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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE


DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 24/06/2025 (TUESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the Mauryan administration under Ashoka, consider the following statements:

1. The Dhamma Mahamatras were responsible solely for religious affairs and temple management.
2. Ashoka's inscriptions show that he made diplomatic outreach even to Hellenistic kings, indicating extensive international relations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The *Dhamma Mahamatras* were appointed by Ashoka to propagate Dhamma (ethical conduct), ensure welfare of various communities, look after moral conduct of officers, and supervise the behavior of people. They were **not confined** to religious or temple affairs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ashokan inscriptions, especially the edicts (e.g., Rock Edict XIII), mention sending envoys to Hellenistic rulers such as Antiochus II, Ptolemy II, and others. This shows **diplomatic and cultural outreach** beyond the Indian subcontinent.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Biodiversity Hotspots:

1. A region must have at least 1,500 species of vascular plants as endemics to qualify as a biodiversity hotspot.
2. India has four biodiversity hotspots, but none of them fall in arid or semi-arid regions.
3. Once declared a biodiversity hotspot, the status remains permanently even if the original criteria are no longer met.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Only 1 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to Conservation International, a biodiversity hotspot must have at least **1,500 vascular plants as endemics** and must have lost at least 70% of its original habitat.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India's hotspots include the **Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas, Indo-Burma, and Sundaland** (Nicobar Islands). Some semi-arid transitional zones like the Eastern Ghats (not classified as a hotspot) host high diversity but aren't hotspots. However, **the Indo-Burma hotspot includes some dry forest and dry zones.**



- **Statement 3 is correct:** Once a region is classified as a hotspot, the status is **not revoked even if** it further degrades or loses biodiversity. The status is intended to draw conservation attention.

Q3. Consider the following statements about the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) operated by the RBI:

1. It allows commercial banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements (repos).
2. A reverse repo under LAF drains liquidity from the banking system.
3. LAF operations are solely meant for managing long-term capital flows into the economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under the **repo** component of the LAF, banks borrow funds from the RBI by selling securities with an agreement to repurchase them later.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Reverse repo** is when banks park their surplus funds with RBI, thereby **draining liquidity** from the system.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** LAF is a **short-term liquidity management tool**, not for managing long-term capital flows. Long-term flows are handled via other instruments like FDI/FPI regulations or capital account policies.

Q4. With reference to the Inter-State Council under the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent constitutional body under Article 263.
2. Its recommendations are binding on the Union and States.
3. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
4. It can be constituted by the President if it appears to him that such a body will help in coordination.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 3 and 4 only

Explanation:



Statement 1 is incorrect: The Inter-State Council is **not a permanent body**. It is a **constitutional provision** under Article 263, but **not permanent by nature**; it is to be established “if it appears to the President.”

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Its **recommendations are advisory and not binding**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Council is **chaired by the Prime Minister**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The **President can establish** such a body if it will serve public interest, as per **Article 263**.

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type –

Assertion (A): India’s RHUMI-1 has become the nation’s first reusable hybrid rocket to be successfully launched by private players.

Reason (R): Hybrid rockets use a combination of solid and liquid fuel, enabling better control and restart capability compared to conventional rockets.

Choose the correct option:

- (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:

- **Assertion is true:** RHUMI-1 was launched by Indian startup **The eXperimental Sounding Rocket Association (ESRA)** in May 2024 and marked India’s **first privately developed reusable hybrid rocket**.
- **Reason is also true:** **Hybrid rockets** use a **solid fuel and liquid oxidizer** (or vice versa), allowing for **throttle control, restarts**, and safer operations than fully solid or liquid engines. These properties make them suitable for **reuse**, thus supporting the assertion.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Consider the following statements with reference to the NAVYA Initiative launched recently:

1. It is a flagship scheme under the Ministry of Women and Child Development focusing exclusively on adolescent girls with disabilities.
2. The initiative aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020 by incorporating digital literacy, STEM education, and menstrual hygiene awareness.

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: (b) Only 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The NAVYA Initiative is a new scheme launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) focusing on adolescent girls between the ages of 11–18 years, especially those out of school or at risk. It is not limited to girls with disabilities.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NAVYA aims to promote digital literacy, STEM exposure, health awareness including menstrual hygiene, and gender sensitization, which are in alignment with NEP 2020's holistic development goals.

Q2. Ambubachi Mela, often termed as the 'Mahakumbh of the East', is associated with which of the following belief systems?

- (a) Celebration of river confluence at Brahmaputra
- (b) Annual festival signifying the marriage of Shiva and Parvati
- (c) Belief in the Earth's menstruation cycle linked to fertility and regeneration
- (d) Birth anniversary of the Kamakhya temple priest tradition

Answer: (c) Belief in the Earth's menstruation cycle linked to fertility and regeneration

Explanation:

The Ambubachi Mela, held annually at the Kamakhya Temple in Assam, celebrates the menstruation of the Earth Goddess (Devi Kamakhya). It marks the fertility of the soil and regeneration, and thus farmers and tantrics especially consider it auspicious. The temple remains closed for three days during the cycle.

Q3. With reference to the 'Training of Trainers (ToT)' programme launched under PM Vishwakarma Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and aims at certifying master trainers in traditional skills.
2. The programme is a crucial part of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) framework under the National Skills Qualification Framework.



3. The first batch of the ToT programme began at the Central Staff Training and Research Institute, Kolkata.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The ToT programme is implemented by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**, not Labour.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It aligns with the **RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning)** model under **NSQF**, designed to validate traditional skills.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **first batch** was indeed launched at the **Central Staff Training and Research Institute (CSTRI), Kolkata**, for master trainers under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana.

Q4. Regarding India's first planned Household Income Survey to be conducted in 2026, consider the following statements:

1. It will replace the current consumption expenditure survey conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
2. The survey is intended to provide granular data on income distribution for the formulation of targeted welfare schemes.
3. Unlike previous surveys, this survey will capture data on both gross and net income at the individual level.

Which of the above statements is/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:** The **Household Income Survey will not replace** the Consumption Expenditure Survey. Instead, it will **complement** it by providing income-side data, thus enabling a **dual lens of poverty analysis**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The key aim is to **generate precise income distribution data** for schemes such as income support or direct benefit transfers.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The planned survey will **collect detailed data on both gross and net income** from multiple sources—salaries, farm income, pensions, etc., which was previously absent from official statistics.



Q5. With reference to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following statements:

1. India is an observer state in the OIC and was invited to its summit in 2019.
2. The OIC Charter mandates the protection of the rights of Muslim minorities in non-member states.
3. OIC has issued multiple statements on Kashmir, which India considers interference in internal matters.
4. The headquarters of the OIC is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India is **not an observer** in the OIC, though it was **invited as a guest of honour** in the **2019 Foreign Ministers' Meet** in Abu Dhabi (UAE), despite Pakistan's opposition.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **OIC Charter explicitly mentions** protection of Muslim communities globally, including those in **non-member states**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** OIC has **regularly commented on Jammu & Kashmir**, which India calls **unwarranted and intrusive**.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The **OIC headquarters** is located in **Jeddah**, Saudi Arabia, not Riyadh.

Q6. With reference to Vietnam's geopolitical location, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Vietnam shares a land border with both Thailand and Malaysia.
2. It lies entirely to the east of the Mekong River basin.
3. Its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) lies adjacent to the South China Sea, making it a claimant in the Spratly Islands dispute.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (a) Only 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Vietnam shares land borders with **China, Laos, and Cambodia**, but **not with Thailand or Malaysia**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Parts of Vietnam, especially in the southwest, **fall within the Mekong River Delta** region, so it is **not entirely east** of the basin.



- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vietnam's EEZ lies in the **South China Sea**, and it is a **key claimant in the Spratly Islands and Paracel Islands** dispute.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. *"Caste dynamics in India are undergoing a transformation, yet caste continues to shape social and political outcomes." Discuss with suitable examples.*
(10 marks, 150 words)

Sample Answer:

Caste in India is both a historical social institution and a contemporary reality. Despite constitutional safeguards and socio-economic progress, caste continues to shape identity, access, and opportunities.

Changing Dynamics:

- **Urbanization and education** have weakened rigid caste boundaries, especially in cities and professional sectors.
- **Inter-caste marriages** have marginally increased, particularly among educated and urban youth.
- **New middle-class castes**, like upwardly mobile OBCs, are challenging traditional hierarchies.

Continuing Relevance:

- **Electoral Politics:** Caste remains a crucial factor in candidate selection and vote-bank mobilization (e.g., Yadavs in UP, Patels in Gujarat).
- **Social Discrimination:** Manual scavenging, honor killings, and Dalit atrocities continue in rural and peri-urban India.
- **Reservation Debates:** Demands for inclusion in OBC or EWS quotas reflect caste's economic and political salience.

Thus, while caste may appear diluted in form, its function in shaping access to power, privilege, and prestige remains deeply rooted.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. *Critically examine the challenges in cooperative federalism in India, especially in the context of centrally sponsored schemes and fiscal transfers.*
(10 marks, 150 words)

Sample Answer:



Cooperative federalism denotes a collaborative relationship between the Centre and States, vital in a quasi-federal polity like India.

Challenges:

- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS):** States argue CSS are rigid and reduce fiscal autonomy, e.g., reduced flexibility under schemes like PMAY, Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **Finance Commission Recommendations:** While the 15th FC increased tax devolution to states, the concurrent rise in conditional grants has diluted state autonomy.
- **GST Compensation Issues:** Delay in GST compensation during COVID strained Centre-State trust.
- **Legislative Overreach:** Recent farm laws (now repealed) bypassed state legislatures, causing federal friction.

Way Forward:

- Empowering institutions like **Inter-State Council, NITI Aayog**, and greater **consultation with States**.
- Revisiting **Article 282** for untied grants.
Cooperative federalism must be deepened to ensure equitable development and democratic governance.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. *What are the key challenges in India's pursuit of becoming a \$5 trillion economy? Evaluate the structural reforms needed to address them.*
(10 marks, 150 words)

Sample Answer:

India's \$5 trillion economy goal demands consistent growth of 8%+ with equity and sustainability. However, several challenges persist:

Key Challenges:

- **Low Private Investment:** Stagnant private capital formation, especially in manufacturing and infrastructure.
- **Unemployment and Skill Gap:** Youth unemployment (as per PLFS 2023–24) is high, especially among graduates.
- **Banking Sector Stress:** Although NPAs are down, credit flow remains cautious.
- **Informal Economy:** Over 80% of the workforce is informal with low productivity.
- **Global Headwinds:** Trade protectionism, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions.

Structural Reforms Needed:

- **Factor market reforms:** Land and labour reforms must be inclusive.
- **Ease of Doing Business** at state level.



- **Investment in human capital:** Education, skilling, and healthcare.
- **Infrastructure push** under Gati Shakti and digital public infrastructure.

Thus, economic revival requires a coordinated, inclusive, and innovation-led reform agenda.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. *You are a district collector in a flood-prone area. Due to heavy rains, a dam nearby is at risk of overflowing. A few influential citizens pressurize you not to evacuate certain VIP areas citing inconvenience. What ethical dilemmas do you face, and how would you resolve the situation? (10 marks, 150 words)*

Sample Answer:

This situation presents multiple ethical dilemmas:

Dilemmas:

- **Public Safety vs. Political Pressure:** Choosing between evacuation orders based on scientific risk and appeasement of influential individuals.
- **Rule of Law vs. Discretion:** Whether to follow SOPs uniformly or make exceptions under pressure.
- **Equity vs. Privilege:** Ensuring all citizens, irrespective of status, are treated equally in disaster response.

Resolution:

- Uphold **ethical principles** of **justice, accountability, and integrity**.
- Consult disaster management experts and issue evacuation orders based on objective data.
- Communicate transparently with citizens and VIPs about risks and the non-negotiability of public safety.
- Document all actions to ensure **administrative accountability**.

Such decisions test the moral courage of public servants and require prioritizing the greater good over short-term appeasement.

Current Affairs –

Q5. *The UK Parliament's recent End of Life Bill reignites the global debate on legalising assisted dying. Should India consider legalising euthanasia for terminally ill patients? Critically examine in the context of ethical, legal, and societal implications. (10 marks, 150 words)*

Sample Answer:

The UK's End of Life Bill reflects growing global acceptance of **assisted dying** for terminally ill patients under strict safeguards.

India's Context:



- The **Supreme Court in 2018** recognised passive euthanasia in the *Common Cause vs Union of India* case, allowing living wills under strict conditions.
- **Active euthanasia**, however, remains illegal under IPC Section 302/304.

Ethical Concerns:

- **Autonomy vs. Sanctity of Life:** Patients' right to die with dignity vs. moral/religious arguments about life being sacred.
- **Potential misuse:** Vulnerable patients could be coerced into ending life.
- **Medical ethics:** Doctors face conflicts between care obligations and assisted death.

Way Forward:

- National debate and law commission recommendations are essential.
- If considered, strict safeguards, palliative care strengthening, and regulatory oversight must be ensured.

Thus, India must balance compassion with caution in this sensitive domain.