excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides, and poor irrigation practices (e.g., salinization in Punjab-Haryana).
4. **Industrial Pollution & Mining:** Open-pit mining and toxic waste dumping degrade topsoil.
5. **Urban Sprawl:** Conversion of arable land for urbanization reduces agricultural productivity.

According to the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas (2021), around **30% of India's total geographical area** is degraded.

Concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN):

LDN aims to **balance land degradation with restoration and sustainable land management (SLM)**. It is



defined by the UNCCD as “a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales.”

India's Policy Response:

- **National Action Plan on Combating Desertification and Land Degradation (NAPCD):** Implemented under UNCCD framework.
- **Soil Health Card Scheme:** Promotes scientific fertilizer usage.
- **Watershed Development Programme:** Integrates water and land conservation.
- **CAMPA Funds:** For afforestation on degraded forest lands.
- **National Land Use Policy (in draft):** Aims at optimal and scientific land use based on agro-climatic zones.

Conclusion:

Achieving **Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030**, as India committed at UNCCD COP14, requires robust **land-use planning, community participation, and integration of SLM practices** in national development strategies.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. *Critically examine whether full statehood should be granted to Delhi. Analyse the constitutional, administrative, and political implications.*

Answer:

Introduction:

Delhi, the National Capital Territory (NCT), has a unique status under **Article 239AA**, providing it with a legislative assembly but **not full statehood**. Demands for full statehood persist, particularly around issues of administrative autonomy and federal balance.

Arguments in Favour of Full Statehood:

1. **Democratic Accountability:** Elected government lacks control over police, land, and public order — key aspects of governance.
2. **Comparative Examples:** National capitals like Washington, D.C. and Canberra have more local governance power.
3. **Political Clarity:** Frequent turf wars between LG and elected CM create governance paralysis.
4. **Resident Rights:** Delhi residents deserve equal democratic rights enjoyed by citizens of full-fledged states.

Arguments Against Full Statehood:

1. **National Capital Security:** Union government needs overriding control over law and order for national security.
2. **Federal Conflict Risk:** Potential administrative friction during Centre-State conflicts.
3. **Judicial Standpoint:** In *Government of NCT Delhi vs. Union of India (2018)*, Supreme Court clarified that Delhi cannot be treated as a full state.



Administrative and Constitutional Implications:

- Would require **constitutional amendment** to Articles 239AA and related entries in the State and Union Lists.
- Alteration in power-sharing between LG, CM, and Parliament.
- Risks of Centre-State jurisdictional clashes increase.

Conclusion:

A **balanced model**, ensuring Delhi's elected government has wider control (excluding core national capital functions like land and police), may be the way forward rather than full statehood, preserving both **national interest** and **democratic governance**.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. *In the context of declining public resources, discuss the importance of resource mobilization. How can India strike a balance between a 'Police State' and a 'Democratic Welfare State' in its fiscal and developmental strategies?*

Answer:

Introduction:

Resource mobilization refers to **collecting financial resources** (tax, non-tax revenue, borrowings) to fund development and governance. A balance is needed between a **Police State** (excessive surveillance, coercive power) and a **Welfare State** (development and social equity).

Importance of Resource Mobilization:

1. **Fiscal Space:** Funds infrastructure, health, education, defense, etc.
2. **Redistributive Justice:** Progressive taxation supports welfare schemes (e.g., PM-KISAN, Ayushman Bharat).
3. **Macroeconomic Stability:** Reduces fiscal deficit and inflation risks.
4. **Crisis Preparedness:** Enables counter-cyclical spending during emergencies (e.g., pandemic relief).

Challenges in Resource Mobilization:

- **Narrow Tax Base:** Only ~6.5 crore income tax filers.
- **Tax Evasion & Black Economy.**
- **Centre-State Imbalance** in fiscal federalism.
- **Public Resistance** to high taxation or fuel duties.

Striking the Balance:

- **Avoiding Police State:**
 - a) Ensure privacy safeguards in data use and surveillance (as per Puttaswamy Judgment).
 - b) Reduce excessive control via rationalized compliance norms.



- **Strengthening Welfare State:**
 - a) Enhance **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs)** to reduce leakages.
 - b) Promote **Public-Private Partnerships** to leverage capital.
- **Innovative Resource Generation:**
 - a) Monetization of public assets (e.g., National Monetization Pipeline).
 - b) Green bonds, social impact bonds.

Conclusion:

India must **innovate fiscal strategies**, enforce fair taxation, and preserve civil liberties while fulfilling the constitutional vision of a **socialist, democratic republic** with **efficient public spending**.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. Compare and contrast the Indian and Western approaches to ethical studies. Illustrate with examples the significance of both traditions in contemporary public service.

Answer:

Introduction:

Ethical study across civilizations addresses the **nature of right and wrong**. While Western ethics often emphasizes **rational individualism and universality**, Indian ethics draws from **spiritual, holistic, and duty-based** frameworks.

Western Perspective:

- **Utilitarianism (Bentham, Mill):** Maximize overall happiness.
- **Deontology (Kant):** Emphasis on duty and moral laws.
- **Virtue Ethics (Aristotle):** Cultivation of character and virtues.
- **Social Contract (Hobbes, Rousseau):** Ethics through consent and societal norms.

Indian Perspective:

- **Dharma:** Central to conduct (as seen in Bhagavad Gita).
- **Karma-Yoga (Gita):** Duty without attachment to results.
- **Ahimsa (non-violence):** From Jainism and Buddhism.
- **Lokasamgraha (welfare of all):** Promoted in ancient texts.

Comparison:

Dimension	Indian Ethics	Western Ethics
Basis	Duty (Dharma), Harmony	Rights, Reason, Utility
Focus	Self-restraint, Social cohesion	Individual liberty, Rational judgment
Spiritual Link	Strong (Karma, Moksha)	Secular reasoning
Methodology	Introspective, holistic	Analytical, logical



Relevance in Public Service:

- **Western:** Offers structured decision-making frameworks (e.g., rule-based ethics in administration).
- **Indian:** Encourages **compassion, service motive** (seva bhava), and **integrity**.

Example: An officer dealing with slum eviction must ensure fairness (Western justice) and empathy (Indian ethics).

Conclusion:

Both traditions are complementary. Ethical public administration in India must **integrate Western rigor** with **Indian values of empathy, duty, and collective welfare**.

Current Affairs –

Q5. “The Northeast has the potential to become India’s development epicentre.” Critically analyse this statement in light of recent infrastructure, strategic, and policy initiatives.

Answer:

Introduction:

The Northeast Region (NER), comprising 8 states, is strategically located, rich in biodiversity, and culturally diverse. Recent initiatives aim to transform it from a **periphery to a pivotal economic zone**.

Arguments Supporting the Statement:

1. **Act East Policy:** Boosts NER’s connectivity with ASEAN (e.g., Kaladan Project, India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway).
2. **Infrastructure Investment:** Over ₹1 lakh crore spent on roads, rail, and airports under PM Gati Shakti.
3. **Hydro and Green Energy:** Brahmaputra basin hydro potential; solar in Arunachal, Meghalaya.
4. **Strategic Importance:** Enhances border security vis-à-vis China and Myanmar.
5. **Agri & Tourism Potential:** Organic farming (Sikkim), tea (Assam), eco-tourism.

Challenges:

- **Insurgency and Ethnic Tensions.**
- **Environmental Fragility:** Infrastructure must balance ecological concerns.
- **Connectivity Gaps:** Intra-state roads and internet remain weak.
- **Centre-State Trust Deficit:** Some tribal communities resist central projects.

Recent Government Steps:

- **Vibrant Villages Programme:** Border village development.
- **PM-DevINE Scheme:** Targeted funding for infrastructure in NER.
- **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS).**



Conclusion:

The Northeast can indeed be India's **gateway to Southeast Asia**, a **green energy hub**, and a **strategic growth frontier**. Success will depend on **sustainable, inclusive, and locally sensitive policies**.

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