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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 05/11/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

- **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

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Delhi Sultanate:

1. The practice of *dagh* (branding of horses) and *chehra* (descriptive rolls of soldiers) was introduced during the reign of Alauddin Khalji to curb corruption in the military establishment.
2. Under the Tughlaq administration, the *iqta* holders (muqtis) were given completely hereditary rights over their territories and could pass them on without royal approval.

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)

Explanation:

Alauddin Khalji introduced *dagh* and *chehra* to prevent soldiers from submitting inferior horses and fake manpower records; hence Statement 1 is correct.

During the Tughlaq period, *iqta* assignments remained *non-hereditary*, subject to periodic transfers, though central control fluctuated. So Statement 2 is incorrect.

Q2. The Paris Agreement, to which India is a Party, aims primarily to:

- (a) Mandate legally binding emission reduction targets on all developing countries.
- (b) Limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.
- (c) Create a global carbon market under a single universal trading platform.
- (d) Replace the Kyoto Protocol entirely by prohibiting voluntary national contributions.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Paris Agreement sets a long-term temperature goal of keeping warming well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C. It uses *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)* indicated voluntarily, not imposed. It does not mandate universal carbon markets nor does it legally impose uniform emission reduction obligations.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Additional Tier-1 (AT1) bonds:

1. AT1 bonds are perpetual in nature and can be written down or converted into equity when a bank faces severe financial stress.
2. The coupon payments on AT1 bonds are mandatory for banks to pay, irrespective of their financial performance.
3. AT1 bonds qualify as part of a bank's Tier-1 capital under Basel-III norms.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None



Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: AT1 bonds are perpetual and may be written off or converted.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Payment of coupon depends on the bank's profitability and regulatory thresholds—*it is not mandatory*.

Statement 3 is correct: AT1 bonds form part of Tier-1 capital as per Basel-III.

Hence, two statements are correct.

Q4. With reference to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction to adjudicate disputes between two or more States.
2. The Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction can extend to criminal matters only if certified by a High Court.
3. The Supreme Court has advisory jurisdiction on matters referred to it by the President under Article 143.
4. The Supreme Court's writ jurisdiction under Article 32 can be suspended during a National Emergency relating to war or external aggression.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct — Article 131 grants original jurisdiction in inter-state disputes.

Statement 2 is incorrect — Criminal appeals can come without High Court certification (e.g., special leave petition under Article 136).

Statement 3 is correct — Advisory jurisdiction exists under Article 143.

Statement 4 is correct — Article 32 is itself a Fundamental Right and can be restricted during emergency (as held e.g., ADM Jabalpur era; though later jurisprudence strengthened rights, Emergency provisions still allow curtailment).

Hence, *three* statements are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Alluvial plains are generally associated with high agricultural productivity.

Reason (R1): Alluvial plains are formed by deposition through fluvial processes, often creating nutrient-rich fine sediments.

Reason (R2): Alluvial plains always have uniform soil fertility across their entire extent.

Choose the correct answer:

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A.
- (b) A is correct, and R1 is correct explanation of A; but R2 is incorrect.
- (c) A is correct, but both R1 and R2 are incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, but R1 and R2 are correct.

Answer: (b)

**Explanation:**

Alluvial plains are agriculturally productive largely because of the deposition of fine silt and minerals from rivers — so Assertion and R1 are correct, and R1 *explains* the Assertion.

However, fertility is **not uniform** across the entire plain due to variations in flood patterns, moisture, and soil texture, making R2 incorrect.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. ECMS provides incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of key electronic components.
2. The scheme operates only through 100% Central Government funding, with no private participation.

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)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

ECMS (under Ministry of Electronics & IT) aims to strengthen India's electronics value chain by supporting domestic manufacturing of active, passive, discrete components, sensors, etc. It is linked to the broader goal of reducing import dependence—especially on China, Taiwan & South Korea—where most electronics supply chains are concentrated.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

The scheme does **not** function as a fully government-controlled production model. It promotes **private sector investment**, including foreign + domestic firms, and provides incentive support based on production/financial performance. The scheme *leverages private manufacturing capacity*, rather than replacing it.

Q2. The Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses primarily focuses on:

- (a) Increasing exports of pulses to global markets
- (b) Achieving domestic self-sufficiency by raising area & productivity
- (c) Fixing MSP for pulses equal to international market rates
- (d) Shifting pulse production entirely to irrigated zones

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

India remains a **net importer of pulses**, mainly tur, urad, and masoor. The Mission targets *expansion of pulse cultivation* in suitable regions, use of *bio-fortified high-yielding varieties*, improved extension services, and support for value-chain infrastructure. The objective is **import substitution**, not export promotion. MSP revision and irrigation expansion are supporting elements—not the core mission.



Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. PM SHRI schools are selected from existing government schools.
2. These schools are meant to demonstrate NEP-aligned teaching practices.
3. All government schools will automatically be converted into PM SHRI schools.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1: **Correct** — PM SHRI schools are *chosen*, not newly created.

Statement 2: **Correct** — They act as *model schools* demonstrating NEP practices such as experiential and competency-based learning.

Statement 3: **Incorrect** — Only *selected* schools meeting predefined criteria are included. There is **no universal conversion plan**.

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. Dogri is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. It belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of languages.
3. Its traditional script was Takri.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

All statements are correct.

Dogri (spoken mainly in Jammu region) was recognized in **2003** under the 8th Schedule. Linguistically it belongs to the **Indo-Aryan subgroup** of the Indo-European family. Historically, Dogri used **Takri** script before adoption of Devanagari. The language is culturally tied to Dogra identity and has a growing corpus of modern literature.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. Olo people live near the India-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. They share cultural traits with Nocte and Wancho tribes.
3. They are recognized as ST in all states where they live.
4. Their festivals are linked to agricultural cycles.



How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

Statements 1, 2, and 4 are **correct**.

The Ollo (Lazu Ollo) community is primarily settled in **Tirap district** near the Indo-Myanmar border. Their cultural patterns—including clan traditions, war-dance motifs, and oral history—resemble those of the **Nocte and Wancho** tribes. Their festivals such as *Woraang* revolve around seasons, harvest, and animistic nature-worship.

Statement 3 is **incorrect**.

ST recognition is **not uniform across all habitation zones**. Legal ST status may vary between administrative jurisdictions.

Q6. Loktak Lake is best known for which unique feature?

- (a) Salt-crust islands
- (b) Floating vegetation masses called *Phumdis*
- (c) Coral-formed freshwater reefs
- (d) Permanent volcanic basins

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

Loktak Lake (Manipur) is famous for **Phumdis**—masses of floating grass, soil, and organic matter. The *Keibul Lamjao National Park* located **within the lake** is the world's **only floating national park**, home of the endangered *Sangai deer*.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 -

Q1. “The Drain of Wealth theory was not merely an economic critique but a foundational argument for nationalist industrialization.” Discuss.

Answer:

The Drain of Wealth theory, most prominently articulated by Dadabhai Naoroji, argued that colonial rule systematically transferred India's wealth to Britain without adequate economic returns. While the theory initially served to highlight economic exploitation, it gradually evolved into a core ideological foundation for the nationalist discourse on industrialization and economic self-reliance.



During the colonial period, India's trade pattern was restructured to suit British imperial interests. Raw materials such as cotton, jute, indigo, opium, and later minerals were exported cheaply, while finished industrial goods were imported at higher value, leading to **deindustrialization** and collapse of indigenous crafts. This process devastated the rural economy, causing unemployment, declining real wages, and recurring famines. Naoroji quantified the "unrequited exports" and invisibles like Home Charges, pensions, military recruitment costs, and sterling obligations to show that the actual fiscal drain exceeded visible trade imbalances.

The political effect of the Drain theory was profound. It transformed anti-colonial sentiment into a **structured economic critique**, shifting nationalism from moral protest to rational economic reasoning. Leaders like R.C. Dutt, G.K. Gokhale, and later Gandhi and Nehru linked colonial exploitation to India's industrial stagnation. The understanding that India lacked capital formation due to drain prompted nationalists to advocate **Swadeshi industries**, indigenous banking, cooperative movements, and later state-led industrial planning.

Post-independence, Nehruvian economic planning and the emphasis on heavy industries through the Mahalanobis model also reflected the ideological legacy of the drain thesis: **self-reliance, protection of domestic industry, and creation of national capital assets**.

Thus, the Drain theory did not merely expose colonial exploitation; it provided **economic legitimacy to nationalist industrialization** and shaped India's long-term developmental imagination.

Conclusion:

The theory acted as a bridge between economic understanding and political mobilization, transforming economic exploitation into a **national program for industrial growth and sovereign economic policy-making**.

GS Paper 2 -

Q2. Discuss the major challenges in addressing urban poverty in India with reference to slums, informal work, and inadequate health infrastructure. Suggest a multi-dimensional framework for improvement.

Answer:

Urban poverty in India is characterized not just by low income but by structural deprivation in housing, sanitation, employment security, and healthcare. Nearly 35% of India's urban population lives in slums, where informal settlements arise due to inadequate affordable housing and rapid migration from rural regions.

One of the core challenges is the **informal nature of urban employment**. Over 80% of urban workers lack formal contracts, social protection, and stable wages. Daily-wage laborers, domestic workers, gig workers, and street vendors live on precarious income, highly vulnerable to economic shocks—as seen during the COVID-19 lockdown, where mass reverse migration exposed the fragility of the urban labor economy.

Slums reflect a failure of **urban planning and land governance**. Bureaucratic land policies, weak rental housing frameworks, and speculative real estate markets push the poor into unauthorized settlements. Basic services—clean water, sewage, waste management—remain inadequate, causing chronic health risks.

Urban health infrastructure is similarly strained. Most tertiary hospitals are overcrowded, while primary urban health centers are insufficient or poorly staffed. Non-communicable diseases and communicable diseases co-exist, making urban health risks multidimensional.



A framework for improvement must include:

1. **Affordable Housing Policy:** Expand rental housing and incentivize cooperative housing models.
2. **Formalization of Informal Work:** Implement universal social security coverage and minimum wage guarantees.
3. **Strengthening Urban Primary Healthcare:** Deploy mobile clinics, community health workers, and telemedicine for slum clusters.
4. **Participatory Urban Governance:** Encourage ward-level budgeting and slum community leadership.

Conclusion:

Addressing urban poverty requires a shift from relief-based schemes to **structural reforms that integrate planning, employment security, and health infrastructure**, ensuring cities become engines of inclusive growth rather than inequality.

GS Paper 3 -

Q3. Critically examine how WTO norms affect India's agricultural subsidies and MSP regime. Can India balance global commitments with domestic food security needs?

Answer:

India's agricultural policy—rooted in ensuring food security and livelihood protection—is increasingly under scrutiny at the World Trade Organization (WTO), particularly regarding subsidies categorized under the *Agreement on Agriculture* (AoA). The WTO allows limited subsidies, calculated as Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS), which cannot exceed **10% of the value of agricultural production** for developing countries.

India's MSP procurement for wheat, rice, and other crops is considered “trade-distorting support” because it influences prices and trade competitiveness. However, India argues that subsidy calculations should be based on **current market prices**, not the outdated 1986-88 reference prices used by WTO.

India's Public Distribution System and National Food Security Act (NFSA) increase procurement volumes, making India appear as a large subsidizer, leading to disputes with the US and EU. Yet, domestic realities show that Indian farmers face rising input costs, low market prices, fragmented holdings, and vulnerability to climate change. Cutting subsidies abruptly may trigger rural distress.

India has adopted strategic approaches:

- Invoking the “Peace Clause” to continue MSP procurement for food security.
- Promoting diversification away from cereal-centric procurement.
- Encouraging crop value-chain development and FPOs.
- Advocating for **WTO reform** to update reference price benchmarks.

Conclusion:

Balancing WTO norms with national needs requires **policy recalibration, not withdrawal**. India must preserve food security while transitioning toward more efficient, targeted, and climate-resilient farm support mechanisms, ensuring that global trade commitments do not undermine rural livelihoods.



GS Paper 4 (Ethics) -

Q4. Discuss how empathy and sensitivity in public administration can improve the delivery of social welfare schemes. Provide suitable illustrations.

Answer:

Empathy—the ability to understand and share another’s feelings—is essential in public administration, particularly in welfare governance involving vulnerable populations. Bureaucratic systems often emphasize procedure and documentation, resulting in exclusion, humiliation, or delay for those seeking benefits. Incorporating empathy can humanize governance and build trust.

For instance, a pregnant woman seeking maternal health benefits may lack documents or travel ability. A rigid, rule-based officer may deny benefits, while an empathetic officer could facilitate home visits, simplify verification, or coordinate with health workers. The **outcome changes not just service delivery but dignity.**

Empathy promotes:

- **Inclusive Policy Design:** Understanding lived experiences helps tailor schemes like pensions, disability support, or food distribution.
- **Reduced Corruption:** When officers see beneficiaries as people rather than “files,” transactional corruption reduces.
- **Improved Citizen Trust:** People cooperate with government when they feel heard and respected.
- **Higher Efficiency:** Solutions become context-sensitive, reducing bottlenecks.

Training programs like the **Mission Karmayogi** emphasize emotional intelligence and citizen-centric governance, marking a structural recognition of empathy’s value.

Conclusion:

Empathy is not an emotional luxury but an administrative competence. A welfare state fulfills its purpose only when governance is delivered with **sensitivity, dignity, and respect**, ensuring justice is experienced by the poorest—not just promised in policy documents.

Current Affairs -

Q5. The European Union’s proposal to limit or ban ethanol-blended fuel imports has significant implications for India. Examine.

Answer:

The EU’s proposed restrictions on ethanol imports—citing sustainability concerns and carbon accounting norms—carry major implications for India, which is expanding its ethanol blending program under its energy transition goals.

India has set targets for **20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025**, relying on domestically sourced sugarcane, grain-based ethanol, and potential biofuel feedstock diversification. Indian ethanol exports, though not vast, are strategically valuable for market stability and foreign exchange earnings.

The EU argues that large-scale biofuel production leads to land-use change, monocropping, and water stress. However, India sees ethanol as a way to:



- Reduce oil import dependence (over 85%)
- Boost farm incomes through assured sugarcane and grain procurement
- Reduce vehicular carbon emissions

If EU markets restrict ethanol imports, Indian producers—especially sugar mills—may face **reduced export opportunities**, affecting profitability during surplus seasons. Moreover, international narrative could shape future WTO or environmental compliance frameworks, influencing India's domestic biofuel policy.

India may need to:

- Push **second-generation ethanol** from waste biomass to counter sustainability critiques.
- Diversify feedstock to millets and agri-residues.
- Engage in climate diplomacy to frame ethanol as part of a **just transition**, not an environmental threat.

Conclusion:

The EU proposal reflects growing global scrutiny of biofuels. India must balance *energy security, farmer income, and ecological sustainability*, while shaping international biofuel norms to protect national interests.
