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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE


DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 25/06/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

- **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 Bhakti Movement in medieval India:

1. The Bhakti saints of the South, such as Alvars and Nayanars, used Sanskrit exclusively in their compositions to reach the masses.
2. The teachings of Bhakti saints often challenged the caste hierarchy and ritualistic practices of Brahmanical Hinduism.

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 Alvars (Vaishnavite saints) and Nayanars (Shaivite saints) composed devotional hymns in **Tamil**, not Sanskrit. This was a deliberate move to connect with the local population. Use of vernacular was a hallmark of early Bhakti traditions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Many Bhakti saints like Kabir, Ravidas, and Basavanna opposed caste discrimination and ritualism, emphasizing personal devotion to God over priestly mediation.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the concept of “Ecological Footprint”:

1. It measures the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions by a country in a given year.
2. A country with a large per capita ecological footprint is necessarily more ecologically sustainable.
3. The global ecological footprint exceeds the Earth’s biocapacity, indicating ecological overshoot.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ecological footprint is broader than just GHG emissions. It measures **the biologically productive area required to provide the resources a population consumes and to absorb its waste**, including CO₂ emissions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A larger ecological footprint per capita indicates **greater resource consumption**, often beyond sustainable levels — thus, less ecological sustainability.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Global Footprint Network** reports ecological overshoot — humanity uses more ecological resources than Earth can regenerate annually.



Q3. Consider the following statements regarding India's Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework:

1. The FRBM Act mandates the government to eliminate revenue deficit by 2020.
2. The FRBM Review Committee (N.K. Singh Committee) recommended the establishment of a Fiscal Council.
3. The FRBM Act provides for automatic enforcement of corrective measures in case of fiscal slippage.

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: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The original FRBM Act aimed to eliminate revenue deficit by 2009. However, the deadline was postponed multiple times. The 2018 amendment replaced revenue deficit target with 'effective revenue deficit' and extended timelines.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The N.K. Singh Committee (2017) recommended a **Fiscal Council** — an independent body to evaluate fiscal policy and rule deviations.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The FRBM Act does **not provide automatic enforcement**. Deviations are allowed under specified circumstances, but enforcement depends on **executive discretion**, not an automatic trigger.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Pardoning Powers of the President under Article 72 of the Indian Constitution:

1. The President can grant pardon in all criminal cases across India, regardless of the court's decision.
2. The President's power to pardon extends to cases involving sentences by a Court Martial.
3. The President must act on the advice of the Council of Ministers in exercising the power under Article 72.
4. The power of pardon under Article 72 is subject to judicial review in cases of mala fide or arbitrary decision.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The President cannot pardon in all criminal cases — **only in cases involving violation of Union laws**, and **not for offenses under State law** unless it's a death sentence.



- **Statement 2 is correct:** The President's power includes pardons for **Court Martial** cases, unlike the Governor's powers.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Under Article 74, the President acts **on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**, even in pardon cases.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** In cases like *Kehar Singh v. Union of India* and *Epuru Sudhakar v. Government of A.P.*, the Supreme Court held that **pardon powers are subject to judicial review** if exercised arbitrarily or with mala fide intent.

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type –

Assertion (A): The Ajanta caves represent a turning point in Indian art through their narrative mural paintings.

Reason (R): The Ajanta paintings used oil-based pigments that enabled long-lasting color vibrancy.

- (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 **Ajanta Caves** (2nd century BCE to 6th century CE) are known for their **narrative Buddhist frescoes**, detailing scenes from the Jataka tales and life of the Buddha, representing a major advancement in Indian art.
- **Reason is incorrect:** The Ajanta paintings were made using **natural pigments and tempera technique**, not oil. The artists used **vegetable dyes, mineral-based colors**, and applied them on dry plaster. Oil painting was **not practiced** in ancient Indian art.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

1. ECOSOC is the only principal organ of the UN that has a limited number of members with fixed regional representation and election-based selection.
2. Unlike the General Assembly, ECOSOC decisions are binding on UN member states in areas such as development financing and global tax regulation.

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:** ECOSOC has **54 members**, elected by the General Assembly for **three-year terms**, and seats are **allocated regionally**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** ECOSOC is a **deliberative body**, and its decisions are **non-binding**. It provides a platform for discussion and coordination but **cannot enforce policy**.

Q2. In the context of India's 16th Census, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It will be the first Census to collect caste data for OBCs since 1931.
(b) It will be the first Census to use a mobile application for data collection.
(c) It is being conducted by NITI Aayog for the first time.
(d) The religious and language data will be released before population totals.

Answer: (b) It will be the first Census to use a mobile application for data collection.

Explanation:

- The 16th Census (delayed due to COVID-19) will **introduce a mobile app** for enumerators for the first time.
- **Caste data for OBCs** is not confirmed as part of this census (unlike the 1931 census).
- The **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs** conducts the census, **not NITI Aayog**.
- Population totals are released **before** language and religion data.

Q3. With reference to newly recognized Ramsar Sites in Rajasthan – Menar and Khichan, consider the following statements:

1. Both sites are naturally formed seasonal wetlands located within the Thar Desert landscape.



2. They have gained international importance due to hosting a significant migratory population of Demoiselle Cranes.
3. These wetlands are a part of India's Central Asian Flyway network conservation strategy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Khichan is man-made, developed due to human feeding traditions, while Menar is a community-conserved wetland, not entirely seasonal or naturally formed.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Both wetlands are famed for hosting Demoiselle Cranes, especially Khichan, known globally for this.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** They are important stopovers along the Central Asian Flyway, and their inclusion as Ramsar Sites supports India's commitment under the National Action Plan for Flyway Conservation.

Q4. (Three-statement Based – Variable Speed Pumped Storage Plant)

Consider the following statements regarding India's first Variable Speed Pumped Storage Plant commissioned in 2024:

1. It enables reversible flow of water using variable motor speeds, optimizing electricity storage.
2. This plant can provide grid stability during sudden demand surges by supplying base-load power.
3. It was set up as part of India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy submitted at COP28.

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:** Variable speed technology allows for flexible pumping and generation, making it ideal for energy storage and balancing renewable energy sources.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Pumped storage is typically for peaking or intermediate loads, not base-load. It stabilizes grids but does not provide constant base power.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India's Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement includes scaling up energy storage, and this plant aligns with that vision.



Q5. With reference to the Inga Hydropower Project in Africa, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated on the Congo River and has the potential to become the world's largest hydropower project.
2. India is among the top financial contributors to the Grand Inga project.
3. The project has faced delays due to environmental opposition and regional conflicts.
4. Once completed, it can supply clean energy across multiple African nations and even Europe via transcontinental grid systems.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Located on the **Congo River** in **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the **Grand Inga** project is projected to be the **largest hydropower plant globally**, with a capacity of over **40,000 MW**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India has expressed **diplomatic support** but is **not a major financial contributor**. Countries like China and South Africa are more involved.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Political instability, **environmental concerns**, and lack of regional cooperation have led to repeated delays.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The project is expected to power **multiple African countries**, and there are even **plans to export power to Europe** through the **Mediterranean undersea cables**.

Q6. Which of the following statements about the Kosi River is/are correct?

1. It is formed by the confluence of three Himalayan tributaries: Arun, Sun Kosi, and Tamur.
2. The river flows through Tibet, Nepal, and India before joining the Ganga in Bihar.
3. The eastern course of the Kosi frequently shifts due to sediment deposition and tectonic activity.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Kosi River** is formed by the **Arun, Sun Kosi, and Tamur rivers** in eastern Nepal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The river **originates in Tibet**, flows through **Nepal**, and enters **India (Bihar)**, where it meets the **Ganga near Kursela**.



- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Kosi River** is often referred to as the “**Sorrow of Bihar**” due to its frequent shifting course, caused by **silt deposition**, **tectonic uplift**, and changes in rainfall patterns.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. Evaluate the contribution of regional kingdoms in promoting temple architecture in South India during the post-Gupta period. (10 marks)

Sample Answer:

The post-Gupta period witnessed the rise of powerful regional kingdoms in South India—namely the Chalukyas, Pallavas, Rashtrakutas, Cholas, and Hoysalas—each leaving a profound imprint on temple architecture. Their contributions were not merely religious but also expressions of political legitimacy and cultural identity.

The **Pallavas (6th–9th century CE)** pioneered rock-cut and structural temples. The **Shore Temple** and **Rathas of Mahabalipuram** exemplify early experimentation with Dravidian architectural forms. Their temples show innovations like intricate sculptures, monolithic rathas, and the early vimana (tower).

The **Chalukyas of Badami** blended Nagara and Dravidian styles, evident in the **Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal**. Their style evolved into the Vesara style, showcasing experimentation in shikhara design and mandapa structures.

The **Rashtrakutas** enriched rock-cut architecture with the awe-inspiring **Kailasa temple at Ellora**, carved from a single rock, reflecting engineering brilliance and Shaivite patronage.

The **Cholas (9th–13th century)** elevated Dravidian architecture to its zenith. The **Brihadeeswara Temple at Thanjavur** displays monumental scale, axial planning, and extensive iconography. They also standardized temple plans and established temple-centric urban settlements.

The **Hoysalas**, with the **Chennakesava and Hoysaleswara temples**, brought sculptural intricacy and star-shaped plans into prominence.

In sum, South Indian regional kingdoms laid the foundation of classical temple architecture, showcasing an evolution in style, function, and symbolism, shaping Indian heritage for centuries.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. Discuss the challenges and opportunities in implementing cooperative federalism in India, especially in the context of fiscal devolution and inter-state relations. (10 marks)

Sample Answer:

Cooperative federalism in India implies a harmonious relationship between the Centre and states,



particularly in policy formulation and implementation. The Indian Constitution provides a quasi-federal structure, but the practice of cooperative federalism has evolved amid several opportunities and challenges.

Opportunities:

The **Finance Commissions** have strengthened fiscal federalism through tax devolution (15th FC recommended 41% share to states). Schemes like **GST** require Centre-state cooperation, fostering consensus-building. Institutions like **NITI Aayog** aim to replace top-down planning with participative governance.

Challenges:

- **Fiscal asymmetry** persists; states bear responsibility for critical sectors (health, education) but have limited revenue sources.
- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** often lack flexibility, straining state budgets.
- **Dispute over tax compensation** post-GST, especially during COVID-19, has triggered Centre-state tensions.
- Political differences between ruling parties at Centre and states also hinder consensus.

Judicial interventions (e.g., **SR Bommai case**) and institutional mechanisms like **Inter-State Council** exist but remain underutilized.

To revitalize cooperative federalism, enhancing **trust, transparency, and autonomy in fiscal planning** is crucial. Implementing **NITI Aayog's policy-driven federalism**, reviving **inter-state coordination bodies**, and granting greater flexibility in CSS will bolster genuine cooperation.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. Evaluate the significance of Blue Economy for India's economic growth and sustainable development. Also, highlight the challenges associated with its implementation. (10 marks)

Sample Answer:

The **Blue Economy** refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, livelihood generation, and ecosystem health. For India, with a **7,500 km coastline, 2 million sq. km EEZ**, and maritime traditions, the Blue Economy is a natural growth avenue.

Significance:

- It offers immense potential in **fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, coastal tourism, and marine biotechnology**.
- It can generate jobs in coastal regions, aiding **inclusive development** and reducing regional disparities.
- It strengthens India's role in **Indo-Pacific maritime trade**, especially under SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- It supports **food security** and **energy security** through marine bioresources and offshore wind, gas, and tidal energy.



Challenges:

- **Pollution**, especially plastic and industrial effluents, degrades marine ecosystems.
- **Unsustainable fishing practices** and weak marine surveillance affect biodiversity and security.
- Poor **infrastructure in ports**, lack of investment in coastal communities, and **inter-agency coordination** issues persist.
- Legal and regulatory challenges hamper private sector participation in deep-sea mining and energy exploration.

A National Blue Economy Policy was drafted in 2021. Effective implementation requires **community participation, marine spatial planning**, and regional partnerships. India's Blue Economy can become a cornerstone of sustainable growth if ecological integrity is integrated into policy design.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." – Lord Acton. In the context of public administration, discuss how this statement highlights the ethical dilemmas faced by civil servants. (10 marks)

Sample Answer:

Lord Acton's quote reflects the tendency of unchecked authority to breed arrogance, misuse, and ethical compromise. In public administration, civil servants hold significant discretionary powers, making them vulnerable to ethical dilemmas.

Ethical dilemmas include:

- **Conflict of interest** between personal gain and public good.
- Pressure to comply with **political directives** that may violate laws or ethics.
- **Misuse of power** in issuing permits, allocating contracts, or framing charges.
- Temptations of **bribery, nepotism, or favoritism** under pressure from vested interests.

The monopoly of power without accountability, especially in opaque systems, enables systemic corruption. The **Nirav Modi and coal block scandals** highlight misuse of discretion. Even **delayed decision-making** due to fear of retribution can be ethically problematic.

To counter this, civil servants must be guided by values of **integrity, transparency, fairness**, and **courage of conviction**. Institutions like the **CVC, Lokpal, Ethics Commissions**, and **code of conduct frameworks** help curb the abuse of power. Regular ethics training and **whistle-blower protection** are also essential.

Ultimately, ethical governance hinges on internal moral compass and external institutional checks. Power must be tempered by accountability, and ethics should act as the guardrail in public service.

Current Affairs –

Q5. What is the significance of the Dharti AabaJanbhagidari Abhiyan in the context of tribal governance and land rights in India? (10 marks)



Sample Answer:

The **Dharti AabaJanbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA)** is a tribal-centric initiative launched by the **Jharkhand government** in 2024 to strengthen **community participation** in managing **common lands and natural resources**, especially in Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule.

Significance:

- **Empowers Gram Sabhas** to survey, manage, and utilize **Gair Majurwa land (common land)** through geo-tagging and digital mapping.
- Promotes **grassroots democracy** and **self-governance**, aligning with PESA Act (1996), which grants Gram Sabhas control over local resources.
- Protects tribal rights against **land alienation** and **encroachment**, especially from industrial or commercial entities.
- Strengthens implementation of **Forest Rights Act (2006)** and boosts **land record transparency**.

The scheme aligns with constitutional vision of **decentralization**, Schedule V provisions, and **Article 244**. It enhances land tenure security, enabling better access to welfare schemes and credit.

Challenges include:

- Weak institutional capacity of Gram Sabhas.
- Risk of elite capture in village decision-making.
- Inadequate integration with state land records and bureaucracy.

If scaled effectively, DAJA can become a **national model** for participatory governance, tribal empowerment, and ecological justice. It upholds the spirit of “**Jal, Jungle, Zameen**” rights for tribal communities and reflects a paradigm shift towards **inclusive land governance**.