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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 18/09/2025 (THURSDAY)

- **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 Mauryan Empire:

1. *Arthashastra* by Kautilya recommends using spies and intelligence networks for effective governance.
2. Ashoka's Dhamma was entirely a Buddhist religious doctrine intended to convert people to Buddhism.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Kautilya's *Arthashastra* emphasizes centralized administration supported by espionage, surveillance, and intelligence networks to strengthen state control.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. Ashoka's Dhamma was a set of ethical principles promoting non-violence, tolerance, respect, and welfare for all beings. It was not intended as a tool for religious conversion, though Ashoka personally followed Buddhism.

Q2. Consider the following statements about Ramsar Wetlands in India:

1. Ramsar sites must host at least one endemic species.
2. Loktak Lake is the only Ramsar site in India with a floating national park.
3. The Montreux Record is maintained by UNEP to list wetlands under severe human-induced threat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect. Ramsar designation depends on ecological significance, biodiversity, and importance for migratory birds, not necessarily on endemic species.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. Loktak Lake in Manipur hosts Keibul Lamjao National Park, the world's only floating national park.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. The Montreux Record is maintained under the Ramsar Convention (not UNEP) to identify wetlands experiencing or likely to experience ecological changes.

Q3. With reference to the concept of 'Liquidity Trap' in economics, consider the following statements:

1. It occurs when interest rates are high but investment demand is low.
2. Monetary policy loses effectiveness when interest rates are near zero.
3. It is more likely during periods of economic depression or deflation.



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) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect. In a liquidity trap, interest rates are extremely low, yet people prefer holding cash over investing or spending.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. Near-zero interest rates reduce the effectiveness of monetary policy, which is the hallmark of a liquidity trap.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Liquidity traps are typically observed during deflationary periods or economic downturns when conventional policy measures fail.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of the Rajya Sabha in India:

1. It can empower Parliament to legislate on subjects in the State List.
2. It can propose the creation of All India Services.
3. It participates in the impeachment of the President.
4. It has the same powers as Lok Sabha in passing Money Bills.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Under Article 249, Rajya Sabha can allow Parliament to make laws on State List subjects via a two-thirds majority resolution.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. Under Article 312, Rajya Sabha can move a resolution for the creation of All India Services.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Rajya Sabha participates along with Lok Sabha in the President's impeachment process (Article 61).
- **Statement 4:** Incorrect. Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations on Money Bills; final approval rests with Lok Sabha.

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type:

Assertion (A): Western coastal plains of India have fewer natural harbours than eastern coastal plains.

Reason (R): Eastern coastal plains are wider and contain more river deltas.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A
(b) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain 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 does not explain A



Explanation:

- The western coast is narrow, submerged, and hilly, limiting natural harbour formation, though some harbours (e.g., Mumbai, Mangalore) exist.
- The eastern coast is broader with deltaic formations (Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna), but sedimentation reduces the suitability for natural harbours.
- Therefore, both statements are true, but the reason does not correctly explain the assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Akash Prime Missile System:

1. Akash Prime is an advanced version of the Akash surface-to-air missile, featuring indigenous seekers and better performance in low-temperature environments.
2. It is designed to intercept intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) at high altitudes.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Developed by DRDO, Akash Prime includes an indigenous active radar seeker and improved operability in harsh environmental conditions.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. Akash Prime is a short-range SAM, not intended for intercepting ICBMs, which require high-altitude long-range interceptors like PDV.

Q2. The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) initiative primarily aims at:

- (a) Providing AI-assisted nutritional tracking for mid-day meals
- (b) Creating online market networks for rural artisans
- (c) Integrating IT-enabled education in public schools through digital classrooms
- (d) Training para-medical staff for AI-based diagnostics

Answer: (c) Integrating IT-enabled education in public schools through digital classrooms

Explanation:

- KITE focuses on digitizing public school education in Kerala.
- It includes initiatives like Hi-Tech classrooms, KITE VICTERS TV channel, FOSS-based educational software, and digital content dissemination.
- The programme promotes equitable digital access and IT skill development for students and teachers.



Q3. With reference to the gravitational wave event GW231123, consider the following statements:

1. It corresponds to one of the heaviest binary black hole mergers detected by LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA.
2. Gravitational waves from such events enable testing of general relativity under extreme gravitational fields.
3. Such events provide evidence for wormholes and white holes.

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:** Correct. GW231123 is a recent gravitational wave detection involving one of the most massive black hole mergers observed.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. Such mergers act as natural laboratories to test Einstein's general relativity under extreme conditions.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. There is no observational confirmation of wormholes or white holes from gravitational wave events; only black hole mergers are confirmed.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding India's short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs):

1. Agni-I has a longer range than Prithvi-II and is both road- and rail-mobile.
2. Prithvi-II uses solid fuel, while Agni-I relies on liquid fuel.
3. Both missiles were developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Agni-I has a range of 700–900 km and is deployable via road and rail, whereas Prithvi-II has a shorter range (~350 km).
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. Agni-I uses solid fuel for quicker launches; Prithvi-II uses liquid fuel requiring more preparation.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Both missiles were developed under DRDO's IGMDP launched in the 1980s.

Q5. With reference to the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), consider the following statements:

1. CARA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. It regulates both domestic and inter-country adoptions in India.



3. Adoption laws in India include the Juvenile Justice Act and the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act.
4. Supreme Court has made CARA registration optional for NRIs adopting Indian children.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. CARA is established under Section 68 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and functions under MWCD.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. CARA monitors and regulates all domestic and international adoptions.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Adoption is governed by JJ Act (all religions) and HAMA (for Hindus).
- **Statement 4:** Incorrect. CARA registration is mandatory for all adoption cases, including NRIs.

Q6. Which of the following countries have a coastline along the Black Sea?

1. Georgia
2. Armenia
3. Bulgaria
4. Romania
5. Azerbaijan

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only (b) 1, 3 and 4 only (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only (d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Black Sea coastlines include Georgia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia.
- **Armenia** is landlocked and has no Black Sea access.
- **Azerbaijan** borders the Caspian Sea, not the Black Sea.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. The Treaty of Versailles sowed the seeds of World War II more than it ensured peace after World War I. Critically examine.

Answer:

The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919, formally ended World War I. While it intended to secure peace, its punitive provisions created conditions that ultimately contributed to the outbreak of World War II.

Key Provisions of the Treaty:

- **War guilt clause (Article 231):** Germany had to accept full responsibility for the war.
- **Reparations:** Germany was required to pay 132 billion gold marks to Allied nations.
- **Territorial losses:** Regions such as Alsace-Lorraine returned to France; the Polish Corridor was created.
- **Military restrictions:** German army capped at 100,000 troops; tanks, submarines, and air force banned.

How it paved the way for WWII:

- **Economic hardship:** Reparations caused hyperinflation and unemployment in Germany.
- **National humiliation:** The war guilt clause fueled resentment and nationalism.
- **Political radicalization:** The Nazi Party exploited public anger, promising to overturn the Treaty and restore Germany's pride.
- **Weak collective security:** The League of Nations lacked enforcement powers, and key powers, notably the U.S., did not participate effectively.

Critical Analysis:

- The Treaty reflected Allied demands, particularly France's desire for security.
- Critics argue its harshness undermined reconciliation, creating political and economic instability.

Conclusion:

By prioritizing punishment over reconciliation, the Treaty of Versailles destabilized Germany, setting the stage for fascism and the Second World War.

GS Paper 2

Q2. "Citizen Charter is a tool for making public service delivery more accountable, transparent, and citizen-centric." Examine its effectiveness and challenges in India.

Answer:

Citizen Charters are formal statements issued by government departments detailing their mission, services, delivery standards, and grievance mechanisms. India adopted the concept in 1997 through the Sevottam framework.



Effectiveness:

- **Service standardization:** Examples include Passport Seva and Indian Railways, which improved timelines and efficiency.
- **Transparency:** Citizens are informed of service standards, reducing arbitrariness.
- **Grievance mechanisms:** Platforms like CPGRAMS help address citizen complaints in line with charter commitments.

Challenges:

- **Non-binding nature:** Charters are often voluntary, limiting enforcement.
- **Low public awareness:** Citizens may not know their rights under the charter.
- **Implementation gaps:** Many departments issue charters as formalities without follow-up or monitoring.
- **Lack of ownership:** Frontline staff may not be trained or motivated to uphold standards.

Recommendations:

- Introduce statutory backing for charters.
- Conduct periodic independent audits to measure compliance.
- Provide training to officials and awareness campaigns for citizens.
- Leverage digital platforms for real-time monitoring.

Conclusion:

Citizen Charters can strengthen governance if implemented effectively. The challenge lies in translating the stated commitments into actionable practices at the ground level.

GS Paper 3

Q3. "The future of India's climate resilience depends on robust local governance and decentralized planning." Analyse in the context of climate adaptation strategies.

Answer:

India is highly vulnerable to climate change, with increased floods, droughts, cyclones, and heatwaves. While national policies set broad goals, effective adaptation requires local-level planning.

Role of Local Governance:

- **Risk assessment:** Panchayats and municipalities understand community-specific vulnerabilities.
- **Urban and land-use planning:** Local bodies can integrate climate resilience into city planning, waste management, and green cover initiatives.
- **Water and agriculture management:** Rainwater harvesting, tank rejuvenation, and climate-resilient farming practices can be implemented locally.
- **Disaster preparedness:** Community-based early warning systems and drills strengthen resilience.

Challenges:

- Lack of technical expertise and trained personnel.



- Limited financial autonomy.
- Insufficient access to climate data and technology.

Best Practices:

- **Kerala:** Climate budgeting integrates local governance plans.
- **Odisha:** Cyclone preparedness empowers local institutions for evacuations and relief.
- **Mahatma Gandhi NREGS:** Used for water conservation and afforestation at village level.

Way Forward:

- Build capacity through training and knowledge partnerships.
- Establish dedicated adaptation funds for local governments.
- Encourage community participation, especially of vulnerable groups.

Conclusion:

Empowering local governance is crucial for climate adaptation. Local bodies are the first responders and key implementers of resilience strategies, making decentralized planning indispensable.

GS Paper 4

Q4. “Ethical leadership is not about popularity, but about principled decision-making in the face of adversity.” Discuss the relevance of ethical leadership in public service with suitable examples.

Answer:

Ethical leadership emphasizes integrity, fairness, and prioritizing the public interest even under difficult circumstances. It is critical in public administration where trust and accountability are foundational.

Core Principles:

- **Value-based decision-making:** Uphold constitutional morality above political expediency.
- **Courage:** Take correct decisions despite personal or political costs.
- **Transparency and accountability:** Communicate openly and take responsibility.

Importance in Public Service:

- Builds institutional trust.
- Deters corruption by setting ethical standards.
- Ensures humane and measured responses during crises.

Examples:

- **E. Sreedharan (Metro Man):** Prioritized public welfare and timely delivery over shortcuts or personal gain.
- **Kiran Bedi:** Focused on rehabilitation and reform in Tihar Jail rather than mere punishment.

Challenges:

- Political pressures, bureaucratic inertia, and public scrutiny.



- Ethical dilemmas when legal directives conflict with moral considerations.

Way Forward:

- Incorporate ethics training in civil services.
- Strengthen institutional safeguards like Lokpal and CVC.
- Promote role models and success stories.

Conclusion:

Ethical leadership is about justice, not popularity. It is essential for public trust, democratic integrity, and resilient governance.

Current Affairs

Q5. The enactment of the Russian Sanctions Act, 2025 by Western nations has revived debates over strategic autonomy and economic security. Analyse its implications for India's foreign policy and energy security.

Answer:

The Russian Sanctions Act, 2025, imposed by the U.S. and EU, targets nations and companies engaging in strategic or energy-related transactions with Russia, aiming to penalize continued cooperation amid the Ukraine conflict.

Implications for India's Foreign Policy:

- **Strategic autonomy under stress:** India's balanced engagement with Russia and the West faces pressure to align with Western interests.
- **Geopolitical balancing:** India must navigate commitments in BRICS, SCO, and Quad while maintaining relations with Russia.

Implications for Energy Security:

- Russia is a significant source of discounted crude oil for India.
- Sanctions could increase import costs, affect inflation, and disrupt energy planning.
- India may need to diversify suppliers and invest in strategic reserves and renewable energy.

Policy Options:

- Explore non-dollar trade mechanisms, e.g., rupee-ruble settlements or INSTEX.
- Negotiate waivers or exceptions with Western nations.
- Accelerate transition to green energy, hydrogen, and biofuels.

Conclusion:

The sanctions challenge India's strategic resilience, requiring a careful balance between economic pragmatism, energy security, and independent foreign policy choices.