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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 19/09/2025 (FRIDAY)

- **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 Chola administration:

1. The Uttaramerur inscriptions point to a highly centralized polity where all authority was concentrated in the hands of the king.
2. The Ur and Sabha were mainly urban governing bodies consisting of Brahmins and merchant groups.

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: d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Uttaramerur records from the Chola era clearly describe a detailed system of local self-governance. They outline eligibility criteria and procedures for choosing representatives to village assemblies, highlighting decentralization rather than absolute monarchical control.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The *Ur* denoted the general assembly of non-Brahmin villages, while the *Sabha* was the council of Brahmin villages. Both were rural institutions. Urban centers were administered through the *Nagaram*, generally led by mercantile groups.

Q2. Consider the following statements with respect to the ecological roles of mangroves:

1. Mangroves act as sources of carbon emissions due to rapid organic decomposition around their roots.
2. They serve as nurseries for marine organisms and enhance coastal fisheries.
3. Mangroves buffer the coast from tsunamis and cyclonic surges by dissipating wave energy.

Which of the above statements 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 is incorrect:** Mangrove ecosystems act as *carbon sinks* by locking atmospheric carbon in their biomass and sediments (known as Blue Carbon).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The intricate mangrove root systems provide safe breeding grounds for fishes, crabs, mollusks, and other species, directly supporting biodiversity and fisheries.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Dense mangrove belts serve as protective barriers by reducing wave force, thereby lessening the damage of storm surges and tsunamis (as seen during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami).



Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the concept of “Stagflation”:

1. It refers to an economic condition marked by high inflation, slowing growth, and low unemployment.
2. Traditional economic models fail to explain stagflation because they assume an inverse relation between inflation and unemployment.
3. Sudden supply-side disturbances, such as oil price shocks, are typical triggers of stagflation.

Which of the above statements 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 is incorrect:** Stagflation occurs when inflation and unemployment are both high, alongside stagnant or falling economic output.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Classical and Keynesian frameworks (based on the Phillips Curve) assume inflation and unemployment move in opposite directions. Stagflation breaks this assumption, creating a theoretical puzzle.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Supply shocks such as the global oil crises of the 1970s raised production costs, reduced output, and fueled inflation simultaneously—classic conditions for stagflation.

Q4. Which of the following statements about NASA’s space missions are correct?

1. The Artemis program is aimed at setting up the first permanent human outpost on Mars.
2. The Voyager spacecraft were the first human-made probes to enter interstellar space.
3. The James Webb Space Telescope is mainly intended to study X-ray emissions from cosmic objects.
4. Psyche is a mission designed to explore a metallic asteroid believed to be the core of a primitive planetary body.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a) 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Artemis is focused on sending humans back to the Moon and developing a sustainable lunar presence, not colonizing Mars.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Voyager 1 became the first probe to cross into interstellar space in 2012, followed by Voyager 2.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The James Webb Space Telescope operates primarily in the infrared range, not in X-rays.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Psyche mission seeks to study a unique metallic asteroid, believed to be the remnant of a planetary core, offering insights into planetary formation.

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type

Assertion (A): The Kumbh Mela has been listed by UNESCO as part of the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Reason (R): It is the largest temporary congregation of people for ritual bathing and other spiritual activities in the world.

- 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) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct:** In 2017, UNESCO recognized the Kumbh Mela under the Intangible Cultural Heritage list.
- **Reason is also correct:** The Kumbh Mela is renowned as the world's largest periodic religious gathering, where millions participate in ritual bathing and diverse spiritual-cultural activities.
- **R provides the correct justification for A:** Its global uniqueness, scale, and cultural-religious significance were the key factors behind its UNESCO recognition.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the significance of Gangaikonda Cholapuram in the cultural and political history of South India:

1. It was constructed to mark the Chola victory over the Rashtrakutas and remained the imperial capital for nearly two centuries.
2. The temple complex at Gangaikonda Cholapuram became a reference model for later Dravidian temples, particularly for its granite construction and soaring vertical design.

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: b) 2 only



Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Rajendra I established Gangaikonda Cholapuram after his successful campaign against the Pala dynasty of Bengal, symbolized in the name “the city of the Chola who conquered the Ganga.” It was not built in connection with a Rashtrakuta defeat.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Brihadisvara temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram introduced architectural refinements that later shaped Dravidian temple design, such as extensive granite usage, intricate carvings, and towering vimanas.

Q2. Which of the following statements about Measles is correct?

- a) It is caused by a DNA virus and primarily affects the gastrointestinal tract.
- b) It is part of India’s Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and is preventable through a two-dose MMR vaccine.
- c) It is a zoonotic infection that spreads through animal reservoirs.
- d) WHO has officially declared India measles-free as of 2024.

Answer: b) It is part of India’s Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and is preventable through a two-dose MMR vaccine.

Explanation:

- Measles is caused by an **RNA virus** from the *Paramyxoviridae* family, not DNA-based.
- Transmission occurs via **respiratory droplets**, not through the gastrointestinal tract.
- India’s UIP includes measles vaccination in the form of MR/MMR, given in **two doses**.
- The disease is **not zoonotic**; humans are the only reservoir.
- As of 2024, India has not been certified as measles-free by the WHO.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the designation of ‘The Resistance Front’ (TRF) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) by the United States in 2024:

1. TRF is widely regarded as a front for the Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).
2. U.S. designation as an FTO automatically results in sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
3. The FTO status enables legal action against those supporting TRF, including asset freezes and prosecution under U.S. law.

Which of the above statements 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:** TRF is seen as a Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy, crafted to project a Kashmiri identity and reduce direct links to Pakistan.



- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** FTO designation is a unilateral U.S. action and does not involve the UN Security Council's Chapter VII framework.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The designation criminalizes providing support, enables prosecution of associated individuals, and enforces asset freezes and travel restrictions.

Q4. Consider the following statements about *Allographa effusosoredica*, a newly recorded lichen species from India:

1. It was reported from the Western Ghats, and its algal-fungal association is older than flowering plant evolution.
2. The species flourishes in clean, humid environments, making it a dependable indicator of forest ecosystem health.
3. It belongs to a lichen group known for secondary metabolites with antibacterial and antifungal uses.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Though initially confused with Himalayan discoveries, *Allographa effusosoredica* has been identified in the Western Ghats. The lichen symbiosis between algae and fungi indeed predates angiosperm evolution.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is sensitive to air quality and moisture, thriving only in unpolluted areas, which makes it a strong bioindicator.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Members of this genus often yield metabolites with antimicrobial properties, relevant in pharmaceuticals.

Q5. With reference to the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (COP27), consider the following statements:

1. It established a dedicated Loss and Damage fund to assist climate-vulnerable nations.
2. It legally bound developed countries to accept responsibility for historical emissions.
3. It called for a shift towards renewable energy but did not mandate a phase-down of coal.
4. It highlighted the importance of nature-based solutions and low-emission technologies in addressing climate change.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



Answer: b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A landmark outcome of COP27 was the creation of a **Loss and Damage fund** for countries facing climate impacts.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While historical responsibility was acknowledged, no binding legal framework was imposed on developed countries.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The plan emphasized renewable transition but did not include a compulsory global coal phase-down.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The agreement stressed the role of **nature-based solutions** and innovative low-carbon technologies (e.g., green hydrogen, carbon capture).

Q6. The Port of Eilat has been in the news for its strategic and economic role. Which of the following statements best describes its location and geopolitical relevance?

- a) It lies on the Gulf of Aqaba and connects Israel to the Red Sea, allowing some routes to bypass the Suez Canal.
- b) It is situated on the Mediterranean coast and serves as Israel's primary hub for oil imports from the Gulf.
- c) It is positioned between Gaza and the West Bank, acting as a trade hub with Turkey.
- d) It is a landlocked facility used for limited border trade with Jordan and Egypt.

Answer: a) It lies on the Gulf of Aqaba and connects Israel to the Red Sea, allowing some routes to bypass the Suez Canal.

Explanation:

- The **Port of Eilat** is located at Israel's southern tip on the Gulf of Aqaba, an extension of the Red Sea.
- It provides Israel with **direct Red Sea access**, enabling shipping routes to Asia and East Africa without full dependence on the Suez Canal.
- It is not located on the Mediterranean (ports like Haifa and Ashdod serve that purpose).
- Nor is it landlocked or near Gaza/West Bank; instead, it lies close to Jordan's port of Aqaba.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 – History

Q1. "The Revolt of 1857 was not merely a sepoy mutiny but a manifestation of multiple layers of discontent within Indian society." Critically examine.

(Word Limit: 250–300 words)



Answer:

The uprising of 1857, often remembered as the First War of Independence, occupies a contested space in historical interpretation. While colonial narratives branded it as a localized sepoy disturbance, Indian nationalist writings highlighted its wider social and political undercurrents. A nuanced view suggests that it was a culmination of accumulated resentments spanning the military, political, social, and economic spheres.

The sepoys acted as the immediate spark. Poor pay, racial discrimination, and the infamous cartridge controversy that affronted Hindu and Muslim religious beliefs triggered rebellion within barracks. Yet the spread of the revolt into civilian spaces reveals that the conflict drew strength from deeper discontent.

Politically, the aggressive annexationist policies of Lord Dalhousie, particularly the Doctrine of Lapse, deprived traditional rulers and aristocracy of power. Leaders like Nana Sahib, Rani Lakshmi Bai, and Bahadur Shah Zafar provided legitimacy and inspiration to the cause.

On the socio-religious front, missionary activity and reformist interventions under colonial authority were perceived as threats to customs, caste practices, and faith, generating fear among orthodox groups.

Economically, colonial exploitation was acute. Land revenue systems such as Mahalwari and Ryotwari burdened cultivators, traditional handicrafts suffered under industrial imports, and artisans faced destitution, intensifying rural and urban unrest.

Despite its broad base, the revolt had limitations. It lacked coordinated leadership, a clear ideological program, and geographical spread, as southern and eastern India remained largely uninvolved. Several princely states actively assisted the British.

Conclusion:

The Revolt of 1857 began with sepoy grievances but soon reflected the cumulative frustration of multiple social groups against colonial domination. Though unsuccessful, it symbolized the first organized resistance to British authority and laid an ideological foundation for later nationalist movements.

GS Paper 2 – Polity

Q2. The credibility of the Election Commission of India (ECI) is vital for a functioning democracy. Examine the challenges to its independence and suggest reforms to enhance its institutional integrity. (Word Limit: 300 words)

Answer:

The Election Commission of India, empowered under Article 324 of the Constitution, is entrusted with ensuring impartial and credible elections. Its functioning has been central to the legitimacy of Indian democracy. Yet, in recent times, its independence and neutrality have been questioned, raising concerns about institutional credibility.

Challenges to Independence:

- **Appointment Process:** Presently, Commissioners are appointed by the President on the advice of the executive, raising apprehensions of political influence.
- **Unequal Tenure Protection:** The Chief Election Commissioner enjoys constitutional safeguards against removal, but other Commissioners do not, creating an internal hierarchy and potential executive leverage.
- **Perceptions of Bias:** Delayed or selective enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct has, on occasion, cast doubt on its neutrality.



- **Financial Dependence:** The Commission relies on the government for budgetary allocation and personnel, undermining operational autonomy.

Reform Measures:

- **Collegium System:** A bipartisan committee including the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and Chief Justice of India, as suggested by the Supreme Court (2023), can ensure transparent and non-partisan appointments.
- **Equal Safeguards:** Constitutional protection under Article 324(5) should be extended to all Election Commissioners.
- **Independent Secretariat:** Granting financial and administrative autonomy, akin to the CAG or judiciary, would secure independence.
- **Post-retirement Restrictions:** Preventing Commissioners from occupying political or governmental posts post-tenure would reinforce impartiality.

Conclusion:

The Election Commission's credibility is the bedrock of India's democratic legitimacy. Institutional reforms ensuring security of tenure, transparent appointments, and financial autonomy are essential for safeguarding its neutrality and restoring citizens' faith in the electoral process.

GS Paper 3 – Economy

Q3. Discuss the evolving role of SEBI in regulating the Indian capital market. What challenges does it face in balancing investor protection with market development?

(Word Limit: 300 words)

Answer:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), set up in 1988 and accorded statutory powers in 1992, functions as the primary regulator of the securities market. Its mandate is to safeguard investors, promote fair practices, and foster orderly market growth.

Evolving Role:

- **Market Modernization:** SEBI has encouraged digitalization, streamlined e-KYC procedures, and enabled algorithmic trading while strengthening market surveillance.
- **Corporate Governance:** Through regulations such as LODR, SEBI has mandated independent boards, disclosure norms, and accountability in listed companies.
- **Expansion of Oversight:** Its role has widened to include regulation of mutual funds, ESG-related disclosures, and checks on green finance instruments.
- **Curbing Malpractices:** By deploying advanced AI-based monitoring systems, SEBI has acted against insider trading, fraudulent schemes, and price manipulation.

Challenges:

- **Over-regulation vs Growth:** Stringent rules may discourage market entry, while laxity can foster instability.
- **Technological Disruptions:** Fintech innovations, high-frequency trading, and crypto-based products test SEBI's regulatory reach.



- **Investor Awareness:** Low financial literacy, especially in semi-urban and rural regions, limits meaningful participation.
- **Corporate Resistance:** Regulatory tightening often meets pushback from influential corporate lobbies, sometimes leading to judicial challenges.

Way Forward:

Strengthening collaboration with RBI, IRDAI, and global regulators for systemic oversight, reinforcing cyber-resilience frameworks, and widening financial literacy programs are essential. Robust grievance redressal mechanisms would also enhance investor trust.

Conclusion:

As India's financial markets expand and diversify, SEBI must maintain equilibrium between protecting investors and facilitating innovation. Its effectiveness will determine both the credibility of the capital market and the confidence of domestic and global investors.

GS Paper 4 – Ethics

Q4. You are a district magistrate and a viral video surfaces showing a teacher in your district punishing a student of a minority community in a discriminatory manner. You are under political pressure to “not escalate” the matter. What ethical dilemmas do you face? How would you handle the situation?

(Word Limit: 300 words)

Answer:

The incident poses a classic ethical conflict for a public servant, involving justice, rule of law, political pressure, and social harmony.

Ethical Dilemmas:

- **Justice vs Political Expediency:** Ensuring fairness to the victim may clash with the political establishment's attempt to suppress the case.
- **Due Process vs Public Expectation:** Swift action is expected by society, yet procedural safeguards must not be bypassed.
- **Rule of Law vs Communal Sensitivity:** Action must be firm yet calibrated to avoid inflaming inter-community tensions.

Ethical Values at Stake:

- **Integrity and Impartiality:** Upholding fairness without bias.
- **Compassion:** Ensuring psychological support for the child and family.
- **Courage of Conviction:** Acting ethically even under political pressure.

Proposed Course of Action:

1. **Immediate Relief:** Suspend the teacher pending investigation; provide counseling to the student.
2. **Fair Enquiry:** Constitute a neutral fact-finding team including district officials, education experts, and minority representatives.
3. **Legal Recourse:** If prima facie evidence exists, register a case under IPC and relevant anti-discrimination laws.



4. **Transparency:** Politely record and resist undue political interference, documenting communications for accountability.
5. **Community Outreach:** Hold dialogue with parents, local leaders, and civil society to rebuild confidence and prevent communal unrest.

Conclusion:

An administrator must remain guided by constitutional morality, not political convenience. Upholding justice, protecting vulnerable citizens, and ensuring harmony constitute the ethical duty of public service.

Current Affairs:

Q5. What does the Epstein File Scandal reveal about global power structures, institutional opacity, and the ethics of elite impunity? Discuss in the context of democratic accountability and rule of law.
(Word Limit: 300 words)

Answer:

The Jeffrey Epstein scandal, involving allegations of an international sex-trafficking network and links with global elites, exposes the darker intersections of wealth, power, and institutional failure.

Global Power and Privilege:

- Epstein's close ties with influential figures — from politicians to royalty — illustrate how privilege often insulates individuals from scrutiny.
- Decades of investigative lapses suggest systemic capture of enforcement and judicial mechanisms by powerful interests.

Institutional Opacity:

- Sealed documents, negotiated plea deals, and delays in disclosure point to deliberate concealment.
- Selective investigation by agencies like the FBI highlights the absence of transparency in cases involving elites.

Ethics of Impunity:

- The scandal underlines how moral accountability is often ignored for the wealthy and well-connected.
- Victims were silenced for years, their testimonies sidelined until mounting public outrage forced recognition.

Democratic Accountability:

- Rule of law demands equality before law; the scandal demonstrates its fragility under elite pressure.
- Strong whistleblower protection, an independent judiciary, and a vigilant press are essential to hold the powerful accountable.

Lessons for India:

- Similar risks exist domestically — from shelter home abuse cases to political immunity.
- Reforms in judicial speed, transparency in investigations, and civil society oversight are vital.



Conclusion:

The Epstein scandal is a cautionary tale of how unchecked privilege corrodes institutions and weakens democracy. Ensuring transparency, protecting victims, and upholding accountability are essential safeguards for any society committed to the rule of law.

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