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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 10/09/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

- **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 (IVC):

1. The urban planning of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro included well-laid drainage systems but lacked a standardized system of weights and measures.
2. The IVC had evidence of trade links with Mesopotamia and used seals for commercial transactions.

Which of the statements given above 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 because the IVC **did have a standardized system of weights and measures**, along with advanced urban planning including drainage systems.
- Statement 2 is correct. Archaeological evidence, including seals and trade records, indicates **active trade with Mesopotamia**.

Q2. The Environment Protection Act, 1986 empowers the Central Government to:

- (a) Restrict locations of industries to protect the environment
- (b) Lay down standards for emissions from automobiles and industrial plants
- (c) Regulate the handling of hazardous substances
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (d) All of the above

Explanation:

- The Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986, is a **comprehensive umbrella legislation** giving the Central Government powers to protect and improve the environment.
- It allows for **regulation of industrial locations, emission standards, and hazardous substances**.
- Hence, all the options are correct.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Prime Lending Rate (PLR) and Base Rate:

1. Prime Lending Rate is the rate at which banks lend to their most creditworthy customers, whereas Base Rate is the minimum rate below which banks cannot lend to any customer.
2. Base Rate was introduced to bring transparency in lending rates and reduce the discretion of banks in deciding lending rates.
3. The Prime Lending Rate system was entirely abolished after the introduction of Base Rate in 2010.

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) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: PLR is offered to the **most creditworthy borrowers**, Base Rate is **the floor rate for all loans**.
- Statement 2 is correct: Base Rate **reduces arbitrariness** in lending rates.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: **PLR still exists**, though Base Rate is the standard; banks sometimes quote PLR plus spreads.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI):

1. The ECI is a constitutional body responsible for conducting free and fair elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President.
2. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be removed only through a procedure similar to that of a Supreme Court judge.
3. The President of India can give directions to the ECI in the matter of election management.
4. The ECI has powers to recognize political parties and allot election symbols.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct as per the Constitution and Representation of the People Act.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: **the ECI functions independently**; the President cannot give directions in day-to-day election management.

Q5. Assertion (A): Tropical Rainforests have the highest biodiversity due to uniformly high temperature and precipitation throughout the year.

Reason (R): The dense canopy in tropical rainforests prevents sunlight from reaching the forest floor, limiting growth of lower vegetation.

- (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: (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A



Explanation:

- Assertion is correct: Tropical rainforests **have the highest biodiversity** due to **climatic stability and high primary productivity**.
- Reason is true: The **dense canopy reduces sunlight on the forest floor**, affecting lower vegetation.
- However, the limited sunlight does **not explain high biodiversity**; it actually restricts some species at lower levels.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding **Exercise Zapad 2025**:

1. It is a joint military exercise conducted annually between India and Russia to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation.
2. The exercise focuses on large-scale conventional warfare preparedness along with cybersecurity drills.

Which of the statements given above 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: Exercise Zapad is primarily a **Russia-Belarus military exercise**, not India-Russia.
- Statement 2 is correct: Zapad exercises focus on **large-scale conventional warfare, mobilization, and cybersecurity drills**, simulating high-intensity conflict scenarios.

Q2. The Vice President of India:

- (a) Acts as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- (b) Can vote in the Rajya Sabha only in case of a tie
- (c) Can resign from office by submitting a written resignation to the President
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (d) All of the above

Explanation:



- The Vice President serves as **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**, votes only to **break a tie**, and can resign by **writing to the President**.
- These are all provisions under **Articles 63–71 of the Constitution of India**.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the **U.K.–India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB)**:

1. It is a bilateral initiative where the UK provides financial assistance for infrastructure development in India.
2. The UKIIFB exclusively finances renewable energy projects in India.
3. The financing includes concessional loans with long tenures for urban and transport infrastructure projects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 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 is correct: UKIIFB is a **bilateral financing initiative** supporting India's infrastructure development.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: UKIIFB funds **urban, transport, and other infrastructure**, not exclusively renewable energy.
- Statement 3 is correct: Financing is provided via **concessional loans with long tenures**, enhancing project viability.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding **Multi-Stage Malaria Vaccine AdFalcivax**:

1. It targets the pre-erythrocytic, blood-stage, and transmission stages of the malaria parasite lifecycle.
2. AdFalcivax uses a recombinant adenovirus vector platform to enhance immune response.
3. The vaccine has shown efficacy against all species of Plasmodium, including *P. falciparum*, *P. vivax*, and *P. malariae*.

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) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:



- Statement 1 is correct: AdFALCIvax is designed as a **multi-stage malaria vaccine**, targeting several stages of Plasmodium.
- Statement 2 is correct: It **uses adenovirus vector technology** to trigger strong immune responses.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Current vaccines are mainly effective against **P. falciparum**, not all Plasmodium species.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)**:

1. GERD is located on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia and is Africa's largest hydroelectric dam.
2. The construction of GERD has led to prolonged negotiations and tension between Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt regarding water sharing.
3. Ethiopia claims GERD will not significantly affect downstream water supply to Egypt due to regulated filling.
4. Sudan opposes the dam entirely due to the risk of flooding its agricultural lands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct: GERD is **Africa's largest dam**, it has caused **downstream tensions**, and Ethiopia emphasizes **regulated water flow**.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: Sudan **does not oppose GERD entirely**; it seeks **negotiated agreements** to avoid flooding and ensure dam safety.

Q6. The **Saptakoshi River**, which is prone to flooding and has been a focus of India–Nepal cooperation for flood management, flows through which of the following Indian states after originating in Nepal?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Assam

Answer: (a) Bihar

Explanation:

- The Saptakoshi River originates in the **Himalayan region of Nepal** and enters India in **Bihar**, where it joins other tributaries and eventually flows into the Ganga.
- India and Nepal have collaborated on **flood management and embankment projects** along the Saptakoshi basin due to recurring floods.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS 1:

Question 1: Examine the evolution of Indian temple architecture from the Gupta period to the modern era, highlighting key regional variations and their cultural significance.

Sample Answer:

Indian temple architecture has undergone significant evolution from the Gupta period to modern times, reflecting religious, social, and political influences. The **Gupta period (4th–6th century CE)** is considered the classical age of Indian art and architecture. Temples were relatively small, with simple plans emphasizing the **garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum)** and a modest **shikhara (tower)**. Notable examples include the **Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh**, showcasing early experimentation with relief sculpture and square sanctum plans.

The **medieval period** witnessed regional diversification into the **Nagara (North India)** and **Dravidian (South India)** styles. Nagara temples, like the **Kandariya Mahadeva Temple in Khajuraho**, feature curvilinear shikharas, intricate carvings, and elaborate mandapas (pillared halls). In contrast, Dravidian temples, such as the **Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur**, exhibit massive vimanas (towering sanctums), gopurams (ornate entrance towers), and rich sculptural programs depicting mythology and daily life.

During the **Mughal period**, temple construction declined, but architecture absorbed Indo-Islamic influences, including the use of arches, domes, and decorative motifs. The **modern period** witnessed temple reconstruction and neo-traditional designs, often blending ancient motifs with contemporary materials and urban planning needs.

Regional variations reflect cultural identities: North Indian temples emphasize verticality and sculptural narratives, while South Indian temples stress horizontal expansion and ritualistic precincts. Temple architecture also embodies **socio-political authority**, acting as centers of economy, pilgrimage, and education.

In conclusion, the evolution of Indian temple architecture is a testimony to the country's **cultural continuity and regional diversity**, combining aesthetics, spirituality, and societal functions. Understanding this evolution offers insight into India's artistic heritage and its interplay with religion, politics, and community life.

GS-2:

Question 2: Critically evaluate India's position and challenges in the World Trade Organization (WTO), particularly in protecting agricultural and public health interests.

Sample Answer:

India's engagement with the World Trade Organization (WTO) reflects its dual objective of promoting trade liberalization while safeguarding domestic developmental priorities. India has consistently sought a **balance between global trade commitments and socio-economic imperatives**, particularly in agriculture, food security, and public health.

Agriculture is a key area of concern. India relies on **minimum support prices (MSPs)** and procurement mechanisms to protect farmers. WTO rules on **subsidies under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)** limit India's ability to provide subsidies above prescribed thresholds, leading to tensions. India has argued for



Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) for developing countries to ensure food security and support small-scale farmers, resisting pressure to fully liberalize agriculture.

Public health is another sensitive domain. India has invoked **TRIPS flexibilities** to manufacture generic medicines under the **Doha Declaration (2001)** to combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases. It has resisted attempts by some developed nations to tighten intellectual property rules, emphasizing **access to affordable medicines** for its population and other developing countries.

India faces challenges such as **growing protectionist pressures**, complex dispute settlement processes, and the need to negotiate in areas like e-commerce, digital trade, and environmental standards. India also has to maintain a careful balance between **multilateralism and bilateral trade agreements**, ensuring that WTO commitments do not undermine domestic priorities.

In conclusion, India's position in the WTO reflects a **development-centric approach** aimed at securing policy space for agriculture, health, and industrial growth while participating actively in global trade. Navigating these challenges requires diplomatic skill, coherent domestic policies, and strategic alliances with other developing nations to defend its interests effectively.

GS-3:

Question 3: Discuss the mechanisms of money-laundering and evaluate the measures adopted by India to prevent and combat this economic crime.

Sample Answer:

Money-laundering is the process of disguising illegally obtained money as legitimate, allowing criminals to integrate illicit wealth into the formal economy. The **mechanisms** include three stages: **placement, layering, and integration**. Placement involves introducing dirty money into the financial system through banks or cash-intensive businesses. Layering creates complex financial transactions across jurisdictions to obscure the money's origin. Integration is when laundered money is reintroduced as apparently legitimate capital in investments, real estate, or corporate ventures.

India has adopted a **comprehensive legal and institutional framework** to counter money-laundering. The **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**, is the principal law, criminalizing the act and enabling attachment of assets derived from illegal activity. The **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** functions as the central agency for monitoring suspicious transactions and coordinating with banks and financial institutions.

Preventive measures include **Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, reporting of suspicious transactions**, and regulatory oversight of cash-intensive sectors. India is also a member of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** and implements its recommendations to strengthen anti-money laundering (AML) regimes. The **Coordination between enforcement agencies**, such as the ED, RBI, and SEBI, enhances detection and prosecution capabilities.

Challenges remain due to **cross-border flows, use of cryptocurrencies, shell companies, and informal financial networks**. Strengthening data analytics, international cooperation, and legal reforms can further improve India's capacity to tackle this crime.

In conclusion, money-laundering undermines economic integrity and governance. India's **legal framework, institutional mechanisms, and compliance culture** have made significant progress, but evolving financial technologies demand continuous vigilance and adaptive policy measures.



GS-4:

Question 4: Examine the ethical dilemmas faced by civil servants in decision-making and suggest measures to uphold integrity and accountability in governance.

Sample Answer:

Civil servants occupy a critical position in the machinery of governance, tasked with implementing policies that affect public welfare. Ethical dilemmas arise when there is a **conflict between personal values, political directives, and public interest**. For instance, a bureaucrat may face pressure to approve projects that benefit powerful stakeholders but compromise environmental or social welfare. Such conflicts test the **principle of impartiality** enshrined in the civil service code.

Corruption, favoritism, and bureaucratic inertia are other ethical challenges. Civil servants may confront situations where adherence to rules delays benefits for citizens, or where discretionary power can be misused. The **challenge of whistleblowing** is another ethical concern; exposing malpractice may invite retaliation but aligns with the public interest.

Measures to strengthen integrity include: **codified ethics training**, emphasizing values such as neutrality, honesty, and accountability. Institutions like the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** and ethics committees provide oversight. Transparency in decision-making, use of technology for e-governance, and citizen feedback mechanisms reduce opportunities for ethical lapses. Encouraging a **culture of moral courage**, enabling reporting of malpractices, and clear accountability structures further ensure ethical conduct.

Moreover, fostering **ethical leadership** within bureaucracy is crucial. Role models at senior levels set standards, while merit-based promotions and regular evaluations reinforce ethical behavior. Integrating **values-based performance indicators** ensures that public service is aligned with integrity, efficiency, and public trust.

In conclusion, ethical dilemmas are inherent to public administration. A combination of **personal integrity, institutional mechanisms, and societal oversight** is essential to uphold ethical governance and strengthen public trust in the civil service.

Current Affairs:

Question 5: Analyze India's strategic approach to Rare Earth Elements (REEs) in the context of China's global dominance, highlighting opportunities and challenges for India's industrial and technological growth.

Sample Answer:

Rare Earth Elements (REEs) are critical for high-tech industries, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and defense applications. China dominates **over 60% of global REE production** and controls the supply chain, giving it strategic leverage over other nations, including India. The geopolitical implications are significant as REEs underpin modern military hardware, clean energy technologies, and semiconductors.

India possesses substantial REE reserves, notably in **Lalitpur, Odisha, and Kerala**, but has historically underutilized them due to technological gaps, regulatory hurdles, and environmental concerns. The **dependency on Chinese imports** makes India vulnerable to supply disruptions, price volatility, and geopolitical leverage.

To counter this, India has adopted a **multi-pronged strategy**: increasing domestic exploration, investing in extraction and processing technologies, and collaborating with friendly nations for supply diversification. Initiatives like **strategic partnerships with the US, Japan, and Australia**, and investment in **rare earth**



processing plants, aim to reduce dependency on China. India's industrial and technological policies encourage **private sector participation** in REE development while adhering to environmental safeguards.

Challenges remain, including high extraction costs, environmental impacts of mining, and the need for skilled workforce and R&D capabilities. Strengthening **research in recycling REEs, sustainable mining, and indigenous processing technologies** can enhance strategic autonomy.

In conclusion, India's REE strategy is crucial for **industrial competitiveness, defense security, and energy transition**. By leveraging its domestic resources and international partnerships, India can gradually reduce dependence on China and establish a **resilient and self-reliant REE supply chain**, balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.
