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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 23/08/2025 (SATURDAY)

- **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 Ryotwari Settlement introduced by the British in India:

1. It was first implemented in Madras and Bombay presidencies by Sir Thomas Munro to establish a direct revenue relationship with cultivators.
2. Unlike the Permanent Settlement, it completely eliminated intermediaries and assured peasants fixed revenue demands for thirty years.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ryotwari was introduced by Sir Thomas Munro and Charles Reed in Madras Presidency (later extended to Bombay). It created a **direct settlement with ryots (cultivators)** rather than zamindars.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Although it aimed to remove intermediaries, **revenue rates were revised periodically, not fixed for thirty years.** This made it burdensome, unlike the Permanent Settlement which fixed revenue in perpetuity.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding 'Ecological Pyramids':

1. The pyramid of biomass in an ocean ecosystem is generally inverted, unlike in a forest ecosystem.
2. The pyramid of energy can never be inverted, irrespective of the ecosystem type.
3. In all ecosystems, the pyramid of number is always upright because producers are numerically more abundant.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In oceans, biomass of phytoplankton (producers) at any given moment is less than that of zooplankton or fish, hence the **biomass pyramid is inverted.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **pyramid of energy** is **always upright**, because energy transfer follows the 10% law and heat loss occurs at each trophic level.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **pyramid of number can be inverted** in some ecosystems (e.g., a single large tree supporting thousands of insects).

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Current Account' in Balance of Payments (BoP):

1. It records both visible items (goods) and invisible items (services, remittances).
2. A current account surplus necessarily indicates that a country is a net exporter of capital.
3. Primary income transactions such as interest payments on external debt are part of the current account.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Current account includes **merchandise (goods) trade, services, remittances, and transfers.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A **current account surplus means net inflow from trade/invisibles**, but it does **not necessarily imply being a net exporter of capital**; capital account deals with capital flows.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **Primary income** (interest, dividends, profits on external borrowings and investments) is indeed part of the current account.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of the President of India:

1. The President can summon either House of Parliament even when a Proclamation of Emergency is not in operation.
2. The President can promulgate ordinances only when both Houses are not in session and such ordinances have the same force as an Act of Parliament.
3. The President is constitutionally bound to follow the advice of the Council of Ministers after the 44th Constitutional Amendment.
4. The President may send back any ordinary bill (other than a Money Bill) for reconsideration only once.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d)



Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct – Article 85 empowers the President to summon either House at any time, not just during emergencies.
- **Statement 2:** Correct – Ordinances (Art. 123) can be issued when **Parliament is not in session** and they carry the **same force as an Act**, subject to later approval.
- **Statement 3:** Correct – After the **44th Amendment**, the President must follow ministerial advice; earlier the advice was not explicitly binding.
- **Statement 4:** Correct – The President **can return a bill once** for reconsideration; if Parliament passes it again, the President must give assent.

Q5. Assertion–Reason type –

Assertion (A):

The Pala dynasty of Eastern India became a prominent patron of Buddhist monastic universities such as Nalanda and Vikramashila.

Reason (R):

They sought to legitimize their rule by associating themselves with Brahmanical temples and Shaiva traditions.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect
- (d) A is incorrect, but R is correct

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct:** The Palas (8th–12th century CE) were **great patrons of Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism**, supporting Nalanda, Odantapuri, and Vikramashila universities.
- **Reason is correct but unrelated:** The Palas also **patronized Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions** to maintain political legitimacy in a region with mixed religious adherence, **but this is not the reason for Buddhist patronage.**



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI):

1. The scheme issues Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to both producers and consumers of green hydrogen to incentivize its use.
2. Certification under GHCI is granted only to hydrogen produced entirely from renewable sources such as solar and wind, excluding any grid-based electricity.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** GHCI does **not issue RECs**; it provides **unique certificates verifying green hydrogen production** based on emissions intensity (kg CO₂ per kg H₂).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The scheme allows **grid-connected renewable power with proper accounting** and does not strictly require 100% off-grid solar or wind power. Certification depends on emissions thresholds, not just the source.

Q2. The Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur kachuga), recently in news, is:

- (a) A species endemic to the Himalayan high-altitude wetlands of Ladakh
- (b) A critically endangered freshwater turtle native to the Ganga river basin
- (c) A marine turtle nesting along the eastern coast of India
- (d) A soft-shelled turtle protected under CITES Appendix II but not under Indian law

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle** is **critically endangered** (IUCN) and found in **Ganga and its tributaries** in India and Bangladesh.
- It is **freshwater, not marine**, and protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** and **CITES Appendix I**.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Amazon's Project Kuiper:

1. It aims to deploy a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation to provide global broadband internet services.
2. The project directly competes with OneWeb and Starlink and has received approval from the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC).



3. Unlike Starlink, Project Kuiper satellites will operate only in geostationary orbit to ensure stable coverage.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Project Kuiper is Amazon's LEO satellite internet constellation plan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It competes with Starlink and OneWeb and has FCC approval for over 3,000 satellites.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The satellites will not operate in geostationary orbit (GEO); like Starlink, they are in LEO for low latency.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Raghuji Bhosale I of Nagpur:

- 1. He expanded Maratha influence into Bengal, Orissa, and parts of Bihar during the early 18th century.
- 2. He fought directly against the British in the Battle of Plassey (1757).
- 3. His campaigns were often directed towards collecting *chauth* and *sardeshmukhi* rather than outright annexation.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Raghuji Bhosale I expanded Maratha power into Bengal, Orissa and Bihar between 1740–1755.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** He died in 1755, before the Battle of Plassey (1757); he never fought the British directly.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** His expeditions were revenue raids (*chauth*, *sardeshmukhi*) rather than permanent territorial conquest.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Special 301 Report' published by the United States:

- 1. It is an annual review of the global state of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection and enforcement.



2. Countries placed on the Priority Watch List face automatic trade sanctions under US law.
3. India has often been placed on the Priority Watch List in this report.
4. The report is mandated under Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is an **annual USTR report** on IPR protection.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Being on the **Priority Watch List does not trigger automatic sanctions**; it only indicates closer scrutiny.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **India has frequently been placed on this list** for pharmaceutical patents and copyright issues.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** It is issued **under Section 301 of the US Trade Act (1974)**.

Q6. Bandhavgarh National Park, recently seen in news for tiger conservation efforts, is located in:

- (a) Northern Chhattisgarh, adjoining the Hasdeo Arand forests
- (b) Eastern Madhya Pradesh, in the Vindhyan hill ranges
- (c) Southern Uttar Pradesh, along the Son river basin
- (d) Northern Odisha, near the Similipal Biosphere Reserve

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Bandhavgarh National Park** is in **eastern Madhya Pradesh (Umaria district)** in the **Vindhyan ranges**.
- It is famous for **high tiger density** and historical **Bandhavgarh Fort** ruins.
- It is **not in Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, or Odisha**.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1 (World History)

Q1. “*The Congress of Vienna (1815) created a balance of power in Europe but failed to address the aspirations of nationalism.*” Critically analyze.

Sample Answer:

Introduction

- The **Congress of Vienna (1815)** was convened after Napoleon’s defeat to restore monarchies and maintain European stability.
- While it successfully **curbed immediate conflict**, it ignored **emerging nationalist and liberal movements**, sowing seeds for future revolutions.

Body

Positive outcomes of the Congress of Vienna:

- Restored **monarchical rule** in France, Spain, and Italy.
- Created the **Concert of Europe** to resolve disputes diplomatically.
- Established **balance of power** by redrawing borders—Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Britain acted as major pillars.

Failure to recognize nationalism:

- **Italy and Germany remained fragmented**, suppressing unification movements.
- **Polish independence demand rejected**; Poland placed under Russian influence.
- **Revolutions of 1820, 1830, and 1848** arose as popular discontent against autocratic regimes.
- **Suppression of liberal constitutions** (Spain, Naples) widened the gap between rulers and people.

Critical Analysis:

- The Vienna settlement prioritized **dynastic legitimacy over people’s will**, ignoring the rising **national consciousness** shaped by the French Revolution.
- While it maintained peace for nearly four decades, the **repression of popular aspirations led to violent upheavals** later.
- The unification of **Germany (1871)** and **Italy (1861)** ultimately overturned the Vienna order.

Conclusion:

- The **Congress of Vienna was a conservative triumph** but a **progressive failure**.
- Peace was temporary as it **did not accommodate nationalism and liberalism**, proving that **political stability cannot ignore people’s aspirations**.



GS-2 (International Relations)

Q2. “India’s strategic autonomy is being tested by the emerging US–China rivalry.” Discuss with reference to India’s foreign policy choices.

Sample Answer (≈320 words):

Introduction

- **Strategic autonomy** means retaining freedom of decision-making without being tied to any power bloc.
- The growing **US–China rivalry** in trade, technology, and geopolitics places India in a delicate position as it deepens ties with the US while maintaining functional relations with China.

Body

Challenges to India’s strategic autonomy:

- **Border tensions with China** (Galwan 2020) push India closer to the US and QUAD.
- **Economic dependence on China** in critical sectors (pharma APIs, electronics).
- **Defence partnerships with the US** (LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA) enhance interoperability but raise fears of over-dependence.

India’s balancing approach:

- **QUAD participation** with the US, Japan, and Australia to ensure a free Indo-Pacific, while avoiding a formal military alliance.
- **BRICS, SCO membership** to engage China on multilateral platforms.
- **Strategic partnerships with Russia** for defence procurement despite Western pressure.
- **‘Neighbourhood First’ policy** and outreach to ASEAN to reduce Chinese influence.

Opportunities for India:

- The US–China rivalry opens **scope for supply chain diversification**, attracting investment to India.
- India’s **non-aligned legacy** and voice for the Global South enhance its diplomatic credibility.

Conclusion:

- India walks a **tightrope between strategic partnership with the US and cautious engagement with China**.
- By strengthening domestic capacity (Atmanirbhar Bharat) and pursuing **multi-alignment**, India can **preserve strategic autonomy** and shape the Indo-Pacific order rather than being shaped by it.

GS-3 (Environment)

Q3. “India’s pursuit of energy security must be balanced with its climate commitments.” Discuss in light of recent policy measures.

Sample Answer (≈310 words):

Introduction



- India is the **third-largest energy consumer** in the world.
- With rapid industrialization, **energy security (reliable, affordable energy)** often conflicts with **climate goals (reducing emissions under Paris Agreement and Net Zero by 2070)**.

Body

Energy security imperatives:

- Heavy **dependence on coal** for electricity (over 70%).
- Rising **oil import bill** impacting trade deficit.
- Need for **24x7 power** to fuel economic growth and rural development.

Climate commitments:

- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**: reduce emission intensity by 45% by 2030.
- **Renewable Energy Target**: 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030.
- **Green Hydrogen Mission and EV policies** to decarbonize industry and transport.

Balancing initiatives:

- **Coal phase-down, not phase-out** – continued use with improved efficiency (supercritical and ultra-supercritical plants).
- **Energy diversification**: solar, wind, hydropower, nuclear expansion.
- **Energy efficiency measures**: PAT scheme, EESL programs to curb industrial emissions.
- **Carbon markets and green bonds** to finance transition.

Challenges:

- **High upfront costs** of renewable infrastructure.
- **Intermittency of renewables** without robust storage solutions.
- **Just transition** concerns for workers in coal-dependent regions.

Conclusion:

- India's strategy reflects a **pragmatic balance**: ensuring affordable power while gradually reducing carbon intensity.
- **Technology adoption, global finance, and domestic reforms** will decide how successfully India can achieve **both energy security and climate resilience**.

GS-4 (Ethics)

Q4. *“In public administration, adherence to procedural propriety must not undermine the pursuit of substantive justice.” Explain with examples.*

Sample Answer (≈320 words):

Introduction

- **Procedural propriety** means following due process and rules in decision-making.



- **Substantive justice** focuses on fairness, equity, and outcomes rather than mere compliance with procedure.
- A rigid procedural approach may delay or deny justice.

Body

Need for procedural propriety:

- Ensures **transparency, accountability, and prevents arbitrariness.**
- Maintains **rule of law** and citizens' trust in governance.

Limitations if overemphasized:

- Can lead to **red-tapism** and **bureaucratic inertia.**
- May **ignore human dimensions**—e.g., denying pension due to a missing certificate despite genuine eligibility.
- Judicial delays caused by excessive procedural hurdles undermine justice delivery.

Examples:

- **Right to Food schemes:** Strict documentation prevented genuine beneficiaries from receiving rations until procedural relaxations were introduced.
- **COVID-19 crisis:** Rapid approval of emergency measures (vaccines, relief) required bypassing routine delays while maintaining essential safeguards.
- **Environmental clearances:** While procedures are vital, they must not become a tool for delaying critical public projects without genuine cause.

Ethical perspective:

- **Utilitarian view:** Greatest good for the greatest number justifies flexibility in procedure when outcomes are urgent.
- **Gandhian ethics:** Rules must serve people, not enslave them.
- **Administrative morality:** Balancing legality with empathy enhances public trust.

Conclusion:

- Procedural propriety is essential **but must serve, not obstruct, substantive justice.**
- **Discretion guided by ethics, accountability mechanisms, and citizen-centric reforms** can harmonize the two objectives.

Current Affairs

Q5. “India’s waste management crisis reflects governance failures more than technological limitations.” Discuss.

Sample Answer (≈330 words):

Introduction



- India generates **over 160,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily**, with only **about 25% scientifically processed**.
- Despite policies and technology availability, poor implementation has worsened the crisis.

Body

Governance failures:

- **Weak municipal capacity** and funding shortages.
- **Inadequate segregation at source** due to lack of enforcement and citizen awareness.
- **Poor coordination** between central schemes (Swachh Bharat Mission) and local authorities.
- **Regulatory gaps:** Waste-to-energy plants fail due to inconsistent supply of segregated waste.
- **Informal sector exclusion:** Ragpickers lack legal recognition despite handling bulk recycling.

Technological capabilities exist:

- **Waste-to-energy incinerators, biomethanation plants, composting units** are operational but underutilized.
- **Smart bins, sensor networks, and AI sorting** have been tested in cities like Indore and Pune.
- Successful models (Ambikapur, Indore) show **technology works when governance is strong**.

Environmental impacts of mismanagement:

- **Air pollution:** Open dumping and burning release toxic emissions.
- **Water contamination:** Leachate from landfills pollutes groundwater.
- **Public health risks:** Dengue, cholera outbreaks linked to unmanaged waste.

Way forward:

- **Strengthen ULBs** with financial autonomy and trained manpower.
- **Mandatory segregation at source** backed by penalties and incentives.
- **Integrate informal workers** into formal systems with social security.
- **Public participation campaigns** for behavior change.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** for plastics and electronics to shift burden upstream.

Conclusion:

- The crisis is **institutional, not technological**.
- With **political will, citizen engagement, and decentralised waste governance**, India can replicate its **best city models nationwide** and transition towards a **circular economy**.