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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 06/09/2025 (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 Revolt of 1857:

1. The sepoys at Meerut refused to use the new Enfield cartridges primarily because of the threat to their caste identity rather than religious identity.
2. The proclamation issued by Bahadur Shah Zafar in 1857 was remarkable because it attempted to unite both Hindus and Muslims under a common cause.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The immediate cause was religious in nature—sepoys believed the cartridges were greased with cow and pig fat, offending both Hindu and Muslim sentiments. While caste identity was affected indirectly, the **religious dimension** was central.
- Statement 2 is correct: Bahadur Shah Zafar’s proclamation emphasized the joint struggle of Hindus and Muslims, condemning the British for disrespecting both communities’ traditions. This reflected a conscious attempt at forging unity across religious lines.

Q2. Which of the following national parks is uniquely characterized by the presence of the **only floating national park in the world**, created on a freshwater lake?

- (a) Keibul Lamjao National Park
- (b) Nokrek National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Keibul Lamjao National Park** (Manipur) is the world’s only floating national park, located on Loktak Lake, with floating biomass called *phumdis*.
- It is also the natural habitat of the endangered *Sangai deer* (brow-antlered deer).
- The others: Nokrek (Meghalaya, biosphere reserve), Neora Valley (West Bengal, biodiversity hotspot), Dibru-Saikhowa (Assam, riverine ecosystem).

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

1. A rise in headline inflation necessarily implies an increase in core inflation.
2. Cost-push inflation occurs when aggregate supply is reduced due to higher input costs.



3. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the main measure of retail inflation in India and is used by the RBI for inflation targeting.

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) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Headline inflation includes food and fuel (volatile components). Core inflation excludes these. A rise in headline inflation does not always imply core inflation has risen.
- Statement 2 is correct: Cost-push inflation arises when production costs increase (e.g., wages, raw material, fuel), shifting aggregate supply leftward.
- Statement 3 is correct: CPI is the official benchmark for inflation targeting under RBI's Monetary Policy Framework (target: $4\% \pm 2\%$).

Q4. With reference to the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission is a permanent and independent body established directly by the Constitution of India.
2. Before 1989, the Election Commission was a single-member body headed only by the Chief Election Commissioner.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge.
4. The Constitution specifies the exact number of Election Commissioners to be appointed at any point of time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Article 324 establishes the ECI as a permanent and independent body.
- Statement 2 is correct: It remained a single-member body until 1989, when two Election Commissioners were first appointed.
- Statement 3 is correct: CEC removal requires a process similar to that of a Supreme Court judge (by Parliament on grounds of proved misbehavior or incapacity).
- Statement 4 is incorrect: The Constitution does not fix the number of Election Commissioners; it is left to Parliament to decide.



Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): The frescoes of Ajanta caves primarily depict Jataka tales, representing the past lives of the Buddha in human and animal forms.

Reason (R): The Ajanta paintings are strictly religious in nature and avoid secular themes such as court life, processions, and ornamental motifs.

- (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)

Explanation:

- Assertion (A) is true: The Ajanta caves (2nd century BCE–6th century CE) are celebrated for their murals and frescoes depicting Jataka tales about Buddha's previous lives.
- Reason (R) is false: Ajanta paintings also depict **secular themes** like court scenes, musicians, dancers, and decorative motifs, besides religious narratives.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements about the UMEED Central Portal (Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development):

1. As per the UMEED mandate, details of all registered waqf properties are required to be uploaded on the Central Portal within six months and will receive a unique 17-digit ID upon successful registration.
2. The UMEED Portal transfers exclusive statutory authority to manage all waqf properties from State Waqf Boards to the Central Waqf Council, thereby making the State Waqf Boards redundant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The UMEED Portal requires uploading and verification of waqf property details with unique IDs.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: State Waqf Boards are not abolished; the portal enhances central oversight while working in coordination with them.



Q2. The National Biofoundry Network (NBN) launched recently under India's BioE3 policy primarily aims to:

- (a) create a central regulatory authority for genetically modified organisms and ban bio-manufacturing startups unless licensed by the NBN.
- (b) provide a distributed platform of automated synthetic-biology foundries to accelerate design–build–test cycles, scale indigenous biomanufacturing and nurture start-ups/skill development in the bio-economy.
- (c) centralise all academic biotech research within six premier national labs for exclusive commercialisation.
- (d) fund only pharmaceutical R&D while excluding agriculture, environment and industrial biotech.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The NBN aims to provide distributed automated facilities to accelerate synthetic biology, scale biomanufacturing, and promote start-ups and skill development across multiple sectors.

Q3. With reference to the PM SVANidhi Scheme (including its recent restructuring), consider the following statements:

1. The revamped PM SVANidhi envisages coverage of about 1.15 crore street vendors and increases the initial loan quantum compared to the original scheme.
2. Under the revamped scheme, eligible repeat beneficiaries who have repaid prior tranches may be offered UPI-linked RuPay credit cards with a specified credit limit.
3. The scheme's 7% interest-subsidy is available only if the beneficiary performs a minimum prescribed number of digital transactions — absence of digital transactions disqualifies them from the interest subsidy.

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) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The coverage has been expanded with higher loan tranches.
- Statement 2 is correct: Repeat beneficiaries may receive RuPay credit cards with defined credit limits.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The interest subsidy is linked to timely repayment, while digital transactions are separately incentivised with cashback.

Q4. With reference to the Samudrayaan component of India's Deep Ocean Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Samudrayaan aims to develop the MATSYA-6000 manned submersible capable of carrying three persons to depths of approximately 6,000 metres for scientific exploration.



2. One objective of Samudrayaan is to enable mining of polymetallic nodules within India's territorial waters without reference to the International Seabed Authority.
3. Samudrayaan is a part of the broader Deep Ocean Mission which includes manned and unmanned platforms, deep-sea biodiversity studies and ocean-climate services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: MATSYA-6000 will carry three persons to 6,000 m depth.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Mining in international waters is regulated by the International Seabed Authority, not unilateral.
- Statement 3 is correct: The Deep Ocean Mission covers biodiversity, climate services, and both manned/unmanned exploration.

Q5. Consider the following statements about the Self-Respect Movement in South India:

1. The Self-Respect Movement was launched in 1925 (initially associated with S. Ramanathan) and E. V. Ramasamy (Periyar) became its most prominent leader.
2. The movement explicitly sought to strengthen Brahminical religious authority as a means to foster social reform.
3. It emphasised rationalism, abolition of caste privileges, women's rights and propagation of non-Brahmin pride, using organs such as the periodical *Kudi Arasu*.
4. The movement remained purely cultural and had no demonstrable influence on later Dravidian political movements or electoral politics in Tamil Nadu.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Initiated in 1925 with Periyar as leader.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: It opposed Brahminical dominance.
- Statement 3 is correct: It advocated rationalism, women's rights, and non-Brahmin assertion.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: It deeply influenced later Dravidian politics.



Q6. On the map of Uttarakhand, the geographic point with approximate co-ordinates **30°55'N, 79°04'E** corresponds to which of the following?

- (a) Gomukh — the snout (Gaumukh) of the Gangotri Glacier and the source of the Bhagirathi River
- (b) Confluence of Bhagirathi and Alaknanda at Devprayag
- (c) Tehri Reservoir (Tehri Dam site)
- (d) The town of Uttarkashi

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The coordinates point to Gomukh, the snout of the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarkashi district, which is the source of the Bhagirathi River. Other listed sites lie downstream.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

[GS Paper 1 – World History]

Q1. The Russian Revolution of 1917 was not merely a political upheaval, but also a socio-economic transformation with global implications. Discuss.

Answer:

The Russian Revolution of 1917 marked a watershed moment in world history, bringing down centuries of Tsarist autocracy and giving rise to the first socialist state. It was not merely a political revolt but a profound socio-economic transformation with enduring global consequences.

Politically, the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II ended the Romanov dynasty. The Provisional Government attempted to introduce liberal democracy but failed to address critical issues like land reforms, workers' rights, and Russia's continued involvement in World War I. The Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, seized this opportunity, promising "Peace, Land and Bread," and established a workers' and peasants' government. This was unprecedented—political power shifted from aristocracy and bourgeoisie to a revolutionary proletarian party.

Socio-economically, the Revolution abolished feudal privileges, redistributed land to peasants, and nationalized industries. Workers gained recognition through trade unions and Soviets. Women achieved legal equality, access to education, and greater participation in public life. Literacy campaigns and health reforms transformed Russia into one of the most socially mobilized societies of its time.

Globally, the Revolution had far-reaching consequences. It inspired communist movements across Europe and Asia, challenging the dominance of capitalism and colonialism. The establishment of the Comintern sought to spread revolutionary ideology worldwide. The ideological divide between capitalism and socialism culminated in the Cold War, influencing international relations for much of the 20th century.



However, the Revolution also led to authoritarian governance, centralized planning, and suppression of dissent under Stalin, reflecting the contradictions of revolutionary ideals.

In conclusion, the Russian Revolution was not merely a political upheaval but a socio-economic transformation that altered the course of global history by inspiring alternative models of governance and development, shaping the ideological landscape of the modern world.

[GS Paper 2 – Polity]

Q2. Critically examine the challenges in ensuring the independence of constitutional bodies in India, with special reference to the Election Commission of India.

Answer:

The independence of constitutional bodies is central to safeguarding democratic institutions in India. The Election Commission of India (ECI), established under Article 324, plays a crucial role in ensuring free and fair elections. However, several challenges compromise its independence.

First, the appointment process is opaque. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners are appointed solely by the Executive, raising concerns of political influence. Unlike the judiciary, where appointments involve collegiality, the absence of a consultative mechanism undermines neutrality. Recent debates on the “Chief Justice–Prime Minister–Leader of Opposition” model for appointments reflect this concern.

Second, security of tenure is unequal. The CEC can only be removed in a manner akin to a Supreme Court judge, but Election Commissioners can be removed on the recommendation of the CEC. This creates a structural imbalance and potential vulnerability of the latter to external pressure.

Third, financial autonomy is limited. The ECI depends on the Consolidated Fund of India through the Union government. Unlike the Comptroller and Auditor General, whose expenditure is charged directly, the ECI lacks complete financial independence.

Fourth, the increasing politicization of institutions and growing influence of money power in elections have put the ECI under scrutiny. Allegations of bias in scheduling elections, selective enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, and delays in addressing complaints erode public trust.

Reforms are essential. A collegium-based appointment system can strengthen impartiality. Equal removal safeguards for all Election Commissioners are necessary. Charging the Commission’s budget directly to the Consolidated Fund would ensure autonomy. Stronger penal provisions for violations of the Model Code and transparency in election scheduling would further enhance credibility.

In conclusion, while the ECI has been a pillar of Indian democracy, its independence faces institutional and political challenges. Safeguarding this independence is critical for maintaining electoral integrity and democratic legitimacy.

[GS Paper 3 – Environment]

Q3. Discuss the significance of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in combating climate change. Illustrate with examples from India.

Answer:

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) refers to the sustainable management, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Unlike conventional engineered



solutions, EbA integrates ecological resilience with community-based approaches, making it vital in the climate discourse.

EbA is significant for several reasons. First, ecosystems act as natural buffers. Mangroves protect coastal areas from storm surges, coral reefs reduce wave energy, and wetlands regulate floods. Second, EbA ensures co-benefits such as biodiversity conservation, livelihood security, and carbon sequestration. Third, it is cost-effective and sustainable compared to hard infrastructure projects.

In India, several examples highlight its importance. The restoration of mangroves in Odisha and West Bengal has reduced cyclone damage while supporting local fisheries. The use of watershed management and afforestation under programs like CAMPA and Green India Mission enhances groundwater recharge, prevents soil erosion, and supports agriculture. Traditional agroforestry practices in tribal regions provide climate resilience through diversified cropping.

EbA also integrates with India's international commitments. Under the Paris Agreement and SDG-13, India has highlighted afforestation and ecosystem restoration as key adaptation measures. The National Action Plan on Climate Change and State Action Plans emphasize ecosystem approaches in missions like the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture.

Challenges remain in terms of financing, institutional capacity, and balancing development with conservation. Local community participation, supported by scientific research and adequate funding, is crucial for effective EbA.

In conclusion, EbA offers a holistic pathway to address climate change impacts while sustaining livelihoods and biodiversity. For a country like India, highly vulnerable to climate extremes, scaling up ecosystem-based approaches is essential to ensure both ecological security and human resilience.

[GS Paper 4 – Ethics]

Q4. "Ethics in public administration is not merely about rules but about values." Discuss with suitable examples.

Answer:

Ethics in public administration extends beyond compliance with laws and rules; it is fundamentally rooted in values such as integrity, impartiality, accountability, empathy, and public service. Rules provide structure, but values provide purpose and moral direction.

Rules may prescribe procedures, but without values, administration risks becoming mechanical and devoid of compassion. For example, during natural disasters, strict adherence to bureaucratic processes may delay relief distribution. A value-driven officer, however, prioritizes human welfare, ensuring timely aid even while adhering to basic procedures.

Integrity is another critical value. While rules mandate disclosure of assets or avoidance of conflict of interest, true ethical conduct comes from internalized integrity. An officer refusing to manipulate tender processes, despite political pressure, reflects adherence to values beyond rule compliance.

Similarly, empathy and compassion cannot be legislated. Schemes for marginalized groups may exist, but only a value-driven officer ensures that beneficiaries are not harassed during implementation. For instance, a District Collector simplifying documentation for widows seeking pensions reflects values at work.

Values also guide decision-making in grey areas where rules are silent. Emerging challenges like social media ethics, data privacy, and AI use in governance cannot always be regulated immediately. Here, values like fairness, respect for dignity, and transparency become guiding principles.



The Second ARC emphasized value-based governance, advocating for training and sensitization of civil servants to cultivate ethical reasoning. Gandhian principles of trusteeship, honesty, and service remain timeless in this context.

In conclusion, rules are necessary but not sufficient. Values give soul to governance, ensuring that administration is not only lawful but also just, humane, and responsive to people's needs. Thus, ethics in public administration is fundamentally value-driven.

Current Affairs:

Q5. Critically analyze the recent reforms in India's drug approval process. What are the challenges and implications for public health?

Answer:

India, often called the "pharmacy of the world," is a global leader in generic drug production. To enhance innovation and ensure timely availability of medicines, recent reforms in the drug approval process have been introduced. These reforms aim to balance speed with safety.

Key reforms include fast-track approvals for drugs already approved in developed markets, waiving local clinical trials in certain cases, and streamlining the regulatory framework under the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019, reduced approval timelines from 12-18 months to as little as 90 days in specific cases. Emergency approvals during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., Covaxin, Covishield, Remdesivir) demonstrated regulatory agility.

The reforms encourage innovation in biotechnology, biosimilars, and vaccines by reducing bureaucratic delays. They also help patients access life-saving drugs faster and enhance India's competitiveness in global pharmaceutical markets.

However, challenges remain. Waiving local trials may compromise the understanding of drug efficacy and safety in diverse Indian populations. Post-marketing surveillance (pharmacovigilance) is still weak, raising concerns about adverse drug reactions going undetected. Regulatory capacity is overstretched, with insufficient staff and infrastructure compared to the scale of India's pharmaceutical industry.

There is also the risk of regulatory capture, where industry pressures may lead to premature approvals. Public trust in regulatory decisions was tested during the emergency vaccine rollout, highlighting the need for transparency and robust data sharing.

Going forward, reforms must strike a balance: ensuring faster approvals without compromising safety. Strengthening pharmacovigilance, increasing transparency in decision-making, and investing in regulatory infrastructure are essential. Collaboration with global regulatory bodies can further harmonize standards.

In conclusion, India's drug approval reforms mark a progressive step towards efficiency and innovation. Yet, ensuring safety, transparency, and public trust will determine their success in safeguarding public health while maintaining India's global pharmaceutical leadership.