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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 03/12/2025 (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. With reference to the Mauryan administration during Ashoka's rule, consider the following statements:**

1. The Dhamma Mahamatras were entrusted exclusively with religious duties and temple-related activities.
2. Ashoka's edicts reveal that he established diplomatic contacts with Hellenistic monarchs, showing a wide international outreach.

Which of the statements given above 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 is incorrect:** Ashoka created the post of *Dhamma Mahamatras* to supervise moral welfare, safeguard the interests of diverse social groups, and oversee ethical conduct within the administration. Their responsibilities extended much beyond religious management or temple affairs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Several inscriptions—particularly *Rock Edict XIII*—mention Ashoka's envoys being sent to Hellenistic rulers like Antiochus II and Ptolemy II. This reflects his efforts to engage diplomatically beyond the Indian political sphere.

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Biodiversity Hotspots:**

1. To be recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must contain at least 1,500 endemic vascular plant species.
2. India hosts four biodiversity hotspots, but none of them lie in regions classified as arid or semi-arid.
3. Once an area is categorised as a biodiversity hotspot, the designation continues irrespective of future ecological changes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (c) Only 1 and 3**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Conservation International's definition requires at least 1,500 endemic vascular plant species and a loss of 70% or more of the original habitat.



- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India's four hotspots—the Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas, Indo-Burma, and Sundaland (covering the Nicobar Islands)—span humid and tropical regions, but parts of the Indo-Burma hotspot include dry forests and transitional landscapes, not strictly excluding semi-arid elements.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A hotspot designation is not withdrawn even if further degradation occurs; the label is meant to focus conservation attention, not to be periodically reassessed.

**Q3. Consider the following statements about the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) operated by the RBI:**

1. It enables commercial banks to obtain short-term funds through repo transactions.
2. Reverse repo operations under LAF result in the withdrawal of excess money from the banking system.
3. LAF is intended exclusively for handling long-term capital inflows.

Which of the statements given above is/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:** Under the repo window, banks borrow from the RBI by selling securities with an agreement to repurchase them later.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In a reverse repo, banks deposit surplus liquidity with the RBI, leading to contraction of money available in the market.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** LAF primarily addresses short-term liquidity mismatches. Long-term capital movement is regulated through separate policy tools such as FDI/FPI norms and broader capital account measures.

**Q4. With reference to the Inter-State Council under the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a permanent constitutional institution created by Article 263.
2. Its decisions are obligatory for both the Union and the States.
3. The Prime Minister heads the Council.
4. The President can establish the Council when he considers it conducive for coordination among governments.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only



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

**Answer: (d) 3 and 4 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Article 263 provides for the creation of the Inter-State Council, but it is not a standing body; it is set up only when the President deems it necessary.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Council's role is advisory—its recommendations do not carry binding force.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Prime Minister serves as the Chairperson of the Council.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** As per Article 263, the Council may be constituted by the President if it would promote inter-governmental cooperation.

#### Q5. Assertion–Reason

**Assertion (A):** RHUMI-1 has become India's first reusable hybrid rocket developed and launched by private players.

**Reason (R):** Hybrid rocket engines employ a mix of solid fuel and liquid oxidizer, allowing better controllability, including throttling and restart capability, than traditional engines.

Choose the correct option:

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

**Explanation:**

- **Assertion:** RHUMI-1, launched in May 2024 by the eXperimental Sounding Rocket Association (ESRA), marked a milestone as the first Indian privately built hybrid rocket capable of reuse.
- **Reason:** Hybrid systems use a combination of solid and liquid propellants, enabling controllable thrust, re-ignition, and improved safety standards. These features make reusability more feasible, directly supporting the assertion.

## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the NAVYA Initiative launched recently:**

1. It is a major programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development aimed solely at adolescent girls with disabilities.
2. The initiative supports the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by promoting digital skills, STEM exposure, and menstrual hygiene awareness.



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 is incorrect:** The NAVYA programme targets girls aged 11–18 years, especially those who are out of school or vulnerable, and is not restricted to adolescents with disabilities.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NAVYA integrates components such as technology skills, STEM learning opportunities, health and hygiene awareness (including menstruation), and gender education, all of which echo NEP 2020's emphasis on holistic and inclusive growth.

**Q2. Ambubachi Mela, often described as the 'Mahakumbh of the East', is associated with which belief?**

- (a) Celebration of the Brahmaputra river confluence
- (b) Ritualistic commemoration of Shiva–Parvati union
- (c) The belief that the Earth undergoes a menstruation cycle symbolizing fertility and renewal
- (d) Observance of the founding anniversary of Kamakhya priesthood

**Answer: (c) The belief in the Earth's menstruation cycle symbolizing fertility and regeneration**

**Explanation:**

The Ambubachi Mela, held at the Kamakhya Temple in Assam, marks the annual period when the Goddess Kamakhya is believed to menstruate. The temple stays closed for three days, and the event is seen as signifying the natural fertility of the Earth, making it especially important for agricultural communities and practitioners of tantra.

**Q3. With reference to the 'Training of Trainers (ToT)' programme under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, consider the following statements:**

1. It is run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to certify master trainers in traditional crafts.
2. The programme is aligned with the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) framework of the National Skills Qualification Framework.
3. The inaugural batch began training at the Central Staff Training and Research Institute (CSTRI), Kolkata.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) Only 2 and 3**



**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship implements the ToT programme, not the Ministry of Labour.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The programme is built on the RPL model to formally recognize and certify artisans' existing knowledge and craft skills.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The first batch of trainers commenced their training at CSTRI, Kolkata, under the PM Vishwakarma framework.

**Q4. Regarding India's first comprehensive Household Income Survey scheduled for 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. It is set to replace the National Statistical Office's Consumption Expenditure Survey.
2. It aims to deliver detailed information on income distribution to support targeted welfare planning.
3. It will collect both gross and net income details at the individual level across multiple sources.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The new survey will function alongside, not in place of, the Consumption Expenditure Survey. Together, the two datasets will give a more complete picture of poverty and welfare.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The survey is designed to provide precise information on income distribution to enhance the targeting of government benefits and transfer schemes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It will gather data on multiple income streams—such as salaries, agricultural earnings, remittances, and pensions—covering both gross and net figures, which earlier surveys did not comprehensively document.

**Q5. With reference to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following statements:**

1. India is an observer in the OIC and participated in its 2019 summit.
2. The OIC Charter includes provisions for safeguarding Muslim minorities in countries outside its membership.
3. The OIC has issued several comments on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, which India views as interference.
4. The OIC Secretariat is headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (d) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India is neither a member nor an observer in the OIC. However, in 2019, India was invited as the “Guest of Honour” to the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting held in Abu Dhabi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The OIC Charter explicitly prioritizes safeguarding Muslim communities globally, including those residing in non-member states.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The OIC frequently remarks on developments in Jammu & Kashmir, which India consistently rejects as unwarranted.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The organisation’s headquarters is in Jeddah, not Riyadh.

**Q6. With reference to Vietnam’s geopolitical position, consider the following statements:**

1. Vietnam shares land borders with both Thailand and Malaysia.
2. The country lies entirely to the east of the Mekong River basin.
3. Vietnam’s Exclusive Economic Zone borders the South China Sea, making it a claimant in the Spratly Islands dispute.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: (a) Only 3**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Vietnam shares land borders with China, Laos, and Cambodia; it has no land boundary with Thailand or Malaysia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Parts of southern Vietnam lie within the Mekong Delta, so the country is not completely east of the basin.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vietnam’s EEZ faces the South China Sea, and Vietnam is an active claimant in disputes over the Spratly and Paracel Islands.



## SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1

**Q1. “Caste dynamics in India are undergoing a transformation, yet caste continues to shape social and political outcomes.” Discuss.**

*(10 marks, 150 words)*

#### **Sample Answer (Rewritten):**

Caste remains a foundational social institution in India, even as its expressions evolve with modernisation. Constitutional protections, mobility, and economic growth have altered several rigid practices, yet caste continues to influence everyday interactions and political behaviour.

#### **Changing Patterns:**

- Urban spaces, rising education, and diversified work environments have weakened strict caste-based roles and interactions.
- A gradual rise in inter-caste marriages—largely among urban, educated groups—reflects shifting attitudes.
- Upward mobility among many OBC groups has led to reconfiguration of traditional hierarchies.

#### **Persisting Influence:**

- **Politics:** Electoral strategies still heavily rely on caste calculations—e.g., dominant groups such as Yadavs in UP or Patidars in Gujarat.
- **Social exclusion:** Incidents of honour killings, caste-based violence, and the persistence of practices like manual scavenging underline continuing discrimination.
- **Affirmative action:** Demands for reservation under OBC or EWS categories show caste’s continued socio-economic relevance.

Overall, caste’s form may be changing, but its impact on access, privilege, and power remains deeply embedded.

### GS Paper 2

**Q2. Critically examine the challenges to cooperative federalism in India, especially with regard to centrally sponsored schemes and fiscal transfers.**

*(10 marks, 150 words)*

#### **Sample Answer (Rewritten):**

Cooperative federalism requires close coordination between the Union and the States, crucial in India’s quasi-federal framework. However, several institutional and financial frictions limit its effective functioning.

#### **Key Challenges:**

- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes:** States argue that CSSs are overly prescriptive and leave limited flexibility in design or spending—seen in schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission or PMAY.
- **Fiscal Issues:** Although the 15th Finance Commission increased tax devolution, this has been offset by a rise in conditional grants, reducing states’ independence.
- **GST Compensation:** Post-pandemic delays in compensation eroded intergovernmental trust.
- **Legislative Overreach:** The passage of the (now repealed) farm laws without extensive consultations indicated central intrusion into state subjects.



### Way Forward:

Strengthening forums such as the Inter-State Council, improving NITI Aayog's consultative role, and expanding untied grants—possibly through a review of Article 282—are essential. Genuine cooperative federalism remains vital for balanced development and democratic functioning.

### GS Paper 3

**Q3. What are the major challenges in India's journey towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy? Suggest the structural reforms required.**

*(10 marks, 150 words)*

#### Sample Answer (Rewritten):

Achieving a \$5 trillion economy requires sustained high growth, productivity gains, and broad-based development. Despite progress, India faces several structural bottlenecks.

#### Challenges:

- **Weak Private Investment:** Manufacturing and infrastructure continue to face sluggish private sector investment.
- **Employment Concerns:** PLFS 2023-24 data shows high unemployment among educated youth, with a persistent skill mismatch.
- **Financial Sector:** Though NPA levels have declined, risk-averse lending restricts credit expansion.
- **Large Informal Sector:** Low productivity in informal enterprises constrains overall growth.
- **External Vulnerabilities:** Global economic slowdowns, supply chain uncertainties, and geopolitical tensions affect export prospects.

#### Required Reforms:

- Modernising land and labour markets in a balanced manner.
- Improving state-level business climate and regulatory clarity.
- Increasing investment in health, education, and skilling.
- Expanding infrastructure through Gati Shakti and leveraging digital public infrastructure.

India's economic trajectory depends on coordinated reforms centred on productivity, inclusion, and innovation.

### GS Paper 4

**Q4. You are a District Collector in a flood-prone area. Heavy rainfall has raised the risk of a dam overflow. Some influential citizens pressure you not to evacuate VIP zones due to inconvenience. What ethical dilemmas arise, and how would you respond?**

*(10 marks, 150 words)*

#### Sample Answer (Rewritten):

The situation presents ethical tensions involving public interest, administrative fairness, and resistance from powerful groups.

#### Ethical Dilemmas:

- **Public welfare vs political influence:** Choosing between evidence-based evacuation and yielding to undue pressure.



- **Equality vs privilege:** Ensuring uniform treatment despite attempts to secure special exemptions.
- **Legal duty vs convenience:** SOPs mandate evacuation, but influential citizens push for exceptions.
- **Transparency vs conflict:** Communicating risk honestly while managing backlash.

**Resolution Approach:**

- Prioritise the ethical principles of justice, integrity, and impartiality.
- Rely on technical assessments from disaster management authorities and issue mandatory evacuation orders.
- Communicate candidly with all stakeholders, explaining the risks and necessity of uniform action.
- Maintain written records to ensure accountability.

Ultimately, safeguarding life must take precedence, reflecting moral courage and adherence to administrative ethics.

**Current Affairs**

**Q5. The UK Parliament’s proposed End of Life Bill has revived debates on assisted dying worldwide. Should India consider legalising euthanasia for terminally ill patients? Examine with reference to ethical, legal, and societal concerns.**

*(10 marks, 150 words)*

**Sample Answer (Rewritten):**

The UK’s proposed legislation highlights a growing global conversation on the right to die with dignity. In India, this debate is shaped by constitutional, ethical, and cultural considerations.

**Indian Position:**

- In *Common Cause vs. Union of India* (2018), the Supreme Court permitted passive euthanasia and recognised living wills under strict guidelines.
- Active euthanasia remains criminalised under IPC provisions.

**Ethical and Social Issues:**

- **Autonomy vs sanctity of life:** Advocates stress dignity and relief from suffering; opponents cite moral and religious constraints.
- **Risk of misuse:** Vulnerable or elderly individuals may face coercion or subtle pressure.
- **Medical ethics:** Physicians may struggle between preserving life and honouring patient autonomy.

**Way Forward:**

If India revisits the issue, it must be preceded by extensive consultation, strong regulatory safeguards, and strengthened palliative care systems. Compassion must be balanced with robust oversight to prevent misuse.