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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 30/08/2025 (SATURDAY)

- **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:

1. The Vernacular Press Act (1878) was repealed during the tenure of Lord Curzon.
2. The Ilbert Bill controversy primarily revolved around the principle of racial equality in the Indian judiciary.

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 **Vernacular Press Act (1878)**, passed under Lord Lytton, imposed severe restrictions on vernacular press. It was **repealed in 1881 during Lord Ripon's tenure**, not under Lord Curzon. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
- The **Ilbert Bill (1883)** sought to allow Indian judges to try European offenders in criminal cases. The opposition to this bill was due to racial prejudice against Indian judges—thus, it was indeed a conflict over **racial equality in judiciary**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Q2. The recently identified "Marine Heatwaves" are significant because they:

- (a) Increase oceanic carbon sequestration and enhance marine biodiversity.
- (b) Cause large-scale coral bleaching and disrupt fisheries-dependent economies.
- (c) Strengthen the thermohaline circulation, leading to global cooling.
- (d) Reduce the risk of harmful algal blooms due to higher oceanic temperatures.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Marine Heatwaves** are periods of abnormally high sea surface temperatures.
- They are strongly linked with **coral bleaching, fish mortality, collapse of kelp forests**, and disruption of marine-dependent livelihoods.
- They **reduce carbon sequestration**, rather than increase it, hence (a) is wrong.
- They **weaken** rather than strengthen thermohaline circulation (c wrong).
- They often **trigger algal blooms**, not reduce them (d wrong).
Thus, correct option is (b).

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

1. It represents a situation of stagnant economic growth accompanied by inflation.
2. It can occur due to supply-side shocks rather than demand-side expansion.



3. The conventional Keynesian tools of monetary and fiscal stimulus are effective in immediately overcoming stagflation.

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:

- **Stagflation** = stagnation (low or zero growth) + inflation. So, statement 1 is correct.
- It usually arises from **supply-side shocks** (like oil price rise, food shortage) which push prices up while curbing growth. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Keynesian policies (increasing spending, cutting taxes, or lowering interest rates) **worsen inflation** rather than cure stagflation. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

Q4. With reference to the powers of the President of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The President can return a Money Bill to Parliament for reconsideration.
- 2. The President is bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in all situations, without exception.
- 3. The President can exercise pocket veto in legislative matters.
- 4. The President has the power to dissolve the Lok Sabha on his/her own discretion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: **Money Bills cannot be returned** by the President; they can only be assented to.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: While normally bound, the President may exercise discretion in some cases, e.g., appointment of PM when no clear majority, dissolving Lok Sabha on advice of Council, etc.
- Statement 3 is correct: The President can exercise **pocket veto** (withholding assent indefinitely).
- Statement 4 is incorrect: President cannot dissolve Lok Sabha **on discretion**, only on advice of Council of Ministers.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): The western coast of India records higher rainfall during the Southwest Monsoon than the



eastern coast.

Reason (R): The Eastern Ghats run parallel to the coast and are relatively more elevated than the Western Ghats.

- (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: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Western Ghats** intercept moisture-laden SW monsoon winds directly, causing heavy rainfall on the west coast.
- The **Eastern Ghats are lower in elevation and more discontinuous**, so they do not cause comparable orographic rainfall.
- Hence Assertion is correct, but the Reason is false.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi in 1675 after he publicly refused to convert to Islam and for defending the right of Kashmiri Pandits to worship freely.
2. The martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur directly triggered an immediate armed rebellion led by his son Guru Gobind Singh which culminated in the creation of the Khalsa in 1699.

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:

Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in 1675 in Delhi, remembered as the “Hind di Chadar” for defending religious freedom. His martyrdom shaped Sikh identity but the Khalsa was created much later in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh, not as an immediate rebellion.

Q2. The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024 released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency assesses state performance using 66 indicators across seven demand sectors. Which of the following is **NOT** one of those seven demand sectors used in SEEI 2024?



- (a) Fisheries
- (b) Buildings
- (c) Transport
- (d) DISCOMs (Electricity distribution companies)

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The SEEI 2024 covers seven sectors: Buildings, Industries, Transport, Municipal Services, Agriculture, DISCOMs, and Cross-sector initiatives. Fisheries is not part of this framework.

Q3. With reference to the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) regime in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024 provide for a star-based (1–5) rating of properties covering parameters such as in-building mobile coverage, fibre-readiness, broadband and Wi-Fi infrastructure.
2. Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs) appointed by TRAI will be exclusively government bodies under the Department of Telecommunications.
3. As of now, obtaining a Digital Connectivity Rating is voluntary (though encouraged) and not mandatory for all properties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The DCR framework introduces a 1–5 star rating for properties based on connectivity infrastructure. Agencies are to be registered with TRAI and not limited to government bodies. At present, the rating is voluntary.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM):

1. The JCM is a bilateral mechanism pioneered by Japan to quantify emission reductions achieved through Japanese investment and technology diffusion in partner countries; the quantified mitigation outcomes can be acquired and used by Japan toward its NDC.
2. JCM credits are freely tradable on the multilateral carbon market and may be transferred to any country without bilateral arrangements or corresponding adjustments.
3. Under recent India–Japan cooperation, a portion of JCM credits can be used by Japan as internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) for its NDC while the remainder may contribute to India's own NDC consistent with Article 6 guidance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The JCM ensures Japanese technology diffusion and allows Japan to count part of the credits toward its NDC. Credits are not free-market commodities; they function under bilateral agreements. The India–Japan MoC provides for dual use of credits in line with Article 6.

Q5. With respect to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements:

1. The SCO Charter was signed at St. Petersburg in 2002 and established the SCO as a treaty-based intergovernmental organisation with defined institutional bodies (including a Secretariat).
2. Decisions adopted by the SCO Heads of State Council are automatically binding as domestic law in all member states upon adoption.
3. The SCO has a permanent Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) headquartered in Tashkent.
4. India became a full member of the SCO in 2017 and, as a member, is precluded by the Charter from participating in SCO military exercises.

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, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The SCO Charter (2002) formalised the organisation's framework. SCO decisions do not automatically translate into domestic law. The RATS is headquartered in Tashkent. India joined as a full member in 2017 and actively participates in SCO activities, including military exercises.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the Ravi River:

1. The Ravi River originates in the vicinity of the **Rohtang Pass** in Himachal Pradesh.
2. After flowing through the **Chamba Valley**, it enters the plains near **Pathankot** and forms part of the boundary between India and Pakistan.
3. The Ravi directly joins the **Indus River** before entering Pakistan.
4. The entire course of the Ravi River lies within India; it does not flow through Pakistan.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only



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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct**
The Ravi River originates in the **Himalayan region of Himachal Pradesh**, near the **Rohtang Pass** (Kullu district). Specifically, it rises from the Bara Bangal slopes in Kangra district, close to Rohtang.
- **Statement 2: Correct**
The river flows through the **Chamba Valley** in Himachal Pradesh, then enters the plains near **Madhopur/Pathankot** in Punjab. From there, it forms part of the **India–Pakistan boundary** before flowing into Pakistan.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect**
The Ravi does **not directly join the Indus River**. Instead, after entering Pakistan, it joins the **Chenab River** near Ahmadpur. The Chenab later merges with the Indus.
- **Statement 4: Incorrect**
The Ravi does **not lie entirely in India**. After flowing along the border, it eventually enters Pakistan and joins the Chenab.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1

Q1. The Bhakti and Sufi movements played a transformative role in shaping medieval Indian society. Critically examine their contribution in promoting social harmony and cultural synthesis. (10 marks)

Answer:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements emerged in medieval India between the 8th and 17th centuries, at a time when rigid caste hierarchies, ritualism, and orthodoxy dominated Indian society. These movements marked a significant step toward democratization of religion and spiritual expression.

Social Impact:

- **Challenge to Orthodoxy:** Bhakti saints like Kabir, Ravidas, and Chaitanya questioned ritualism, caste dominance, and priestly authority. Similarly, Sufis rejected formalism, emphasizing inner purity and love for God.



- **Inclusivity:** Both traditions emphasized equality before God. Bhakti saints like Sant Ravidas, born into a lower caste, symbolized resistance to caste barriers. Sufi saints welcomed Hindus and Muslims alike to their khanqahs.
- **Women's Role:** Saints like Mirabai and Lal Ded expanded women's participation in spiritual traditions, challenging patriarchal norms.

Cultural Impact:

- **Language & Literature:** Bhakti poetry in vernacular languages like Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, and Kannada enriched regional literature. Sufi poets like Amir Khusrau contributed to Hindavi and Persian traditions.
- **Music & Arts:** Bhakti devotional songs (bhajans, kirtans) and Sufi qawwalis created new musical traditions that continue today.
- **Religious Synthesis:** The movements created spaces of syncretism — blending Hindu and Islamic ideas. The Bhakti-Sufi synthesis prepared ground for later movements like Sikhism.

Limitations:

- Despite egalitarian ideas, caste discrimination persisted.
- Political patronage often diluted their radical edge.
- Their reach was more cultural than structural in reforming society.

Conclusion:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements humanized religion, emphasized compassion, and laid the foundation for India's pluralistic ethos. Their legacy continues to inspire India's secular and inclusive framework.

GS-2

Q2. Discuss the significance of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). What challenges continue to hinder their effectiveness? (15 marks)

Answer:

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, institutionalized grassroots democracy through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). It provided a three-tier system of village, block, and district panchayats, constitutional status, regular elections, and reservation for women and marginalized groups.

Significance:

- **Decentralization of Power:** Article 243 mandated devolution of powers, ensuring participatory democracy.
- **Social Justice:** Reservation for women (now 50% in many states), Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes broadened representation.
- **Economic Planning:** Eleventh Schedule entrusted PRIs with 29 subjects, ranging from agriculture to education.
- **Local Accountability:** Gram Sabha functions as a forum for direct democracy.

Challenges:



- **Fiscal Constraints:** States have not devolved adequate funds; PRIs rely heavily on state and central grants.
- **Bureaucratic Resistance:** Local officials often dominate elected representatives, reducing autonomy.
- **Capacity Deficit:** Limited training and administrative skills among PRI members hinder effective governance.
- **Political Capture:** Local elites sometimes capture institutions, marginalizing weaker sections.
- **Women's Representation:** Though numerical participation has increased, real decision-making power is often constrained by patriarchy.

Way Forward:

- Implement recommendations of the Second ARC on strengthening PRIs.
- Ensure fiscal autonomy via State Finance Commissions.
- Enhance capacity building and digital governance for transparency.
- Encourage community monitoring and social audits.

Conclusion:

The 73rd Amendment was a watershed in India's democratic journey, bringing governance closer to people. However, for PRIs to become true agents of grassroots empowerment, genuine devolution of power, funds, and functions must be realized.

GS-3

Q3. India's renewable energy transition faces multiple economic and infrastructural challenges. Examine these challenges and suggest measures for sustainable energy security. (15 marks)

Answer:

India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, has set ambitious renewable energy targets — 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070. However, transitioning to renewable energy faces significant hurdles.

Challenges:

1. **Financial Constraints:** Renewable projects demand high initial investments. Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) face mounting debts, hindering purchase of renewable power.
2. **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Lack of robust transmission networks for renewable-rich states like Rajasthan and Gujarat delays integration into the national grid.
3. **Intermittency Issue:** Solar and wind energy are weather-dependent, requiring costly storage solutions.
4. **Land Acquisition:** Large-scale solar and wind farms face disputes over agricultural land, tribal rights, and ecological impact.
5. **Technology Dependence:** India imports critical components like solar modules and rare earth minerals, raising supply chain vulnerability.



6. **Policy Uncertainty:** Frequent tariff revisions and contract renegotiations discourage private investment.

Measures for Sustainable Energy Security:

- Strengthen **Green Energy Corridors** for better grid integration.
- Promote **Battery Storage** and **Hydrogen Energy** through incentives.
- Reform DISCOMs to ensure financial viability and timely payments.
- Encourage **Decentralized Renewable Models** like rooftop solar and community biogas.
- Diversify imports and boost domestic manufacturing under PLI schemes.
- Ensure **just transition** for coal-dependent regions to protect livelihoods.

Conclusion:

India's renewable energy transition is not just an environmental imperative but an economic opportunity. Addressing infrastructural gaps, financing, and policy consistency will help India emerge as a global leader in clean energy.

GS-4

Q4. "Public service must be guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, and compassion." Discuss with suitable examples. (10 marks)

Answer:

Public service is the foundation of a responsive and ethical governance system. For it to be effective, civil servants must uphold transparency, accountability, and compassion as guiding principles.

Transparency:

- Ensures openness in decision-making, reducing corruption.
- Example: Implementation of the **Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005** empowered citizens to demand explanations from public authorities.
- E-Governance initiatives like **Digital India** enhance transparency by reducing human discretion.

Accountability:

- Accountability establishes responsibility for actions and decisions.
- Example: Social audits in **MGNREGA** allow villagers to scrutinize expenditures, preventing leakages.
- Judicial and parliamentary oversight mechanisms also reinforce accountability.

Compassion:

- Public service must go beyond technical efficiency to recognize human suffering.
- Example: During the COVID-19 pandemic, many civil servants displayed empathy by arranging oxygen, food, and shelter for vulnerable groups.
- Compassion also extends to policy — welfare schemes like PM Garib Kalyan Yojana reflect the moral duty of the state towards the poor.



Interlinkages:

- Transparency prevents misuse of power.
- Accountability ensures corrective measures.
- Compassion humanizes governance, making it citizen-centric.

Conclusion:

Transparency, accountability, and compassion are not mere ethical ideals but practical necessities for effective public administration. A civil servant who embodies these values contributes to trust in government and strengthens democracy.

Current Affairs

Q5. Should States be compensated for revenue loss from GST reforms? Critically analyze in the context of fiscal federalism in India. (15 marks)

Answer:

The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 was a landmark in indirect tax reform, subsuming multiple state taxes. To persuade states, the Union government promised compensation for **five years** (till June 2022) to offset revenue loss, calculated at 14% annual growth on 2015-16 tax revenues.

Arguments for Compensation:

1. **Loss of Fiscal Autonomy:** States surrendered major taxation powers. Compensation is essential to maintain trust in cooperative federalism.
2. **Revenue Shock:** Post-COVID, states' revenues were severely hit while their spending responsibilities increased (health, welfare).
3. **Equity Consideration:** Poorer states rely more on GST revenues than richer states.
4. **Federal Stability:** Compensation upholds the spirit of **Article 246A** which recognizes GST as a shared tax between Union and states.

Arguments Against Continued Compensation:

1. **Temporary Provision:** The Constitution (101st Amendment) envisaged compensation only for five years.
2. **Moral Hazard:** Long-term compensation may discourage states from improving tax compliance and efficiency.
3. **Fiscal Strain on Centre:** With rising deficits, perpetual compensation is unsustainable.
4. **Structural Reforms Needed:** Instead of compensation, improving GST collections through technology and compliance should be prioritized.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen GST Council as a forum for fiscal dialogue.
- Enhance tax buoyancy via e-invoicing, plugging leakages, and widening base.
- Explore partial compensation in extraordinary situations (like pandemics).



- Allow greater fiscal autonomy in cesses and surcharges at the state level.

Conclusion:

While perpetual compensation is neither practical nor constitutional, ensuring states' fiscal stability is crucial for cooperative federalism. The focus must shift from short-term compensation to long-term reforms that make GST more revenue-productive and equitable.

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