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# **VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE**

## **DAILY MCQ'S**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 29/07/2025 (TUESDAY)**

- **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 Indus Valley Civilization:

1. The absence of temples and religious structures indicates that the Harappan people lacked religious beliefs and rituals.
2. The discovery of fire altars and figurines across several Harappan sites indicates the possibility of ritualistic practices and symbolic worship.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) Only 2

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While it is true that **no large temples or religious monuments** like those found in Mesopotamia or Egypt have been unearthed in Harappan cities, this **does not imply the absence of religious beliefs**. Lack of monumental religious architecture may reflect a decentralized or household-based form of worship.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Archaeological evidence such as **fire altars (at Kalibangan), Mother Goddess figurines, pipal leaves motifs, and seals depicting animals and deities** suggest ritualistic and symbolic practices. These indicate that **religion was present**, but its material expression was different from later Vedic or temple-based traditions.

### Q2. Consider the following statements regarding recent trends in climate change:

1. Arctic amplification results in higher warming in the tropics due to changes in oceanic heat transport.
2. The frequency of El Niño events has a direct and linear correlation with the increase in global average temperatures.
3. Cloud feedback remains one of the largest sources of uncertainty in climate models predicting global warming.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (c) Only 3

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Arctic amplification refers to the **disproportionate warming of the Arctic region** compared to the global average due to feedbacks like **ice-albedo loss** and **heat retention by open oceans, not warming in the tropics**.



- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Though **El Niño** events may become more frequent or intense due to climate change, the relationship is **not direct or linear**. El Niño is a naturally occurring phenomenon influenced by many variables, and its relationship with climate change is **still being researched**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **Cloud feedback**—how clouds respond to warming and affect Earth’s energy budget—is a major **uncertainty in climate models**. It can either amplify (positive feedback) or reduce (negative feedback) warming, making it a critical area of study in climate science.

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding international trade agreements:**

1. In a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), countries reduce tariffs only on selected goods, and not all goods.
2. In a Customs Union, member countries adopt a uniform external tariff regime but retain individual domestic trade policies.
3. A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) typically includes trade in goods, services, investments, and regulatory cooperation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a) Only 1 and 3

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** is the **least deep** form of economic integration, where **tariff concessions are limited to select goods**. It does not cover all trade items or services.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In a **Customs Union**, member countries not only **remove internal tariffs** but also adopt a **common external tariff regime and common trade policy with non-members**, i.e., they **do not retain individual external trade policies**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A **CEPA** is a **comprehensive deal** that goes beyond trade in goods and covers **services, investment, and regulatory frameworks**, making it broader than a typical FTA.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional and administrative aspects of the Census in India:**

1. The decennial Census is a constitutional obligation under Article 246 read with the Seventh Schedule.
2. The Census is conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
3. The Census Act, 1948, provides for penalties for non-cooperation or giving false information during census enumeration.



4. The data collected under the Census is kept confidential and is protected under legal provisions to prevent its use in court proceedings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 3 and 4
- (c) Only 1, 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

**Answer:** (b) Only 3 and 4

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Census is **not a constitutional obligation**, but a **statutory function** carried out under the **Census Act, 1948**. Article 246 read with the **Union List (Entry 69)** gives Parliament the power to legislate on census, but does not mandate it.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Registrar General and Census Commissioner** operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, not the Ministry of Statistics.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Census Act, 1948**, has provisions for **penalties and punishment** for individuals who refuse to cooperate or provide incorrect information.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The **confidentiality clause** is a key feature of census operations, ensuring that personal data **cannot be used as evidence in civil or criminal courts**. This encourages full and honest participation.

#### Q5. Assertion-Reason Type –

**Assertion (A):** Ribosomes are present in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells but differ structurally between the two.

**Reason (R):** Eukaryotic ribosomes are larger and consist of 80S units, whereas prokaryotic ribosomes are smaller and consist of 70S units.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but R is false
- (d) A is false but R is true

**Answer:** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

**Explanation:**

- **Assertion is true:** Ribosomes are the sites of **protein synthesis** and are found in **both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells**, but they **differ in size and structure**.
- **Reason is also true:** **Prokaryotic ribosomes are 70S**, composed of 50S and 30S subunits, while **eukaryotic ribosomes are 80S**, composed of 60S and 40S subunits. The difference in sedimentation coefficient (Svedberg units) is due to their mass and shape.
- The reason **accurately explains** the assertion; hence **option (a)** is correct.



## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

### Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the SHAKTI Policy:

1. The SHAKTI Policy allows power generators to bid for coal linkages without any prior Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), enabling greater market flexibility.
2. The policy also mandates the use of Coal India Limited as the sole supplier for all linkage-based contracts under SHAKTI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a) Only 1

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India)** policy was amended to allow **coal linkages even without long-term PPAs**, particularly for **short-term and spot markets**, to increase supply flexibility.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The policy **does not restrict supply to Coal India Limited alone**. Other sources like **Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)** and commercial coal mine auction winners are also included, providing a diversified coal supply channel.

### Q2. Under the *Mera Gaon Mera Dharohar (MGMD)* programme, villages are identified based on:

- (a) Their association with ancient Vedic literature or temple architecture
- (b) Their link to freedom movements, tribal traditions, and intangible cultural heritage
- (c) Their economic performance and rural tourism potential under PMGSY
- (d) Their location in proximity to protected forest areas and wetlands

**Answer:** (b) Their link to freedom movements, tribal traditions, and intangible cultural heritage

**Explanation:**

The **MGMD scheme**, launched by the Ministry of Culture, aims to **document and promote India's rich rural cultural identity**, with emphasis on villages **associated with freedom struggle, tribal and indigenous heritage, folk art, and intangible cultural expressions**. The goal is to preserve **cultural continuity** and **revitalize rural tourism**.

### Q3. Consider the following statements about the Museum Grants Scheme (MGS):

1. The scheme covers both government museums and private museums run by non-profit trusts or societies.
2. Only museums recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites are eligible for financial assistance under the scheme.
3. The scheme has a component for digitization and modernization of museum infrastructure and display technologies.





Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) Only 1 and 3

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The MGS extends support to both government-owned and private museums, especially those run by registered NGOs, trusts, or societies.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There is no condition that a museum must be a UNESCO World Heritage Site to receive funds. The eligibility is broader.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The scheme includes funding for modernization, digital cataloguing, security systems, lighting, and interactive technologies, aligning with the vision of "Smart Museums".

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) Scheme:**

1. It will be implemented primarily through convergence of MGNREGS and CAMPA funds.
2. MISHTI aims to establish mangrove plantations only in designated Ramsar wetland sites and biosphere reserves.
3. The scheme has been launched under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a) Only 1 and 3

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** MISHTI is designed to be implemented via convergence of funds from MGNREGS (for employment and labour) and CAMPA (for afforestation and environment restoration).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mangrove plantation sites are not limited to Ramsar or biosphere reserves. Coastal areas with potential for mangrove development—including estuaries, deltaic zones, and degraded patches—are included.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The nodal ministry for this scheme is the MoEFCC, with implementation in collaboration with state governments and panchayats.



**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Government Securities (G-Secs) in India:**

1. Treasury Bills are zero-coupon instruments issued for maturities less than one year.
2. G-Secs are exclusively issued to institutional investors and are not available to retail investors.
3. Sovereign Green Bonds issued by the Government of India are categorized as part of G-Secs.
4. The RBI's "Retail Direct" platform allows individuals to directly invest in both primary and secondary G-Sec markets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1, 3 and 4
- (b) Only 1 and 2
- (c) Only 2, 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

**Answer:** (a) Only 1, 3 and 4

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** T-Bills are short-term zero-coupon instruments with maturities of 91, 182, and 364 days.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** With the launch of RBI Retail Direct, G-Secs are now accessible to individual investors in both primary and secondary markets.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Sovereign Green Bonds are issued by the Government of India to finance green infrastructure and are classified under G-Secs.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The RBI Retail Direct Scheme, launched in 2021, provides a platform for retail participation in G-Sec markets.

**Q6. The Kamchatka Peninsula, often in news due to increased seismic and volcanic activity, shares its geographical features and strategic significance with which of the following combinations?**

- (a) Lies between the Okhotsk Sea and the Sea of Japan, forms the eastern edge of the Russian Far East, and hosts the Kuril Trench
- (b) Lies between the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, forms part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, and houses active volcanoes like Klyuchevskaya Sopka
- (c) Lies adjacent to the Arctic Ocean and Bering Strait, forms a part of the North American Plate, and hosts glacial fjords
- (d) Lies between the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, forms part of the Korean Peninsula, and is known for fault-induced plateaus

**Answer:** (b) Lies between the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, forms part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, and houses active volcanoes like Klyuchevskaya Sopka

**Explanation:**

- The Kamchatka Peninsula is located in Far East Russia, bounded by the Bering Sea to the east and the Sea of Okhotsk to the west.
- It is a part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, known for frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity.



- It contains numerous **active volcanoes**, the most famous being **Klyuchevskaya Sopka** (the highest active volcano in Eurasia).
  - It is a **geostrategic region** due to its proximity to the **Arctic and North Pacific** and is important for both **natural hazards monitoring** and **defense interests**.
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## SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1 –

**Q1. "The increasing prevalence of elderly population in India poses serious challenges to social cohesion and economic stability." Examine the causes, consequences, and the policy response to address ageing in India. (10M)**

**Answer:**

India is undergoing a demographic shift, with the population aged 60+ expected to reach 20% by 2050 (UNFPA). While demographic dividend has been a boon, the rapid ageing of the population brings multidimensional challenges.

**Causes:**

- **Increased Life Expectancy:** Due to improved healthcare, average life expectancy has increased from 63 years in 2000 to ~70 years now.
- **Declining Fertility Rate:** TFR has fallen to 2.0 (NFHS-5), leading to a higher proportion of elderly.
- **Urban Migration:** Younger populations migrating to cities leave elderly behind, especially in rural India.
- **Breakdown of Joint Families:** Rise in nuclear families has weakened traditional support systems.

**Consequences:**

- **Economic:** Rise in dependency ratio increases fiscal stress on pensions, healthcare, and caregiving systems.
- **Healthcare Burden:** Elderly suffer from non-communicable diseases and mental health issues like depression, dementia, etc.
- **Social Isolation:** Lack of engagement and mobility issues result in alienation.
- **Vulnerability to Abuse:** Elderly face neglect, abuse, and exploitation, particularly women and the destitute.

**Policy Response:**

- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007** mandates care from children or institutions.
- **National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE)** offers specialized care.
- **SAMPANN and IGNOAPS** offer pension and support.





- **Elderline Helpline (14567)** addresses grievances.
- **Draft National Policy on Senior Citizens (2020)** proposes better geriatric care, age-friendly housing, and financial security.

#### Way Forward:

- **Strengthen geriatric infrastructure** at PHCs and CHCs.
- Promote **community-based ageing models** like day-care centres.
- Encourage **public-private partnerships** in elder care.
- Incentivize **reverse migration** and **digital literacy** among elders.

#### Conclusion:

India must gear up with inclusive and compassionate policies for its ageing population to ensure dignity, care, and economic sustainability, as part of its commitment to the SDG-3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG-10 (Reduced Inequality).

## GS Paper 2 –

**Q2. India's approach to refugee protection is marked by pragmatism rather than codification. Critically analyse in light of the Rohingya refugee crisis and other recent developments. (15M)**

#### Answer:

India, home to over 2 lakh refugees, is **not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention** or its 1967 Protocol. Yet, it has historically accommodated Tibetan, Sri Lankan Tamil, and now Rohingya refugees. However, India's refugee policy is often ad-hoc and lacks statutory backing.

#### Arguments in Favor of India's Pragmatic Approach:

- **Strategic Flexibility:** Allows India to balance humanitarian concerns with national security.
- **Bilateral Diplomacy:** India engages in quiet diplomacy with source countries to address root causes (e.g., repatriation of Tamils to Sri Lanka).
- **Diverse Refugee Sources:** Different ethnic, political, and religious backgrounds require differentiated treatment.
- **Security Considerations:** Particularly relevant in cases like Rohingyas, some of whom allegedly have terror links (as cited by government sources).

#### Challenges of Non-Codification:

- **Legal Vacuum:** No clear rights or status for refugees leads to ambiguity, detention, and deportation threats.
- **Discriminatory Treatment:** Different refugee groups receive differential treatment—Tibetans get travel documents, while Rohingyas are termed illegal immigrants.
- **Lack of Institutional Framework:** Absence of a national refugee law results in poor living conditions, lack of education, and health care for refugees.



- **Violation of International Norms:** Though not a signatory, India is bound by customary international law (non-refoulement).

#### Recent Developments:

- In 2022, India announced deportation of Rohingyas while building shelters for them, showing a mixed approach.
- Supreme Court upheld the government's right to deport illegal immigrants but urged adherence to international humanitarian obligations.

#### Way Forward:

- Enact a **comprehensive refugee law** ensuring basic human rights while allowing national security checks.
- Establish an **independent Refugee Commission**.
- Work with UNHCR for documentation and support.
- Build regional frameworks under **SAARC or BIMSTEC**.

#### Conclusion:

India must strike a balance between humanitarian duty and sovereign concerns through codification and institutional mechanisms. A rules-based framework enhances India's global image while protecting vulnerable lives.

### GS Paper 3 -

**Q3. In light of growing environmental concerns, discuss the role of the circular economy in achieving sustainable development goals in India. Highlight recent policy measures and challenges. (15M)**

#### Answer:

The **circular economy (CE)** model aims to eliminate waste and keep resources in use through reuse, recycling, and regeneration, contrasting the traditional linear "take-make-dispose" model. It is crucial for **sustainable development**, especially for a resource-constrained nation like India.

#### Relevance to SDGs:

- **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)** directly aligns with CE.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** CE reduces carbon footprint by minimizing raw material extraction.
- **SDG 6 & 9:** CE improves water usage efficiency and industrial innovation.

#### Policy Measures:

- **Resource Efficiency Policy (2019 Draft):** Promotes life-cycle thinking, EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility).
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules (Amended 2022):** Targets single-use plastic, encourages recycling.
- **E-Waste Management Rules (2022):** Introduces a digital tracking mechanism for e-waste.
- **Battery Waste Management Rules (2022):** Emphasis on battery recycling, particularly for EVs.



- **GEM Portal & GPP (Green Public Procurement):** Encourage procurement of recycled products.
- **National Hydrogen Mission:** Taps into clean energy alternatives supporting CE.

#### Initiatives in Practice:

- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan & SBM 2.0** include waste-to-energy and composting models.
- Indian companies like **Tata, ITC** are adopting zero-waste and circular production chains.

#### Challenges:

- **Lack of awareness** and technological backwardness among MSMEs.
- **Informal sector dominance** in recycling, lacking standards and safety.
- **Inadequate infrastructure** for collection, segregation, and reverse logistics.
- **Policy fragmentation** across sectors.

#### Way Forward:

- Create a **National Circular Economy Framework** integrating state and sectoral efforts.
- Incentivize **green startups and clean tech innovations**.
- Integrate CE in **education and skill development** (e.g., PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana).
- Promote **collaborative economy models** like shared mobility, repair cafes.

#### Conclusion:

Transitioning to a circular economy is essential not only for environmental sustainability but also for economic resilience and employment generation. With appropriate policy coherence and stakeholder engagement, India can lead the way in CE-based sustainable growth.

## GS Paper 4 –

**Q4. Public officials often face ethical dilemmas while balancing professional duty with personal values. Discuss with examples the significance of ethical competence in public administration. (10M)**

#### Answer:

**Ethical competence** refers to the ability of public officials to apply moral principles like honesty, fairness, and accountability while performing administrative duties, particularly in the face of dilemmas.

#### Why Ethical Competence Matters:

- Ensures **public trust** in governance.
- Enables **impartiality and fairness** in decision-making.
- Guards against **corruption and nepotism**.
- Promotes **constitutional morality** over political expediency.

#### Ethical Dilemmas in Public Service:

- A police officer may be pressured to suppress evidence to protect a powerful individual.



- A district collector may face demands to overlook environmental norms for fast-tracking infrastructure projects.
- A civil servant may need to balance personal religious beliefs while ensuring secular implementation of schemes.

#### Illustrations:

- **E. Sreedharan**, while heading DMRC, resisted political interference by emphasizing punctuality and transparency.
- **T.N. Seshan**, as Chief Election Commissioner, upheld electoral ethics despite political pushback.

#### Tools for Ethical Competence:

- **Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics** (e.g., 2nd ARC Recommendations).
- Training modules in **emotional intelligence, empathy, and integrity**.
- Use of **ethical reasoning frameworks**: utilitarianism (maximum benefit), deontological (duty-based), and virtue ethics.

#### Way Forward:

- Institutionalize **ethics audits** and public grievance redressal.
- Encourage **whistleblower protections**.
- Integrate **case study-based training** in LBSNAA and state academies.

#### Conclusion:

Ethical competence is not just a virtue but a necessity for responsive and responsible governance. Public officials must develop both the moral compass and decision-making skills to uphold constitutional values even in turbulent scenarios.

## Current Affairs -

**Q5. The recent Supreme Court guidelines on student suicides reflect a growing concern for mental health in academic institutions. Examine the key directions issued, reasons behind rising student distress, and the way forward. (15M)**

#### Answer:

India has witnessed a disturbing rise in student suicides, with **over 13,000 student suicides reported in 2022** (NCRB). The Supreme Court, in response to a PIL concerning suicides in coaching hubs like Kota, issued vital guidelines in July 2024 to address this issue.

#### Key Supreme Court Guidelines:

- Mandated **mental health counselling** and wellness centres in schools and coaching institutes.
- Directed **periodic assessments** of academic pressure and well-being.
- Recommended a **cap on teaching hours and study material overload**.
- Sought regulation of **mock tests** and **ranking systems** to prevent toxic competition.



- Asked states to create a **monitoring mechanism** and helplines.

### Reasons Behind Student Distress:

- **Parental Pressure:** Unrealistic expectations push students toward stress and burnout.
- **Commercialized Coaching Culture:** Kota-like models promote rote learning and competition over learning.
- **Lack of Emotional Support:** Most institutions lack counsellors or mentors.
- **Stigma Around Mental Health:** Students hesitate to seek help fearing judgment or failure.
- **Peer Comparison and Isolation:** Exacerbated by social media and cut-throat meritocracy.

### Impact:

- Affects **Right to Life with Dignity** under Article 21.
- Weakens **demographic dividend**, as mental health disorders often manifest during adolescence.
- Deepens socio-economic divides, as rural and marginalized students suffer more.

### Way Forward:

- Make **mental health a fundamental part of curriculum** through NEP 2020.
- Hire **trained counsellors and psychologists** in every educational institution.
- Shift from marks-based to **competency-based evaluation**.
- Promote **life skills education**, peer support groups, and teacher sensitization.
- Create **accountability** for private coaching centres via regulatory laws.

### Conclusion:

The Supreme Court's intervention is timely and necessary. However, only a **multi-stakeholder approach**, including parents, teachers, institutions, and the state, can holistically address the mental health crisis in Indian education.