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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 07/10/2025 (TUESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Indus Valley Civilization: Religious Aspects

Consider the following statements:

1. The absence of temples and large religious monuments suggests that the Harappan people did not practice any form of religion or ritual.
2. The discovery of fire altars and figurines at several Harappan sites points toward the existence of ritualistic and symbolic worship practices.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b) Only 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Although no grand temples or monumental religious buildings like those of Mesopotamia or Egypt have been found in Harappan cities, this cannot be interpreted as the absence of religion. It may instead indicate that religious practices were community-based or domestic rather than temple-centered.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Archaeological evidence such as fire altars at Kalibangan, Mother Goddess and animal figurines, pipal leaf motifs, and seals with divine symbols point to ritual and symbolic practices. These findings confirm that Harappan religious life existed but was expressed in forms distinct from later Vedic or temple-based systems.

Q2. Climate Change and Recent Scientific Trends

Consider the following statements:

1. Arctic amplification causes a rise in tropical temperatures due to oceanic heat transfer.
2. The number of El Niño events increases directly and proportionally with global average temperatures.
3. Uncertainty in cloud feedback remains one of the major limitations in predicting global climate change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Only 3

Explanation:



- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Arctic amplification refers to the rapid warming of the Arctic region relative to the global mean, primarily due to feedback mechanisms such as ice-albedo reduction and increased heat absorption by open waters—not due to warming in tropical zones.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** While climate change may influence the frequency or intensity of El Niño events, the connection is complex and not linear. El Niño is a natural ocean-atmosphere phenomenon affected by multiple interacting factors.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The role of clouds in regulating Earth's energy balance remains one of the most uncertain elements in climate modeling. Cloud feedback can either magnify or diminish warming effects, making it a critical area for ongoing research.

Q3. International Trade Agreements

Consider the following statements:

1. In a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), tariff concessions apply only to selected products and not to all traded goods.
2. In a Customs Union, member countries follow a common external tariff structure but maintain separate domestic trade policies.
3. A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) generally includes provisions on trade in goods, services, investments, and regulatory coordination.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only 1 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** A Preferential Trade Agreement is the simplest form of trade integration, involving tariff reductions on specific goods among member nations without covering the entire range of trade items or services.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** A Customs Union not only eliminates internal tariffs but also adopts a *common* external tariff and unified trade policy toward non-member countries; hence, individual external trade policies are not retained.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** A CEPA is a broad and comprehensive arrangement encompassing trade in goods and services, investment facilitation, and cooperation on regulatory issues, making it more extensive than a standard Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Q4. Constitutional and Administrative Aspects of the Indian Census

Consider the following statements:

1. Conducting the decennial Census is a constitutional duty under Article 246 read with the Seventh Schedule.



2. The Census operation is carried out by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
3. The Census Act, 1948, includes provisions for penalties against refusal to cooperate or providing false information.
4. Information collected during the Census is kept confidential and cannot be used as evidence in legal proceedings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 3 and 4
- (c) Only 1, 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (b) Only 3 and 4

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** The Census is not a constitutional requirement but a statutory process conducted under the *Census Act, 1948*. Although Parliament has the legislative authority over the subject (Union List Entry 69, Article 246), the Constitution itself does not mandate it.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The Census is administered by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, who functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs, not under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The *Census Act, 1948* provides for legal penalties against individuals who obstruct, refuse cooperation, or deliberately provide false information during enumeration.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Census data enjoys strict confidentiality and is legally protected from being used as evidence in civil or criminal proceedings. This safeguard ensures public trust and truthful participation.

Q5. Assertion–Reason Question

Assertion (A): Ribosomes are present in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells but differ structurally between them.

Reason (R): Eukaryotic ribosomes are larger (80S) while prokaryotic ribosomes are smaller (70S).

Options:

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

Explanation:

- **Assertion – True:** Ribosomes, the sites of protein synthesis, are found in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, though they vary in composition and size.



- **Reason – True:** Prokaryotic ribosomes are 70S (comprising 50S and 30S subunits), while eukaryotic ribosomes are 80S (made up of 60S and 40S subunits). The difference in Svedberg values arises due to variations in mass and sedimentation rate.
- Since the reason accurately explains the assertion, **option (a)** is the correct answer.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. SHAKTI Policy and Coal Linkages

Consider the following statements:

1. The SHAKTI Policy permits power producers to obtain coal linkages even in the absence of long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), thereby promoting greater flexibility in power generation and market participation.
2. The policy requires that all linkage-based supplies must come exclusively from Coal India Limited.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) Only 1

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The *SHAKTI* (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) framework was revised to permit coal linkages even for plants without long-term PPAs, allowing participation in short-term, spot, and power exchange markets. This reform aimed to enhance transparency and supply adaptability.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The scheme does not confine coal supply solely to Coal India Limited. Other entities such as Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and successful bidders from commercial coal auctions can also participate, broadening the sources of coal supply.

Q2. Mera Gaon Mera Dharohar (MGMD) Programme

Under the *Mera Gaon Mera Dharohar* initiative, villages are identified based on:

- (a) Their association with ancient Vedic literature or temple architecture
- (b) Their link to freedom movements, tribal heritage, and intangible cultural traditions
- (c) Their performance in rural economy and tourism potential under PMGSY
- (d) Their proximity to ecologically sensitive wetlands and forest zones

Answer: (b) Their link to freedom movements, tribal heritage, and intangible cultural traditions

Explanation:

The *Mera Gaon Mera Dharohar* (MGMD) programme, launched by the Ministry of Culture, focuses on mapping and showcasing the diverse cultural fabric of Indian villages. It emphasizes places associated with



the freedom struggle, tribal and folk traditions, local crafts, oral narratives, and other forms of intangible cultural heritage. The initiative aims to preserve cultural continuity and encourage heritage-based rural tourism.

Q3. Museum Grants Scheme (MGS)

Consider the following statements:

1. The scheme provides assistance to both government-managed museums and those operated by registered non-profit trusts or societies.
2. Only museums designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites are eligible for financial support under the scheme.
3. The scheme includes provisions for technological modernization and digital cataloguing of museum exhibits.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only 1 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The *Museum Grants Scheme* extends financial assistance to both public museums and privately managed institutions run by registered societies, trusts, or non-governmental organizations.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Eligibility under this scheme is not limited to museums recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites; it is open to a wider range of museums fulfilling prescribed cultural and administrative criteria.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The scheme incorporates a component for modernization and digitization, including improvements in display systems, digital archiving, lighting, and security infrastructure, aligned with the vision of creating "Smart Museums".

Q4. MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes)

Consider the following statements:

1. The initiative will primarily be implemented through the convergence of funds from MGNREGS and CAMPA.
2. Mangrove plantations under the scheme will be restricted to Ramsar sites and biosphere reserves.
3. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Answer: (a) Only 1 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The *MISHTI* initiative integrates funding from the *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)* and *Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)* to promote mangrove restoration and community-based employment.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The programme is not confined to Ramsar wetlands or biosphere reserves alone. It encompasses coastal regions, estuaries, deltas, and degraded shoreline zones with potential for mangrove regeneration.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The *Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)* serves as the nodal ministry for the implementation of *MISHTI*, working in coordination with state governments and local administrative bodies.

Q5. Government Securities (G-Secs) in India

Consider the following statements:

1. Treasury Bills (T-Bills) are zero-coupon government instruments issued for maturities of less than one year.
2. Government securities are available only to institutional investors and not to individuals.
3. Sovereign Green Bonds issued by the Government of India are classified under G-Secs.
4. The RBI's *Retail Direct* platform enables individual investors to participate directly in both primary and secondary G-Sec markets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1, 3 and 4
- (b) Only 1 and 2
- (c) Only 2, 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (a) Only 1, 3 and 4

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Treasury Bills are short-term, zero-coupon instruments issued with maturities of 91, 182, and 364 days to meet short-term funding requirements of the government.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** With the launch of the *RBI Retail Direct* scheme, individual investors can now invest directly in government securities without intermediaries.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** *Sovereign Green Bonds*, introduced to finance climate-friendly and green infrastructure projects, are part of the broader category of government securities.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** The *Retail Direct Portal* (launched in 2021) allows retail investors to invest in both primary issuances and secondary market transactions in G-Secs.

Q6. Kamchatka Peninsula: Geographical and Strategic Significance



The Kamchatka Peninsula, frequently in the news due to heightened seismic and volcanic activity, shares its geographical characteristics and significance with which of the following combinations?

- (a) Lies between the Okhotsk Sea and the Sea of Japan, forms the eastern boundary of the Russian Far East, and contains the Kuril Trench
- (b) Lies between the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, forms part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, and hosts active volcanoes such as Klyuchevskaya Sopka
- (c) Lies adjacent to the Arctic Ocean and the Bering Strait, belongs to the North American Plate, and features glacial fjords
- (d) Lies between the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, forms part of the Korean Peninsula, and is characterized by fault-induced plateaus

Answer: (b) Lies between the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, forms part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, and hosts active volcanoes such as Klyuchevskaya Sopka

Explanation:

- The *Kamchatka Peninsula* is situated in the Russian Far East, bordered by the *Bering Sea* on the east and the *Sea of Okhotsk* on the west.
- It forms part of the *Pacific Ring of Fire*, an area noted for intense tectonic and volcanic activity.
- The region hosts several active volcanoes, notably *Klyuchevskaya Sopka*, which is the tallest active volcano in Eurasia.
- Owing to its location near the Arctic and North Pacific, Kamchatka holds considerable geostrategic importance for Russia, both in defense and in natural resource management.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. "The increasing prevalence of elderly population in India poses serious challenges to social cohesion and economic stability." Examine the causes, consequences, and policy response. (10M)

Answer:

India is experiencing a demographic transition, with projections indicating that people aged 60 and above will constitute nearly 20% of the population by 2050 (UNFPA). While India has benefited from its demographic dividend in recent decades, the rapid rise in the elderly population presents complex social, economic, and health-related challenges.

Causes:

- **Longer Life Expectancy:** Improved healthcare and nutrition have increased average life expectancy from 63 years in 2000 to approximately 70 years today.
- **Declining Fertility:** Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has dropped to 2.0 (NFHS-5), resulting in a higher proportion of older adults.



- **Urban Migration:** Younger generations migrating to cities leave elderly parents behind, particularly in rural areas.
- **Erosion of Joint Families:** The prevalence of nuclear households reduces traditional familial support for seniors.

Consequences:

- **Economic Impact:** The rising dependency ratio increases pressure on pensions, healthcare, and caregiving systems.
- **Healthcare Burden:** Older adults face higher risks of non-communicable diseases, dementia, depression, and mobility issues.
- **Social Isolation:** Limited social engagement leads to loneliness and alienation.
- **Vulnerability:** Elderly, especially women and those without family support, are at risk of neglect, abuse, and exploitation.

Policy Response:

- **Legislation:** Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 ensures care from family or institutions.
- **Healthcare Programs:** National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) provides geriatric services.
- **Financial Support:** Schemes like SAMPANN and IGNOAPS offer pensions and assistance.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Elderline Helpline (14567) helps seniors report issues.
- **Draft National Policy on Senior Citizens (2020):** Proposes improved geriatric care, financial security, and age-friendly housing.

Way Forward:

- Expand geriatric services at primary and community health centres.
- Promote community-based elder care, including day-care centres.
- Encourage public-private partnerships for elder support services.
- Facilitate digital literacy and reverse migration opportunities for seniors.

Conclusion:

India needs inclusive and compassionate policies to ensure the dignity, health, and economic security of its ageing population, aligned with SDG-3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG-10 (Reduced Inequalities).

GS Paper 2

Q2. India's approach to refugee protection is marked by pragmatism rather than codification. Critically analyse in light of the Rohingya refugee crisis. (15M)

Answer:

India hosts over 200,000 refugees, including Tibetans, Sri Lankan Tamils, and Rohingyas. However, it is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. India's refugee management has historically been ad-hoc, without formal legislation.



Rationale for Pragmatic Approach:

- **Strategic Flexibility:** Allows India to balance humanitarian obligations with national security concerns.
- **Bilateral Engagement:** Quiet diplomacy with source countries helps manage repatriation, e.g., Tamils to Sri Lanka.
- **Diverse Refugee Needs:** Refugees from different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds require tailored treatment.
- **Security Considerations:** National security concerns, particularly regarding Rohingyas with alleged links to extremism.

Challenges of Non-Codified Policy:

- **Legal Uncertainty:** Lack of formal law creates ambiguity in refugee rights, detention, and deportation.
- **Unequal Treatment:** Tibetans receive travel documents, while Rohingyas are classified as illegal immigrants.
- **Institutional Gaps:** Absence of a national framework hampers access to education, health, and housing.
- **International Obligations:** Despite non-signatory status, India is bound by customary international law principles like non-refoulement.

Recent Developments:

- In 2022, the government announced Rohingya deportations while simultaneously establishing shelters, reflecting a mixed policy.
- The Supreme Court upheld deportation rights but emphasized compliance with humanitarian obligations.

Way Forward:

- Enact a comprehensive refugee law safeguarding basic human rights while addressing security concerns.
- Establish an independent Refugee Commission to monitor implementation.
- Collaborate with UNHCR for registration and support.
- Explore regional coordination through SAARC or BIMSTEC frameworks.

Conclusion:

India should move towards a rules-based refugee management system that balances humanitarian responsibility with national security, enhancing international credibility while protecting vulnerable populations.

GS Paper 3

Q3. Discuss the role of the circular economy in achieving sustainable development goals in India. Highlight policies and challenges. (15M)



Answer:

The circular economy (CE) seeks to minimize waste and retain the value of resources through reuse, recycling, and regeneration, contrasting with the linear “take-make-dispose” model. It is critical for India’s sustainable growth given resource constraints and environmental challenges.

Relevance to SDGs:

- **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production):** CE encourages efficient resource use.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Reduces carbon footprint by limiting extraction and waste.
- **SDG 6 & 9:** Promotes water efficiency and innovation in sustainable industrial practices.

Policy Measures:

- **Resource Efficiency Policy (2019 Draft):** Advocates life-cycle assessment and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules (2022):** Focuses on reducing single-use plastics and boosting recycling.
- **E-Waste & Battery Waste Rules (2022):** Introduces tracking and recycling obligations for electronics and batteries.
- **Green Public Procurement & GEM Portal:** Encourages procurement of recycled goods.
- **National Hydrogen Mission:** Promotes clean energy solutions aligned with circular principles.

Implementation Examples:

- Swachh Bharat initiatives integrate waste-to-energy, composting, and recycling practices.
- Corporates like Tata and ITC adopt zero-waste and circular production chains.

Challenges:

- Low awareness and technological gaps among MSMEs.
- Dominance of informal recycling sector without standards.
- Limited infrastructure for collection, segregation, and reverse logistics.
- Fragmented policies across sectors.

Way Forward:

- Develop a National Circular Economy Framework integrating all stakeholders.
- Incentivize green startups and clean technology.
- Integrate CE into skill development and educational curricula.
- Promote collaborative consumption models like shared mobility and repair initiatives.

Conclusion:

Transitioning to a circular economy enhances environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and employment opportunities. Strategic policy integration and stakeholder engagement can position India as a leader in circular growth.



GS Paper 4

Q4. Public officials face ethical dilemmas while balancing professional duties with personal values. Discuss the importance of ethical competence. (10M)

Answer:

Ethical competence is the ability of public officials to apply moral principles such as honesty, fairness, and accountability in decision-making, especially when faced with conflicting pressures.

Significance:

- Builds public trust and confidence in governance.
- Ensures impartial and equitable decision-making.
- Reduces corruption and nepotism.
- Promotes constitutional morality over expediency.

Common Ethical Dilemmas:

- Police officers may be asked to suppress evidence to protect influential individuals.
- District collectors may face pressure to relax environmental rules for projects.
- Civil servants may struggle to balance personal beliefs with secular duties.

Illustrative Examples:

- E. Sreedharan resisted political interference at DMRC by emphasizing transparency and punctuality.
- T.N. Seshan upheld election integrity despite political opposition.

Tools for Developing Ethical Competence:

- Codes of Conduct and Ethics (as recommended by 2nd ARC).
- Training in empathy, integrity, and emotional intelligence.
- Ethical frameworks: utilitarianism (maximizing benefit), deontology (duty-based), and virtue ethics.

Way Forward:

- Conduct ethics audits and strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms.
- Ensure whistleblower protections.
- Incorporate case-study training in LBSNAA and state administrative academies.

Conclusion:

Ethical competence is essential for responsible and effective governance. Public officials must cultivate moral reasoning and decision-making skills to uphold constitutional values under challenging circumstances.

Current Affairs

Q5. Supreme Court guidelines on student suicides reflect concern for mental health. Discuss the directions, causes, and way forward. (15M)



Answer:

India faces a rising incidence of student suicides, with over 13,000 cases reported in 2022 (NCRB). Following a PIL on coaching hub suicides, the Supreme Court issued guidelines in July 2024.

Key Guidelines:

- Mandatory mental health counselling and wellness centres in schools and coaching institutes.
- Periodic assessment of academic stress and well-being.
- Regulation of teaching hours and study material to prevent burnout.
- Oversight of mock tests and ranking systems to reduce competition-induced pressure.
- Creation of state monitoring mechanisms and helplines.

Causes of Student Distress:

- Parental pressure with unrealistic academic expectations.
- Commercialized coaching culture promoting rote learning and competition.
- Lack of counsellors and emotional support in institutions.
- Social stigma around mental health issues.
- Peer comparison and social media pressures.

Impact:

- Violates Article 21 (Right to Life with Dignity).
- Hinders the demographic dividend as adolescent mental health declines.
- Worsens socio-economic inequalities.

Way Forward:

- Integrate mental health education into curriculum under NEP 2020.
- Deploy trained psychologists in all institutions.
- Shift to competency-based evaluation systems.
- Promote life skills, peer support groups, and teacher sensitization.
- Regulate private coaching centres for student welfare.

Conclusion:

The Supreme Court's intervention is necessary, but comprehensive solutions require collaboration among parents, teachers, institutions, and government agencies to protect student mental health effectively.