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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 16/10/2025 (THURSDAY)

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



 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Vernacular Press Act, 1878

With reference to the Vernacular Press Act, 1878, consider the following statements:

1. The Act was enacted during the tenure of Lord Ripon.
2. It authorized the government to seize printing presses that published seditious writings in Indian languages.

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) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Vernacular Press Act was introduced in 1878 when **Lord Lytton** was the Viceroy, not Lord Ripon. In fact, Lord Ripon, known for his liberal approach, repealed this Act later.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Act gave colonial authorities the power to **confiscate printing presses** producing writings considered “seditious” or critical of British rule in **vernacular (non-English)** languages, while exempting English-language publications — reflecting its discriminatory intent.

2. Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Consider the following statements about the Speaker of the Lok Sabha:

1. The Speaker remains in office even after the Lok Sabha is dissolved, until a new Speaker is chosen.
2. The Speaker’s ruling under the anti-defection law is subject to judicial review.
3. The Speaker is elected through a simple majority vote of members present and voting in the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As per **Article 94 of the Constitution**, the Speaker continues in office until the **first meeting of the newly elected Lok Sabha**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)** judgment, the Supreme Court clarified that the Speaker’s decision regarding disqualification under the **Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law)** is open to judicial scrutiny.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Speaker is elected by a **simple majority** of members present and voting, not by an absolute or special majority.



3. Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

With reference to the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), consider the following statements:

1. During a positive IOD phase, sea surface temperatures rise near the east coast of Africa while they fall near Indonesia.
 2. A negative IOD event can weaken the Indian monsoon.
 3. IOD events always occur simultaneously with El Niño.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In a **positive IOD**, warm waters accumulate near the western Indian Ocean (close to Africa), while cooler waters develop near the eastern side (Indonesia). This often supports stronger monsoon conditions over India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A **negative IOD** reverses this pattern, bringing cooler waters to the west and warmer waters to the east, typically leading to **weaker monsoon rainfall** over India.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The IOD and **El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** are independent climatic phenomena. While they can occasionally occur together, one does not necessarily cause the other.

4. Indian Classical Dance Forms

With reference to Indian classical dances, consider the following statements:

1. Kathakali originated in Tamil Nadu and is primarily performed by female solo dancers.
 2. Bharatanatyam evolved as a temple dance and was performed as an offering to deities.
 3. Kuchipudi performances often include spoken dialogue and singing along with dance.
 4. Sattriya is a classical dance form from Assam rooted in Vaishnavite traditions.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** **Kathakali** developed in **Kerala**, not Tamil Nadu. It is a **group dance-drama**, traditionally performed by **male artists** wearing elaborate costumes and face makeup.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Bharatanatyam** emerged in the temples of **Tamil Nadu**, performed by **devadasis** as an expression of devotion to deities.



- **Statement 3 is correct: Kuchipudi**, from **Andhra Pradesh**, blends dance, drama, and dialogue; artists often **speak or sing** during performances.
- **Statement 4 is correct: Sattriya**, from **Assam**, was introduced by the Vaishnavite saint **Srimanta Sankardeva** and is performed in **monastic institutions (sattras)** to convey spiritual stories.

5. Assertion–Reason Question: Mangroves

Assertion (A): Mangrove ecosystems play a significant role in reducing the destructive impact of cyclones and tsunamis.

Reason (R): The complex root systems of mangroves stabilize the coastline and help absorb wave energy.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains 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 correctly explains A

Explanation:

- **Assertion is true:** Mangrove forests act as **natural coastal shields**, mitigating the impact of **storm surges, tsunamis, and cyclones** by reducing wind and wave intensity.
- **Reason is true:** Their **intertwined root systems** trap sediments, reduce erosion, stabilize shorelines, and **dissipate wave energy** — thereby explaining how they lessen the severity of coastal disasters.
- Hence, the **Reason accurately explains the Assertion**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010

Consider the following statements regarding the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010:

1. The Act makes both the operator and supplier of a nuclear facility directly and simultaneously liable for any nuclear accident.
2. The Act provides a “right of recourse” clause allowing the operator to claim compensation from the supplier under specified situations.

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) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **primary responsibility for compensation** under the CLNDA rests with the **operator** of the nuclear installation (such as NPCIL). Victims cannot directly sue the supplier; only the operator can seek compensation from the supplier under certain conditions.



- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under **Section 17(b)** of the Act, the operator can claim compensation from the supplier if such a provision exists in the contract. This “right of recourse” was a key issue in international civil nuclear negotiations, especially with U.S. suppliers concerned about potential liability.

Q2. Operation Olivia

What is the primary objective of the Indian Coast Guard’s annual initiative ‘Operation Olivia’?

- (a) Preventing illegal fishing in India’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- (b) Monitoring cyclonic disturbances in the Bay of Bengal
- (c) Safeguarding Olive Ridley turtles during their mass nesting period
- (d) Checking the smuggling of arms in the Indian Ocean region

Answer: (c) Safeguarding Olive Ridley turtles during their mass nesting period

Explanation:

- **Operation Olivia** is carried out annually by the **Indian Coast Guard** to ensure the **protection of Olive Ridley sea turtles** during their mass nesting season, particularly along the **Odisha coastline at Gahirmatha, Rushikulya, and Devi river mouth.**
- The operation involves **aerial and seaborne surveillance**, restrictions on fishing near nesting areas, and coordination with state forest departments to create a safe breeding environment for the turtles.

Q3. Kandha Tribe of India

With reference to the Kandha (Khond) tribe, consider the following statements:

1. They inhabit the forested hill regions of western Odisha and practice shifting cultivation.
2. They worship the Earth Goddess, Dharani Penu, as their principal deity.
3. The PESA Act, 1996 does not extend to their regions as Odisha has not declared any Scheduled Areas.

Which of the statements given above 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 is correct:** The Kandhas are found mainly in the **Kandhamal, Kalahandi, and Koraput** districts of Odisha, where they traditionally engage in **Podu (shifting) cultivation** on hilly terrain.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Their religious practices are **animistic**, centered on the worship of **Dharani Penu**, the **Earth Mother**, along with other clan and village spirits.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Though **Odisha has not fully implemented the PESA Act**, several **Kandha-dominated districts are designated as Scheduled Areas** under the **Fifth Schedule**. Therefore, PESA would apply if the state enacts the necessary rules.

**Q4. Sodium-Ion Batteries**

Regarding the development of advanced sodium-ion batteries in India, consider the following statements:

1. These batteries employ layered metal oxides and hard carbon materials for energy storage.
2. Sodium-ion batteries are considered more sustainable due to the low cost and abundance of sodium.
3. Sodium-ion batteries currently outperform lithium-ion batteries in terms of energy density for commercial applications.

Which of the statements given above 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 is correct:** Sodium-ion batteries use **layered oxide materials as cathodes and hard carbon as anodes**, facilitating efficient charge and discharge cycles.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sodium is **abundant, inexpensive, and widely available**, making these batteries **environmentally and economically advantageous** compared to lithium-ion ones.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Despite their promise, **sodium-ion batteries have lower energy density** than lithium-ion counterparts and are still undergoing **pilot-scale testing**, not yet ready for full-scale commercial deployment.

Q5. High-Altitude Platform (HAP) Systems

With reference to High-Altitude Platform (HAP) systems, consider the following statements:

1. HAPs generally operate in the stratosphere, between 18 km and 30 km altitude.
2. They can serve as pseudo-satellites, providing long-term communication or surveillance coverage.
3. India has successfully tested a prototype using helium balloon technology equipped with AI-based surveillance systems.
4. HAPs require constant radio control and cannot function autonomously.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** HAPs operate in the **lower stratosphere (18–30 km)** — above conventional aircraft but below satellite orbits.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** They can act as **pseudo-satellites**, remaining airborne for weeks or months to support **surveillance, communication, or environmental monitoring**.



- **Statement 3 is correct:** India has **developed and tested** early-stage prototypes using **helium-based platforms** carrying AI-enabled intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) equipment under DRDO–ISRO collaborations.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Modern HAP systems are **semi-autonomous or fully autonomous**, often powered by **solar energy** and AI navigation, requiring minimal human control.

Q6. Borders of Austria

Which of the following pairs of countries do **not** share a border with Austria?

- (a) Slovakia and Hungary
- (b) Czech Republic and Slovenia
- (c) Poland and Italy
- (d) Germany and Switzerland

Answer: (c) Poland and Italy

Explanation:

- **Austria** shares its borders with **eight countries**:
 - **Germany** (northwest)
 - **Czech Republic** (north)
 - **Slovakia** (northeast)
 - **Hungary** (east)
 - **Slovenia** (south)
 - **Italy** (southwest)
 - **Switzerland** and **Liechtenstein** (west)
- **Poland** does not border Austria, although it lies close to it geographically. Therefore, the correct pair that does **not both** share borders with Austria is **Poland and Italy** (since only Italy does).

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. Examine the impact of digital technology on traditional Indian family structures.

Sample Answer:

The Indian family system, historically rooted in joint living, emotional interdependence, and collectivist culture, is undergoing a profound transition in the digital era. The proliferation of smartphones, social media platforms, and remote work tools has reshaped communication patterns and domestic relationships.

Impact on Family Dynamics:



1. Rise of Individualism:

The era of shared television or evening conversations has been replaced by personalized digital spaces. Each member now interacts with separate screens and digital communities, reducing shared family experiences and collective emotional engagement.

2. Intergenerational Gap:

Digital literacy divides families by age. While younger members adopt technology swiftly, elders often feel alienated, weakening intergenerational communication and diminishing the traditional flow of cultural values and wisdom.

3. Transformation in Parenting:

Parents increasingly depend on digital content and ed-tech platforms for childcare and learning. Although such tools aid education, they often replace personal interaction, affecting emotional bonding and behavioral development in children.

4. Virtual Presence and Emotional Distance:

Even when families share physical spaces, members often retreat into virtual worlds. The phenomenon of “virtual migration” has led to emotional detachment within households.

5. Remote Work and Family Reconnection:

Conversely, remote work technology has allowed professionals to remain geographically close to families, enabling better work–life balance and renewed proximity in many cases.

Adaptation and Resilience:

Indian families are not passive recipients of change. The use of digital media for virtual festivals, online caregiving, and digital support groups during crises (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic) highlights adaptability and innovation in preserving familial cohesion.

Conclusion:

Digital technology is gradually transforming Indian families from tightly-knit collectivist entities to more individualized but connected units. The challenge lies in harnessing digital tools for inclusivity and communication without allowing virtual life to erode emotional warmth and interdependence — the traditional core of Indian family life.

GS Paper 2

Q2. Discuss the constitutional provisions and practical challenges associated with the anti-defection law in India.

Sample Answer:

The Anti-Defection Law, enacted through the **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985**, added the **Tenth Schedule** to the Indian Constitution. Its main goal is to promote political stability and curb opportunistic defections that undermine democratic governance.

Constitutional Provisions:

1. Grounds for Disqualification:

- A member is disqualified if they voluntarily give up party membership.
- Disqualification also applies when a member votes or abstains contrary to party directions without prior approval.

2. Exceptions:



- Party merger supported by at least two-thirds of legislators is exempted.
- The **Presiding Officer (Speaker/Chairman)** decides on disqualification petitions.

3. **Judicial Review:**

- Though the Speaker's decision was initially final, the Supreme Court in **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)** upheld judicial review of such decisions.

Key Challenges in Implementation:

1. **Question of Neutrality:**

- The Speaker, often from the ruling party, may act under political pressure, leading to biased or delayed decisions.

2. **Suppression of Dissent:**

- Party whips and the fear of disqualification have curtailed legislators' independence, undermining deliberative democracy.

3. **Misuse of Merger Clause:**

- Political actors have manipulated the merger provision to justify mass defections (seen in states like Goa and Madhya Pradesh).

4. **Delay in Adjudication:**

- Prolonged decision-making allows defectors to retain office, sometimes even as ministers, diluting the deterrent effect of the law.

Way Forward:

- Transfer adjudicatory authority from the Speaker to an **independent tribunal or the Election Commission**.
- Enforce **time-bound decisions**, as recommended in **Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. Speaker (2020)**.
- Introduce reforms to prevent post-election betrayals and coalition instability.

Conclusion:

While the Anti-Defection Law aims to protect the sanctity of representative democracy, its partial enforcement and political misuse have weakened its purpose. Strengthening institutional neutrality and ensuring swift adjudication are vital for restoring credibility and accountability within India's parliamentary democracy.

GS Paper 3

Q3. How do informal employment and the gig economy impact India's economic growth and social security landscape?

Sample Answer:

India's workforce is predominantly informal — nearly **90%** of workers lack formal employment contracts or social security benefits. The rapid rise of the **gig economy**, characterized by platform-based work (e.g., Swiggy, Ola, Urban Company), has added new dimensions to informal labour and economic growth.

Economic Implications:



1. **Flexibility and Efficiency:**

Gig work provides short-term, on-demand opportunities, reducing unemployment pressures and improving productivity through technology-driven models.

2. **Entrepreneurial Expansion:**

Digital platforms enable self-employment and micro-entrepreneurship, especially among youth and migrants, promoting local economic dynamism.

3. **Productivity Gains:**

The integration of analytics, GPS, and digital payment systems enhances coordination and service delivery, contributing to urban economic growth.

Social Security and Welfare Concerns:

1. **Lack of Protection:**

Gig workers generally lack access to **pensions, paid leave, or health insurance**, making them vulnerable to economic shocks, as witnessed during COVID-19.

2. **Job Precarity:**

Earnings are unstable, working hours are long, and algorithmic management limits human negotiation or collective bargaining.

3. **Gender Disparities:**

Women in gig work face **safety issues, income inequality, and limited digital literacy**, widening gender gaps in the labour market.

Recent Policy Interventions:

- The **Code on Social Security, 2020** extends coverage to gig and platform workers through schemes such as **accident insurance** and **maternity benefits**.
- The **e-Shram Portal** was launched to build a national database of unorganized workers for better delivery of welfare schemes.

Conclusion:

The gig economy symbolizes innovation and inclusion in India's growth story, but it must evolve with parallel social safeguards. A robust framework ensuring fair wages, portable benefits, and skill development will help integrate flexibility with dignity — fostering sustainable and equitable growth.

GS Paper 4

Q4. "Transparency without accountability is incomplete governance." Discuss with examples.

Sample Answer:

Transparency and accountability are foundational to ethical and responsive governance. **Transparency** ensures openness and access to information, while **accountability** demands answerability and consequences for public actions.

Interrelationship Between Transparency and Accountability:

1. **Transparency as an Enabler:**

The **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005** democratized data access, allowing citizens to question government decisions. However, transparency alone cannot ensure corrective action.



2. Need for Accountability Mechanisms:

Disclosures must be backed by institutional checks that hold individuals responsible for misuse or negligence.

Illustrative Examples:

- **Election Disclosures:** Candidates declare assets and criminal records, but absence of disqualification provisions allows offenders to contest — transparency without follow-up accountability.
- **CAG Reports:** While audits expose mismanagement of funds, the absence of strict follow-up actions reduces their deterrent value.
- **COVID-19 Response:** Governments provided real-time data on infections, but poor accountability for lapses like oxygen shortages exposed governance gaps.

Significance of Accountability:

- Reinforces public trust and institutional credibility.
- Deters corruption and ensures ethical decision-making.
- Promotes performance-based administration.

Conclusion:

Transparency illuminates governance, but accountability gives it meaning. Only when public disclosures lead to responsibility and rectification does governance become truly democratic and ethical. Strengthening grievance redressal, citizen oversight, and institutional integrity is essential for a transparent and accountable state.

Current Affairs

Q5. Discuss India's initiatives for land restoration and drought resilience in light of the World Environment Day 2025 theme. How can community-based models enhance their effectiveness?

Sample Answer:

The 2025 World Environment Day theme — “**Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience**” — is highly relevant for India, where nearly **30% of land area** suffers from degradation and millions face drought risks each year.

Major Government Initiatives:

1. **Bonn Challenge Commitment:**
India has pledged to **restore 26 million hectares** of degraded land by 2030.
2. **National Afforestation Programme (NAP):**
Promotes reforestation through **community participation** and local institutional involvement.
3. **Desert Development Programme (DDP):**
Targets arid regions, especially **Rajasthan and Gujarat**, to control desertification and improve livelihoods.
4. **Soil Health Card Scheme:**
Encourages farmers to adopt sustainable soil management through personalized nutrient profiles.
5. **PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY):**
Enhances water-use efficiency and promotes micro-irrigation to mitigate drought vulnerability.



Role of Community-Based Models:

1. **Watershed Development:**

Success stories like **Hiware Bazar (Maharashtra)** illustrate how participatory watershed management can rejuvenate groundwater, enhance agricultural productivity, and prevent migration.

2. **Joint Forest Management (JFM):**

Empowers local communities to co-manage forests, combining conservation with livelihood support.

3. **Women-Led Initiatives:**

Self-help groups (SHGs) and women's cooperatives contribute significantly in **tree planting, seed collection, and water harvesting**, enhancing sustainability and inclusivity.

Benefits of Community Participation:

- Utilizes **local knowledge** and ensures program ownership.
- Encourages **accountability** and long-term maintenance.
- Strengthens **climate resilience** and diversifies rural livelihoods.

Conclusion:

India's commitment to land restoration is ambitious, but its success depends on local engagement and decentralized governance. Empowering communities ensures that restoration efforts are ecologically sound, socially inclusive, and economically sustainable — aligning national action with global environmental priorities.
