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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 13/11/2025 (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. Consider the following statements regarding the Permanent Settlement of 1793:

1. It was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in the Madras Presidency to ensure fixed land revenue.
2. It led to the creation of a class of hereditary zamindars who became landowners.

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:** The **Permanent Settlement** was introduced in **1793** by **Lord Cornwallis**, but **only in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa**, not in the **Madras Presidency**. Madras and Bombay regions followed **Ryotwari** and **Mahalwari** systems later.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The system **recognized zamindars as landowners**, making them **hereditary** and **responsible for collecting land revenue**, which created a **feudal class**.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*):

1. It is endemic to the Eastern Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as 'Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.
3. Its export is completely prohibited under the Foreign Trade Policy of India.

Which of the above statements 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) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Red Sanders is **endemic to Andhra Pradesh**, especially in the **Eastern Ghats**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is listed as **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List** due to overexploitation.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Export is **regulated**, not totally prohibited. **Limited export is allowed** under license for value-added products or scientific use.

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

1. Positive IOD leads to above-average monsoon rainfall in India.
2. Negative IOD is characterized by warmer waters in the western Indian Ocean.
3. IOD is completely independent of El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomena.



Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct: Positive IOD** means warmer waters in the **western Indian Ocean**, strengthening monsoon currents towards India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In **Negative IOD**, the **eastern Indian Ocean** (near Indonesia) is warmer, not the western side.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Though IOD and ENSO are different phenomena, they **can influence each other**. A **positive IOD can offset El Niño effects**.

4. Consider the following statements about the Ajanta Caves:

1. The caves are primarily associated with the Mahayana school of Buddhism.
2. They were excavated during the Satavahana and Vakataka periods.
3. They contain only rock-cut stupas, with no murals or paintings.
4. Ajanta Caves are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ajanta is majorly associated with **Mahayana Buddhism**, though some caves show **Hinayana influences**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Excavated during the **Satavahana (2nd century BCE)** and **Vakataka (5th century CE)** periods.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The caves are famous for **murals, frescoes, and paintings**, especially depicting **Jataka tales**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Declared as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1983.

5. Assertion-Reason Type

Assertion (A): Antibiotics are ineffective against viral infections.

Reason (R): Viruses do not possess cell walls or metabolic pathways that antibiotics can target.

- (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 true:** Antibiotics **work against bacteria**, not viruses.
 - **Reason is true and explains A:** Antibiotics **target bacterial cell walls or protein synthesis**, which viruses **lack**, making them **ineffective** against viral infections.
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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the recent revision of the Global Poverty Line by the World Bank:

1. The World Bank has shifted the poverty line from \$1.90 to \$2.15 per day using 2022 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).
2. The revised line reflects changes in the cost of basic food, clothing, and shelter across upper-middle-income countries.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The World Bank **revised the international poverty line from \$1.90 to \$2.15/day**, based on **2017 PPP** (not 2022 PPP), to reflect **updated cost of living** globally.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The revision targets **low-income countries**, not upper-middle-income countries. The World Bank has separate poverty lines for **lower-middle and upper-middle-income groups**.

Q2. Which of the following organizations hosts the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)?

- (a) Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
(b) United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
(c) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
(d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Answer: (a) Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Explanation:

- ICDRI is **hosted annually** by the **CDRI**, an India-led global initiative launched by **PM Modi in 2019** at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- It brings together policymakers, engineers, scientists, and international institutions to **discuss resilience in infrastructure against disasters**.



Q3. Consider the following statements about the 16th Finance Commission of India:

1. It is mandated to recommend the distribution of net tax proceeds between Centre and States for five years starting 2026–27.
2. It is also required to suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of India to meet centrally sponsored schemes.
3. It is chaired by Arvind Panagariya and includes members from both the Union Government and NITI Aayog.

Which of the above statements 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) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 16th Finance Commission's recommendations will apply from **FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It recommends measures to augment the **Consolidated Fund of the States**, not of India.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is chaired by **Arvind Panagariya**, former VC of NITI Aayog; members include ex-bureaucrats and economists.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) space mission:

1. It is the first all-private mission to the International Space Station (ISS) with no involvement from NASA.
2. It carried astronauts from Turkey, Italy, and Sweden, making it the most internationally diverse private space crew to date.
3. Axiom Space aims to build a private space station that will eventually detach from the ISS.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Although Ax-4 is a **private mission**, it operates in **collaboration with NASA and SpaceX** using the Crew Dragon capsule.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ax-4 had astronauts from **Turkey, Italy, and Sweden**, a milestone in international collaboration in private spaceflight.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Axiom Space plans to **attach modules to ISS** that will later **detach** to form an **independent commercial space station**.



Q5. Consider the following statements about Magnetic Isolation and Concentration (MagIC) technology:

1. It is a recent innovation that enables magnetic separation of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) from blood.
2. The technology is entirely indigenous and has been developed by CSIR in partnership with IIT Bombay.
3. MagIC enables early diagnosis of cancer by isolating bio-signatures without the need for invasive procedures.
4. It relies on the use of superparamagnetic nanoparticles for targeted molecular capture.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation:

- **All statements are correct:**
 - MagIC is a **non-invasive diagnostic tool** using **magnetic nanoparticles** to isolate **CTCs**, aiding in **early detection of cancer**.
 - Developed by **CSIR-NCL** and **IIT Bombay**, it is an **indigenous innovation** with potential applications in **oncology, virology, and molecular diagnostics**.
 - It offers **point-of-care** and **lab-free detection** capability.

Q6. Which of the following countries are located on the Iberian Peninsula?

1. Portugal
2. Spain
3. Andorra
4. France

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The **Iberian Peninsula** lies in **southwestern Europe**.
 - **Portugal and Spain** occupy most of the peninsula.
 - **Andorra**, a small landlocked state in the Pyrenees, also lies on the peninsula.
 - **France**, although bordering Spain, lies **outside the Iberian Peninsula**.



SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS-1:

Q1. Discuss the role of linguistic reorganization of states in post-independence India. Was it a threat to national unity or a step towards stronger federalism? (15 marks)

Sample Answer:

The linguistic reorganization of states in India was one of the most contentious issues in post-independence politics. While initially resisted by national leaders like Nehru and Patel due to fears of balkanization, it eventually became a tool for administrative convenience and democratic legitimacy.

The demand for linguistic states began with the formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1953 following Potti Sriramulu's hunger strike. This led to the formation of the **States Reorganization Commission (1953)**, which recommended the redrawing of state boundaries largely on linguistic lines. The **States Reorganization Act, 1956**, was a watershed moment, leading to the creation of 14 states and 6 union territories.

Arguments suggesting threat to unity:

- Language-based states might have promoted **regionalism** over nationalism.
- The fear was that **sub-national identities** would supersede the pan-Indian identity.
- There were instances of inter-state disputes, e.g., **Belagavi (Karnataka-Maharashtra)**.

Arguments supporting federalism:

- Allowed **decentralization** and **cultural recognition**.
- Strengthened **vernacular education**, administration, and media.
- Prevented alienation of linguistic groups and enhanced participation.

Conclusion:

Linguistic reorganization helped deepen democracy by recognizing regional aspirations within the framework of Indian unity. Far from weakening the nation, it accommodated diversity in a federal setup, showcasing India's strength in pluralism.

GS-2:

Q2. Critically examine the role and effectiveness of Parliamentary Committees in ensuring executive accountability in India. (15 marks)

Sample Answer:

Parliamentary Committees are extensions of the legislature, established to scrutinize bills, budgets, and executive actions in detail. They act as watchdogs over the executive, especially in a system where the government enjoys a majority.

Key Committees include:

- **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** – examines audit reports of CAG.
- **Estimates Committee** – suggests economy and efficiency in public expenditure.
- **Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)** – scrutinize legislation and budget allocations.



Effectiveness:

- They ensure **detailed deliberations** and **non-partisan insights**.
- Function behind closed doors, enabling candid discussions.
- Improve **technical scrutiny** of policy issues.

Limitations:

- Reports are **recommendatory** in nature.
- Often **ignored by ministries**.
- Lack of subject matter experts and **low public visibility**.

Recent Examples:

- PAC flagged delays in defence acquisitions.
- DRSC on Health raised critical issues during COVID-19.

Conclusion:

While Parliamentary Committees significantly bolster legislative oversight, their impact is diluted due to non-binding nature of recommendations and lack of follow-up. Strengthening their authority and resourcing is vital for effective accountability.

GS-3:

Q3. *"India's agricultural policy needs a shift from productivity-oriented approach to income-centric model." Discuss in the context of doubling farmers' income. (15 marks)*

Sample Answer:

India's Green Revolution era focused primarily on enhancing agricultural productivity. However, rising input costs, stagnant MSP growth, and market failures have led to agrarian distress, necessitating a policy shift towards an **income-centric** approach.

Productivity-centric limitations:

- Overproduction of few crops (e.g., rice, wheat) leading to **price crash**.
- Excessive input use causing **soil degradation** and **water stress**.
- Ignores **price realisation** and **post-harvest issues**.

Why income-centric model is needed:

- Recognizes **market dynamics**, **cost of cultivation**, and **risk management**.
- Integrates **diversification** into high-value crops, dairy, and fisheries.
- Focus on **value chains**, **storage**, and **direct marketing**.

Policy Instruments:

- PM-AASHA for better price realisation.
- e-NAM for unified agricultural markets.
- FPO promotion for collective bargaining.



- Focus on **digital agriculture** and **agri-tech startups**.

Conclusion:

An income-centric model is more holistic, ensuring sustainable livelihoods. It requires reforms not just in production but also in **marketing, insurance, infrastructure, and rural credit**.

GS-4:

Q4. *What do you understand by 'conflict of interest'? Illustrate with suitable examples from public administration. How can such conflicts be effectively managed? (10 marks)*

Sample Answer:

Conflict of interest arises when an individual's personal interest conflicts with professional duties, leading to **biased decision-making** or **loss of public trust**.

Types:

- **Actual Conflict:** Decision already influenced.
- **Perceived Conflict:** Appearance of bias even if not real.
- **Potential Conflict:** Future possibility of bias.

Examples:

- A bureaucrat overseeing tenders while his relative owns a bidding company.
- A regulator later joining a private firm they used to regulate ("revolving door").
- A judge ruling on a case involving a former client.

Management Mechanisms:

- **Code of Conduct & Ethics** training.
- **Mandatory disclosures** of financial interests.
- **Recusal** from decision-making.
- Establishing **independent ethics committees**.

Conclusion:

Conflict of interest may not always involve corruption, but it erodes institutional credibility. A transparent system with ethical safeguards can help preserve integrity and public trust.

Current Affairs:

Q5. *India's textile and apparel sector holds the potential to drive exports and employment, yet faces major structural and policy challenges. Discuss. (15 marks)*

Sample Answer:

India's textile and apparel industry is the **second largest employer** after agriculture and contributes significantly to exports. However, despite this potential, it has not achieved the global leadership that China commands.

Significance:



- Employs over **45 million** people directly.
- Contributes around **10%** of total exports.
- Core to **Make in India, Skill India, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** goals.

Challenges:

- **Fragmentation:** Dominated by small units lacking economies of scale.
- **Labour rigidity** and lack of skilled workforce.
- High **logistics costs** and weak supply chains.
- Inadequate **technology adoption** and branding.
- Global competition from **Vietnam, Bangladesh**, etc., due to FTAs and better infrastructure.

Recent Government Initiatives:

- **PM MITRA parks** to develop integrated textile value chains.
- **PLI Scheme** for incentivizing man-made fiber and technical textiles.
- **RoDTEP** and **RoSCTL** schemes to refund export duties.
- FTAs with UAE, Australia improving market access.

Way Forward:

- Invest in **infrastructure, skill training, and R&D.**
- Improve **ease of doing business and labour reforms.**
- Enhance **sustainability practices** to meet global ESG norms.

Conclusion:

India must convert its comparative advantage into competitive strength by addressing systemic challenges. A globally integrated, innovation-driven textile policy can help make India a global export hub.
