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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
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DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 08/08/2025 (FRIDAY)

- **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. Consider the following statements regarding the Mauryan administration:

1. The Arthashastra describes the administrative system under the Mauryas in greater detail than the Ashokan inscriptions.
2. The post of Dhamma Mahamatta was created by Chandragupta Maurya to propagate Jain values across the empire.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
The *Arthashastra* by Kautilya provides a detailed account of Mauryan administration—covering espionage, revenue, army, civil services, etc.—which is far more elaborate than the information from Ashokan inscriptions. Ashokan edicts focus primarily on moral and ethical governance (Dhamma) and less on administrative mechanisms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
The *Dhamma Mahamatta* was **introduced by Ashoka**, not Chandragupta Maurya. These officials were appointed to spread the principles of *Dhamma*, a moral code based on tolerance and compassion, not Jainism. Chandragupta Maurya is traditionally associated with Jainism, but he did not institutionalize its propagation through administrative posts.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Biodiversity Hotspots and Ecological Niches:

1. All biodiversity hotspots must necessarily be located within tropical forest ecosystems.
2. A species with a narrow ecological niche is more vulnerable to extinction than one with a broad niche.
3. Biodiversity hotspots are determined solely based on species richness and not on endemism.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
Biodiversity hotspots are **not confined to tropical forests alone**. While many are in tropical zones (e.g., Western Ghats), some hotspots include grasslands, scrublands, and even mountain ecosystems (e.g., Himalayas).



- **Statement 2 is correct.**

Species with **narrow ecological niches** (specialists) are highly adapted to specific conditions. This makes them vulnerable to environmental changes, unlike **generalist species** with broad niches.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Hotspots are defined by two main criteria:

- High **endemism** (species found nowhere else), and
- Having lost at least **70% of original vegetation**.
So **endemism is a core criterion**, not ignored.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the concept of Fiscal Deficit in India:

1. Fiscal deficit includes borrowings of the government as well as interest payments on past debt.
2. Monetization of fiscal deficit directly increases money supply without creating corresponding physical output.
3. A high fiscal deficit always implies inflationary pressure in the economy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
Fiscal deficit is the **total borrowing requirement** of the government. It includes revenue + capital expenditure minus total receipts **excluding borrowings**. Interest payments are a part of total expenditure and hence included indirectly.
- **Statement 2 is correct.**
Monetization of fiscal deficit (when RBI prints currency to finance government deficit) **increases money supply** without adding real goods/services in the short term, potentially leading to inflation.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
A high fiscal deficit **may or may not** lead to inflation. If the economy is in a slowdown or recession, higher government spending can be **counter-cyclical** and boost demand without causing inflation.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Parliament's legislative powers:

1. The Parliament can make laws on subjects under the State List during a national emergency.
2. The Parliament can make laws on State subjects if Rajya Sabha passes a resolution with two-thirds majority.
3. The Parliament can legislate on State subjects to implement international agreements.



4. The Parliament cannot amend a State List entry even through a Constitutional Amendment without State consent.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. All four
- D. Only one

Answer: B. Only three

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
During a **national emergency**, Parliament can legislate on State List subjects (Article 250).
- **Statement 2 is correct.**
If **Rajya Sabha** passes a resolution (by 2/3 members present and voting) that it is necessary in the national interest, Parliament can legislate on a **State List subject** (Article 249).
- **Statement 3 is correct.**
Parliament can **override State List** restrictions to implement **international treaties** or agreements (Article 253).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.**
Through a **Constitutional Amendment**, Parliament **can** amend any entry in any list. However, for changes affecting the federal structure (like changing the distribution of powers), **ratification by at least half the states** is required (Article 368). So this statement is **partially incorrect and misleading**.

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type -

Assertion (A): The Chola bronze sculptures exhibit a dynamic sense of movement and are often portrayed in tribhanga posture.

Reason (R): Chola bronzes were primarily meant for temple rituals involving processions, which influenced their stylized physical forms.

Options:

- 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.**
Chola bronzes, especially those of Nataraja (Shiva as cosmic dancer), show movement, grace, and complex **tribhanga** (triple-bend) postures, unlike static Gupta figures.
- **Reason is also true and explains A.**
These bronzes were **not just icons for sanctums** but used in **temple processions**. Hence, they were cast in ways that were both durable and expressive, with movable bases and intricate gestures—highlighting **devotional aesthetics and mobility**.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The proposed Kartavya Bhavan is intended to replace Shastri Bhavan and integrate multiple ministries under a single green-rated infrastructure.
2. The building design adheres to GRIHA and LEED standards and is inspired by the Indo-Saracenic architectural style prominent during British rule.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

The **Kartavya Bhavan**, part of the **Central Vista Redevelopment Project**, is envisioned to **replace old administrative blocks like Shastri Bhavan**. It will consolidate several ministries under one green building with energy-efficient systems, aiming to reduce fragmentation and improve administrative coordination.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

Although the **building adheres to green standards like GRIHA and LEED**, the **architectural inspiration is modern minimalism with Indian elements**, *not* the **Indo-Saracenic style**, which is a blend of Indian, Islamic, and Gothic revival forms seen in colonial-era buildings like the Madras High Court.

Q2. Which of the following best explains the term “Plurilateral Agreements” in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO)?

- A. Agreements binding on all WTO members under the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) principle
- B. Agreements between a subset of WTO members that are not obligatory for all members
- C. Bilateral trade deals negotiated outside the WTO framework
- D. Regional trade arrangements under WTO surveillance

Answer: B. Agreements between a subset of WTO members that are not obligatory for all members

Explanation:

- **Plurilateral Agreements** are **optional** and **not binding on all WTO members**. Only signatory countries are obligated to adhere to them.
- Examples include the **Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**.
- This is distinct from **multilateral agreements**, which are binding for all WTO members.
- They allow like-minded nations to advance specific trade rules while keeping the door open for others to join later.

**Q3. Consider the following statements:**

1. The 2024 coral bleaching event in the Great Barrier Reef is the first ever caused primarily by ocean acidification rather than sea surface temperatures.
2. Coral bleaching events are monitored through satellite imaging and underwater heat stress mapping by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).
3. Coral bleaching reduces the reef's ability to support marine biodiversity but has no direct impact on coastal economies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.**

The **2024 bleaching event** is attributed primarily to **record-high sea surface temperatures**, not ocean acidification. Acidification is a long-term threat but not the immediate trigger for mass bleaching events.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

The **GBRMPA** uses **satellite-based heat stress monitoring**, **aerial surveys**, and **in-situ temperature data** to assess bleaching severity.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Coral bleaching has **major economic impacts**, especially on **tourism, fisheries, and coastal protection**. Healthy reefs attract tourists and support fishing livelihoods. Their degradation affects **coastal economies directly**.

Q4. Consider the following statements about TRi-structural ISOtropic (TRISO) fuel:

1. TRISO particles contain uranium fuel encapsulated in multiple carbon and ceramic layers that act as mini-reactors.
2. TRISO fuel is designed exclusively for use in fast breeder reactors to reduce nuclear waste.
3. It enhances nuclear safety by eliminating the need for active cooling systems during reactor operations.

Which of the above statements is/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.**

TRISO fuel particles consist of a uranium fuel kernel surrounded by **three protective layers** – porous carbon, inner pyrolytic carbon, and silicon carbide. These layers make each particle a **containment system** of its own.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

TRISO is **not exclusive to fast breeder reactors**. It's used in **high-temperature gas-cooled reactors (HTGRs)** like X-Energy and U.S. Department of Energy projects, aiming for **inherent safety and modularity**, not waste reduction through breeding.

- **Statement 3 is correct.**

TRISO enhances safety through **passive safety features**. The fuel can withstand very high temperatures, **reducing dependence on active cooling systems** like pumps. It's considered **"walk-away safe"**.

Q5. With reference to the agreement between Tuvalu and Australia regarding climate-induced migration, consider the following statements:

1. Tuvaluans will receive automatic Australian citizenship as part of the agreement.
2. The deal represents the first legally binding climate migration treaty between a developed and developing country.
3. Tuvalu will retain full sovereignty and can reject Australian influence in internal governance.
4. The agreement allows up to 280 Tuvaluans per year to migrate to Australia as a permanent solution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Answer: C. Only three

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.**

Tuvaluans **do not receive automatic citizenship**, but a **special migration pathway** is created allowing 280 Tuvaluans annually to reside, work, and study in Australia.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

This is **widely recognized as the first formal climate migration pact** — acknowledging climate change as a trigger for state-supported cross-border relocation.

- **Statement 3 is correct.**

The agreement ensures **Tuvalu's sovereignty**, though concerns have been raised about geopolitical dependencies (e.g., military access), but **no clause enforces Australian internal influence**.

- **Statement 4 is correct.**

The **quota of 280 individuals per year** is part of the structured migration approach, highlighting a long-term strategy for **planned relocation** due to sea-level rise.



Q6. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Mountain Peak	Located in
1. Nanda Devi	Sikkim
2. Kangto	Arunachal Pradesh
3. Reo Purguil	Himachal Pradesh
4. Mount Kamet	Jammu & Kashmir

Select the correct option:

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

Answer: A. 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **1. Nanda Devi – Incorrect:** Located in **Uttarakhand**, not Sikkim. It is India's second-highest peak and part of the Garhwal Himalayas.
- **2. Kangto – Correct: Highest peak in Arunachal Pradesh**, located on the India-China border in the Eastern Himalayas.
- **3. Reo Purguil – Correct:** Located in **Himachal Pradesh**, it is the state's highest peak, situated on the Tibet border.
- **4. Mount Kamet – Incorrect:** Located in **Uttarakhand**, not Jammu & Kashmir. It is India's third-highest peak and lies in the Garhwal Himalayas near the Tibet border.

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING

PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 – Geography / Society

Q1. "Urban floods are not merely a natural hazard but a manifestation of poor urban planning." Critically examine with examples.

Sample Answer:

Urban floods have become a recurring phenomenon in many Indian cities such as Mumbai (2005, 2017), Chennai (2015), and Bengaluru (2022). While heavy rainfall and extreme weather are immediate triggers, a deeper analysis reveals that the severity and frequency of urban floods are primarily due to flawed urban planning and inadequate infrastructure.

Causes rooted in poor urban planning:

- **Encroachment of natural drainage channels:** Rapid urbanisation has led to construction over wetlands, lakes and stormwater channels. The disappearance of Bengaluru's interconnected lake system is a classic case.
- **Inadequate drainage infrastructure:** Most cities rely on outdated and undersized stormwater systems that are not designed for current rainfall patterns.
- **Concrete urban surfaces:** Urban sprawl has replaced permeable surfaces with concrete, reducing natural infiltration and increasing surface runoff.
- **Unplanned settlements and slums:** Poorly regulated growth leads to settlements in low-lying flood-prone areas, increasing human vulnerability.
- **Lack of data-driven zoning and planning:** Urban Master Plans often ignore hydro-meteorological data and environmental assessments.

Other contributing factors:

- **Climate change:** Increases the frequency of high-intensity rainfall events.
- **Poor coordination between agencies:** Multiple bodies managing water, waste, and land often work in silos.

Way Forward:

- **Nature-based solutions** like restoring wetlands and green belts.
- **Implementation of Urban Flood Management Guidelines** (NDMA, 2010).
- **Upgrading stormwater systems** with real-time monitoring and GIS mapping.
- **Revising building by-laws and urban planning norms** to include climate resilience.

Conclusion:

Urban floods are not just a consequence of heavy rains, but a man-made disaster amplified by policy neglect and flawed urban design. A paradigm shift towards sustainable urban planning is essential to mitigate future risks.



GS Paper 2 – Polity & Governance

Q2. “In India, cooperative federalism is often challenged by the realities of political centralisation.” Discuss with reference to recent developments.

Sample Answer:

India’s federal structure, envisioned as “quasi-federal” by the Constitution, is based on cooperation between the Union and States. However, in recent years, **political centralisation** has posed challenges to the ideal of **cooperative federalism**, leading to friction between Centre and States.

Challenges to cooperative federalism:

- **Dominance of central institutions:** Bodies like the NITI Aayog, which replaced the Planning Commission, lack legislative backing and are often criticised for functioning as advisory rather than truly participative.
- **GST Council tensions:** Although designed as a federal forum, states have expressed concerns over delayed compensation and limited say in decisions.
- **Use of Article 356 and Governor’s role:** The Governor, a central appointee, is often accused of being politically biased. Examples include delays in inviting the majority party to form government or approving state bills.
- **Over-centralisation during COVID-19:** Health is a State subject, yet the Centre played a dominant role in vaccine procurement and distribution, reducing state autonomy.
- **Interference through centrally sponsored schemes:** Many schemes have fixed guidelines, with limited state flexibility, reducing the space for innovation or contextual solutions.

However, signs of cooperative federalism also exist:

- **Inter-State Council revival** for dispute resolution and consultations.
- **Finance Commission grants** directly supporting state-level reforms.
- **Schemes like PM-DevINE and PM-Gati Shakti** encourage state participation in infrastructure planning.

Way forward:

- Empowering Inter-State Council and NITI Aayog for participative policymaking.
- Clearly defining roles of Governors and depoliticising appointments.
- Strengthening fiscal federalism with predictable and fair resource devolution.

Conclusion:

While India’s constitutional framework supports cooperative federalism, the **centralised political culture** and increasing control over resources and institutions pose persistent challenges. Realising true federalism requires mutual respect, trust, and devolution of both power and responsibility.



GS Paper 3 – Economy / Infrastructure

Q3. Examine the role of logistics and infrastructure in enhancing India's export competitiveness. What recent initiatives has India taken in this regard?

Sample Answer:

Efficient logistics and robust infrastructure are crucial determinants of export competitiveness. In a globalised economy, the ability to move goods quickly and cost-effectively determines a country's attractiveness as a trade partner.

Role of logistics and infrastructure:

- **Cost efficiency:** India's logistics costs are ~13-14% of GDP, compared to ~8% in China, impacting price competitiveness.
- **Time-bound delivery:** Poor road quality, congested ports, and inefficient warehousing delay exports.
- **Supply chain integration:** Lack of multimodal infrastructure breaks supply chains, especially for perishable and value-added goods.
- **Ease of doing trade:** Delays in customs, port handling, and documentation hinder smooth exports.

Recent initiatives by Government:

- **PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan:** Launched in 2021, it aims to integrate road, rail, air, and waterways infrastructure through a digital platform.
- **National Logistics Policy (2022):** Focuses on reducing logistics costs and improving sector efficiency through digital integration, warehousing standards, and skill development.
- **Sagarmala and Bharatmala Projects:** Improve port connectivity and inland logistics.
- **Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs):** Allow faster goods movement, especially in eastern and western sectors.
- **PLI Schemes:** Aim to boost manufacturing linked with export potential by improving backend logistics.
- **TIES (Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme):** Funds export infrastructure in states.

Challenges:

- Land acquisition delays and fragmented governance.
- Lack of cold-chain and last-mile connectivity in hinterland areas.
- Overdependence on road transport (~60%), increasing cost and inefficiency.

Conclusion:

For India to realise its export ambitions under "Make in India" and become a global manufacturing hub, logistics reform must be prioritised. Infrastructure investments must be coupled with regulatory and digital transformation to create a seamless trade ecosystem.



GS Paper 4 – Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Q4. A civil servant is expected to be both empathetic and impartial. Can these two qualities conflict with each other in public administration? Illustrate with suitable examples.

Sample Answer:

Civil services are guided by the twin ideals of **empathy** and **impartiality**. While empathy fosters humaneness and understanding, impartiality ensures fairness and justice. These values are essential in a democratic setup, yet may sometimes seem to conflict.

Potential areas of conflict:

- **Welfare schemes vs eligibility norms:** A distressed woman seeking pension may evoke sympathy, but if she doesn't meet the eligibility, approving it would violate rules and impartiality.
- **Eviction drives:** Evicting illegal slum dwellers may cause emotional distress, especially to women and children, yet not acting would breach land laws and city planning codes.
- **Disciplinary actions:** An empathetic officer may hesitate to penalise a subordinate undergoing personal hardship, but doing so could undermine organizational discipline.

However, these values can be reconciled:

- **Procedural empathy:** One can be empathetic in communication while following rules. For example, helping a poor applicant reapply under the correct category instead of rejecting outright.
- **Discretion within law:** Many policies allow for discretion – for instance, in disaster relief or compassionate appointments.
- **Institutional empathy:** Framing policies that are inclusive and sensitive to the vulnerable while ensuring transparency and accountability.

Examples:

- **IAS officer Armstrong Pame** built a 100-km road in a remote village by mobilising resources through social media, showing empathy while staying within legal boundaries.
- **DCs during COVID lockdowns** balanced enforcement with humanitarian assistance, ensuring migrant labourers received food and shelter.

Conclusion:

Empathy and impartiality are not mutually exclusive. In fact, an ideal civil servant uses **empathy to interpret rules justly** and **impartiality to prevent bias**. Balancing both is essential for responsive and responsible governance.



Current Affairs – Economy / Health Sector

Q5. “Medical Tourism has the potential to make India a global healthcare destination, but structural bottlenecks persist.” Examine in the context of recent developments.

Sample Answer:

India has emerged as one of the top destinations for **Medical Value Travel (MVT)**, offering advanced healthcare at affordable costs. The global market for medical tourism is expected to reach over USD 100 billion by 2030, and India is well-placed to tap into it.

Strengths of India's medical tourism:

- **Cost-effective care:** Procedures in India cost 60-90% less than in developed countries.
- **High-quality hospitals:** Many Indian hospitals are JCI/NABH accredited and offer globally competitive facilities.
- **Skilled professionals:** Indian doctors and nurses are globally recognised for their expertise.
- **Use of English:** Reduces communication barriers for international patients.
- **AYUSH integration:** India offers a unique combination of modern medicine and traditional wellness (Ayurveda, Yoga), appealing to holistic health seekers.

Recent developments:

- **Heal in India initiative (2022):** Aims to promote India as a global medical hub, offering digital platforms for patient facilitation and visa support.
- **Medical Visa and Ayush Visa categories:** Streamlining travel for treatment and wellness purposes.
- **Integration of Ayush Grid with Digital Health Mission** to offer alternative therapies digitally.

Challenges and bottlenecks:

- **Lack of regulation in private healthcare:** Can lead to price exploitation or unethical practices.
- **Infrastructure gaps:** Overcrowding, lack of multilingual support, poor transport in tier-2 cities.
- **Perception issues:** Concerns about hygiene, overcharging, or treatment transparency.
- **Limited insurance portability for foreign patients.**

Way forward:

- Strengthen regulation and pricing transparency.
- Build infrastructure in tourist-friendly zones with integrated health clusters.
- Promote insurance partnerships for international patients.
- Train facilitators and translators in hospitals for smoother experiences.

Conclusion:

With strategic policy support and focus on quality assurance, India can transform medical tourism into a major economic and diplomatic asset, enhancing both soft power and healthcare economy.