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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 4/08/2025 (MONDAY)

- **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 Mauryan Empire's administrative system:

1. The Arthashastra by Kautilya describes a highly centralized bureaucracy with spies acting as instruments of state control over economy and society.
2. The inscriptions of Ashoka indicate that the Mauryan administration completely avoided local traditions in favor of uniform policies across the empire.

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:** *Arthashastra*, attributed to Kautilya, outlines a detailed system of statecraft where surveillance, taxation, and centralized control were emphasized. Spies were used to regulate administration and economy.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ashokan edicts suggest **adaptation to local customs** (e.g., use of local dialects and regional languages in inscriptions). It reflects a **flexible and culturally sensitive governance**, not rigid uniformity.

Q2. Consider the following statements about ecological succession:

1. Primary succession can begin on newly formed volcanic islands where no soil exists initially.
2. In secondary succession, pioneer species are always lichens and mosses.
3. Climax communities remain static indefinitely unless disturbed by natural or anthropogenic causes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Primary succession starts on **barren surfaces** like lava flows, glacial retreats—no initial soil. Pioneer species gradually create soil.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Lichens and mosses are pioneers in **primary**, not **secondary succession**. In secondary succession, **grasses and herbs** dominate first as soil is already present.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Climax communities are **dynamic**, not permanently static; they show resilience but can shift due to **long-term environmental changes**.



Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Hudson Bay in North America:

1. The Hudson Bay experiences one of the highest tidal ranges in the world due to its funnel shape and continental shelf configuration.
2. It is considered an inland sea formed during the last Ice Age due to glacial scouring and post-glacial isostatic rebound.
3. The surrounding region of Hudson Bay is rich in agriculture due to fertile glacial soils and ample precipitation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The funnel-shaped Hudson Bay **amplifies tidal effects**, creating large tidal ranges (up to 10–12 m in some regions).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Formed due to **glacial retreat**, it is a **tectonically depressed basin** slowly rebounding via **isostatic uplift**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Surroundings are **taiga and tundra**, with **thin acidic podzol soils**—unsuitable for agriculture. The region is more suited for **mining than farming**.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha:

1. The Speaker's decision on disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is final and not subject to judicial review.
2. The Speaker vacates office immediately upon the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
3. The Speaker cannot cast a vote in the first instance but has a casting vote in case of a tie.
4. The powers of the Speaker are not applicable when a resolution for their removal is under consideration.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** In *Kihoto Hollohan case (1992)*, SC held that Speaker's decision under Tenth Schedule is **subject to judicial review** on grounds of malafide.



- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Speaker **continues in office until new Lok Sabha is constituted**, as per Article 94.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Speaker votes only in case of **tie**, called **casting vote**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** During resolution for removal, **Speaker cannot preside** under Article 96. Deputy Speaker or another member presides instead.

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type

Assertion (A): The human body relies on both innate and adaptive immune responses to fight infections.

Reason (R): Innate immunity is specific and develops memory, whereas adaptive immunity is general and lacks memory.

- (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 immune system has **innate immunity** (non-specific, immediate) and **adaptive immunity** (specific, delayed, but with memory).
- **Reason is incorrect:** It reverses definitions:
 - **Innate immunity** is **non-specific**, has **no memory**, and acts fast (e.g., skin, neutrophils).
 - **Adaptive immunity** is **highly specific**, develops **memory** (e.g., B-cells, T-cells, vaccination principle).

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB):

1. The NSAB is a statutory body functioning under the National Security Council Secretariat, chaired by the union home minister.
2. Its members are exclusively drawn from the Indian security forces and do not include civilian experts.

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:** NSAB is **not a statutory body**. It is a **non-statutory advisory body** under the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)**, chaired by the **NSA (National Security Advisor)**, **not** the Home Minister.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NSAB includes **civilian experts** from fields like strategic affairs, economics, media, science and technology, along with former military and intelligence officials. It is a **multi-disciplinary body**.

Q2. Which of the following correctly describes the “National Medical Register (NMR)” recently launched under the NMC framework?

- (a) A register of licensed Indian medical practitioners across the country with real-time digital verification.
- (b) A registry of all traditional medicine practitioners under the AYUSH Ministry.
- (c) A database of all COVID-19 frontline workers eligible for insurance under PMGKP.
- (d) A nationwide registry of medical colleges and institutions offering MBBS education.

Answer: (a) A register of licensed Indian medical practitioners across the country with real-time digital verification

Explanation:

- The **National Medical Register (NMR)** is launched by the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** under the NMC Act, 2019.
- It is a **real-time, live database of all licensed doctors** across India with Aadhaar-linked verification.
- It ensures transparency, prevents impersonation, and standardizes record-keeping across states.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed Inter-State Cheetah Conservation Corridor:

1. It links Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh with Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.
2. It aims to create a contiguous wildlife corridor for both cheetahs and tigers.
3. The corridor is being developed with financial and technical assistance from the UNEP and CITES.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The proposed corridor connects **Kuno (MP)** to **Mukundara (Rajasthan)** to facilitate **cheetah migration**, especially after the African cheetah reintroduction project.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** While primarily for cheetahs, this corridor may support **genetic movement of other species**, including **leopards and tigers**.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The project is **not directly assisted by UNEP or CITES**. It is an **Indian initiative**, coordinated by the NTCA and the respective state governments.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane in India:

1. FRP is announced by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
2. The FRP is legally binding on sugar mills to pay and cannot be reduced by State Governments.
3. FRP is applicable only to sugarcane used for the production of white sugar, not ethanol or jaggery.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** FRP is recommended by **CACP** and notified by the **Central Government** under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **FRP is legally enforceable**, and mills are **mandated** to pay it; states can set **SAP (State Advised Price)** above FRP but **not below** it.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** FRP is **linked to the weight of sugarcane, not the end use**. It applies irrespective of whether sugarcane is used for **sugar, ethanol, or jaggery**.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding "Operation Hawk":

1. It is an inter-agency border security operation launched along the India-Myanmar border.
2. The operation involves coordination between Assam Rifles, BSF, and local intelligence units to counter narcotics and arms smuggling.
3. It was triggered by rising insurgent activity in the Zokhawthar and Moreh sectors.
4. Operation Hawk is monitored directly by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) under the National Internal Security Strategy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:



- **Statement 1 is correct:** Operation Hawk is a **joint anti-smuggling and anti-insurgency operation** launched in border areas of **Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland** with Myanmar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a **multi-agency effort** involving **Assam Rifles, BSF, Customs, and local police** to curb cross-border **arms/narcotics smuggling**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Rising infiltration and **violence in Moreh (Manipur) and Zokhawthar (Mizoram)** led to the deployment of additional forces.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** It is **not directly monitored by the PMO**. Operational command lies with **Home Ministry and defence security apparatus**, not under National Internal Security Strategy (which is currently under review).

Q6. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched with respect to the Rockies Mountain Range and its associated features?

Feature	Location
1. Columbia Icefield – Alberta, Canada	
2. Continental Divide – Along the western slope of the Rockies	
3. Yellowstone Caldera – South of the Rockies in Nevada	
4. Great Plains – Located east of the Rockies	

Select the correct option:

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correct:** **Columbia Icefield** lies in the **Canadian Rockies**, between Alberta and British Columbia.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** The **Continental Divide** runs along the **crest of the Rockies**, separating waters flowing to the Pacific from those to the Atlantic.
- **Pair 3 is incorrect:** **Yellowstone Caldera** lies in **Wyoming, not south in Nevada**; it is geologically associated with the **Rocky Mountain region** but **not outside it**.
- **Pair 4 is correct:** **Great Plains** stretch **east of the Rockies**, extending into Canada and central USA.



SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. Examine how caste dynamics intersect with urbanization in India. What challenges and opportunities do this intersection present for inclusive urban development?

Answer:

Urbanization is often viewed as a force that erodes traditional social structures, including caste. However, in India, caste continues to influence urban spaces, albeit in complex and evolving ways.

Caste in Urban Settings:

- Contrary to the belief that cities are caste-neutral, studies indicate that caste-based segregation and discrimination persist in urban housing, employment, and education.
- Slums often reflect caste-based clustering, with Dalits and lower castes confined to marginal localities lacking basic services.
- In the private job market, informal networks dominated by dominant castes often restrict access for marginalized communities.

Challenges for Inclusive Urban Development:

- **Spatial Segregation:** Caste-based ghettos emerge due to housing discrimination and affordability issues.
- **Access to Services:** Sanitation workers and manual scavengers in cities are overwhelmingly from Dalit communities.
- **Political Representation:** Urban governance structures often ignore caste realities, underrepresenting marginalized groups in planning processes.

Opportunities:

- **Policy Interventions:** Urban development missions like Smart Cities and AMRUT can integrate equity concerns.
- **Caste-neutral Jobs:** The urban informal sector, though precarious, can offer opportunities free from rigid caste norms.
- **Digital and Gig Economies:** These are opening newer avenues for upward mobility for marginalized communities.

Conclusion:

Urbanization has the potential to dilute caste boundaries, but this requires deliberate interventions. Caste-sensitive urban planning, inclusive housing policies, and targeted skill development can make Indian cities engines of both growth and social justice.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. Discuss the role of the Governor in Indian federalism. In light of recent controversies, critically examine the need for reform in the appointment and functioning of Governors.

Answer:



The office of the Governor, envisaged as a neutral constitutional head, has become a point of contention in India's federal structure. Originally meant to act as a bridge between the Centre and States, Governors today are often seen as instruments of political control.

Constitutional Role:

- Article 153–162 outlines the Governor's role as the executive head of the state.
- Article 163 provides discretionary powers, which have become the basis of many controversies.
- The Governor also has legislative roles (Article 200) and a role in President's Rule (Article 356).

Recent Controversies:

- In Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, delays in assenting to bills have paralyzed legislative processes.
- In Maharashtra, the role of the Governor in government formation in 2019 drew SC censure.
- In Kerala and Punjab, Governors have questioned state policies in public, breaching political neutrality.

Need for Reform:

- **Politicization:** Most Governors are retired politicians or bureaucrats, undermining impartiality.
- **Lack of Accountability:** Governors enjoy immunity (Article 361), with no real accountability mechanism.
- **Appointments:** Central government's unilateral appointment of Governors disturbs the spirit of cooperative federalism.

Reform Proposals:

- **Sarkaria Commission:** Advocated for apolitical, eminent persons as Governors.
- **Punchhi Commission:** Recommended fixed tenures and consultation with the Chief Minister before appointments.
- **SC Judgments:** Emphasized constitutional morality and restraint in discretionary powers (Nabam Rebia case, 2016).

Conclusion:

The Governor's role must evolve to reflect the changing nature of Indian federalism. Transparent appointment processes, limited discretionary powers, and adherence to constitutional morality are key to restoring public trust.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. India's green hydrogen mission aims to position the country as a global hub for clean energy. Critically analyze the potential and challenges of this mission in achieving energy security and decarbonization goals.

Answer:

India launched its National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023 with an aim to produce 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) of green hydrogen annually by 2030. This is part of India's broader climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and Panchamrit targets announced at COP26.



Potential of Green Hydrogen:

- **Decarbonization:** Hydrogen is a clean fuel; when produced using renewable energy, it helps reduce emissions from hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement, and fertilizer.
- **Energy Security:** It reduces dependence on fossil fuel imports, especially natural gas and oil.
- **Export Potential:** India's vast solar and wind capacity can make it a cost-effective producer, opening up export markets to Europe and Japan.
- **Innovation and Jobs:** Green hydrogen can spur industrial innovation and create skilled employment in the energy sector.

Challenges:

- **Cost Barrier:** Current production costs (₹300–400/kg) are higher than grey hydrogen (produced from fossil fuels).
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Lack of hydrogen pipelines, storage, and transportation facilities.
- **Technology Constraints:** Electrolyzer efficiency, storage materials (like ammonia), and end-use applications are still under development.
- **Policy Fragmentation:** Overlapping jurisdictions between central and state agencies create regulatory hurdles.

Government Initiatives:

- Incentives under the SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) scheme.
- Mandatory procurement mandates for fertilizer and refinery sectors.
- Development of green hydrogen hubs and ports.

Conclusion:

While India's green hydrogen ambition is well-aligned with its net-zero target (by 2070), success hinges on technological breakthroughs, global collaboration, robust domestic demand, and sustained policy support. A whole-of-economy approach is essential for this green transition.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. "Ethical leadership is not about popularity but about responsibility." In the context of public administration, explain the relevance of this statement using suitable examples.

Answer:

Ethical leadership in public administration refers to adherence to principles like integrity, accountability, impartiality, and public welfare, even when these stand in contrast to public appeasement or short-term gains.

Understanding the Statement:

- Ethical leadership is driven by moral responsibility, not populism.
- Popular decisions may not always be right (e.g., condoning illegal encroachments).
- Responsible leaders act in accordance with the Constitution, laws, and ethical codes.



Relevance in Public Administration:

- **Policy Decisions:** Leaders must weigh public interest against pressure groups. For example, a district magistrate who removes illegal constructions despite public protests demonstrates ethical leadership.
- **Crisis Management:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, bureaucrats who ensured oxygen supplies and enforced lockdowns despite unpopularity acted out of responsibility.
- **Whistleblowing:** Officers like Ashok Khemka and Durga Shakti Nagpal stood against corruption despite political opposition.
- **Disaster Relief:** Ethical leaders take quick, transparent decisions, resisting temptation to divert relief funds or seek personal gain.

Key Ethical Traits in Leadership:

- **Integrity:** Upholding moral and legal values even when inconvenient.
- **Courage:** Willingness to take unpopular yet necessary decisions.
- **Empathy:** Understanding the needs of the weakest while ensuring justice.
- **Accountability:** Being answerable for decisions, not hiding behind bureaucracy.

Conclusion:

Ethical leadership may not always yield applause, but it builds institutions and trust. In a democracy, ethical leaders are custodians of public interest, ensuring that governance remains just, transparent, and sustainable.

Current Affairs –

Q5. The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations have raised concerns about a possible dilution of India's stand on compulsory licensing under the TRIPS regime. Examine these concerns in light of public health and IPR sovereignty.

Answer:

The India-U.K. CETA, under negotiation since 2022, aims to enhance trade in goods, services, and investments. However, leaked draft texts and stakeholder reports indicate potential compromises on India's traditional flexibility under the WTO's TRIPS Agreement—especially on *compulsory licensing (CL)*.

What is Compulsory Licensing?

- CL allows a government to authorize the use of a patented invention without the patent holder's consent, typically in public health emergencies.
- Legal under Article 31 of TRIPS and enshrined in India's Patents Act, 1970 (Section 84).

Concerns from CETA Negotiations:

- The UK and EU seek “TRIPS-plus” provisions such as data exclusivity, patent term extensions, and restrictions on CL issuance.
- India's commitment to “non-discriminatory treatment” may limit its ability to use CL only for local production or public sector use.
- Possible investor-state dispute mechanisms (ISDS) may allow pharma companies to challenge India's sovereign decisions.



Implications for Public Health:

- India is known as the “pharmacy of the Global South” for producing affordable generics.
- Past CL (e.g., Natco-Bayer case for cancer drug Nexavar) allowed access to life-saving medicines.
- Restrictions could raise drug prices, undermine generic production, and affect India’s global health diplomacy.

IPR Sovereignty and Legal Precedents:

- Indian Supreme Court in *Novartis v. Union of India (2013)* upheld strict patentability standards in public interest.
- WTO Doha Declaration (2001) reaffirmed members’ right to protect public health.

Conclusion:

While trade deals like CETA are vital for economic growth, India must safeguard its public health policy space. Diluting CL provisions would not only hurt domestic access to medicines but also damage India’s leadership in global health justice.

UPSC Relevance:

This topic intersects GS-2 (Health and IPR), GS-3 (Economic Agreements), and current international relations. It tests the candidate’s ability to balance development, diplomacy, and constitutional values.
