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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 15/09/2025 (MONDAY)

- **Static mcq's**
- **Current Affairs mcq's**
- **Mains Practice Questions**



 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding the Round Table Conferences held between 1930–32:

1. At the First Round Table Conference, the Indian National Congress participated under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. The Gandhi–Irwin Pact paved the way for Congress participation in the Second Round Table Conference.

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:

- The *First Round Table Conference* (1930) was boycotted by the Congress, which was at that time engaged in the Civil Disobedience Movement. Hence, statement 1 is **incorrect**.
- The *Second Round Table Conference* (1931) witnessed Congress participation, represented solely by Mahatma Gandhi, following the signing of the Gandhi–Irwin Pact. Hence, statement 2 is **correct**.

Q.2 Which of the following is the *only* Biosphere Reserve in India that is spread across three states?

- (a) Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- (b) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
- (c) Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve
- (d) Achanakmar–Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** is the first Biosphere Reserve of India, established in 1986.
- It spans across **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka**, making it the *only* one to cover three states.
- Others:
 - *Nanda Devi* – confined to Uttarakhand.
 - *Pachmarhi* – confined to Madhya Pradesh.
 - *Achanakmar–Amarkantak* – spans Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (two states).

Q.3 Consider the following statements about Fiscal Policy in India:

1. Fiscal Policy deals with the regulation of money supply and interest rates in the economy.
2. A contractionary fiscal policy is generally adopted to curb inflationary pressures.



3. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 primarily aims at ensuring inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **incorrect**: Fiscal Policy is related to government's revenue and expenditure, not regulation of money supply or interest rates (which are part of *Monetary Policy*).
- Statement 2 is **correct**: Contractionary fiscal policy (reducing expenditure or raising taxes) helps curb demand-pull inflation.
- Statement 3 is **correct**: The FRBM Act seeks fiscal discipline, debt sustainability, and long-term stability.

Q.4 With reference to the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Act empowers the Parliament to constitute tribunals for adjudication of inter-state water disputes.
- 2. The decision of a Tribunal under this Act is final and binding, and no appeal lies in the Supreme Court.
- 3. The Act has been amended to include a provision for a *dispute resolution committee* before a tribunal is formed.
- 4. The Union Government has the power to frame a scheme to implement the decision of a tribunal under this Act.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: **Correct**. Parliament enacted the ISRWD Act, 1956 for this purpose.
- Statement 2: **Correct**. The tribunal's award is final and binding; Supreme Court jurisdiction under Article 262 is excluded.
- Statement 3: **Correct**. The 2019 amendment inserted provision for a *Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)*.



- Statement 4: **Correct.** The Centre can frame a scheme for implementation (e.g., Cauvery Water Management Scheme, 2018).

Q.5 Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): The cold currents along the western coasts of continents in tropical and subtropical regions are often associated with the formation of deserts.

Reason (R): Cold ocean currents increase the evaporation of ocean water and lead to high precipitation along adjacent coasts.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, but R is correct.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Assertion: **Correct.** Cold currents cause air above them to become stable and dry, suppressing cloud formation, leading to desert formation (e.g., Atacama, Namib).
- Reason: **Incorrect.** Cold currents *reduce* evaporation, not increase it. This suppression of evaporation and uplift of dry air is the reason for arid conditions.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding the Manki–Munda system practised in Kolhan (Jharkhand):

1. Historically, the Munda (village head) and the Manki (head of a cluster of villages) exercised no revenue or land-related powers; their jurisdiction was largely limited to internal customary dispute-resolution.
2. Captain Thomas Wilkinson’s 1833 ‘Wilkinson’s Rules’ converted those customary practices into formal statutory law enforceable as colonial legislation in British India.

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:

The Manki–Munda system among the Ho in Kolhan was a customary governance mechanism for dispute



resolution and internal order, without revenue collection powers. Wilkinson's Rules codified and recognised these customs administratively but did not transform them into a full-fledged colonial statute.

Q.2 Which one of the following statements about *Eustoma* (Lisianthus) is CORRECT?

- (a) *Eustoma grandiflorum* is a hardy woody shrub native to the Mediterranean and is cultivated outdoors in India without temperature control.
- (b) *Eustoma grandiflorum* is a herbaceous species highly valued in the cut-flower trade; it has very small surface-sown seeds, shows long vase life, but is prone to 'rosetting' under high temperature — hence protected cultivation is often recommended in Indian conditions.
- (c) *Eustoma* is primarily an aquatic macrophyte cultivated in rice paddies to improve water retention.
- (d) *Eustoma* seeds are large and should be sown deeply in heavy soils for best germination.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Eustoma grandiflorum is a delicate herbaceous flower valued in the cut-flower trade. Its tiny seeds require surface sowing. The crop has a long vase life but is susceptible to rosetting under high temperature, which is why controlled cultivation is often practised.

Q.3 Consider the following statements about the bamboo-based bio-refinery recently inaugurated at Numaligarh, Assam:

1. The refinery is India's first large-scale bamboo-based bio-refinery and will use bamboo biomass as its principal feedstock.
2. It is a second-generation (2G) bio-refinery designed to produce roughly 49,000–60,000 tonnes of ethanol per year and co-products such as furfural and acetic acid.
3. The refinery's production is aimed exclusively at export markets and is not intended to contribute to India's domestic ethanol-blending goals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Numaligarh bio-refinery is India's first bamboo-based second-generation refinery, designed to use bamboo as feedstock for ethanol and valuable by-products. It is part of India's domestic ethanol blending programme, not exclusively for exports.

Q.4 Consider the following statements about the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025 approved by the Government of India:

1. DPM 2025 is intended primarily to streamline and rationalise **revenue** procurements of the Ministry of Defence.



2. The manual centralises all revenue procurement decision-making solely at the Raksha Mantri level, removing delegated authorities.
3. DPM 2025 contains provisions to ease financial bottlenecks, encourage MSMEs and start-ups, and foster collaboration with institutions for indigenisation.

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:

DPM 2025 focuses on rationalising **revenue** procurement, making processes faster and industry-friendly. It retains delegated authorities for efficiency, not centralisation. It introduces provisions to support MSMEs, start-ups, and collaborations for indigenisation.

Q.5 With reference to the term ‘Grey Rhino’, consider the following statements:

1. A ‘Grey Rhino’ denotes a highly probable, high-impact threat that is often neglected until it materialises.
2. It is synonymous with the ‘Black Swan’ concept and refers to low-probability, unforeseeable shocks.
3. The recent Wayanad landslide has been described as a ‘Grey Rhino’ event because long-term ecological degradation and ignored warnings made it foreseeable.
4. Policy responses to Grey Rhino events require only short-term relief, not long-term land-use planning or institutional reforms.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Grey Rhino events are highly probable and visible but often ignored risks. They differ from Black Swans, which are unforeseeable. The Wayanad landslide was termed a Grey Rhino due to predictable vulnerabilities. Long-term planning and reforms are essential to address such risks.

Q.6 On the map of Salmis Island (Greece), the bay that forms the west-facing crescent of the island opens into which larger body of water?

- (a) Sea of Marmara
- (b) Ionian Sea
- (c) Saronic Gulf (part of the Aegean Sea)
- (d) Adriatic Sea



Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Salamis Bay opens into the **Saronic Gulf**, which is part of the Aegean Sea, lying near Athens. It is historically significant as the site of the Battle of Salamis.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-I:

Q.1 Discuss the role of the Round Table Conferences (1930–32) in shaping the trajectory of India's freedom struggle. To what extent did they expose the contradictions within British policy and Indian nationalist aspirations?

Sample Answer (≈320 words):

The three Round Table Conferences (RTCs) held between 1930 and 1932 in London were critical turning points in colonial constitutional negotiations. They occurred during a period of heightened nationalist activity, with the Civil Disobedience Movement underway.

The **First RTC (1930)**, boycotted by the Congress, was dominated by loyalists, princes, and minority representatives. While it showcased British willingness to negotiate reforms, the absence of the principal nationalist force (Congress) undermined its legitimacy.

The **Second RTC (1931)** became significant due to Congress participation. Gandhi, as the sole Congress representative, highlighted issues of swaraj, political representation, and communal unity. Yet, the session revealed deep fractures: British insistence on safeguarding minorities (Communal Award) versus Congress' opposition to separate electorates, except for special protection of depressed classes.

The **Third RTC (1932)**, boycotted by Congress again, finalized the blueprint of the Government of India Act, 1935. While providing for provincial autonomy, the Act entrenched safeguards for British interests and minorities, reflecting imperial reluctance to concede full self-rule.

The RTCs exposed contradictions:

- **British contradictions:** professing gradual reform while clinging to imperial control.
- **Nationalist contradictions:** while demanding self-government, divisions among communities and political groups weakened the nationalist position.
- **Ambedkar–Gandhi clash:** the Poona Pact (1932) following the Communal Award epitomized tensions between national unity and social justice.

In conclusion, while the RTCs did not achieve swaraj, they revealed the limits of British concessions and compelled Indian leaders to re-strategize. They laid groundwork for the 1935 Act and underscored the irreversibility of India's march toward independence. Their greatest contribution was not institutional reform, but the exposure of competing visions for India's future.



GS–II:

Q.2 Critically examine the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) mechanism in India. Do the proposed amendments strike the right balance between federalism and efficiency?

Sample Answer (≈310 words):

Water disputes have long strained Indian federalism, with rivers such as the Cauvery, Krishna, and Ravi-Beas generating inter-state conflicts. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 was designed to provide a legal mechanism for adjudication through tribunals.

Challenges in the current system:

- **Delayed adjudication:** tribunals often take decades; e.g., Cauvery dispute took over 25 years.
- **Implementation deficit:** absence of binding enforcement mechanisms meant states frequently disobeyed awards.
- **Exclusion of judicial review:** although tribunal awards are final, disputes often re-enter the judiciary through indirect routes.
- **Politicisation:** water disputes become electoral issues, deepening inter-state mistrust.

Amendments proposed (2019 Bill):

- Creation of a **Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)** for negotiation before tribunal formation.
- Setting a **fixed time limit** (maximum 6 years) for tribunal adjudication.
- Establishment of a **permanent tribunal** with multiple benches for flexibility.
- Empowering the Centre to frame **implementation schemes**.

Federalism vs. Efficiency:

On one hand, these amendments enhance efficiency by reducing delays, introducing mediation, and ensuring enforceability. On the other hand, centralising powers (e.g., Centre's role in framing implementation schemes, permanent benches) risks undermining states' bargaining power and autonomy.

A nuanced balance is required:

- **Efficiency gains** are undeniable, as India cannot afford indefinite stalemates in water sharing.
- Yet, **cooperative federalism** requires that states perceive fairness; otherwise, central dominance may aggravate political tensions.

Conclusion:

The ISRWD mechanism has evolved from ad hoc, litigation-driven processes to a more structured framework. While the amendments improve timeliness and compliance, they must be complemented with transparent basin-level planning, participatory institutions, and ecological considerations. Balancing **speed with federal trust** is key to sustainable dispute resolution.

GS–III:

Q.3. Evaluate the role of second-generation (2G) bio-refineries in India's energy transition. Can bamboo-based ethanol production in Assam serve as a scalable model for the future?



Sample Answer:

India's energy transition strategy aims to reduce fossil fuel dependence, cut emissions, and enhance energy security. In this context, second-generation (2G) bio-refineries, which utilize non-food biomass such as crop residues and bamboo, play a pivotal role.

Significance of 2G bio-refineries:

- **Energy security:** reduce reliance on imported crude oil.
- **Ethanol blending:** critical for achieving the 20% blending target by 2025.
- **Waste utilization:** crop residues like paddy straw (otherwise burned, causing pollution) can be diverted.
- **Rural economy:** provide farmers new revenue streams through biomass supply chains.

The Numaligarh Bamboo-based Bio-refinery, Assam:

- India's first large-scale bamboo-based 2G refinery.
- Capacity: ~49,000–60,000 tonnes of ethanol annually, with co-products such as acetic acid and furfural.
- Feedstock: 300,000+ tonnes of bamboo sourced locally, creating rural employment.
- Expected to support India's ethanol blending goals and reduce emissions.

Opportunities and challenges for scaling:

- **Advantages:** Bamboo is fast-growing, widely available in Northeast India, and does not compete with food crops. It promotes local livelihoods, regional development, and energy diversification.
- **Challenges:**
 - Logistics of bamboo harvesting, transportation, and storage.
 - High capital costs for 2G technology, with uncertain returns.
 - Need for sustainable harvesting practices to avoid ecological damage.
 - Technology risks: enzymes and pretreatment processes remain expensive.

Way forward:

- Create bamboo-based value chains integrated with tribal and rural communities.
- Provide viability gap funding and assured procurement policies.
- Expand beyond bamboo to other lignocellulosic feedstocks.
- Promote research for cheaper enzyme technologies and efficiency gains.

Conclusion:

Bamboo-based ethanol in Assam is not just a biofuel project; it is a model of linking **energy transition, rural livelihoods, and regional development**. While challenges remain, successful scaling could make 2G refineries a cornerstone of India's low-carbon future.



GS–IV: Ethics

Q.4 “Administrative ethics is not merely about preventing corruption but about cultivating integrity.” In light of this statement, discuss how ethical leadership can transform governance in India. Illustrate with suitable examples.

Sample Answer:

Ethics in administration extends beyond compliance or avoidance of wrongdoing; it involves proactive cultivation of integrity, impartiality, and service-orientation. Integrity is about aligning personal conduct with public values, thereby creating trust in governance.

Importance of cultivating integrity:

- **Restoring public trust:** People judge government legitimacy through the perceived honesty of its functionaries.
- **Beyond rules:** Corruption can be checked by laws, but true accountability arises when administrators internalise values.
- **Decision-making under ambiguity:** Ethical integrity ensures fair judgment in grey areas not covered by laws.

Ethical leadership in governance:

1. **Role modelling:** Ethical leaders inspire subordinates to uphold integrity, creating an ethical climate.
 - Example: E. Sreedharan (Delhi Metro) is often cited for transparent processes and punctuality, setting institutional standards.
2. **Institution-building:** Leaders with integrity design systems that reduce discretion and leakages (e.g., Aadhaar-enabled DBTs reducing corruption in welfare delivery).
3. **Citizen-centric approach:** Ethical leadership embodies service as a value. Schemes like Mohalla Clinics in Delhi or community policing in Kerala work because leadership made integrity a guiding principle.
4. **Crisis leadership:** During disasters like Kerala floods (2018), ethical decision-making ensured equitable relief distribution.

Challenges:

- Political pressures, vested interests, and weak institutional support sometimes compromise ethical conduct.
- Whistleblowers often face retaliation, discouraging integrity.

Way forward:

- Incorporating ethics training in civil service curriculum.
- Strengthening whistleblower protection.
- Rewarding ethical role models in administration.
- Encouraging transparency through RTI and citizen engagement.

Conclusion:

Preventing corruption is a **reactive stance**; cultivating integrity through ethical leadership is a



transformative stance. It is this positive pursuit of values that makes governance not just efficient, but just and humane.

Current Affairs:

Q.5. *The global plastic pollution crisis has emerged as one of the defining environmental challenges of our time. Critically analyse the effectiveness of international initiatives in tackling plastic pollution. What role can India play in shaping a sustainable global framework?*

Sample Answer:

Plastic pollution has become a planetary crisis: 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced annually, with 11 million tonnes entering oceans every year. Microplastics contaminate food chains, threaten biodiversity, and exacerbate climate change through fossil fuel-based production.

International initiatives:

1. **UNEP's Global Plastics Treaty (2022 negotiations):** First legally binding international framework under negotiation to curb plastic pollution across the life cycle. However, differences exist between countries advocating production caps (like Rwanda, Peru) and those prioritising recycling.
2. **Basel Convention amendments (2019):** Plastic waste included under prior informed consent, aiming to control transboundary movement. Implementation remains weak due to illegal waste trade.
3. **Global Partnership on Marine Litter (2012):** Promotes voluntary cooperation but lacks enforcement teeth.
4. **Regional frameworks:** EU's ban on single-use plastics; ASEAN regional action plan.

Limitations:

- Heavy reliance on voluntary pledges.
- Recycling rates remain below 10% globally.
- Disparities: developed countries push recycling while continuing exports of plastic waste to developing nations.
- Absence of binding caps on virgin plastic production.

India's role:

- **Domestic action:** India banned identified single-use plastics (2022) and announced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging.
- **Global diplomacy:** India can bridge divides between developed and developing nations by advocating equity — supporting caps on virgin plastic while ensuring technology transfer and financial aid for waste management in the Global South.
- **Innovation hub:** India's start-ups in biodegradable alternatives and circular economy (bioplastics, bamboo-based packaging) can set scalable models.
- **Leadership:** India's presidency of G20 (2023) put circular economy and sustainable consumption on the global agenda — a momentum that can be extended to the plastics treaty negotiations.

Conclusion:

Plastic pollution demands a global response that addresses the entire life cycle of plastics, not just waste



management. India, by combining domestic reforms with international leadership, can play a pivotal role in shaping a fair and effective global framework for a plastic-free future.

VIDHVATH IAS