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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 17/09/2025 (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 Vijayanagar Empire:

1. The Amara Nayaka system introduced under the Vijayanagar rulers was primarily a land revenue arrangement similar to the Iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. The Battle of Talikota (1565) marked the final end of the Vijayanagar Empire as its territories were immediately annexed by the Bahmani successors.

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 *Amara Nayaka* system was indeed similar to the Iqta system where local military chiefs were granted revenue assignments in return for maintaining troops for the empire. However, unlike the Iqta, the Amara Nayakas enjoyed a higher degree of autonomy and often challenged central authority.

The Battle of Talikota (1565) was a decisive blow to Vijayanagar power, but it did not immediately end the empire. The city of Vijayanagar was plundered and destroyed, yet rulers continued in the region of Penukonda and Chandragiri for several decades. Thus, statement 1 is correct, while statement 2 is incorrect.

Q2. Which of the following phenomena directly contributes to the formation of the Ozone Hole over Antarctica during spring?

- (a) Interaction of polar stratospheric clouds with chlorofluorocarbon-derived chlorine radicals
- (b) Enhanced solar ultraviolet radiation reaching Earth's surface
- (c) Sudden warming of tropospheric air masses leading to vertical convection
- (d) Excessive emission of carbon dioxide leading to photochemical reactions in stratosphere

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The ozone hole is primarily caused by chlorine and bromine radicals released from human-made compounds like CFCs. During the Antarctic winter, polar stratospheric clouds form due to extremely low temperatures. In spring, when sunlight returns, these clouds trigger reactions releasing active chlorine radicals that rapidly destroy ozone molecules. This unique interaction explains the sharp depletion of ozone in the region.

Q3. With reference to the concept of “Legal Tender” in the Indian economy, consider the following statements:

1. All coins issued by the Government of India are unlimited legal tender for payment of any amount.
2. Banknotes issued by the Reserve Bank of India are guaranteed by the Government of India under the RBI Act, 1934.
3. A currency note demonetized by the Government ceases to be legal tender irrespective of whether the RBI accepts it for exchange.



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:

Coins issued by the Government of India are legal tender only up to certain limits (e.g., ₹1, ₹2, ₹5 coins up to specified amounts) and not for unlimited transactions. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Banknotes issued by the RBI carry the guarantee of the Government of India, and this is printed on the notes as “Guaranteed by the Central Government.” Thus, statement 2 is correct.

When a note is demonetized, it legally ceases to be tender in transactions, even if RBI facilitates an exchange window for a time. Therefore, statement 3 is also correct. Hence, 2 and 3 only.

Q4. With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, consider the following provisions:

1. It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of Provinces and Princely States.
2. It abolished the system of separate electorates introduced by the Morley-Minto Reforms.
3. It introduced Provincial Autonomy, replacing dyarchy in provinces.
4. It vested the residuary powers with the Federal Legislature.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Act of 1935 indeed proposed an All-India Federation of Provinces and Princely States, though this federation never fully materialized. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It did not abolish separate electorates; rather, it extended them to more communities, including women, labour, and depressed classes. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Dyarchy was introduced in provinces by the Act of 1919 and was replaced by Provincial Autonomy under the 1935 Act. Thus, statement 3 is correct.

Residuary powers were vested not in the federal legislature but in the Governor-General. Hence, statement 4 is incorrect. Therefore, only 1 and 3 are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Orographic rainfall is most common on the windward side of mountains.

Reason (R): As air ascends a mountain slope, it cools adiabatically leading to condensation and precipitation.



- (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)

Explanation:

Orographic rainfall occurs when moist air is forced to rise over a mountain barrier. As it ascends, pressure decreases, causing adiabatic cooling. The cooling leads to condensation and cloud formation, resulting in heavy rainfall on the windward side. The leeward side, by contrast, experiences a rain shadow. Hence, both assertion and reason are correct, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Abel Prize 2025:

1. The 2025 Abel Prize was awarded to a mathematician honoured specifically “for his fundamental contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory, in particular the development of the theory of D-modules and the discovery of crystal bases.”
2. The Abel Prize carries an age-limit similar to the Fields Medal (i.e., the laureate must be under 40 years of age).

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 2025 Abel Prize citation specifically mentions contributions to D-modules and crystal bases. The Abel Prize, unlike the Fields Medal, has no age restriction. Thus, statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect.

Q2. Which one of the following options correctly identifies the foundation year and headquarters of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)?

- (a) Founded 1961; headquarters — Gland (Switzerland)
- (b) Founded 1961; headquarters — Geneva (Switzerland)
- (c) Founded 1970; headquarters — Gland (Switzerland)
- (d) Founded 1961; headquarters — London (United Kingdom)

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

WWF was established in 1961 and has its global headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.



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

1. Article 222 of the Constitution empowers the President to transfer a Judge from one High Court to any other High Court after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
2. Under the Memorandum of Procedure and settled practice, the initiation of a transfer proposal is ordinarily made by the Chief Justice of India and the CJI's opinion is treated as determinative; the consent of the judge is not required for transfer.
3. Once a transfer recommendation is made by the CJI/collegium, the Union Government/President has an absolute right to veto the transfer and such veto cannot be overridden by the collegium.

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:

The Constitution under Article 222 provides for transfer of judges with CJI's consultation. In practice, the CJI/collegium initiates transfers and the judge's consent is not required. The executive does not hold an absolute veto; collegium's reiterated recommendations prevail.

Q4. Consider the following statements about Sarhul (a tribal festival):

1. Sarhul is primarily a spring festival in which the Sal (*Shorea robusta*) tree and groves are central to religious observance.
2. Sarhul is celebrated exclusively by the Oraon (Kurukh) tribe and is not observed by other tribal communities such as Munda, Ho or Bhumij.
3. Traditional Sarhul rituals include offerings in the sarna (grove) by the village priest (Pahan), sacrificial rites (including roosters) and subsequent communal dances; local weather/harvest omens are often read during the festival.

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)

Explanation:

Sarhul is linked to the Sal tree and springtime renewal. It is not confined to the Oraon tribe alone; other communities like Munda and Ho also celebrate it. Rituals include offerings by the Pahan, sacrifices, and dances.

Q5. With reference to the concept of disinflation, consider the following statements:

1. Disinflation denotes a decline in the inflation rate — prices still rise but at a slower rate than before.



2. Disinflation and deflation are synonymous terms used interchangeably in macroeconomics.
3. If nominal interest rates remain unchanged, a fall in inflation (disinflation) increases the ex-post real interest rate.
4. Disinflation necessarily causes short-run improvements in real GDP growth.

Which of the statements given above is/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:

Disinflation is a slowdown in the inflation rate, not the same as deflation. When nominal interest rates are fixed, falling inflation raises real rates. It does not automatically improve GDP growth and may, in fact, reduce demand in the short run.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the Jhelum River:

1. The Jhelum River originates from Verinag Spring in the Pir Panjal range.
2. It flows through the Wular Lake in Jammu & Kashmir.
3. The Jhelum directly joins the Indus River.
4. The Neelum/Kishanganga is one of its major tributaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Jhelum originates from the Verinag Spring in the Pir Panjal range, flows through Wular Lake, and its major tributary is the Neelum/Kishanganga. It does **not** directly join the Indus; it first merges with the Chenab River before eventually contributing to the Indus system.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1:

Q1. Critically examine the ideological contest between Socialism and Capitalism in the 20th century. How did it shape global political and economic developments?

Answer:

The 20th century witnessed an intense ideological contest between **Socialism and Capitalism**, which significantly influenced global politics, economics, and international relations.

Introduction:

Socialism emphasizes collective ownership, state intervention, and equality, while Capitalism is rooted in private property, free markets, and competition. This ideological divide shaped not only domestic governance but also the global order during the Cold War.

Body:

1. Economic Models:

- Capitalism, led by the United States and Western Europe, promoted liberal democracy and free-market economy.
- Socialism, under the Soviet Union, sought to establish a classless society through state control of resources and central planning.

2. Cold War Rivalry:

- The world was divided into two blocs: the **Western bloc (NATO)** and the **Eastern bloc (Warsaw Pact)**.
- Proxy wars in Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan reflected the ideological struggle.

3. Impact on Developing Nations:

- Newly decolonized states in Asia and Africa experimented with socialist policies (India, Tanzania, Egypt) to achieve rapid development.
- However, many also opened up to capitalist models through foreign investment and liberalization.

4. Collapse of Socialist Bloc:

- The inefficiencies of central planning, lack of political freedoms, and economic stagnation led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- Capitalism, through globalization, emerged as the dominant ideology.

5. Contemporary Relevance:

- Post-2008 financial crisis, critiques of unregulated capitalism revived socialist ideas like universal healthcare, welfare, and equitable taxation.
- Modern economies increasingly follow a **mixed model**, blending market efficiency with social justice.



Conclusion:

The Socialism vs Capitalism debate was not merely economic but civilizational, shaping wars, alliances, and development models. Today, while capitalism dominates, elements of socialism remain vital in ensuring inclusivity and equity, demonstrating that neither system in its pure form can fully address modern challenges.

GS Paper 2

Q2. Discuss the constitutional role, powers, and limitations of the Vice President of India. Do you think the office needs reforms for greater effectiveness?

Answer:

Introduction:

The **Vice President of India**, the second highest constitutional office, is envisaged as a crucial part of India's parliamentary system. However, debates continue on whether the role is substantive or merely ceremonial.

Body:

1. Constitutional Position (Articles 63–71):

- **Ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha:** Presides over the Upper House, ensuring order and discipline.
- **Successor to President:** Acts as President in case of vacancy, resignation, removal, or death.

2. Election & Tenure:

- Elected by members of both Houses of Parliament through proportional representation by single transferable vote.
- Holds office for 5 years, eligible for re-election.

3. Powers and Functions:

- Ensuring neutrality in Rajya Sabha debates.
- Facilitating legislative functioning by maintaining decorum and ruling on points of order.
- Unlike the U.S. Vice President, the Indian Vice President has **no executive powers**.

4. Limitations:

- No independent constitutional functions beyond chairing Rajya Sabha.
- Often criticized for being dependent on political affiliations and lacking impartiality.
- Does not have a defined advisory role to the President.

5. Need for Reforms:

- **Strengthen impartiality** by mandating resignation from political parties upon election.
- **Expanding role:** Could be given consultative functions on Centre-State relations or national security.
- **Better utilisation:** The Vice President could act as a bridge between the executive and legislature.

**Conclusion:**

While the Vice President's office is often seen as symbolic, it plays a stabilizing role in parliamentary democracy. Reforms to enhance neutrality and give functional responsibilities can transform the role into a more effective constitutional institution.

GS Paper 3

Q3. India faces the twin challenge of achieving economic growth while addressing environmental sustainability. Discuss with reference to climate change, air pollution, and energy security.

Answer:**Introduction:**

India's development trajectory must balance **rapid economic growth** with the imperatives of **environmental protection**. Issues of climate change, air pollution, and energy security pose a critical challenge in this context.

Body:**1. Climate Change:**

- India is among the most vulnerable nations to climate risks—heatwaves, erratic monsoons, floods.
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement commit India to reduce emissions intensity by 45% by 2030.
- Initiatives like the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** and renewable energy expansion show commitment, but implementation gaps remain.

2. Air Pollution:

- India hosts 14 of the world's 20 most polluted cities.
- Causes: vehicular emissions, stubble burning, industrial waste, thermal plants.
- **Economic cost:** As per World Bank estimates, pollution reduces GDP by 5–8% annually.
- Measures: National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), adoption of BS-VI standards, promotion of electric mobility.

3. Energy Security:

- India imports ~85% of crude oil needs, making it vulnerable to global price fluctuations.
- Transitioning to renewable energy is vital for energy independence.
- Solar, wind, green hydrogen, and biofuels are being scaled up to meet the **500 GW non-fossil capacity target by 2030**.

4. Challenges:

- Policy fragmentation and weak enforcement.
- Conflict between industrial expansion and environmental clearances.
- Need for large-scale financing of green technologies.



Conclusion:

India must follow a path of **green growth**, integrating sustainability with development. Strengthening renewable energy adoption, green urban planning, and strict environmental governance can help India meet the dual challenge of economic progress and ecological preservation, ensuring long-term human and national security.

GS Paper 4 (Ethics)

Q4. "Public service must be guided by integrity, accountability, and empathy." Examine this statement in the context of ethical governance in India.

Answer:

Introduction:

Ethical governance forms the backbone of democracy. For public servants, values such as **integrity, accountability, and empathy** are essential in ensuring trust and legitimacy in governance.

Body:

1. Integrity:

- Implies adherence to moral principles and honesty.
- In public service, integrity means avoiding corruption, ensuring transparency in decision-making, and prioritizing public interest over personal gain.
- Example: E-governance and digital platforms like *Direct Benefit Transfer* reduce scope for corruption.

2. Accountability:

- Ensures that public servants are answerable to the citizens, legislature, and law.
- Mechanisms such as RTI Act, CAG audits, parliamentary committees enhance accountability.
- Ethical accountability goes beyond compliance—it demands responsiveness to the spirit of the law.

3. Empathy:

- Understanding citizens' needs and challenges is vital in designing effective policies.
- Empathy-driven governance leads to welfare measures such as MGNREGA, Ayushman Bharat, and PM Poshan Scheme.
- Example: During COVID-19, empathetic governance ensured free food rations and vaccination drives for vulnerable sections.

4. Challenges:

- Rising cases of corruption, nepotism, and insensitivity erode public trust.
- Bureaucratic red-tapism often ignores the emotional and social realities of citizens.

Conclusion:

Public service guided by integrity, accountability, and empathy ensures **responsive, transparent, and humane governance**. Training, strong institutions, and citizen engagement can further embed these values in administrative culture, enabling governance that serves not just efficiently, but ethically.



Current Affairs:

Q5. The Sabarimala temple issue has once again sparked debate on religious freedom, gender equality, and judicial intervention. Critically analyze the political and religious dimensions of this controversy.

Answer:

Introduction:

The **Sabarimala temple** in Kerala, dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, has historically barred women of menstruating age (10–50 years) from entry. The 2018 Supreme Court judgment declaring this practice unconstitutional revived debates on **religious rights, gender justice, and political mobilisation**.

Body:

1. Judicial Dimension:

- SC (2018) held the ban violated **Articles 14, 15, and 25**, ensuring women's right to equality and freedom of religion.
- However, review petitions and a reference to a larger Bench highlight judicial caution in balancing faith and fundamental rights.

2. Religious Dimension:

- Devotees argue the restriction is based on the deity's celibate nature, protected under **Article 26 (freedom to manage religious affairs)**.
- Critics see it as patriarchal discrimination inconsistent with constitutional morality.

3. Political Dimension:

- The issue has polarised Kerala politics, with Left parties supporting women's entry (in line with progressive values), while right-wing groups defend tradition.
- It has become a rallying point for political mobilisation, influencing electoral narratives.

4. Wider Implications:

- The case raises the question: should the state intervene in faith-based practices?
- It tests the limits of judicial activism in religious matters.
- Broader gender justice movements draw inspiration from the case, linking it to debates on women's entry in mosques and other religious spaces.

Conclusion:

The Sabarimala issue is not just about temple entry but about the deeper conflict between **constitutional morality and cultural traditions**. The way forward lies in dialogue between judiciary, state, and religious communities, ensuring gender equality without alienating faith-based sentiments. Balancing rights with respect for traditions will be key to resolving such sensitive issues in India's plural democracy.