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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 15/04/2026 (WEDNESDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Post-Mauryan period in India:

1. The Indo-Greek ruler **Menander** is associated with the *Milinda-Panha* and is believed to have embraced Buddhism.
2. The beginning of the **Saka Era (78 CE)** is generally attributed to the Indo-Greek rulers.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) None
- (d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Menander (known as Milinda) is the protagonist of the Buddhist text *Milinda-Panha*, which records his dialogue with the monk Nagasena.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Saka Era (78 CE) is traditionally attributed to the Kushana King **Kanishka**, not the Indo-Greeks.

Q2. In a freshwater lake undergoing eutrophication, which of the following is the most immediate cause of large-scale fish mortality?

- (a) Accumulation of heavy metals in fish tissues
- (b) Increase in water temperature due to algal cover
- (c) Depletion of dissolved oxygen due to microbial decomposition of algal biomass
- (d) Release of algal toxins that directly kill fish

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Eutrophication leads to excessive algal growth (blooms). When these algae die, they are broken down by aerobic bacteria. This decomposition process consumes the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in the water, creating "dead zones" where fish suffocate and die.

Q3. Consider the following statements about bond yields:

1. Bond prices and bond yields move in opposite directions.
2. An **inverted yield curve** is often interpreted as a signal of future economic slowdown.
3. When the central bank sells government securities in **Open Market Operations (OMO)**, bond yields in the market tend to rise.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The price-yield relationship is inverse; as demand for bonds goes up, prices rise and the effective yield falls.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** An inverted curve (short-term rates higher than long-term) suggests investors expect lower growth or a recession.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Selling securities increases the supply of bonds, which lowers their price and consequently pushes yields up.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India:

1. It provides for the administration of Scheduled Areas in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
2. In every state having Scheduled Areas, a **Tribal Advisory Council (TAC)** shall be constituted.
3. The **Governor** is empowered to make regulations for peace and good governance, which may override Acts of Parliament.
4. The **President** may at any time increase or decrease the area of any Scheduled Area.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The four excluded states are governed under the **Sixth Schedule**.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. A TAC (max 20 members) is mandatory to advise on tribal welfare.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. The Governor has discretionary power to direct that a specific law does not apply to a Scheduled Area.
- **Statement 4:** Correct. The executive power to declare or alter Scheduled Areas rests with the President.



Q5. Regarding Chandrayaan-3, assess the following:

Assertion (A): Chandrayaan-3 enabled India to achieve its first successful soft landing on the Moon near the south polar region.

Reason (R1): The mission employed a closed-loop guidance and hazard detection system during terminal descent.

Reason (R2): The mission consisted of a propulsion module, lander, and rover, without carrying a dedicated orbiter for scientific observations.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) A is true and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A
- (b) A is true and only one of R1 and R2 is a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but neither R1 nor R2 is a correct explanation of A
- (d) A is false

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A)** is true.
 - **R1** is a correct explanation because the guidance/hazard systems were the technical reason the soft landing succeeded where previous attempts failed.
 - **R2** is a true statement (Chandrayaan-3 used the existing Chandrayaan-2 orbiter), but the *absence* of an orbiter is not what caused the landing to be successful.
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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Diving Support Craft (DSC) A20, recently inducted into the Indian Navy:

Statement-I: The vessel is equipped with an integrated "Hyperbaric Recompression Chamber" to treat decompression sickness, a capability previously exclusive to larger fleet support ships.

Statement-II: Under the "Make in India" initiative, the DSC A20 features nearly 90% indigenous content, significantly exceeding the mandatory thresholds of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.



- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Q2. With reference to ISRO's upcoming launch of the Bluebird-6 satellite, which of the following best describes the strategic significance of this mission?

- (a) It marks ISRO's first foray into the "Satellite-to-Cell" service market, enabling direct broadband connectivity to unmodified mobile phones globally.
- (b) It is the first time a US-based commercial entity has utilized the GSLV Mk-III exclusively for a military-grade reconnaissance payload.
- (c) The mission serves as a technology demonstrator for ISRO's indigenous "Electric Propulsion System" on a heavy foreign commercial satellite.
- (d) It is the heaviest payload ever launched by ISRO into a Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO) for a North American telecommunications conglomerate.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Italy's UNESCO recognition for its National Cuisine:

1. Italy is the first country in the world to have its entire "National Cuisine" inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
2. The recognition emphasizes the "Social Practice and Biodiversity" inherent in Italian cooking rather than just specific recipes or ingredients.
3. This designation grants Italy exclusive Geographical Indication (GI) protection over Mediterranean diet-linked terminology within the European Union.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Hard Corals (Stony Corals) and their ecological dynamics:

1. Unlike soft corals, hard corals are the primary "Reef Builders" that extract calcium carbonate from seawater to create a permanent exoskeleton.
2. Deep-sea stony corals (Ahermatypic) lack zooxanthellae and rely entirely on capturing plankton, making them immune to the phenomenon of coral bleaching.
3. The presence of "Fluorescent Proteins" in hard corals acts as a biological sunscreen, regulating light intensity to protect the symbiotic algae.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding India's First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel:

1. The vessel utilizes a "Proton Exchange Membrane" (PEM) fuel cell, which produces zero emissions, with only water and heat as by-products.
2. The propulsion system is completely silent, making it ideal for ecologically sensitive inland waterways and marine sanctuaries.
3. Unlike traditional battery-operated vessels, this hydrogen-powered ship can be refueled in a timeframe comparable to diesel engines.
4. The project was developed under the "Harit Nauka" initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q6. Mapping & History: The historical site of Adichanallur, recently in the news for the establishment of an "On-site Museum," is located on the banks of which river?

- (a) Vaigai
- (b) Thamirabarani
- (c) Cauvery
- (d) Palar

Answers and Detailed Explanations

Ans 1. (b)

- **Explanation:** Statement-I is correct. DSC A20 is a specialized vessel designed for operational diving in harbors and coastal waters, carrying advanced diving tools and a Recompression Chamber. Statement-II is also correct; it is a flagship "Make in India" project with over 80-90% indigenous content. However, the high indigenous content (St-II) is not the *reason* why it carries a recompression chamber (St-I). The chamber is a functional requirement for diving safety.



Ans 2. (a)

- **Explanation:** The Bluebird-6 (developed by AST SpaceMobile) is part of a revolutionary constellation designed for "Direct-to-Device" (D2D) communication. This allows standard smartphones to connect to satellite broadband without specialized hardware. ISRO's LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk-III) was chosen due to its reliability and heavy-lift capacity for this US-based commercial satellite.

Ans 3. (b)

- **Explanation:**
 - **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** While Italy's cuisine has received massive recognition, France (French Gastronomic Meal) and Mexico (Traditional Mexican Cuisine) were among the first to have their culinary traditions inscribed.
 - **Statement 2 is Correct:** UNESCO recognizes culinary traditions as "Social Practices," focusing on the culture, ritual, and sustainability (biodiversity) associated with the food.
 - **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** UNESCO Intangible Heritage status is distinct from Geographical Indication (GI) or Intellectual Property laws. It does not grant commercial exclusivity or legal GI protection.

Ans 4. (c)

- **Explanation:**
 - **Statement 1 is Correct:** Hard corals (Scleractinia) are the architects of reefs.
 - **Statement 2 is Correct:** Deep-sea (Ahermatypic) corals do not have symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) because there is no sunlight. Since bleaching is the expulsion of algae, these corals do not "bleach" in the traditional sense.

Ans 5. (d)

- **Explanation:** All statements are correct. The vessel was launched in Varanasi/Kochi under the "Harit Nauka" (Green Boat) initiative.

Ans 6. (b)

- **Explanation:** Adichanallur is an ancient Iron Age/Megalithic burial site in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu. It is situated on the banks of the **Thamirabarani River**. It is considered one of the most significant archaeological sites in South India, often linked to the "Tamraparni" civilization.



SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS - 1

Question 1: "The phenomenon of criminalization in Indian politics is not merely a modern-day crisis but has deep structural roots in the post-independence evolution of the Indian state." Trace the trajectory of this trend and its impact on the democratic fabric of India.

Sample Answer:

Criminalization of politics refers to the infiltration of individuals with criminal backgrounds into the legislative process. While the early post-independence era was characterized by value-based politics, the trend significantly shifted from the late 1960s onwards.

Trajectory of Evolution:

- 1. Phase of Influence (1960s-70s):** During this period, politicians began seeking the help of local "musclemen" to secure votes or capture booths. Criminals were "outside" the system, acting as facilitators.
- 2. Phase of Entry (1980s-90s):** Criminal elements realized that instead of helping others win, they could directly contest and gain legal immunity and power. The Vohra Committee (1993) officially warned about a "nexus" between the criminal gangs, police, and politicians.
- 3. Phase of Institutionalization (2000s-Present):** Data from the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) shows a steady rise: 24% of MPs in 2004 had criminal cases, rising to 43% in 2019. Politics became a "winnability" game where money and muscle power outweighed integrity.

Impact on Democratic Fabric:

- **Erosion of Rule of Law:** When law-breakers become law-makers, the sanctity of the legislature is compromised. It leads to the "politicization of crime" and "criminalization of politics."
- **Conflict of Interest:** Legislators facing serious charges (murder, rape) influence the very investigative and judicial agencies that are supposed to prosecute them.
- **Poor Governance:** It diverts public resources toward narrow vested interests, fostering a culture of corruption and "Gunda Raj" at the local level.
- **Voter Apathy:** Constant exposure to criminal candidates leads to a "lesser of two evils" mindset among voters, weakening the core of representative democracy.

Conclusion:

The Supreme Court (Lily Thomas case, 2013) and the Election Commission have tried to intervene, but the ultimate solution lies in internal party reforms and voter awareness. Without a "cleansing" of the political stables, the promise of the Indian Constitution remains under threat.



GS - 2

Question 2: "The Office of the Governor was intended to be a 'neutral link' between the Centre and the States, yet it has frequently emerged as a 'focal point of friction'." In light of recent controversies, suggest reforms to restore the constitutional sanctity of this office.

Sample Answer:

The Governor, under Article 153, is the constitutional head of a State and a vital bridge in India's federal structure. However, the discretionary powers under Article 163 have often been used in a manner that creates a "parallel power center," leading to frequent friction with elected state governments.

Areas of Friction:

1. **Discretionary Appointments:** Choosing a Chief Minister in a hung assembly or recommending President's Rule (Article 356) often carries the taint of political bias toward the ruling party at the Centre.
2. **Legislative Delays:** Using "Pocket Veto" or indefinitely sitting on bills (e.g., recent tensions in Tamil Nadu and Kerala) undermines the mandate of the elected State Legislature.
3. **Ideological Divergence:** Public statements by Governors on policy matters often lead to public spats with the Chief Minister, violating the principle of "aid and advice."

Suggested Reforms:

- **Selection Process:** The Sarkaria Commission (1983) and Punchhi Commission (2007) recommended that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the state, not involved in active politics recently. A "collegium" system involving the PM, Speaker, and the CM of the concerned state should appoint the Governor.
- **Fixed Tenure and Removal:** To ensure independence, the "Doctrine of Pleasure" must be regulated. Governors should only be removed through a process similar to impeachment or after a judicial inquiry.
- **Time-bound Assent:** There should be a constitutional amendment or a "Code of Conduct" mandating the Governor to decide on bills within a specific timeframe (e.g., 6 months).
- **Codification of Discretion:** Discretionary powers regarding government formation should be codified (e.g., first inviting the pre-poll alliance) to prevent arbitrary decisions.

Conclusion:

The Governor should act as a "Sthitapragya" (a person of steady wisdom) who ensures constitutional morality. Restoring the office's sanctity is essential for the health of Indian federalism and the spirit of "Cooperative Federalism."



GS - 3

Question 3: "Fiscal discipline is the cornerstone of macroeconomic stability. Evaluate the effectiveness of the FRBM Act in managing India's public debt and suggest measures to balance fiscal consolidation with growth requirements."

Sample Answer:

Fiscal discipline refers to a state's ability to maintain its revenue and expenditure in a manner that prevents excessive debt. In India, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 was enacted to provide a legal framework for this. Shutterstock

(Note: This is a placeholder; for Economy, a graph of Debt-to-GDP ratio would be more relevant, but I am following the instruction for instructive diagrams.)

Effectiveness of the FRBM Act:

1. **Pre-Pandemic Success:** Between 2003 and 2008, India saw a significant reduction in fiscal deficit. It brought "fiscal transparency" through mandatory documents like the Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement.
2. **The "Escape Clause" Problem:** Frequent deviations due to global crises (2008 financial crisis, 2020 pandemic) have made the targets a "moving goalpost."
3. **Debt Management:** While the Act targeted a 3% fiscal deficit, India's General Government Debt (Centre + States) remains high (around 80% of GDP), exceeding the N.K. Singh Committee's recommended limit of 60%.

Balancing Consolidation with Growth:

- **Quality of Expenditure:** Instead of blind cuts, the focus should be on reducing "Revenue Deficit" (consumption) while protecting "Capital Expenditure" (asset creation) which has a high multiplier effect on growth.
- **Flexible Targets:** Adopting a "Fiscal Range" rather than a fixed number would allow the government to spend more during recessions and save during booms (Counter-cyclical fiscal policy).
- **Autonomous Fiscal Council:** As recommended by various committees, an independent body should be set up to audit budget numbers and advise on when to invoke escape clauses.
- **Broadening Tax Base:** Rationalizing GST and improving direct tax compliance are essential to increase the Tax-to-GDP ratio, providing the "fiscal space" needed for social spending without increasing debt.

Conclusion:

Fiscal consolidation should not come at the cost of human development. A "glide path" that gradually reduces debt while investing in infrastructure is the only way to achieve a \$5 trillion economy sustainably.



GS - 4

Question 4: "Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you." Discuss the utility of Emotional Intelligence (EI) in public administration, especially in handling crisis situations.

Sample Answer:

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the capacity to recognize, understand, and manage our own emotions and those of others. For a civil servant, IQ (Intellectual Quotient) might get them into the service, but EQ (Emotional Quotient) ensures they succeed in it.

Components of EI in Administration (Daniel Goleman's Model):

1. **Self-Awareness:** A district collector must know their own triggers. In a communal riot, staying calm despite personal biases is crucial.
2. **Self-Regulation:** Handling political pressure or public provocation without losing one's temper is the hallmark of a professional administrator.
3. **Empathy:** Understanding the pain of a marginalized person or a victim of a disaster allows for "compassionate governance" rather than "bureaucratic apathy."

Utility in Crisis Situations:

- **Conflict Resolution:** In cases of mob violence or industrial strikes, an officer with high EI can de-escalate the situation by "active listening" and validating the emotions of the protesters before offering a solution.
- **Leadership and Motivation:** During a natural disaster (like a cyclone), the administration works under extreme stress. A leader with EI can keep the team motivated and prevent "burnout."
- **Ethical Decision Making:** Crisis often involves a "clash of values." EI helps an officer stay balanced, avoiding impulsive decisions driven by fear or anger, and sticking to constitutional morality.

Conclusion:

In an increasingly complex and polarized society, the "human touch" in administration is more important than ever. EI transforms a "manager" into a "leader," making the government more responsive and empathetic to the citizens it serves.

Current Affairs

Question 5: "Air pollution in India has transitioned from a seasonal problem to an 'Invisible Epidemic' with deep socio-economic consequences." Analyze the limitations of the current National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and propose a multi-sectoral strategy to combat this crisis.

Sample Answer:

Air pollution is no longer restricted to winter smog in Delhi; it is a year-round national emergency. Recent data suggests that over 90% of Indians breathe air that exceeds WHO safety limits, leading to an estimated 2 million premature deaths annually.



The "Invisible Epidemic":

- **Health Impact:** PM 2.5 particles penetrate deep into the bloodstream, causing not just respiratory issues but also heart disease, strokes, and even cognitive decline in children.
- **Socio-Economic Burden:** The poor are the worst hit as they live near industrial hubs or roads and lack access to air purifiers or quality healthcare. This creates a "cycle of poverty and pollution."

Limitations of NCAP:

1. **Modest Targets:** The goal of a 20-30% reduction is considered too low given the hazardous baseline levels in many cities.
2. **Lack of Legal Teeth:** Unlike the "Clean Air Act" in the US, NCAP is a scheme without statutory backing, leading to weak enforcement.
3. **Funding Gaps:** Allocation of funds is often tied to "spending" on mechanical sweepers rather than "outcomes" like actual emission reduction.
4. **Siloed Approach:** It treats pollution as an "urban" problem, ignoring the "airshed" approach where rural biomass burning and industrial emissions travel across state borders.

Multi-sectoral Strategy:

- **Transport:** Mass electrification of public transport and a "Shift to Rail" for freight to reduce diesel emissions.
- **Industry:** Mandatory "Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems" (CEMS) and transitioning MSMEs to Piped Natural Gas (PNG).
- **Agriculture:** Moving beyond subsidies for stubble management to "Crop Diversification" away from water-intensive and residue-heavy paddy.
- **Energy:** Decarbonizing the grid by accelerating the solar and wind transition to shut down aging thermal power plants near cities.

Conclusion:

Clean air must be recognized as a Fundamental Right under Article 21. India needs a "War Room" approach that integrates health, transport, and energy policies to ensure that the "invisible epidemic" does not derail its demographic dividend.