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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 24th & 25th JULY-2025

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding 'Piyadassi' as referred in ancient inscriptions:

1. The name 'Piyadassi' was used by Ashoka in his earlier edicts before he formally adopted Buddhism.
2. The identification of Piyadassi with Emperor Ashoka was conclusively established only after the discovery of the Maski edict.

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: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The term "*Piyadassi*" (meaning "he who looks with kindness") appears in many of the Ashokan edicts but not always accompanied by the name "Ashoka."
- For a long time, historians debated who "*Piyadassi*" referred to. It was only after the **discovery of the Maski edict** (in Karnataka) where both names '**Ashoka**' and '**Piyadassi**' appear together, that the identification was confirmed.
- Statement 1 is correct: In his early edicts, before fully embracing Buddhism post-Kalinga War, Ashoka referred to himself as **Piyadassi**.
- Statement 2 is correct: The **Maski edict** (found in 1915) confirmed this identification, which was crucial in establishing that *Piyadassi* and *Ashoka* were the same person.

Question 2: Consider the following statements about the concept of 'Ecological Pyramids':

1. In an aquatic ecosystem, the pyramid of biomass is usually upright, just like in terrestrial ecosystems.
2. The pyramid of energy is always upright due to the unidirectional flow and loss of energy at each trophic level.
3. In some ecosystems, the pyramid of numbers can be inverted even if the biomass pyramid is upright.

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**: In **aquatic ecosystems**, the **pyramid of biomass is usually inverted**. This is because phytoplankton (producers) have less biomass than the zooplankton and fish that feed on them.
- Statement 2 is **correct**: **Energy pyramids are always upright** because energy decreases as it moves up trophic levels due to **loss as heat (Second Law of Thermodynamics)**.
- Statement 3 is **correct**: For instance, in a forest ecosystem, **one tree (producer)** may support **many herbivores (insects, birds)**—resulting in an **inverted pyramid of numbers** while **biomass pyramid remains upright**.

Question 3: Consider the following statements regarding the concept of ‘Monetary Transmission Mechanism’ in the Indian economy:

1. It refers to how policy rate changes by the RBI affect aggregate demand through changes in interest rates, liquidity, and credit availability.
2. Weak transmission in India is largely due to the dominance of informal credit over formal credit in rural areas.
3. Asset-backed securities (ABS) and development of bond markets improve transmission of monetary policy.

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: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **correct**: **Monetary transmission** is the process through which a central bank’s monetary policy decisions affect the **real economy**, especially through **interest rates, bank lending, and credit conditions**.
- Statement 2 is **incorrect**: Weak transmission in India is more due to **administered interest rates, rigidities in deposit/lending rates, and lack of depth in financial markets**, rather than just informal credit.
- Statement 3 is **correct**: Development of **bond markets** and instruments like **ABS** enhance the effectiveness of policy rates by enabling **better transmission to long-term and corporate credit segments**.

Question 4: Consider the following statements regarding the doctrine of Separation of Powers in the Indian context:

1. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions the term "Separation of Powers" in Article 50.
2. Judicial review in India is based on the principle of limited government under separation of powers.



3. The executive is not accountable to the legislature in a parliamentary system like India.
4. The Supreme Court has held that judicial review is a basic feature of the Constitution, and the Parliament cannot curtail it even through constitutional amendments.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **correct**: **Article 50** (Directive Principles) mentions separation of judiciary from the executive.
- Statement 2 is **correct**: **Judicial review** stems from the doctrine of **limited government** and **checks and balances** under the broader **separation of powers** framework.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect**: In a **parliamentary system**, the **executive is accountable to the legislature** (through questions, motions, etc.).
- Statement 4 is **correct**: In **Keshavananda Bharati (1973)** and **Minerva Mills (1980)**, the SC held **judicial review** as a **basic feature**, immune even to constitutional amendments.

Question 5: Assertion-Reason Type –

Assertion (A): The Horse Latitudes are regions of high atmospheric pressure found around 30° N and 30° S of the equator.

Reason (R): These areas are characterized by sinking air that inhibits cloud formation and precipitation.

- (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 **Horse Latitudes** refer to the **subtropical high-pressure belts** near **30° North and South**, associated with **descending air** from the Hadley Cells.
- As air descends, it **warms up**, leading to **clear skies, dry climate, and lack of precipitation**—typical of deserts like the **Sahara, Atacama, and Australian Desert**.
- Thus, both **A and R are true**, and **R is the correct explanation of A**.

Question 6: Consider the following statements regarding Akbar's administrative policies:



1. The *Mansabdari system* under Akbar was purely military in nature and had no civil or revenue responsibilities.
2. The *Ain-i-Akbari*, compiled by Abul Fazl, offers detailed information about Akbar's administrative institutions, revenue system, and army structure.

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* was **both military and civil** in function. While it defined rank (*mansab*), number of cavalry to maintain (*sawar*), and military duties, **many Mansabdars also held civil responsibilities**, especially in provincial administration.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The *Ain-i-Akbari* is part of the *Akbarnama*, authored by **Abul Fazl**, and it provides **meticulous records** on Akbar's administration, including military ranks, revenue assessments, court customs, and household management.

Question 7: Consider the following statements regarding coral bleaching:

1. Coral bleaching only occurs due to elevated sea surface temperatures and is not influenced by other environmental stressors.
2. Coral polyps expel symbiotic zooxanthellae during bleaching, resulting in the loss of color and energy supply.
3. Ocean acidification, though not a direct cause of bleaching, weakens coral skeletons and increases their susceptibility to thermal stress.

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:** Coral bleaching is primarily caused by **elevated temperatures**, but **other factors** such as **pollution, sedimentation, excessive solar radiation, and changes in salinity** also contribute.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under stress, **coral polyps expel zooxanthellae**, leading to **bleaching** and energy deprivation.



- **Statement 3 is correct: Ocean acidification** reduces carbonate ion concentration, **weakening coral skeletons** and making them more vulnerable to bleaching during temperature spikes.

Question 8: Consider the following statements regarding India's Agni-5 Missile system:

1. Agni-5 is a multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV)-capable intercontinental ballistic missile with a range exceeding 5000 km.
2. The missile is road-mobile and can be launched from canisters, enhancing its strategic survivability and flexibility.
3. India is a signatory to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which prohibits it from developing missiles with ranges above 3000 km.

Which of the above statements 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: Agni-5** is an **ICBM** (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) with **MIRV capability**, which allows it to carry **multiple warheads** that can hit different targets independently. Its **range exceeds 5000–5500 km**.
- **Statement 2 is correct: The canister-based launch system** enables **rapid deployment, mobility, and concealment**, enhancing second-strike capability.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect: India** is a member of **MTCR** (joined in 2016), but **MTCR is an export control regime**, not a prohibition treaty. It **does not bar member countries from developing long-range missiles**; it restricts export of such technologies to non-members.

Question 9: Consider the following statements about the doctrine of basic structure and constitutional amendments in India:

1. The doctrine of basic structure was first propounded in the Minerva Mills case.
2. The Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution including Fundamental Rights, but cannot alter the basic structure.
3. The Ninth Schedule was initially immune from judicial review until the I.R. Coelho judgment.
4. The Kesavananda Bharati case upheld the unlimited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution under Article 368.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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



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

Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The doctrine of basic structure was first laid down in *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973), not *Minerva Mills*.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Parliament can amend Fundamental Rights (as per *Kesavananda*), but not violate the basic structure (e.g., judicial review, secularism, federalism).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Initially, laws in the Ninth Schedule were immune from judicial review. But in *I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu* (2007), the Supreme Court ruled that even laws under Ninth Schedule can be tested if they violate basic structure.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** *Kesavananda* limited Parliament's amending power; it did not uphold unlimited power.

Question 10: Assertion-Reason Type

Assertion (A): The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) shifts northwards during the summer season in the Northern Hemisphere.

Reason (R): During this period, differential heating causes high pressure over the Indian subcontinent, pulling the ITCZ southward.

- (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:** The ITCZ, which is a low-pressure belt near the equator, moves northwards during the Northern Hemisphere summer, following the apparent movement of the Sun.
- **Reason is incorrect:** The Indian subcontinent develops a low-pressure zone, not a high-pressure one, due to intense land heating. This pulls the ITCZ northwards, not southwards.
- Hence, A is true, R is false.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding the Human Rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (HLVM3):

1. HLVM3, as part of India's Gaganyaan mission, is equipped with a crew escape system that activates only during re-entry to ensure astronaut safety.
2. The HLVM3 differs from the standard LVM3 by incorporating redundancies in avionics, propulsion, and control systems to meet human-rating standards.

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 Crew Escape System (CES) in HLVM3 is activated during the ascent phase, not during re-entry. It is designed to pull the crew module away in case of a launch anomaly, ensuring astronaut safety.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** HLVM3, the human-rated version of LVM3, includes multiple redundancies in avionics, navigation, propulsion, life support, etc., in compliance with human-rating standards defined by ISRO and international protocols.

Question 2: Which of the following statements best explains why the Paika Rebellion of 1817 is considered significant in the historiography of Indian freedom movements?

- (a) It was the first major armed tribal uprising against colonial economic policies in central India.
- (b) It was the first organized rebellion involving princely states after the First War of Independence.
- (c) It was a localized agrarian revolt with no ideological opposition to British rule.
- (d) It preceded the 1857 Revolt and involved both tribal warriors and peasantry against colonial land revenue policies.

Answer: (d) It preceded the 1857 Revolt and involved both tribal warriors and peasantry against colonial land revenue policies.

Explanation:

- The Paika Rebellion (1817) in Odisha, led by Bakshi Jagabandhu, included Paikas (militia class) and tribal groups who rose against the British-imposed revenue settlement and suppression of traditional institutions.
- It is notable as a pre-1857 rebellion with features of anti-colonial sentiment, involving land dispossession, economic exploitation, and socio-cultural alienation.
- Hence, option (d) most accurately captures its significance.



Question 3: Consider the following statements with respect to the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025:

1. The Bill seeks to bring all sports federations under the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
2. It proposes setting up an independent Sports Ethics and Dispute Resolution Tribunal to adjudicate doping, selection, and sexual harassment complaints.
3. The Bill abolishes the recognition power of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and transfers it entirely to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bill proposes to bring all National Sports Federations (NSFs) under the RTI Act, enhancing accountability and transparency.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It aims to establish an independent tribunal, including panels for ethics, selection disputes, doping cases, and sexual harassment, distinct from SAI or IOA.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While the IOA's autonomy is to be regulated, the Bill does not abolish its recognition powers but sets standards for compliance, especially in terms of governance, audits, and ethics.

Question 4: Consider the following statements regarding the recently studied exoplanetary system HOPS-315 and its host star:

1. HOPS-315 is a protostar in its T Tauri phase, known for violent stellar winds and intense luminosity variations.
2. The system was studied using the James Webb Space Telescope, revealing the presence of planet-forming disks and organic molecules.
3. HOPS-315 is located in the Taurus molecular cloud, a well-known star-forming region in the southern hemisphere.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:



- **Statement 1 is correct:** HOPS-315 is a **young stellar object (YSO)** in its **T Tauri phase**, characterized by **stellar winds, variability, and active accretion disks**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Using the **JWST**, scientists detected **organic molecules** like **methanol** and signs of **protoplanetary disk formation** in this system.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** **Taurus molecular cloud** is in the **northern hemisphere**, not southern, and is one of the closest star-forming regions (~430 light years).

Question 5: Consider the following statements regarding India's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme:

1. The programme aims to reduce dependency on crude oil imports, improve air quality, and boost income for sugarcane farmers.
2. The E20 fuel blend was officially rolled out in 2023, with a target of nationwide availability by 2025.
3. Only molasses-based ethanol is allowed for blending under the current EBP framework.
4. Ethanol blending has led to significant savings in foreign exchange and reduced carbon emissions, according to NITI Aayog.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The EBP Programme reduces **import bills**, supports **farmers**, and improves **urban air quality**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **E20 (20% ethanol-blended petrol)** was **launched in 2023**, with a **2025 rollout target**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ethanol for blending is now sourced from **multiple feedstocks—molasses, maize, surplus rice, damaged grains**, etc., under a **diversified procurement** policy.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** As per recent **NITI Aayog assessments**, ethanol blending has **saved foreign exchange, cut carbon emissions, and diverted surplus grain**.

Question 6: Which of the following mountain ranges are located in the European continent?

1. Carpathians
2. Apennines
3. Caucasus
4. Pyrenees



5. Zagros

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Carpathians:** Extend across Central and Eastern Europe (Slovakia, Romania).
- **Apennines:** Run through **Italy**, forming its backbone.
- **Caucasus:** Lie between **Europe and Asia**, but **Western Caucasus** (e.g., Georgia) is considered part of Europe.
- **Pyrenees:** Form the natural border between **Spain and France**.
- **Zagros:** Located in **Iran and Iraq**, part of the **Middle East (Asia)**.

Question 7: Consider the following statements regarding the **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**:

1. NFRA has the power to review the audit quality and compliance of auditors for all listed and unlisted companies across India.
2. NFRA's decisions can be appealed only before the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT).

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: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** NFRA's jurisdiction is over *listed companies and large unlisted public companies*, but **not all unlisted companies**. Private and smaller unlisted companies do not fall under its domain.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Appeals against NFRA's orders are made to the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**, not SAT.

Question 8: As per the **Henley Passport Index 2025**, which of the following best describes India's performance?

- (a) India ranked among the top 50, gaining access to over 120 countries visa-free.
- (b) India dropped in rankings due to reduced access to European nations.



(c) India improved its rank, with visa-free access to over 60 countries, including recent additions in Africa and Central Asia.

(d) India's rank remained static due to unchanged visa policies with major developed countries.

Answer: (c) India improved its rank, with visa-free access to over 60 countries, including recent additions in Africa and Central Asia.

Explanation:

- In the **Henley Passport Index 2025**, India moved **up slightly**, with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to **over 60 destinations**.
- Several African and Central Asian countries have relaxed norms for Indian travelers.
- However, India still **lags behind top Asian nations** like Japan or Singapore.

Question 9: With reference to the **National Cooperative Policy 2025**, consider the following statements:

1. The policy proposes a national-level cooperative database with Aadhaar-linked member details.
2. It aims to bring Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) under the purview of RBI for financial regulation.
3. It encourages the establishment of cooperative start-ups with incubation and seed support mechanisms.

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: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The draft policy seeks a digitized, Aadhaar-linked **national cooperative database** for transparency and accountability.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** MSCS will continue to be governed under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act**, not the RBI. Financial cooperatives are regulated differently.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The policy emphasizes **innovation in cooperatives**, including **start-up models**, incubation centers, and youth engagement.

Question 10: Consider the following statements regarding the **ULPGM-V3 (UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile)** developed recently:

1. It has been indigenously developed by DRDO and can be fired from drones like TAPAS-BH.
2. The missile incorporates tandem warhead and millimeter wave (MMW) seeker for enhanced penetration.



3. It is exclusively designed for anti-armor roles and cannot engage soft-skinned or urban targets.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** ULPGM-V3 is developed by **DRDO** and tested on **TAPAS-BH UAV**, part of India's evolving drone warfare arsenal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It includes **tandem warhead** to penetrate reactive armor and a **millimeter wave seeker** for all-weather targeting.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The missile, though primarily **anti-armor**, can **engage soft targets**, bunkers, and even urban threats using its precision guidance.

Question 11: With reference to **AI-driven Dynamic Targeting Technology** in modern warfare, consider the following statements:

- 1. It allows for real-time identification and engagement of mobile targets using AI algorithms.
- 2. Such targeting is now fully autonomous, requiring no human-in-the-loop for ethical decision-making.
- 3. India's AI Defence Strategy 2024 aims to integrate dynamic targeting within naval and air command systems.
- 4. It faces regulatory challenges under the Geneva Convention due to concerns about proportionality and civilian safety.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) All four
- (d) Only one

Answer: (b) Only three

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Dynamic targeting is AI-based real-time recognition of moving or hidden targets, especially in drone warfare.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** AI-driven targeting is still under **"human-in-the-loop" or "human-on-the-loop"** frameworks to maintain ethical and legal control.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India's AI strategy incorporates such tech into integrated command systems including Air & Naval forces.



- **Statement 4 is correct:** There are **legal and ethical concerns under IHL and Geneva Conventions** regarding such targeting.

Question 12: Arrange the following Himalayan Peaks in the correct **East to West** order:

1. Kangchenjunga
2. Nanda Devi
3. Namcha Barwa
4. Annapurna

Select the correct order using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a) 3 - 1 - 2 - 4

Explanation:

- **Namcha Barwa** – Easternmost major Himalayan peak in **Arunachal-Tibet border**.
- **Kangchenjunga** – Sikkim-Nepal border.
- **Nanda Devi** – Uttarakhand.
- **Annapurna** – Central Nepal.
→ So, **East to West:** Namcha Barwa → Kangchenjunga → Nanda Devi → Annapurna.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Question 1 – "The Treaty of Versailles sowed the seeds of the Second World War more than it preserved peace." Critically examine.

Sample Answer:

The **Treaty of Versailles (1919)**, signed after World War I, aimed to ensure lasting peace by penalizing Germany. However, it is widely argued that instead of securing peace, the treaty laid the foundation for another global conflict—**World War II**.

Unjust Terms Imposed on Germany:



- The treaty held Germany solely responsible for the war under **Article 231 (War Guilt Clause)**. This moral blame damaged national pride.
- Harsh **reparations of 132 billion gold marks** devastated the German economy and caused **hyperinflation** and social unrest.
- **Territorial losses** (e.g., Alsace-Lorraine to France, Polish Corridor to Poland) caused strategic vulnerability and resentment.
- The **disarmament clause** limited the German military to 100,000 troops, humiliating a previously dominant power.

Rise of Extremism:

- The deep humiliation and economic crisis created fertile ground for **radical ideologies**. Adolf Hitler exploited the nationalistic and anti-Versailles sentiments to rise to power.
- The Treaty's punitive nature gave credibility to the **"stab-in-the-back" myth**, which falsely claimed Germany had been betrayed internally rather than defeated militarily.

Failure of Collective Security:

- The **League of Nations**, born from the treaty, lacked real enforcement power.
- Key powers like the **USA never joined**, weakening its credibility.
- Aggressive moves by fascist regimes (e.g., Japan's invasion of Manchuria, Italy's invasion of Ethiopia) went unpunished, encouraging Hitler.

Counter Perspective:

- Some historians argue the treaty was not as harsh as claimed; Germany remained a major power and was not occupied.
- The rise of WWII was also due to **aggressive ideologies, economic depression, and the failure of appeasement**, not just the treaty.

Conclusion:

While not the sole cause, the Treaty of Versailles played a **significant role** in destabilizing Europe, enabling fascism, and undermining democratic forces in Germany. The treaty's flawed peace led not to reconciliation but to **revanchism**, making it a precursor to the Second World War.

Question 2 – "The socio-religious reform movements of the 19th century were both a product and a critique of colonial modernity." Elaborate.

Sample Answer:

The **19th-century socio-religious reform movements in India** emerged in the backdrop of British colonial rule. These movements were not just reactions to indigenous social evils but were also responses to the **colonial encounter and modern Western ideas**.

Colonial Context as a Catalyst:



- British rule brought **modern education, print media**, and exposure to Enlightenment ideas like **liberty, rationality, and human dignity**.
- This enabled **Indian reformers** like **Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Dayanand Saraswati**, and **Syed Ahmed Khan** to reflect on Indian traditions through **modern lenses**.

Product of Colonial Modernity:

- Reformers adopted **rational critique** and argued for reform within tradition:
 - **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** opposed **sati** and child marriage using rationalist and humanitarian arguments.
 - **Arya Samaj** advocated **Vedic monotheism** and scientific temper.
- **Western education** helped create a class of Indians (the “**new middle class**”) who became the base for reform movements.

Critique of Colonial Modernity:

- While reformers borrowed Western ideas, they also **challenged the moral superiority claimed by the colonizers**:
 - **Vivekananda** promoted **spiritual nationalism**, asserting the superiority of Indian philosophy over materialistic Western civilization.
 - Reformers like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** used religious revival as a **nationalist tool**.
- Movements like **Aligarh Movement** sought modern education for Muslims but also emphasized **Islamic identity**.

Balancing Modernity and Tradition:

- These movements were **not wholesale Westernizations**; instead, they aimed to **modernize religion without Western domination**.
- They selectively adopted Western notions of **reform, equality, and rights**, while also **reviving ancient Indian philosophies**.

Conclusion:

The socio-religious reform movements were **dialectical in nature**—**shaped by colonial modernity yet resisting colonial hegemony**. They laid the intellectual foundations for **social justice, gender equality, and nationalism**, influencing both the **Indian renaissance and freedom struggle**.

GS Paper 2 –

Question 1 – “Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can be a game-changer for inclusive governance in India, but it must be guided by principles of equity, privacy, and transparency.” Discuss.

Sample Answer:



Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to the foundational technology systems such as **Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, CoWIN, and ONDC**, which enable delivery of public and private services at scale. India has emerged as a global leader in creating population-scale DPIs for governance and financial inclusion.

Role in Inclusive Governance:

- **Financial Inclusion:** UPI and Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity have enabled direct benefit transfers (DBTs), reducing leakages and empowering the poor.
- **Healthcare & Education:** CoWIN enabled seamless vaccine distribution. Platforms like DIKSHA and eSanjeevani have expanded access to education and telemedicine.
- **Ease of Living:** DigiLocker and Aadhaar eKYC have reduced bureaucratic hurdles for citizens and enhanced service delivery efficiency.

Challenges and Ethical Concerns:

- **Digital Divide:** Despite high mobile penetration, **internet access is unequal** across rural-urban and gender lines.
- **Data Privacy:** There is **no comprehensive data protection law** in India as of now, increasing risks of misuse and surveillance.
- **Transparency & Algorithmic Bias:** Many DPI systems lack **public auditability** or clear grievance redressal mechanisms.

Way Forward:

- Enact a robust **Digital Personal Data Protection Law**, ensuring user consent, accountability, and purpose limitation.
- Invest in **digital literacy and internet infrastructure**, especially in marginalized areas.
- Ensure **interoperability** of platforms with open-source principles and **public oversight**.
- Integrate **privacy-by-design architecture** and **algorithmic transparency**.

Conclusion:

DPI has immense potential to redefine governance, make services accessible, and empower citizens. However, to be truly transformative and inclusive, India must adopt a **citizen-centric approach** that upholds **equity, privacy, and transparency** in the digital age. DPI must not only be a technological solution but also a **democratic enabler**.

Question 2 – "The doctrine of separation of powers is foundational to the Indian Constitution, yet its practice often blurs the lines among organs of the State." Analyse with recent examples.

Sample Answer:

The **doctrine of separation of powers**, though not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, is implicit in its **structure and functioning**. It entails that the **Legislature makes laws**, the **Executive implements them**, and the **Judiciary interprets them**, ensuring **checks and balances** in a democracy.

Constitutional Basis in India:



- **Articles 50, 121, 122, 211, and 212** reflect separation between judiciary and legislature.
- **Article 13** empowers the judiciary to strike down unconstitutional laws.
- However, unlike the strict separation followed in the U.S., India follows a "**functional overlap**" model.

Instances of Blurred Separation:

- **Judicial Activism & Overreach:** Supreme Court's intervention in administrative matters (e.g., **banning firecrackers**, regulating COVID management, or cancelling coal block allocations) raises questions of judicial overreach.
- **Ordinance Raj:** Executive bypassing the legislature by promulgating ordinances frequently (e.g., **Farm Laws, 2020**) undermines parliamentary supremacy.
- **Tribunalisation of Justice:** Executive's role in appointment and control over tribunals blurs the judiciary-executive boundary.
- **Legislature Enacting Laws Post Court Orders:** Sometimes, Parliament enacts retrospective laws to nullify judicial verdicts, affecting finality of decisions (e.g., **NJAC judgment & 99th Amendment**).

Why Some Overlaps Exist:

- Indian governance faces **complex socio-political issues** requiring a degree of coordination.
- The Constitution ensures **checks and balances**, not complete isolation of powers.

Way Forward:

- Maintain **mutual respect among institutions** while fulfilling constitutional mandates.
- Strengthen **judicial accountability** and **executive transparency**.
- Promote **institutional dialogue** rather than confrontation.

Conclusion:

While the Indian Constitution embraces separation of powers in principle, the **real-world practice demands coordination and pragmatism**. Yet, preserving institutional boundaries and **constitutional morality** is crucial to avoid power centralization and uphold democratic governance.

GS Paper 3 -

Question 1 –

"Urban floods in India are becoming more frequent and intense due to a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors. Examine the causes and suggest long-term sustainable solutions."

Sample Answer:



Urban flooding refers to **inundation in city areas due to overwhelming rainfall, drainage failure, or river overflow**. In recent years, Indian cities like Mumbai (2005), Chennai (2015), Hyderabad (2020), and Bengaluru (2022) have witnessed **increasingly frequent and intense urban floods**.

Causes of Urban Flooding:

Natural Factors:

- **Climate Change:** Intensification of monsoon patterns, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events are causing heavier rainfall in shorter periods.
- **Topographical Vulnerabilities:** Coastal cities and low-lying regions (like Chennai) are naturally prone to waterlogging.

Anthropogenic Causes:

- **Encroachment of Water Bodies:** Lakes, ponds, and wetlands, which acted as natural buffers, are being filled up for construction (e.g., Bellandur Lake in Bengaluru).
- **Unplanned Urbanization:** Rapid growth without proper drainage infrastructure leads to surface runoff accumulation.
- **Poor Solid Waste Management:** Drains get clogged with garbage and plastic, preventing smooth water flow.
- **Loss of Green Cover:** Reduces groundwater recharge and increases surface runoff.

Consequences:

- **Loss of Lives and Property,** economic disruption, urban paralysis.
- **Contamination of water sources,** disease outbreaks.
- **Erosion of public trust in urban governance.**

Long-Term Sustainable Solutions:

- **Urban Planning Reforms:** Integrate flood-resilient infrastructure in city master plans.
- **Blue-Green Infrastructure:** Restore urban wetlands, create green corridors, and promote permeable pavements.
- **Strict Zoning Regulations:** Prevent construction on floodplains and catchment areas.
- **Smart Drainage Systems:** Use real-time monitoring, GIS-based flood modeling.
- **Community Awareness and Preparedness:** Citizen participation in disaster response planning.

Conclusion:

Urban flooding is a **multi-dimensional crisis** linked to governance, climate change, and urban planning. A sustainable solution demands a **paradigm shift**—from reactive relief-centric approaches to **proactive, ecosystem-based urban resilience planning**, guided by the principles of **sustainability and inclusivity**.



Question 2 – "The emerging threats in India's internal security landscape require a convergence of technological preparedness and inter-agency coordination. Analyse in the context of cyber threats, left-wing extremism, and border management."

Sample Answer:

India's internal security today is shaped by **evolving and complex challenges** such as **cyber warfare, left-wing extremism (LWE), cross-border terrorism, and illegal infiltration**. These issues transcend conventional law enforcement mechanisms and demand **tech-enabled, coordinated strategies**.

Emerging Threats and Their Nature:

Cybersecurity Threats:

- Increasing attacks on critical infrastructure (e.g., power grids, banks).
- Use of ransomware, phishing, and malware by state and non-state actors.
- Threats to national security through misinformation and social media manipulation.

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE):

- Though declining, LWE remains potent in states like Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
- Naxal groups are adopting **modern communication tools and guerrilla tactics**.

Border Management Issues:

- Infiltration and smuggling in porous borders (e.g., Bangladesh border).
- **Drone-based smuggling and arms drops** at India-Pakistan border (Punjab, Jammu).

Need for Technological Preparedness:

- **Use of AI and Big Data** for predictive policing and intelligence analysis.
- **Geospatial tech** for monitoring infiltration in border zones.
- **Drones, CCTVs, biometrics** for border surveillance and policing.
- **Cybersecurity frameworks** like **CERT-In**, National Cyber Security Policy.

Need for Inter-agency Coordination:

- Internal security involves **multiple stakeholders**: IB, NIA, State Police, BSF, DRDO, NTRO, etc.
- **Joint Command Centres** and unified databases are essential for real-time coordination.
- Operations like **SAMADHAN (for LWE)** and **CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System)** reflect integrated strategies.

Challenges:

- Lack of skilled manpower in cybersecurity and tech.
- Inter-agency turf wars and bureaucratic delays.
- Data privacy vs surveillance concerns.



Conclusion:

India's internal security now demands a **tech-centric, multi-stakeholder approach**. Strengthening cyber resilience, upgrading border infrastructure, and ensuring seamless coordination among agencies will be critical to **neutralizing emerging threats** while upholding constitutional values and civil liberties.

GS Paper 4 –

Question 1 – "Transparency without accountability is incomplete, and accountability without transparency is ineffective." Discuss the ethical relationship between the two in the context of public administration.

Sample Answer:

Transparency refers to the openness and accessibility of information to stakeholders, especially citizens in a democracy. **Accountability**, on the other hand, means that public officials are answerable for their decisions and actions, and are liable for consequences in case of misconduct.

These two are **interdependent pillars of ethical governance**.

Ethical Relationship Between Transparency and Accountability:

Transparency Enables Accountability:

Without transparency, public scrutiny is impossible. For instance, the **Right to Information (RTI) Act** empowered citizens to question government decisions and expenditures, compelling public servants to act more responsibly.

Accountability Reinforces Transparency:

When officials are held accountable (e.g., through audits or parliamentary questions), it deters secrecy and encourages proactive disclosure. The **CAG's audit reports**, for example, have not only led to action against corruption but also promoted greater transparency in public spending.

Transparency Without Accountability – A Hollow Exercise:

- Data may be available, but if **no action is taken** against wrongdoers, the purpose is defeated.
- For instance, **leaks in public procurement** revealed by transparency portals are ineffective unless followed by **penal accountability**.

Accountability Without Transparency – A Farce:

- If public officials are held accountable without access to clear data, it may lead to **arbitrary punishment or blame-shifting**.
- Lack of information may be used to shield powerful individuals, as seen in **opaque investigations**.

Real-Life Ethical Examples:

- **Whistleblowers** play a crucial role in ensuring both transparency and accountability, but they often face threats due to weak protection laws.



- **Social audits** in schemes like MGNREGA demonstrate how grassroots transparency fosters collective accountability.

Conclusion:

Transparency and accountability are **two sides of the same ethical coin**. When applied together, they strengthen **public trust**, reduce **corruption**, and promote **responsible governance**. The goal should be to institutionalize a governance model where transparency is a **tool**, and accountability is the **outcome**.

Question 2 – "Emotional intelligence is not about suppressing emotions but about managing them intelligently." Examine the significance of emotional intelligence in public service.

Sample Answer:

Emotional Intelligence (EI) refers to the ability to **recognize, understand, and manage one's own emotions**, as well as those of others. Daniel Goleman identifies its core components as **self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills**.

In the context of public service, emotional intelligence is a **critical ethical competency**.

Why Emotional Intelligence Matters in Public Administration:

Self-Regulation for Ethical Conduct:

- Officers often face **provocation or political pressure**. EI enables them to respond **calmly and ethically** rather than react impulsively.
- For instance, during law-and-order situations, a police officer with high EI avoids excessive force, choosing conflict de-escalation instead.

Empathy for Better Service Delivery:

- EI fosters **compassion and sensitivity**, especially in citizen-facing services like health, education, and welfare.
- A bureaucrat implementing schemes in tribal areas must **understand local emotions and sentiments** to gain trust and ensure participation.

Conflict Resolution and Teamwork:

- High EI helps resolve interpersonal and departmental disputes amicably, maintaining **organizational harmony**.
- It is also key to **collaborative leadership** and building morale in field postings.

Moral Courage and Resilience:

- Officers often work under **stressful and uncertain conditions**. EI strengthens their ability to stay **motivated, resilient, and principled**.
- For example, during the COVID-19 crisis, emotionally intelligent healthcare administrators were able to **balance empathy with decisiveness**.

Case Example:



- **IAS officer Armstrong Pame**, known as the “Miracle Man of Manipur,” displayed high emotional intelligence by **mobilizing public support**, handling resistance with tact, and showing **empathy for his community** while constructing a road without government funds.

Conclusion:

In public service, emotional intelligence is **not a luxury but a necessity**. It empowers civil servants to act ethically, communicate effectively, and handle crises with maturity. As Gandhiji said, “A nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest” – and **emotional intelligence** is the bridge to this compassionate governance.

Current Affairs -

Question 1 – “Incidents like the cyber-espionage attack on Microsoft SharePoint highlight the vulnerabilities in global digital infrastructure. Examine the implications of such attacks for national security and suggest measures to strengthen India’s cyber resilience.”

Sample Answer:

The **cyber-espionage breach in Microsoft SharePoint**, attributed to a suspected state-backed actor, exposed critical vulnerabilities in enterprise collaboration tools used by governments and corporations worldwide. Such incidents underscore the **geopolitical weaponization of cyberspace**, where cyberattacks are no longer just criminal but **strategic acts of surveillance and sabotage**.

Implications for National Security:

Espionage & Intelligence Theft:

- Sensitive government documents, defense communications, and diplomatic exchanges are often stored on platforms like SharePoint. Breaches compromise **sovereign data** and intelligence.

Threat to Critical Infrastructure:

- These attacks could be **entry points for disrupting critical sectors** like power grids, banking systems, and telecom networks.

Economic and Strategic Setbacks:

- Theft of trade secrets and R&D data undermines national competitiveness.
- Strategic decisions based on **compromised data** may be manipulated by adversarial forces.

Erosion of Public Trust:

- Cyber intrusions reduce public confidence in digital governance and data protection.

Challenges in India’s Cybersecurity Landscape:

- India lacks a **dedicated cyber command** for offensive and defensive capabilities.
- Limited indigenous capabilities in cybersecurity software and hardware.
- Fragmented institutional structure—overlap between **CERT-In, NTRO, NCIIPC**, etc.



Suggested Measures to Strengthen Cyber Resilience:

Legislative Reforms:

- Expedite the operationalization of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**.
- Enact a **comprehensive Cybersecurity Law** defining institutional roles and penalties.

Capacity Building:

- Establish a **National Cybersecurity Command Authority** for integrated action.
- Promote **R&D in indigenous cybersecurity solutions** and ethical hacking programs.

International Cooperation:

- Join **global cybersecurity frameworks** like the Budapest Convention.
- Forge **cyber norms and response protocols** through QUAD, SCO, and G20.

Public and Private Collaboration:

- Share threat intelligence with private tech firms and startups.
- Conduct regular **cyber drills and stress tests** for critical institutions.

Conclusion:

The SharePoint breach is a **wake-up call**—digital sovereignty is now integral to national security. India must evolve from a **reactive cybersecurity model** to a **resilient, proactive digital defense ecosystem**, backed by legal, institutional, and technological preparedness.

Question 2 – "Critical minerals are no longer just economic resources; they have become strategic assets essential for clean energy and national security. Examine India's vulnerabilities and policy steps to secure its critical mineral supply chains."

Sample Answer:

Critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements, and nickel are indispensable to the **green energy transition, semiconductors, defense, and space technologies**. As global demand rises, they are being weaponized as strategic tools—similar to oil in the 20th century.

India's Vulnerabilities:

Import Dependency:

- India imports over **80% of its lithium and cobalt**, mostly from countries like China, Australia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- China controls over **60% of global rare earth processing capacity**, posing strategic risks.

Lack of Domestic Mapping and Mining:

- India's mineral exploration is largely outdated, with poor private sector participation.
- Absence of **real-time geological data** deters investments.



Weak Value Chain Presence:

- India lags in **midstream (processing)** and **downstream (battery, component manufacturing)** infrastructure.

Geopolitical Risks:

- Concentration of critical minerals in politically unstable regions threatens supply continuity.

Policy Initiatives to Address the Gap:

National Critical Minerals Strategy, 2023:

- Identified 30 critical minerals and set up a **dedicated exploration roadmap**.
- Emphasizes **self-reliance in battery and semiconductor minerals**.

KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.):

- A joint venture of PSUs to **secure overseas mineral assets**, especially in Latin America and Africa (e.g., lithium in Argentina, cobalt in DR Congo).

PLI Schemes & Recycling:

- Incentivizing domestic battery and electronics manufacturing.
- Investment in **urban mining and e-waste recycling** for sustainable supply.

International Collaboration:

- Bilateral tie-ups under **India–Australia Critical Minerals Partnership**, QUAD's Clean Energy Supply Chain initiative, and **India–US iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies)**.

Way Forward:

- Boost domestic exploration through **public-private partnerships**.
- Establish **strategic reserves** of critical minerals, akin to oil reserves.
- Promote **green and ethical sourcing**, minimizing environmental damage and labor exploitation.

Conclusion:

Critical minerals are now **strategic levers** in energy security, digital growth, and geopolitical competition. For India's ambitious net-zero goals and strategic autonomy, securing and diversifying its **critical mineral supply chains** is not just economic planning—it is **national security imperative**.