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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 02/08/2025 (SATURDAY)

- **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 Red Fort Trials of 1945–46:

1. The trials primarily aimed at punishing Indian soldiers who collaborated with the Japanese during World War II.
2. These trials unified public opinion across communal and regional lines and significantly boosted the momentum of the Indian independence movement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The Red Fort Trials were conducted to prosecute officers of the Indian National Army (INA), who had allied with Japan during World War II. The British viewed their actions as treason.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. The trials became a rallying point for Indian nationalism. Massive public support poured in across religious and regional divides, even among those who had ideological differences with Subhas Chandra Bose. The British feared mutiny in the armed forces after witnessing such solidarity.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding carbon sequestration:

1. Oceanic carbon sequestration through phytoplankton activity accounts for more carbon storage annually than all terrestrial forests combined.
2. Soil organic carbon storage is a form of geological sequestration involving chemical transformation of carbon.
3. Biochar application is a method of enhancing carbon sequestration in agricultural soils.

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:** Correct. Phytoplankton in oceans play a significant role in the **biological pump**, fixing atmospheric CO₂ which later settles into ocean sediments—this is more massive in volume than forest-based carbon sinks annually.



- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. Soil carbon sequestration is **biological**, not geological. It doesn't involve chemical transformation into rock or mineral forms, unlike geological sequestration such as injecting CO₂ into underground formations.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. **Biochar** is a charcoal-like substance produced from biomass and is applied to soil to improve carbon retention, enhance fertility, and reduce emissions.

Q3. With reference to fiat and fiduciary money, consider the following statements:

1. Fiat money has no intrinsic value and derives its legitimacy solely from legal tender status.
2. Fiduciary money is fully backed by gold or silver reserves and therefore is not affected by inflation.
3. All fiduciary money is fiat money, but not all fiat money is fiduciary in nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Fiat money has no intrinsic value and is not backed by physical commodities. It functions solely because the government decrees it as legal tender.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. Fiduciary money is **not** fully backed by reserves; rather, it is money issued based on **trust** (like demand drafts, cheques). Gold-backed money refers more to representative money. Fiduciary money is susceptible to inflation if supply expands.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Fiduciary money is a **subset** of fiat money. All fiduciary money (based on trust) functions within the fiat system, but fiat money also includes other forms like coins and currency notes issued directly by the state.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the election of the Vice-President of India:

1. The Vice-President is elected through a proportional representation system by means of a single transferable vote.
2. The members of State Legislative Assemblies are part of the electoral college for the Vice-President's election.
3. Nominated members of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are excluded from voting in the Vice-President's election.
4. The election is conducted by the Election Commission of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Answer: (b) 1 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The Vice-President is elected using **proportional representation** via **single transferable vote** by the members of both Houses of Parliament.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. Only **Members of Parliament** (elected and nominated) participate in the election of the Vice-President. State MLAs have no role.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. **Nominated members are allowed** to vote in Vice-President's election (unlike the President's election).
- **Statement 4:** Correct. The **Election Commission of India** conducts the election for the Vice-President.

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type:

Assertion (A): Majuli island in Assam is shrinking rapidly despite being situated in the middle of a sediment-rich river like Brahmaputra.

Reason (R): The Brahmaputra river exhibits extreme seasonal variation and frequent channel migration, causing bank erosion.

Select the correct option:

- (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:** True. Majuli, once the world's largest riverine island, is under constant threat due to **intense erosion** despite the sediment deposition.
- **Reason:** True. The **Brahmaputra** is a braided river with **extreme flow variations** and high energy levels. These lead to frequent **course changes and lateral erosion**, which constantly wash away parts of the island. Hence, **R is the correct explanation** for A.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Project Tiger:

1. The original mandate of Project Tiger focused only on preserving the Bengal Tiger population and excluded other flora-fauna in tiger habitats.
2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) now monitors tiger mortality in real-time under Project Tiger through an online portal.



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. Even though the **initial objective** of Project Tiger was the **conservation of tigers**, it **implicitly included ecosystem-based conservation**, safeguarding biodiversity in tiger habitats. Over time, the approach explicitly evolved into a **landscape-based model**.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. NTCA uses the '**M-Stripes**' **mobile monitoring system** and real-time dashboards to track tiger **mortality, poaching, and forest patrols**, enhancing **transparency and accountability** under Project Tiger.

Q2. Which of the following correctly describes the 'Payment Passkey' service launched recently in India?

- (a) A biometric-based hardware token for high-value banking transactions
- (b) A voice-authentication system for UPI transactions launched by PhonePe
- (c) A passwordless authentication layer using FIDO2 standards for UPI apps
- (d) An OTP override system for international card payments over UPI

Answer: (c) A passwordless authentication layer using FIDO2 standards for UPI apps

Explanation:

- **Payment Passkey** is a **FIDO2-based passwordless** login and payment authorization system that **eliminates the need for MPIN or OTP** in UPI apps. It uses **device-based biometric authentication** (e.g., Face ID, fingerprint) to improve security.
- It was **launched by PhonePe in collaboration with NPCI**, marking a significant leap in secure digital payments.

Q3. With reference to Hoolock Gibbons in India, consider the following statements:

1. Hoolock Gibbons are the only apes found in India and are restricted to the Western Himalayan subtropical forests.
2. They are listed as "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List and are highly sensitive to habitat fragmentation.
3. They are diurnal and arboreal but do not exhibit brachiation, unlike other gibbon species.

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:** Incorrect. Hoolock Gibbons are found **only in the northeastern states**, especially **Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Meghalaya**, not in the Western Himalayas.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. The **Western Hoolock Gibbon (Hoolock hoolock)** is listed as **Endangered** and faces threats from **habitat loss, fragmentation, and hunting**.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. Like other gibbons, Hoolock Gibbons **do brachiate** (swing from branches using arms), being among the **most agile arboreal apes**.

Q4. With reference to Dhaincha and its use in green manuring, consider the following statements:

1. Dhaincha (*Sesbania bispinosa*) is a leguminous plant that enriches the soil with phosphorus and potassium through nitrogen fixation.
2. Green manuring with Dhaincha improves water retention capacity and suppresses nematodes and certain fungal pathogens.
3. Dhaincha can grow in saline and waterlogged soils, making it unsuitable for upland dryland regions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect. Dhaincha enriches the soil through **nitrogen fixation**, **not** phosphorus or potassium fixation. These are added through mineral fertilizers or crop residues.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. Dhaincha, when ploughed into the soil as green manure, **improves water retention, suppresses soil pathogens**, and increases organic content.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. While it **tolerates** saline or waterlogged soils, Dhaincha is **also adaptable** to upland and dryland conditions.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Chandipura Virus, recently in the news:

1. It is an RNA virus belonging to the Rhabdoviridae family and is transmitted by sandflies.
2. It causes acute encephalitis-like symptoms with high fatality among children below 15 years.
3. Chandipura virus has been reported only from central India so far, making it a localized endemic virus.
4. Currently, there is no specific antiviral treatment or vaccine available for Chandipura virus.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. **Chandipura virus** is a **single-stranded RNA virus** of the **Rhabdoviridae family** (same as Rabies) and is transmitted by **sandflies**.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. It causes **rapid-onset encephalitis**, mostly affecting **children under 15**, with a **high case fatality rate**.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. Though first reported from **Maharashtra**, it has also been detected in **Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha**, indicating **wider endemicity**.
- **Statement 4:** Correct. **No antiviral or vaccine** exists; management is purely **symptomatic**.

Q6. Consider the following pairs of Hills and Tribes inhabiting them:

1. Garo Hills – Garo Tribe
2. Khasi Hills – Bodo Tribe
3. Jaintia Hills – Jaintia Tribe

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Garo Hills:** Inhabited primarily by the **Garo tribe**, who follow matrilineal customs and are concentrated in **western Meghalaya**.
- **Khasi Hills:** Inhabited by the **Khasi tribe**, not Bodo. The **Bodo** live in **Assam's Bodoland region**, not Meghalaya.
- **Jaintia Hills:** Inhabited by the **Jaintia people**, a subgroup of the Khasi-Jaintia-Mikir groups.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1:

Q1. *Caste identities are evolving under the influence of political mobilisation and economic transformation. Examine the impact of such changes on the social fabric of India.*

(250 words | 15 marks)

**Sample Answer:**

The caste system, a deeply entrenched institution in Indian society, has undergone considerable transformation, particularly in the post-Independence period. While it continues to shape socio-economic hierarchies, political mobilisation and economic reforms have significantly altered its contours.

Political mobilisation, especially post-Mandal era, has enabled the **assertion of backward castes and Dalits**. Political parties have increasingly targeted caste-based vote banks, leading to **caste-based political empowerment**. For instance, regional parties like BSP and RJD emerged from movements advocating for social justice. This has democratised power structures, yet also **reinforced caste identities** in the electoral space.

On the other hand, **economic transformation**, especially through liberalisation and urbanisation, has diluted some caste barriers. **Urban migration**, access to education, and private sector jobs have offered inter-caste mobility and weakened rigid occupational ties. However, **economic inequalities persist**, with Dalits and Adivasis still overrepresented in low-income informal sectors.

Together, these processes have created a **dual dynamic**: while caste as a social identity is being reasserted politically, it is simultaneously weakening as an occupational or economic determinant. Inter-caste marriages are slowly increasing, particularly among the urban educated, indicating progressive shifts.

However, **caste-based discrimination persists** in subtle forms—e.g., in housing, hiring, or matrimonial preferences. The rise of **digital platforms** has also seen the re-emergence of caste discourse in polarising ways.

In conclusion, caste identities in India are not vanishing but are being **reconfigured**. The challenge for Indian society lies in **balancing political representation** with **social cohesion**, ensuring that caste empowerment does not translate into social fragmentation.

GS Paper 2:

Q2. *Citizen-centric governance requires both institutional mechanisms and attitudinal change within public service delivery. Critically evaluate this statement in the context of e-governance and citizen charters.*
(250 words | 15 marks)

Sample Answer:

Citizen-centric governance refers to administrative systems that are **responsive, transparent, inclusive, and accountable** to the needs of citizens. While institutional mechanisms such as e-governance platforms and Citizen Charters have improved delivery, a deeper attitudinal shift among bureaucrats and service providers remains essential.

E-governance initiatives, such as *DigiLocker*, *UMANG*, and *RTPS portals*, have increased **access, speed, and transparency** in public services. These platforms reduce human interface and thereby discretionary powers, enhancing efficiency. Similarly, **Citizen Charters**, introduced under the 1997 "Responsive Administration" initiative, attempt to make service commitments time-bound and accountable.

Yet, **institutional frameworks alone are insufficient**. Many Citizen Charters lack enforceability and are not updated regularly. Often, **departments fail to adhere to declared timelines**, and **grievance redressal mechanisms are weak or non-functional**. E-governance too faces challenges of **digital divide**, especially in rural and remote areas, limiting access for vulnerable groups.



More importantly, citizen-centricity demands an **attitudinal transformation**—from a **command-control mindset** to a **service-oriented outlook** among public officials. The ethos of **Sevottam**, i.e., excellence in service delivery, has not fully permeated the bureaucracy.

Training programmes under **Mission Karmayogi** aim to inculcate citizen-centric values like empathy, accountability, and transparency. However, their implementation and impact require sustained monitoring.

In conclusion, institutional tools like e-governance and Citizen Charters form the skeleton of citizen-centric governance, but its **soul lies in ethical and empathetic public service conduct**. Both hardware (structures) and software (values) must work together to build a truly responsive state.

GS Paper 3:

Q3. *Monetary tightening by central banks in developed economies poses serious macroeconomic challenges for emerging markets like India. Analyse.*

(250 words | 15 marks)

Sample Answer:

Global monetary tightening, particularly by the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, is driven by the need to control inflation post-pandemic and due to geopolitical shocks like the Ukraine war. However, such tightening has significant **spillover effects** on emerging markets (EMs), including India.

Firstly, **capital outflows** from India occur as investors seek higher returns in advanced economies. This puts pressure on the **rupee**, leading to **currency depreciation**. A weaker rupee increases the **import bill**, especially for crude oil, leading to **imported inflation**.

Secondly, it compels the **RBI to raise domestic interest rates** to retain investor confidence and control inflation. This has a **crowding-out effect** on private investment and credit demand, thereby dampening **GDP growth**.

Thirdly, it increases the **external debt servicing burden**, particularly for corporates with foreign currency loans. It also impacts India's **current account deficit**, which widens due to higher import costs and reduced remittances.

However, India has shown relative resilience due to its **strong forex reserves**, a diversified export base, and prudent monetary management by RBI. Recent steps like the **inclusion of Indian government bonds in global indices** aim to stabilise capital flows.

In conclusion, while global monetary tightening is beyond India's control, **calibrated fiscal-monetary coordination**, **diversification of trade partners**, and **promotion of self-reliance** through Atmanirbhar Bharat are crucial to insulating the economy. India must also deepen **structural reforms** to reduce its vulnerability to global macroeconomic shocks.

GS Paper 4:

Q4. *"A public servant's integrity is tested not only by what they do in public view but also by what they do when no one is watching." Discuss in light of ethical dilemmas faced in public administration.*

(250 words | 15 marks)

Sample Answer:



Integrity in public administration refers to the **inner moral compass** that guides a public servant to act rightly, even when there is no external compulsion or scrutiny. It encompasses **honesty, impartiality, probity**, and consistency in ethical behaviour.

The true test of integrity arises in **situations of discretion, opacity, or temptation**—when unethical choices can be made without immediate detection. For example, an officer may choose to favour a contractor for personal gain in a closed bidding process or may delay a file to extract bribes. These actions may not be visible but reflect moral degradation.

Public administration is riddled with **ethical dilemmas**—balancing loyalty to superiors versus public interest, enforcing the law versus compassion, or whistle-blowing versus institutional loyalty. In such moments, integrity becomes the **guiding light**. The case of **Ashok Khemka**, who repeatedly exposed irregularities despite being transferred multiple times, exemplifies internal integrity.

Institutional mechanisms like **RTI, Lokpal, and internal audits** act as deterrents, but they cannot substitute for internal values. Training modules under **Mission Karmayogi**, and **Code of Conduct manuals** attempt to instil ethical reasoning, but real change comes from **moral leadership and cultural shift**.

In conclusion, integrity is not simply the absence of corruption but the **presence of moral strength**. As M.K. Gandhi said, “The true measure of a man is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out.” A public servant's legacy is thus shaped not only by public acclaim but by private conscience.

Current Affairs:

Q5. *The ‘Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhiman’ campaign seeks to make the Constitution a living document in people’s lives. Evaluate its significance in deepening democratic consciousness at the grassroots level.*

(250 words | 15 marks)

Sample Answer:

The ‘Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhiman’ campaign, launched in 2024 to commemorate **75 years of the Indian Constitution**, is a pan-India outreach programme by the Ministry of Law and Justice. It seeks to promote **constitutional literacy, civic duty, and democratic participation**, especially among the marginalized.

The campaign is significant for several reasons:

1. **Bridging the awareness gap:** Despite being the world’s largest democracy, many citizens, especially in rural or tribal areas, are unaware of **basic constitutional rights and duties**. The campaign uses **nukkad nataks**, digital vans, and school outreach to spread constitutional awareness.
2. **Civic empowerment:** By popularizing concepts like **Fundamental Rights, Duties, and Directive Principles**, the initiative fosters a sense of **dignity and entitlement**, especially among women, SC/ST communities, and youth.
3. **Preventing constitutional erosion:** In times of growing misinformation and populism, the campaign reminds people of **constitutional morality, secularism, and rule of law**, thus strengthening democratic values.
4. **Decentralized approach:** The campaign is **executed by state legal service authorities**, civil society organizations, and Panchayats, ensuring **local ownership and grassroots participation**.



However, the initiative must go beyond symbolism. Sustained engagement, follow-up with **legal aid**, and integration with school curricula are vital. Also, the campaign must include **vernacular content**, address **digital divide**, and avoid politicization.

In conclusion, *Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhiman* is not merely a celebration of the Constitution but a step towards **making constitutionalism a part of India's civic culture**. Its success lies in enabling citizens to not just know their Constitution, but to **live it daily**.

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