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DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 16/12/2025 (TUESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following pairs of events that occurred between 1940 and 1947:

1. Quit India Resolution passed
2. Simla Conference convened
3. INA Trials began
4. Cabinet Mission announced

Which of the following correctly represents the **chronological order** of these events?

- (a) 1 → 2 → 4 → 3
- (b) 1 → 4 → 2 → 3
- (c) 2 → 1 → 4 → 3
- (d) 4 → 2 → 1 → 3

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Quit India Resolution — August 1942**
 - Triggered mass upsurge; preceded the later constitutional negotiations.
- **Simla Conference — June–July 1945**
 - Failed due to disagreement over representation of minorities.
- **Cabinet Mission — March 1946**
 - Proposed a three-tier federation; elections to Constituent Assembly followed.
- **INA Trials — Began November 1945, continued into 1946**
 - Red Fort Trials dramatically altered nationalist momentum.

Correct chronological order: **(1) 1942 → (2) 1945 → (4) 1946 → (3) late 1945–46**. Hence **option (a)** is correct.

Q2. Which of the following characteristics, if newly introduced in a wetland, would most strongly justify its designation as a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention?

- (a) It supports a newly discovered endemic amphibian species with fewer than 500 surviving individuals.
- (b) It lies within a major pilgrimage corridor attracting over one million visitors annually.
- (c) It includes a large reservoir used mainly for hydropower generation.
- (d) It serves as a wintering ground for a widespread migratory duck species with stable global populations.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Ramsar designation depends on **ecological importance**, not socio-economic value or tourist footfall.
- Criterion **(a)** indicates *critical biodiversity significance*:



- Endemic + threatened species = unique ecological value.
 - Meets Ramsar Criteria 2 & 3.
 - (b) Religious importance does **not** qualify.
 - (c) Hydropower reservoirs may be wetlands but do not automatically satisfy Ramsar criteria.
 - (d) Species must be **globally threatened** or the site must host a significant (>1%) population; a stable widespread duck species does not qualify.
- Thus, (a) best satisfies Ramsar criteria.

Q3. With reference to monetary policy operations in India, consider the following statements:

1. Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) strengthens the RBI's ability to absorb liquidity without offering collateral.
2. Variable Rate Reverse Repos (VRRRs) are conducted to systematically drain durable liquidity from the system.
3. Increasing the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) injects liquidity into the banking system.

How many of the above statements are **correct**?

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

Answer: (b) → Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — Correct:**
 - SDF allows RBI to absorb liquidity **without collateral**, strengthening liquidity management below the LAF corridor.
 - **Statement 2 — Correct:**
 - VRRR auctions are used to **drain surplus liquidity**, making policy transmission more effective.
 - **Statement 3 — Incorrect:**
 - CRR hike **reduces** lendable resources → drains liquidity, not injects.
- Thus, **two** statements are correct.

Q4. With reference to the scope of Article 19 of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The rights under Article 19 are available only to citizens and not to corporations incorporated in India.
2. Reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) apply uniformly to all freedoms enumerated under Article 19(1).



3. Freedom to practise any profession under Article 19 includes the right to carry out a trade within reasonable regulatory limits.
4. The State may impose restrictions on Article 19 rights only through legislation and not through executive orders.

How many of the above statements are **correct**?

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

Answer: (b) → Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — Correct:**
 - Article 19 protects **citizens only**; corporations cannot claim these rights unless representing citizen members.
 - **Statement 2 — Incorrect:**
 - Article 19(2) pertains **ONLY** to **freedom of speech**; other freedoms have separate clauses (19(3)–19(6)).
 - **Statement 3 — Correct:**
 - SC has held that the **right to profession/business** includes reasonable regulation for public interest (e.g., licensing).
 - **Statement 4 — Incorrect:**
 - Reasonable restrictions may be imposed by **validly issued executive orders**, if backed by statutory authority.
- Thus only **two** statements are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type –

Assertion (A): Earth receives slightly **more solar radiation during perihelion** than during aphelion.

Reason (R1): Perihelion occurs when Earth's axial tilt aligns the Northern Hemisphere directly toward the Sun.

Reason (R2): The Earth–Sun distance is smallest during perihelion, increasing the solar energy received per unit area.

- (a) A is true, and both R1 and R2 correctly explain A
- (b) A is true, but only R1 correctly explains A
- (c) A is true, but only R2 correctly explains A
- (d) A is true, but neither R1 nor R2 explains A

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Assertion — True:**



- At **perihelion (early January)**, Earth is ~3% closer to the Sun → receives ~7% more insolation compared to aphelion (July).
- **R1 — Incorrect:**
 - Perihelion has **nothing to do** with axial tilt; seasons are determined by tilt, not distance.
 - Northern Hemisphere is *tilted away* from the Sun in January, contradicting R1.
- **R2 — Correct:**
 - Reduced Earth–Sun distance directly increases solar flux (inverse-square law).

Thus, **A is true but only R2 explains it** → option (c).

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the recently proposed Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address (DHRUVA):

1. DHRUVA aims to provide a single, location-verified digital address for every household by integrating geospatial layers maintained by multiple Union ministries.
2. The DHRUVA digital address will be legally treated as equivalent to a property title issued by State governments.

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:

- Statement 1 is correct. DHRUVA proposes a Unified Digital Address System by integrating GIS coordinates, geotagging, and datasets from MoHUA, NIC, Department of Posts, municipal bodies, and disaster management agencies to improve service delivery and emergency response.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. DHRUVA does not confer ownership rights. Digital addresses are not property titles, which fall under the State List and require land record reforms.
- Hence, only Statement 1 is correct.

Q2. Which of the following best explains the need for revised Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) Rules for airline crew in India?

- (a) Increasing evidence that circadian disruption significantly impairs crew alertness and contributes to aviation safety risks
- (b) Growing demand for night-time passenger flights across domestic routes
- (c) Expansion of bilateral air services agreements requiring longer overflight times
- (d) High attrition rates among pilots in private airlines due to global hiring trends



Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Revised FDTL rules are driven by aviation safety concerns linked to fatigue and circadian rhythm disruption.
- Scientific studies show fatigue reduces reaction time, decision-making ability, and cognitive performance.
- ICAO and global regulators emphasise fatigue risk management as a core safety requirement.
- Options (b), (c), and (d) relate to market or human resource factors, not regulatory safety imperatives.

Q3. With reference to the initiative of BNHS to release critically endangered vultures, consider the following statements:

1. The release programme primarily targets recovering wild populations of species whose numbers declined due to veterinary drug toxicity.
2. The vultures are released only after undergoing soft-release protocols, including acclimatisation in pre-release aviaries.
3. The programme mandates that all released vultures be fitted with satellite telemetry devices.

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. The programme focuses on White-rumped, Slender-billed, and Long-billed vultures affected by diclofenac toxicity.
- Statement 2 is correct. Soft-release protocols allow gradual adaptation to natural conditions.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Telemetry tagging is selective, not mandatory, due to cost and animal welfare considerations.
- Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q4. With reference to AstroSat, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first multi-wavelength space observatory capable of simultaneous observations from ultraviolet to X-ray bands.
2. AstroSat observations can be requested by global researchers through an open proposal mechanism.
3. Its primary scientific focus is on Earth observation and climate monitoring.



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. AstroSat carries instruments like UVIT, LAXPC, and SXT for multi-wavelength astrophysical studies.
- Statement 2 is correct. ISRO allows international researchers to submit observation proposals through peer-reviewed cycles.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. AstroSat focuses on astrophysics, not Earth sciences.
- Therefore, two statements are correct.

Q5. With reference to the Mahad Satyagraha, consider the following statements:

1. It challenged caste-based restrictions by asserting the right of depressed classes to access public water tanks.
2. The movement included the symbolic burning of the Manusmriti.
3. The Satyagraha was jointly led by B.R. Ambedkar and leaders of the Indian National Congress.
4. A legal judgement following the movement upheld untouchability in public water sources.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The movement asserted Dalits' right to use the Chavdar Tank.
- Statement 2 is correct. Burning of the Manusmriti symbolised rejection of caste hierarchy.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Congress leadership did not jointly lead the movement.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. Court rulings addressed procedural legality, not validation of untouchability.
- Hence, only two statements are correct.

Q6. Karahan Tepe, often mentioned in archaeological discussions on early human settlements, is located in which of the following present-day countries?

- (a) Greece



- (b) Turkey
- (c) Jordan
- (d) Iran

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Karahan Tepe is a Neolithic archaeological site located in the Şanlıurfa region of southeastern Turkey.
- It forms part of the Taş Tepeler cultural complex, along with Göbekli Tepe.
- The site provides evidence of early ritual architecture and pre-agricultural sedentary life.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS-1:

Q1. “The rise of totalitarian regimes in the inter-war period was not merely a political phenomenon but the outcome of deep socio-economic ruptures created by the First World War.” Discuss.

Model Answer:

The emergence of totalitarian regimes in the inter-war period—exemplified by Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and militarist Japan—must be understood as the product of profound socio-economic upheavals that followed the First World War, rather than a simple political drift towards authoritarianism. The war fundamentally altered the social fabric, destabilised economies, and eroded the legitimacy of liberal democratic institutions.

First, **the economic devastation** caused by the war created fertile ground for extremist ideologies. Hyperinflation in Germany (1923), high unemployment, food shortages, and collapsing industries made democratic governments appear ineffective. Italy faced severe inflation and an agrarian crisis, enabling Mussolini to mobilise discontented war veterans and peasants. Economic instability made populations gravitate towards promises of stability, order, and national revival.

Second, the war produced **psychological trauma and social disorientation**. A generation scarred by trench warfare returned to societies unable to reintegrate them. Militarism, nationalism, and a glorification of violence became embedded in public consciousness. In Germany, the “stab-in-the-back myth” cultivated resentment and a sense of humiliation, which Hitler exploited to galvanise ultra-nationalist sentiment.

Third, **structural weaknesses in democratic institutions** made countries vulnerable to authoritarian capture. The Weimar Republic’s proportional representation system fragmented the legislature, while Italy’s liberal monarchy failed to contain rising paramilitary violence. The inability of democratic regimes to navigate reparations, economic crises, and social unrest discredited parliamentary politics, paving the way for charismatic strongmen.

Fourth, **the global economic depression (1929)** acted as a catalyst. The collapse of international trade deepened unemployment and poverty, amplifying public anger and creating a longing for centralized, decisive leadership. Totalitarian leaders offered grand narratives of economic recovery, social unity, and imperial expansion.



Finally, **ideological shifts**, including the fear of communism among elites, contributed to the rise of authoritarian regimes. Industrialists and landowners supported fascist movements as bulwarks against socialism.

Thus, totalitarianism was not an inevitable political choice but a response to layered socio-economic disruptions. The war shattered existing orders, and in this vacuum, extremist ideologies found mass appeal. Understanding these roots is essential to preventing similar democratic backsliding in contemporary times.

GS-2:

Q2. “The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) plays an indispensable role in ensuring financial accountability, yet the Public Accounts mechanism remains underutilised.” Examine.

Model Answer:

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is a constitutional authority mandated under Articles 148–151 to audit receipts and expenditures of the Union and States. While CAG’s reports have been instrumental in exposing large-scale irregularities—from the 2G spectrum case to coal block allocations—the broader Public Accounts system remains constrained by structural and functional limitations.

CAG’s role is indispensable for three reasons. First, it ensures **legislative oversight over the executive**, acting as the financial conscience of Parliament. Its independence, secured through fixed tenure, removal safeguards, and charge on the Consolidated Fund, enables unbiased scrutiny. Second, CAG audits not only expenditure but increasingly **performance, compliance, and environmental dimensions**, making it central to governance reforms. Third, it supports accountability for public money by auditing PSUs, autonomous bodies, and grants-in-aid institutions.

However, the **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** and related mechanisms face challenges in converting audit findings into systemic improvements. PAC proceedings are often delayed due to backlog, limited technical capacity, and inadequate staffing support. The absence of fixed timelines for action-taken reports reduces follow-up effectiveness. Political constraints, including partisanship, dilute the seriousness of deliberations despite the convention of an opposition chairperson.

The expansion of government activity through PPPs, special purpose vehicles, and off-budget mechanisms has further complicated audit jurisdiction. Many statutory bodies fall into grey areas where CAG’s access is contingent upon executive approval, undermining comprehensive oversight. Additionally, digital governance and new financial instruments demand enhanced technical expertise that PACs and state legislatures often lack.

Reforms are needed on multiple fronts: ensuring **automatic and full audit access** to all public funds, strengthening PAC secretariats, introducing statutory timelines for compliance, and leveraging data analytics and real-time auditing technologies. Increasing public dissemination of audit findings and enhancing civil society participation can also improve accountability.

Thus, while the CAG remains a cornerstone of democratic financial control, its impact depends on a robust, responsive Public Accounts ecosystem capable of converting audit insights into administrative reform.



GS-3

Q3. Delhi's rising pollution levels reflect systemic urban, industrial, and governance failures. Propose a multi-layered roadmap to address the capital's air quality crisis.

Model Answer:

The air pollution crisis in Delhi is chronic, multi-causal, and structurally embedded in the NCR's developmental trajectory. Seasonal spikes linked to stubble burning often overshadow deeper systemic determinants—vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, construction dust, waste burning, and thermal inversions. A durable solution therefore requires a multi-layered, multi-jurisdictional roadmap.

1. Sectoral Interventions

- **Agriculture:** Punjab–Haryana's monoculture and MSP biases encourage paddy cultivation, generating post-harvest stubble. Sustainable alternatives—bio-CNG plants, crop diversification, and enforceable procurement incentives—must be institutionalised.
- **Transport:** Rapid expansion of EV infrastructure, congestion pricing, and phasing out of diesel commercial vehicles are essential.
- **Industry:** NCR's non-compliant brick kilns, furnace units, and industrial clusters require mandatory **continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS)**.
- **Construction:** Automation of dust-control norms and real-time monitoring of construction sites via remote sensors is critical.

2. Governance Reforms

- Pollution in Delhi is a **regional problem**, but governance is fragmented across Delhi, Haryana, UP, and Punjab. The **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** must be empowered with binding enforcement powers rather than recommendatory authority.
- Strengthening municipal corporations through fiscal decentralisation is necessary for waste management, mechanised road sweeping, and enforcement.

3. Technology & Data Interventions

- Hyperlocal monitoring grids with AI-based forecasting can guide targeted interventions.
- Satellite-based fire counting, GIS mapping of hotspots, and predictive dispersion models should drive dynamic response plans.
- Adoption of low-cost sensors for citizen-level monitoring may democratise accountability.

4. Behavioural and Market-Based Measures

- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) must be complemented by **polluter-pays mechanisms**, green credits, and congestion charges.
- Incentivising public transport use, enforcing parking fees that reflect real land costs, and reducing private vehicle dependence can sustainably reduce emissions.

5. Long-term Urban Planning

- Re-orient land use away from car-dependent sprawl toward **transit-oriented development (TOD)**.
- Expansion of green buffers and ecological restoration of Yamuna floodplains can improve microclimate.



In sum, Delhi's pollution crisis cannot be resolved by seasonal firefighting. It demands a coordinated, long-term strategy integrating governance reforms, technology, behavioural changes, and structural economic realignments.

GS-4 (Ethics & Integrity)

Q4. “Ethical public leadership requires moral courage as much as administrative competence.” Discuss with suitable examples.

Model Answer:

Ethical public leadership is not confined to technical efficiency or procedural compliance; it demands **moral courage**, the willingness to make principled decisions in the face of adversity, pressure, or personal cost. Administrative competence enables a leader to navigate institutional complexities, but moral courage allows them to uphold integrity and public interest when such choices are difficult.

Moral courage manifests in several ways. First, it is the courage to **resist unethical political pressures**, such as favouritism, arbitrary transfers, or manipulation of public funds. An officer who refuses to clear an inflated contract despite pressure from influential stakeholders exemplifies moral courage. Competence ensures they understand procurement rules; courage ensures they apply them ethically.

Second, moral courage involves protecting the vulnerable. Whistleblowers like Ashok Khemka and officers who exposed mining and land irregularities show that ethical leadership may attract personal risk, but contributes to institutional integrity. Administrative competence alone would not suffice without conviction.

Third, ethical leaders must be willing to **admit mistakes**, correct processes, and be transparent. This reduces organisational fear and enhances trust. Competent leaders who lack moral conviction may prioritise career preservation over public interest.

Fourth, moral courage is critical in crisis situations—disaster management, law and order breakdowns, or communal tensions. Upholding constitutional values requires firmness against unlawful orders and empathetic engagement with affected communities.

Finally, ethical leadership promotes a culture of integrity. Subordinates emulate leaders who display fairness, impartiality, and compassion. This creates organisations that are not merely rule-bound but value-driven.

Thus, moral courage amplifies administrative competence. One without the other results either in ineffective idealism or efficient unethical governance. A balanced combination equips public servants to uphold constitutional morality, resist corruption, and protect public resources—cornerstones of ethical public administration.

Current Affairs

Q5. Cybercrime cases in India have risen sharply in recent years. Analyse the structural reasons behind this surge and propose a comprehensive strategy for cyber resilience.

Model Answer:

India has witnessed an exponential rise in cybercrime cases—ransomware attacks, UPI frauds, data breaches, social engineering, and crypto-related scams. This surge is not merely a technological issue but a consequence of structural vulnerabilities across society, institutions, and markets.



Structural Reasons

1. Rapid digitisation without proportional cyber awareness:

- Over 300 million new digital users have entered the ecosystem post-UPI and Aadhaar-enabled services.
- Low digital literacy makes users susceptible to phishing and identity theft.

2. Regulatory and institutional gaps:

- Cybercrime is a state subject for policing, while cybersecurity is a Union subject, creating operational fragmentation.
- Many State cyber cells lack trained personnel, forensic tools, and real-time data-sharing capabilities.

3. Expanding digital financial ecosystem:

- High-volume, low-value transactions increase exposure to fraud.
- The rise of fintech apps, wallets, and small lenders has multiplied attack vectors.

4. Weak data protection environment:

- Before DPDP Act implementation, India had no enforceable data fiduciary obligations.
- Large-scale data leaks enable targeted scams using stolen identities.

5. Organised cross-border cyber networks:

- Fraud rings based in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe exploit jurisdictional loopholes, complicating investigation.

Comprehensive Strategy

1. Strengthening legal and regulatory architecture:

- Effective enforcement of the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act** and upgrading the IT Act framework for AI-driven threats.
- Clear SOPs for centre–state coordination in cyber investigations.

2. Institutional capacity building:

- Expanding CERT-In’s regional presence and establishing **National Cybercrime Coordination Centres (NCCC)** with predictive intelligence tools.
- Mandatory cyber forensic labs in every state.

3. Public digital literacy:

- Nationwide “Cyber Hygiene” curriculum, multilingual awareness campaigns, and integration of cybersecurity into school curricula.

4. Technology-driven resilience:



- Zero-trust frameworks for government departments, multi-factor authentication for all public services, and blockchain-based audit trails.
- Real-time fraud analytics for banks and payment platforms.

5. International cooperation:

- MLAT reforms, joint operations with INTERPOL, and cross-border attribution mechanisms for cyber gangs.

A multi-dimensional strategy combining law, technology, institutions, and citizen awareness is essential to curb India's fast-evolving cybercrime ecosystem.

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