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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE


DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 26/06/2025 (THURSDAY)

- **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 role of vernacular press during the 19th century in colonial India:

1. The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 applied to both English and Indian language newspapers published in British India.
2. The Amrita Bazar Patrika turned into an English-language paper overnight to evade the implications of the Act.

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: Incorrect.** The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was specifically targeted **only at Indian language newspapers**, not English ones. The Act aimed to curb seditious writing in the vernacular press while leaving English-language press relatively freer.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** To evade the Act, **Amrita Bazar Patrika**, originally a Bengali-English bilingual newspaper, **converted overnight into an English-only paper**, which made it immune to the provisions of the Act.

Q2. Consider the following statements about invasive alien species in India:

1. *Lantana camara* invasion reduces native plant biodiversity and can alter soil nutrient cycles.
2. *Prosopis juliflora* was introduced for afforestation but now threatens native species and water tables.
3. *Eichhornia crassipes* (Water Hyacinth) helps improve dissolved oxygen levels in stagnant water bodies.

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: Correct.** *Lantana camara*, a neotropical invasive shrub, outcompetes native flora and alters the ecosystem by changing fire regimes and nutrient cycling.



- **Statement 2: Correct.** *Prosopis juliflora* was introduced for fuelwood and desertification control but has become invasive, reducing groundwater levels and threatening native biodiversity.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** *Eichhornia crassipes* (Water Hyacinth) **depletes oxygen**, leading to eutrophication, fish kills, and degradation of aquatic ecosystems.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the concept of 'Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM)' in India:

1. **The FRBM Act mandates both fiscal deficit and revenue deficit targets for the central government.**
2. **The Act allows automatic suspension of targets during a national emergency or war.**
3. **The N.K. Singh Committee recommended shifting from fixed targets to a range-based fiscal framework.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 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: Correct.** The FRBM Act initially specified targets for **fiscal deficit and revenue deficit**, aiming for fiscal discipline.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Act includes an "**escape clause**", permitting deviation from targets during **national emergencies, war**, or severe economic slowdown.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The **N.K. Singh Committee (2017)** recommended moving to a **range-based target** for fiscal deficit (e.g., $3\% \pm 0.5\%$) to allow flexibility and counter-cyclicality.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the powers and privileges of the Indian Parliament and its members:

1. **The Constitution explicitly defines the privileges and immunities of the Members of Parliament.**
2. **Freedom of speech in Parliament is subject to the provisions of Article 19(2).**
3. **No court has jurisdiction over the internal proceedings of the House, even if the rules are violated.**
4. **The House of the People has the final authority in determining whether a breach of privilege has occurred.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only



- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: A. 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Article 105 and 194 **do not define privileges in detail**; they are subject to those enjoyed by the British Parliament as of 1950, unless defined by Parliament.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Freedom of speech under Article 105 is **not subject to Article 19(2)**, but it is **not absolute** either—subject to **rules of procedure, privileges, and decorum**. However, judicial scrutiny may apply in case of **gross abuse**.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** Courts can **intervene** in case of **substantive illegality**, as held in **Raja Ram Pal vs. Lok Sabha** (2007). Judicial review is limited but **not barred**.
- **Statement 4: Correct.** Each House has the **exclusive right to determine breach of privilege** cases involving its members or outsiders.

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type:

Assertion (A): Most of the rivers originating from the Western Ghats flow eastwards into the Bay of Bengal.

Reason (R): The Western Ghats act as a significant orographic barrier with a steep western slope and a gentler eastern slope.

- 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: A. Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

- **Assertion: Correct.** Most rivers such as **Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri** flow eastwards.
- **Reason: Correct.** The **orographic structure** of the Western Ghats, with **steep western escarpment** and **gentle eastern slope**, directs drainage patterns towards the east, making R the **correct explanation** for A.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements about the 'UN80 Initiative':

- 1. The UN80 Initiative commemorates the 80th anniversary of the San Francisco Conference that adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**
- 2. One of its goals is to propose a legally binding global digital governance framework under the UN Charter.**

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: Incorrect.** The UN80 Initiative marks **80 years of the founding of the United Nations in 1945** (UN Charter signing), not the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).
- **Statement 2: Correct.** One of the key forward-looking goals of the UN80 process is to **lay the groundwork for a binding digital governance regime** in alignment with the evolving UN multilateral framework.

Q2. Recently, the RBI reduced the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) target for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) from:

- A. 75% to 60% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC)
- B. 60% to 50% of ANBC
- C. 75% to 65% of ANBC
- D. 75% to 40% of total credit

Answer: C. 75% to 65% of ANBC

Explanation:

- As per RBI's latest circular (2024–25), the PSL requirement for Small Finance Banks has been **reduced from 75% to 65% of ANBC**, considering challenges in credit deployment and to align with wider financial stability objectives.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Banakacherla Project in Andhra Pradesh:

- 1. It is a crucial balancing reservoir that connects both Krishna and Godavari river basins.**
- 2. It facilitates reverse pumping of Godavari water into the Srisailem reservoir.**
- 3. It lies on the main trunk canal of the Polavaram Right Main Canal.**

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: Correct.** The **Banakacherla complex** is a key balancing reservoir that **manages flows between Krishna and Godavari basins**, especially under the **interlinking initiatives** in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** It allows **reverse pumping from Godavari (via Polavaram)** to the **Srisailem reservoir** through associated infrastructure.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** It is **not on the Right Main Canal** of Polavaram but is linked through **other feeder canals** from Godavari–Krishna integration systems.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4):

1. **It is the first all-female private astronaut mission to the International Space Station.**
2. **An Indian-origin astronaut participated in Ax-4 under an international collaboration.**
3. **Ax-4 was launched aboard a Crew Dragon capsule on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.**

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: Incorrect.** Ax-4 was **not an all-female mission**; it had **mixed-gender international astronauts**, including from Italy, Türkiye, and Sweden.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** A **European astronaut of Indian origin, Alper Gezeravcı** (Turkey's first astronaut), participated under **international collaboration**, marking expanding partnerships.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** **SpaceX Falcon 9** launched the **Crew Dragon capsule** for Axiom's fourth private mission to the ISS in 2024.

Q5. Consider the following statements about recent developments in gene editing using modified CRISPR tools for plants:

1. **The modified CRISPR-Cas9 used a transcription activator to target heat-responsive genes.**
2. **The technique has shown success in rice and maize for increasing photosynthetic efficiency under heat stress.**



3. **Unlike traditional CRISPR, this version edits the genome irreversibly by knocking out heat-suppressor genes.**
4. **It represents a gene regulation approach rather than a genome-editing one.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A. 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** A modified **CRISPR-Cas9 activator** targets **promoter regions of heat-tolerance genes**, enhancing their expression rather than cutting DNA.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Early trials have **demonstrated heat resilience in rice and maize**, enabling better growth during high temperature stress.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** This method does **not involve irreversible gene knock-out**; instead, it is **reversible and epigenetic**, enhancing natural gene expression.
- **Statement 4: Correct.** It is considered a **gene regulation strategy**, not direct genome editing.

Q6. The Tawi River, recently in the news due to a water-sharing dispute, passes through which of the following locations before merging with a major river system?

- A. Doda → Udhampur → Jammu → Chenab
- B. Ramban → Jammu → Samba → Jhelum
- C. Bhaderwah → Reasi → Jammu → Indus
- D. Poonch → Rajouri → Kathua → Ravi

Answer: A. Doda → Udhampur → Jammu → Chenab

Explanation:

- The **Tawi River** originates in the **Seoj Dhar ranges (Doda)**, flows through **Udhampur and Jammu**, and ultimately merges with the **Chenab River** near the **Indo-Pak border**.
- It has been recently in focus due to **water-sharing and ecological issues** in the **Jammu region**, especially concerning **urban demand and interstate dependencies**.



SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. Discuss the significance of the Bhakti and Sufi movements in promoting communal harmony and social reform in medieval India.

Answer:

The **Bhakti and Sufi movements**, emerging between the 8th and 17th centuries, played a transformative role in shaping India's socio-religious landscape. These movements emphasized **devotion, humanism, and spiritual unity**, cutting across caste and religious boundaries.

Bhakti Movement:

- Originated in **South India** with saints like **Alvars and Nayanars**, later spreading to the North.
- Saints like **Kabir, Mirabai, Guru Nanak, and Tulsidas** stressed **nirguna (formless) worship, equality before God, and rejection of rituals**.
- It **challenged Brahmanical orthodoxy** and caste hierarchies by promoting **personal devotion (bhakti)** over institutionalized religion.
- Saints composed in vernacular languages, democratizing spiritual knowledge.

Sufi Movement:

- Rooted in Islamic mysticism, Sufism emphasized **inner purity, love, and divine union**.
- Sufi saints like **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, Nizamuddin Auliya, and Baba Farid** preached tolerance, compassion, and **service to humanity**.
- The concept of **wahdat-al-wujud** (unity of existence) echoed themes of universalism, resonating with Bhakti ideals.
- Sufi **khanqahs** became centers of social integration, open to Hindus and Muslims alike.

Impact on Communal Harmony:

- Both movements fostered a **syncretic cultural ethos**, bridging religious divides.
- Promoted **interfaith dialogue**, with figures like Kabir and Nanak directly addressing both Hindu and Muslim audiences.
- Opposed religious exclusivism and championed **universal values** of love, truth, and humility.

Social Reform Dimensions:

- Questioned **priestly authority, caste divisions, and gender norms**.
- Encouraged **women's participation**, especially in the Bhakti tradition (e.g., Mirabai, Akka Mahadevi).
- Addressed **marginalized voices**, providing dignity to lower castes and outcasts.



Conclusion:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements played a crucial role in **reshaping India's pluralistic identity**. By advocating spiritual egalitarianism and challenging orthodoxy, they laid the foundations for **social cohesion and religious harmony**, values that remain relevant in contemporary India.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. Analyze the significance of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019 in the context of India's affirmative action policy. Has it shifted the paradigm of reservation?

Answer:

The **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019**, introduced **10% reservation in education and public employment for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** from the general category. This marked a significant shift in India's **affirmative action framework**, historically rooted in **caste-based social justice**.

Salient Features:

- Inserts **Articles 15(6) and 16(6)**, enabling the State to make special provisions for EWS.
- EWS criteria are based on **economic parameters**, not caste or social backwardness.
- Reservation is **over and above** the existing 49.5% cap for SCs, STs, and OBCs.

Significance:

- For the first time, the State **explicitly acknowledged economic disadvantage** as a basis for affirmative action.
- Seeks to address criticism that the poor among forward castes were left out of the reservation matrix.
- Attempts to balance **meritocracy with distributive justice**, in line with Article 14 (equality) and Article 46 (promotion of educational and economic interests of weaker sections).

Shift in Paradigm:

- Introduces **economic criteria** in a system previously centered on **caste and historical discrimination**.
- Raises questions about the **redefinition of backwardness**—from **socio-educational** to **economic**.
- The Supreme Court (in *Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India*, 2022) upheld the Amendment, emphasizing **legislative competence and the principle of reasonable classification**.

Concerns & Criticism:

- Exceeds the **50% ceiling** set in *Indra Sawhney (1992)*, though the Court deemed this non-binding.
- Critics argue it may **dilute the historical rationale** of reservations meant to correct structural inequalities.
- Risk of **fragmenting the reservation system**, opening the floodgates for new demands.

Conclusion:

The 103rd Amendment represents a **watershed moment in India's reservation policy**, signaling a



broadening of affirmative action beyond caste. While it strives to be inclusive, its **long-term impact on social justice and cohesion** depends on careful implementation and periodic review.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. India's push for biofuels is seen as a key strategy for energy security and climate goals. Critically evaluate the challenges and prospects of India's biofuel policy.

Answer:

India's biofuel strategy is guided by the **National Policy on Biofuels (2018)**, updated to include **higher blending targets** and **advanced biofuels**. It aims to reduce **dependence on fossil fuels**, lower carbon emissions, and boost **farmers' income** through alternative uses of agricultural residues.

Key Features:

- Targets **20% ethanol blending** with petrol by **2025 (originally 2030)**.
- Classifies biofuels into **basic (first-gen)** and **advanced (2G, 3G)**.
- Encourages use of **non-food feedstocks** (e.g., lignocellulosic biomass, algae) and **waste-to-energy** models.

Prospects:

1. **Energy Security:** Reduces reliance on crude oil imports (India imports ~85% of its crude).
2. **Climate Mitigation:** Ethanol-blended fuels reduce **GHG emissions** by up to 35% compared to gasoline.
3. **Rural Economy:** Provides additional income to farmers from surplus crops and agricultural waste.
4. **Make in India Boost:** Encourages indigenous technologies and bio-refinery startups.

Challenges:

1. **Feedstock Constraints:** Sugarcane and food grains dominate ethanol production, **threatening food security** during shortages.
2. **Land and Water Use:** Large-scale biofuel crops increase **stress on land and groundwater**.
3. **Technological Gaps:** **2G biofuel technologies** remain expensive and commercially unviable in many cases.
4. **Distribution Infrastructure:** Limited availability of **blending depots**, especially in non-sugar-producing states.
5. **Policy Coherence:** Lack of coordination between ministries (Agriculture, Petroleum, Environment) impedes implementation.

Way Forward:

- Diversify feedstocks, e.g., bamboo, algae, municipal waste.
- Promote **Public-Private Partnerships** in bio-refineries.
- Offer **viability gap funding** for 2G projects.



- Align with **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially SDG 7 (clean energy) and SDG 13 (climate action).

Conclusion:

India's biofuel policy holds **transformative potential**, but its success hinges on **technological innovation**, **environmental safeguards**, and **integrated planning**. It must balance **energy and ecological sustainability** to realize its ambitious climate and energy goals.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. “The ethical crisis today is not of knowledge, but of character.” Discuss in the context of public administration.

Answer:

The quote aptly underscores that **ethical failures in governance and society are not due to lack of awareness**, but due to **lack of integrity, empathy, and courage** to act ethically. In the context of **public administration**, this crisis of character often manifests in **corruption, nepotism, inefficiency, and abuse of power**.

Knowledge vs. Character:

- **Knowledge:** Civil servants and public officials today are well-trained in laws, procedures, and administrative frameworks.
- **Character:** What often goes missing is **moral courage, self-discipline, and public-spiritedness**, essential to uphold the **public trust**.

Examples of Ethical Lapses:

- **Corruption scandals** despite institutional safeguards (e.g., Lokpal, CVC).
- **Environmental clearances** granted despite expert warnings, for vested interests.
- Police using **brutality or apathy** despite knowing constitutional and human rights norms.

Role of Values in Public Administration:

- **Integrity:** Doing the right thing even when no one is watching.
- **Empathy:** Understanding the lived experiences of citizens.
- **Accountability:** Taking responsibility for decisions and their consequences.
- **Impartiality:** Acting without bias or favoritism.

How to Build Character in Governance:

1. **Ethics training** as part of bureaucratic induction and in-service programs.
2. **Role models** in administration (e.g., E. Sreedharan, Vinod Rai) to inspire ethical behavior.
3. **Institutional incentives** for integrity and transparency (e.g., performance-linked rewards).
4. Promote **whistleblower protection** and citizen engagement.



Conclusion:

The crisis of governance is not due to ignorance but due to erosion of moral fibre. **Character-building must complement knowledge** to create a public administration that is **ethical, efficient, and empathetic**, ensuring the **highest standards of public service**.

Current Affairs –

Q5. Who are Zero-Dose Children? Examine the causes and implications of high zero-dose prevalence in India. Suggest measures for addressing this gap in universal immunization.

Answer:

Zero-dose children are those who **have not received even the first dose of any vaccine** under a routine immunization program, especially the **DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus) vaccine**. They represent the **most vulnerable and hard-to-reach population** in terms of healthcare access.

Prevalence in India:

- As per **GAVI and UNICEF (2023)**, India has **over 1.6 million zero-dose children**, mostly in **urban slums, tribal belts, and conflict-affected areas**.

Causes:

1. **Geographical Isolation:** Difficult terrain (e.g., Northeast, tribal regions) hampers health delivery.
2. **Urban Migration:** Floating populations in urban slums often escape regular immunization records.
3. **Misinformation:** Vaccine hesitancy due to myths and religious beliefs.
4. **Systemic Gaps:** Shortage of ASHA workers, cold chain issues, and irregular outreach.
5. **Socio-economic Barriers:** Poverty, illiteracy, and gender bias hinder access.

Implications:

- Increases risk of **vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks** (e.g., measles, diphtheria).
- Undermines **public health goals** under Mission Indradhanush and Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
- Hinders achievement of **SDG 3 (Health for all)**.
- Reflects **inequity in service delivery**, deepening the health divide.

Measures to Address the Gap:

1. **Targeted Microplanning:** Focused campaigns in zero-dose clusters using GIS mapping.
2. **Community Engagement:** Collaborate with **religious leaders, NGOs**, and local influencers.
3. **Mobile Health Units:** To reach migratory and remote populations.
4. **Digital Immunization Records:** For tracking and follow-up.
5. **Incentivized Schemes:** Conditional cash transfers for full immunization (e.g., Janani Suraksha Yojana model).



Conclusion:

Zero-dose children are a **litmus test for the inclusiveness of India's health system**. Bridging this gap is not just a technical necessity but a **moral imperative** to ensure **universal health coverage**, especially in the post-pandemic recovery era.

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