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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 20/04/2026 (MONDAY)

- **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 Chola administration:

1. The *Uttaramerur inscriptions* suggest that the Cholas practiced a highly centralized system of administration with absolute powers resting with the king.
2. The *Ur* and *Sabha* institutions were primarily urban administrative councils dominated by Brahmins and urban merchants.

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: d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:**
The **Uttaramerur inscriptions** clearly show a well-structured **local self-government** system in the Chola period, especially in rural areas. They mention elaborate procedures for electing members of village councils (*Sabhas*) and show that **power was decentralized**, not centralized.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:**
The **Ur** referred to non-Brahmin village assemblies, while the **Sabha** was a Brahmin village assembly. These were **rural**, not urban, institutions. Urban administration was managed by the *Nagaram*, dominated by merchants.

Q2. Consider the following statements with respect to the ecological roles of mangroves:

1. Mangroves act as carbon sources due to the high rate of organic decomposition in their root zones.
2. They provide breeding grounds for numerous marine species and contribute significantly to coastal fishery productivity.
3. Mangroves can mitigate the impact of tsunamis and storm surges by absorbing wave energy.

Which of the above statements 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:**
Mangroves act as **carbon sinks**, not carbon sources. They absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it in their biomass and soil (called **Blue Carbon**).



- **Statement 2 is correct:**
Mangrove roots form a complex habitat for marine species (fish, crabs, mollusks), thus supporting **biodiversity and coastal fisheries**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:**
Mangroves function as **natural barriers**, absorbing wave energy and reducing the impact of **cyclones and tsunamis**. This was evident during the 2004 tsunami.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the concept of “Stagflation”:

1. It is a situation where inflation is high, economic growth slows, but unemployment remains low.
2. Classical economic theory struggles to explain stagflation due to its assumption of a trade-off between inflation and unemployment.
3. Supply-side shocks, like oil price hikes, are often the trigger behind stagflation.

Which of the above statements 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:**
In **stagflation**, both **inflation and unemployment are high**, and growth is stagnant or declining. Hence, the statement is factually wrong.
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
Classical and Keynesian economics predict an inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment (Phillips Curve). But stagflation **challenges** this assumption, making it difficult to explain with conventional models.
- **Statement 3 is correct:**
Supply-side shocks (like oil crises in the 1970s) raise production costs and reduce output, triggering stagflation.

Q4. Which of the following statements about NASA’s space missions are correct?

1. The **Artemis** program aims to establish the first permanent human base on Mars.
2. The **Voyager** probes were the first human-made objects to enter interstellar space.
3. The **James Webb Space Telescope** is designed primarily to observe X-rays emitted by celestial bodies.
4. **Psyche** is a NASA mission aimed at studying a metallic asteroid that may be the remnant of an early planetary core.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 2 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only



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

Answer: a) 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:**
The **Artemis program** focuses on returning humans to the Moon and establishing a **long-term lunar presence**, not Mars.
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
Voyager 1, in 2012, became the **first spacecraft** to enter **interstellar space**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:**
The **James Webb Space Telescope** observes mainly in the **infrared spectrum**, not X-rays.
- **Statement 4 is correct:**
The **Psyche mission** (2023 launch) will study a unique **metal-rich asteroid**, possibly the **core of an early planetesimal**.

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type –

Assertion (A): The **Kumbh Mela** is inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Reason (R): It is the world's largest temporary religious gathering with significant ritual bathing and spiritual practices.

- 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:**
In 2017, the **Kumbh Mela** was inscribed by **UNESCO** as an **Intangible Cultural Heritage**.
- **Reason is also true:**
The Kumbh Mela is **globally recognized** for its **massive temporary congregation** of devotees who participate in ritual bathing, yoga, discourses, and spiritual practices.
- **R explains A correctly** as the scale and religious significance are the primary reasons UNESCO recognized it.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the significance of Gangaikonda Cholapuram in the cultural and political landscape of South India:

1. It was built to commemorate the Chola victory over the Rashtrakutas and served as the capital of the Chola Empire for over two centuries.
2. The temple complex at Gangaikonda Cholapuram was a model for later Dravidian temples, especially in its use of granite and vertical elevation.

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:**
Gangaikonda Cholapuram was built by **Rajendra I** to celebrate his victory over the **Pala Dynasty in Bengal**, not the Rashtrakutas. The name means "**the city of the Chola who conquered the Ganga**".
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
The **Brihadisvara Temple** at Gangaikonda Cholapuram showcased **advanced temple architecture**, influencing later Dravidian temples, especially in **granite use, ornamental sculpture, and towering vimanas**.

Q2. Which of the following statements about Measles is correct?

- a) It is caused by a DNA virus and primarily affects the gastrointestinal tract.
- b) It is included under India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and is preventable with a two-dose MMR vaccine.
- c) The disease is zoonotic and requires animal reservoirs for transmission.
- d) WHO has declared India measles-free as of 2024.

Answer: b) It is included under India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and is preventable with a two-dose MMR vaccine.

Explanation:

- Measles is caused by an **RNA virus** (not DNA) in the **Paramyxoviridae** family.
- It **spreads via respiratory droplets**, not the GI tract.
- **India includes Measles** in its **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)**. A **measles-rubella (MR) or MMR vaccine** is given in two doses.
- It is **not zoonotic** — it spreads human-to-human.
- As of 2024, India has **not yet been certified measles-free**.



Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the designation of 'The Resistance Front' as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) by the U.S. in 2024:

1. The Resistance Front (TRF) is widely believed to be a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).
2. Designation as an FTO by the U.S. automatically imposes sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
3. The U.S. designation facilitates legal prosecution of individuals and entities supporting TRF within and outside its territory.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:**
TRF is considered a **front organization** of **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)**, used to project a "local Kashmiri identity" to evade global scrutiny.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:**
U.S. designation as FTO **does not trigger Chapter VII of the UN Charter**, which is under the **UN Security Council**, not the U.S.
- **Statement 3 is correct:**
Once designated, it **becomes illegal to provide material support** to the group. It also leads to **freezing of assets and travel bans**, and **enhanced prosecution** possibilities under U.S. anti-terrorism laws.

Q4. Consider the following statements about *Allographa effusoredica*, a lichen species discovered in India:

1. It was discovered in the Eastern Himalayas and displays a unique symbiosis between algae and fungus that predates flowering plant evolution.
2. The species thrives in low-pollution, moist environments, making it a reliable bioindicator of forest ecosystem health.
3. It belongs to a group of lichens with known antibacterial and antifungal secondary metabolites used in pharmaceuticals.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:**
The lichen was discovered in the **Western Ghats** (not Eastern Himalayas), but the **symbiotic relationship** between algae and fungi **predates angiosperm evolution**, and that is accurate.
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
Lichens like *Allographa effusosoredica* thrive in **unpolluted** and **moist microclimates**, and are used as **bioindicators** for ecological studies.
- **Statement 3 is correct:**
Many lichen species produce **secondary metabolites** with **antimicrobial and pharmacological properties**, and this genus is no exception.

Q5. With reference to the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (COP27), consider the following statements:

1. It led to the establishment of a global fund for Loss and Damage to compensate nations vulnerable to climate change.
2. It made developed nations legally accountable for historical carbon emissions.
3. It emphasized the transition from fossil fuels to renewables but did not call for a phase-down of coal.
4. The agreement recognized the role of nature-based solutions and low-emission technologies in adaptation and mitigation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:**
COP27 (Sharm el-Sheikh) resulted in the **creation of a Loss and Damage fund**, a major diplomatic breakthrough for climate-vulnerable nations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:**
While historic emissions were discussed, **no legal accountability** was enforced upon developed countries.
- **Statement 3 is correct:**
The declaration stressed **renewable transition** and energy diversification, but **stopped short of mandating a coal phase-out**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:**
It highlighted **nature-based solutions (NbS)** and **low-emission technologies** like green hydrogen and carbon capture as essential tools.



Q6. The Port of Eilat has been in the news due to its strategic and economic implications. Which of the following statements best describes its location and geopolitical significance?

- a) It lies on the Gulf of Aqaba and connects Israel to the Red Sea, bypassing the Suez Canal for certain maritime routes.
- b) It is located on the Mediterranean coast of Israel and serves as a major base for oil imports from the Persian Gulf.
- c) It lies between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, acting as Israel's main gateway for trade with Turkey.
- d) It is a landlocked dry port used for border trade between Jordan and Egypt, with limited sea access.

Answer: a) It lies on the Gulf of Aqaba and connects Israel to the Red Sea, bypassing the Suez Canal for certain maritime routes.

Explanation:

- **Port of Eilat** is located on **Israel's southern tip** on the **Gulf of Aqaba**, an arm of the **Red Sea**.
- It gives Israel **direct access to the Red Sea**, allowing some **strategic shipping routes to bypass the Suez Canal**, especially toward Asia and East Africa.
- It is **not** on the **Mediterranean coast** (like Haifa or Ashdod), nor is it **landlocked**.
- It is **not situated near Gaza or West Bank**; it's close to the **Jordanian port of Aqaba**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 –

Q1. "The Revolt of 1857 was not merely a sepoy mutiny but a manifestation of multiple layers of discontent within Indian society." Critically examine.

(Word Limit: 250–300 words)

Sample Answer:

The Revolt of 1857, often termed as the First War of Indian Independence, is widely debated in historiography. British accounts described it as a mere sepoy mutiny, whereas Indian nationalists interpreted it as a broad-based war of liberation. A critical examination reveals that the uprising was driven by both military grievances and widespread socio-political and economic discontent.

Military grievances formed the immediate trigger. Sepoys were disillusioned by low pay, racial discrimination, and the use of greased cartridges which offended religious sensibilities of both Hindus and Muslims. However, the **uprising quickly spread beyond cantonments**, indicating deeper unrest.

Political discontent was evident as many dethroned rulers and dispossessed nobles participated. The Doctrine of Lapse and aggressive annexation under Dalhousie had alienated traditional power centers. Nana Sahib, Bahadur Shah Zafar, and Rani Lakshmi Bai became symbols of resistance.



Socio-religious anxieties also contributed. The spread of missionary activity and attempts at social reform under colonial auspices were viewed as a threat to traditional Indian customs and religions. This created panic among conservative sections of society.

Economic exploitation further compounded resentment. The destruction of handicrafts, oppressive land revenue systems like the Mahalwari and Ryotwari, and the decline of the zamindars and artisans created widespread agrarian and urban distress.

However, the revolt had **limitations**. It lacked a unified leadership, coherent ideology, and was confined to north and central India. The south and east remained largely unaffected, and many Indian rulers sided with the British.

Conclusion:

Thus, while the Revolt of 1857 began as a sepoy mutiny, it evolved into a larger expression of accumulated resentment among multiple strata of Indian society. It marks the first collective outburst against colonial rule, laying the ideological foundation for future nationalist movements.

GS Paper 2 –

Q2. The credibility of the Election Commission of India (ECI) is vital for a functioning democracy. Examine the challenges to its independence and suggest reforms to enhance its institutional integrity. (Word Limit: 300 words)

Sample Answer:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body under **Article 324** tasked with ensuring free and fair elections. Over the decades, it has played a critical role in sustaining India's democratic ethos. However, its **credibility has come under increasing scrutiny** in recent years due to real and perceived erosion of independence.

Challenges to ECI's Independence:

- 1. Appointment Process:**
Currently, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners are appointed by the President on the advice of the Council of Ministers, raising concerns of partisanship.
- 2. Lack of Security of Tenure:**
While the CEC enjoys protection under Article 324(5), other Election Commissioners can be removed more easily, leading to a perceived hierarchy and potential executive influence.
- 3. Allegations of Bias:**
Instances where the ECI was seen as delaying action on code of conduct violations or acting asymmetrically against political parties have raised doubts about its neutrality.
- 4. Funding and Infrastructure:**
Though autonomous, the ECI depends on the government for funds and staff deployment, which can indirectly influence its operational independence.

Suggested Reforms:

- Collegium System for Appointments:**
Following the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling, a committee comprising the PM, Leader of Opposition, and the CJI should be institutionalized to ensure merit-based, non-partisan appointments.



- **Equal Protection for Election Commissioners:**
Amend Article 324(5) to extend the same security of tenure to all Commissioners.
- **Independent Secretariat and Budget:**
Granting ECI financial autonomy akin to the CAG or the judiciary would prevent executive interference.
- **Post-Retirement Restrictions:**
Restrict ECI members from holding future government positions to avoid conflicts of interest.

Conclusion:

An empowered, impartial, and transparent Election Commission is central to India's democratic architecture. Reforms in its structure and functioning are essential to restore public trust and ensure electoral sanctity.

GS Paper 3 –

Q3. Discuss the evolving role of SEBI in regulating the Indian capital market. What challenges does it face in balancing investor protection with market development?

(Word Limit: 300 words)

Sample Answer:

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, established in 1988 and given statutory powers in 1992, serves as the apex regulator of India's securities market. Its core objectives include **investor protection, market regulation, and development of a fair and efficient capital market.**

Evolving Role of SEBI:

1. **Market Modernization:**
SEBI has facilitated the growth of digital trading platforms, e-KYC norms, and algorithmic trading while ensuring robust surveillance mechanisms.
2. **Corporate Governance Reforms:**
Through listing obligations and disclosure requirements (LODR), SEBI has enhanced transparency, mandating board independence and timely financial reporting.
3. **Mutual Funds and ESG Regulation:**
SEBI now monitors **green finance**, ESG disclosures, and mutual fund mis-selling, adapting to the growing scope of financial products.
4. **Crackdown on Insider Trading and Market Abuse:**
SEBI has introduced sophisticated AI tools to monitor trading patterns and penalize market manipulation.

Key Challenges:

- **Balancing Regulation and Growth:**
Overregulation may stifle innovation and deter new listings, while underregulation can increase volatility and fraud.
- **Tech-Driven Risks:**
Emergence of fintech, HFT (high-frequency trading), and decentralized finance poses regulatory blind spots.



- **Investor Awareness and Penetration:**

While SEBI pushes for broader participation, low financial literacy and rural penetration remain hurdles.

- **Corporate Resistance:**

Powerful corporate lobbies often attempt to dilute SEBI regulations through judicial and political means.

Way Forward:

- Strengthening coordination with RBI, IRDAI, and international regulators for systemic risk management.
- Enhancing real-time surveillance systems and cyber-resilience frameworks.
- Promoting investor education and transparent grievance redressal mechanisms.

Conclusion:

As India's capital markets deepen, SEBI must strike a fine balance between **facilitating growth** and **protecting stakeholders**. Its evolving mandate must match the pace of innovation to retain public confidence and market integrity.

GS Paper 4 –

Q4. You are a district magistrate and a viral video surfaces showing a teacher in your district punishing a student of a minority community in a discriminatory manner. You are under political pressure to “not escalate” the matter. What ethical dilemmas do you face? How would you handle the situation?

(Word Limit: 300 words)

Sample Answer:

This situation presents a classic **conflict between ethical duty and external pressure**, with serious implications for justice, social harmony, and administrative integrity.

Ethical Dilemmas Involved:

1. **Justice vs Political Pressure:**
Ensuring justice for the victim may attract political displeasure, affecting your career trajectory or transfer prospects.
2. **Public Accountability vs Administrative Discretion:**
The public expects swift action, but premature decisions could compromise due process.
3. **Rule of Law vs Community Sensitivities:**
A balanced response is needed to prevent escalation of communal tensions while upholding constitutional values.

Code of Ethics and Values Involved:

- **Integrity and Impartiality:**
The action must be guided by principles of neutrality and fairness.
- **Compassion and Empathy:**
Sensitivity to the psychological trauma faced by the child and family must be shown.



- **Courage of Conviction:**
Standing firm on ethical grounds despite fear of repercussions.

Course of Action:

1. **Immediate Action:**
Suspend the accused teacher pending inquiry. Ensure the victim receives counseling support.
2. **Initiate Enquiry:**
Set up a time-bound, impartial inquiry committee with members from SCERT, minority commission, and district administration.
3. **Legal Compliance:**
Register FIR under relevant IPC sections (if prima facie valid), ensuring no procedural delay.
4. **Political Neutrality:**
Politely document and resist undue political influence. Seek support from State Human Rights Commission if necessary.
5. **Community Outreach:**
Engage civil society leaders, parents, and minority representatives to rebuild trust and prevent unrest.

Conclusion:

Public service requires navigating morally complex situations. Upholding **constitutional morality, justice, and dignity of the individual** must remain paramount, regardless of political expediency.

Current Affairs –

Q5. What does the Epstein File Scandal reveal about global power structures, institutional opacity, and the ethics of elite impunity? Discuss in the context of democratic accountability and rule of law.

(Word Limit: 300 words)

Sample Answer:

The **Jeffrey Epstein file scandal**, involving the billionaire financier accused of operating an international sex-trafficking ring involving underage girls, has exposed disturbing undercurrents of **elite impunity, institutional complicity, and systemic failure of accountability**.

Global Power and Privilege:

- Epstein's high-profile connections — including politicians, business magnates, and royalty — illustrate how **wealth and proximity to power** can shield individuals from scrutiny.
- Investigative lapses over decades suggest a pattern of **elite capture of enforcement and judicial systems**.

Institutional Opacity:

- The **sealed court documents**, plea bargains, and long delays in public disclosures point to **institutional opacity** — often justified under legal technicalities.
- The role of law enforcement agencies (FBI, prosecutors) and their **selective investigation** exposes a lack of transparency.



Ethics of Elite Impunity:

- The scandal reveals a **moral vacuum** at the top echelons, where **rules are bent or ignored** for the privileged.
- Victims' voices were **systematically suppressed**, and their testimonies marginalized until public pressure grew.

Democratic Accountability:

- In democracies, **no one is above the law**, and public trust depends on **equal enforcement**.
- The Epstein scandal underscores the need for **robust whistleblower protections, independent media**, and **judicial oversight** to ensure high-profile wrongdoers face consequences.

Broader Implications for India:

- Similar issues arise in Indian context — be it shelter home abuse cases, political immunity, or delayed justice.
- Transparency, judicial reform, and civil society vigilance remain essential to avoid replication of such injustices.

Conclusion:

The Epstein file scandal is a cautionary tale about how **power without accountability** erodes democratic institutions. Upholding the **rule of law, victim rights**, and **institutional transparency** is essential to prevent moral and legal collapse in any democracy.



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