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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE**

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 05/09/2025 (FRIDAY)

- **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 urban planning of the Indus Valley Civilization:

1. The presence of “Great Bath” at Mohenjo-daro is considered as the earliest public water tank in the world, signifying a ritualistic association rather than purely utilitarian usage.
2. Unlike Mesopotamian cities, Indus cities reveal no evidence of palatial or temple structures, suggesting a more egalitarian urban governance system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro is widely recognized as the earliest known public water tank; its careful construction indicates ritualistic and ceremonial usage.
- Statement 2 is correct: Unlike Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations where temples/palaces dominated, Indus cities lack monumental architecture; this points towards collective urban planning, possibly under a centralized but not overtly hierarchical authority.

Q2. With reference to the Gaganyaan mission, which of the following best describes its significance for India?

- (a) It will establish India’s independent capacity to send humans to low-earth orbit without reliance on any foreign launch systems.
- (b) It is primarily a lunar landing mission, intended to place Indian astronauts on the Moon by 2026.
- (c) It is focused only on robotic space exploration, not involving human presence.
- (d) It is an Indo-Russian joint venture aimed at establishing the first space station module by India.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Gaganyaan is India’s first human spaceflight program, aiming to send a 3-member crew to low-earth orbit (about 400 km altitude) using an Indian launch system (GSLV Mk III / LVM-3).
- Option (b) is incorrect: Gaganyaan is not a lunar mission.
- Option (c) is incorrect: It explicitly involves astronauts.
- Option (d) is incorrect: While Russia provides training support, it is not a joint venture for a space station.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Inflation and Monetary Policy in India:

1. Cost-push inflation can be effectively controlled by tightening monetary policy since it directly reduces the cost of production.



2. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in India targets headline inflation rather than core inflation, which sometimes creates policy dilemmas.
3. Inflation targeting under the flexible framework in India is legally mandated by an amendment to the RBI Act, 1934.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Cost-push inflation arises from supply shocks (oil prices, etc.); monetary tightening reduces demand but does not reduce production costs, making it less effective.
- Statement 2 is correct: India's MPC targets headline CPI (including food and fuel), unlike advanced economies that focus more on core inflation, leading to dilemmas when food/fuel inflation is supply-driven.
- Statement 3 is correct: The RBI Act, 1934, was amended in 2016 to establish a legal framework for flexible inflation targeting ($4\% \pm 2\%$).

Q4. With reference to the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) and the Basic Structure Doctrine, consider the following statements:

1. The judgment was delivered by a 13-judge bench, making it the largest bench in the history of the Supreme Court of India.
2. The Court ruled that Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights, but not the "basic structure."
3. The exact phrase "basic structure" was defined exhaustively in the judgment, leaving no ambiguity for future interpretation.
4. Later cases such as Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975) and Minerva Mills (1980) further expanded and clarified the scope of the doctrine.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Kesavananda Bharati was decided by a 13-judge bench, the largest ever.
- Statement 2 is correct: Parliament's amending power was upheld, but the Court introduced a limitation—basic structure cannot be altered.



- Statement 3 is incorrect: The judgment never gave an exhaustive list; it left the doctrine open-ended for interpretation.
- Statement 4 is correct: Later cases clarified what constitutes “basic structure” (judicial review, separation of powers, democracy, etc.).

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Recent studies suggest that the Indian monsoon is increasingly influenced by the warming of the Indian Ocean and frequent occurrence of El Niño Modoki events.

Reason (R): Warmer sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific shift convection patterns eastward, leading to enhanced rainfall over the Indian subcontinent.

- (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: (c)

Explanation:

- Assertion is correct: Recent climate studies show that monsoon variability is influenced by the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), Arabian Sea warming, and El Niño Modoki events.
- Reason is incorrect: El Niño/El Niño Modoki typically suppress Indian monsoon rainfall, not enhance it. Enhanced rainfall occurs in cases of positive IOD or La Niña, not due to eastward shift of convection.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Two-Dimensional (2D) Materials recently in news:

1. Graphene, a 2D material, exhibits high electrical conductivity but fails to demonstrate mechanical strength comparable to steel.
2. Transition Metal Dichalcogenides (TMDs), another class of 2D materials, are being explored in India for next-generation semiconductor devices due to their tunable bandgap properties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation:



- Statement 1 is incorrect: Graphene not only has exceptional electrical conductivity but also possesses extraordinary mechanical strength—about 200 times stronger than steel.
- Statement 2 is correct: TMDs like MoS₂ are studied for their bandgap properties, enabling use in semiconductors, flexible electronics, and energy devices. India's National Graphene Institute initiatives also explore this frontier.

Q2. Which of the following best describes the classification of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India?

- (a) They were identified under the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
- (b) They are notified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs based on criteria such as pre-agricultural level of technology, stagnant population, and low literacy.
- (c) They are automatically included in the Scheduled Tribes list once identified by State Governments.
- (d) They are classified solely on the basis of geographical isolation and forest dependence.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- PVTGs were identified by the Government of India (1975 onwards) using criteria: pre-agricultural technology, low literacy, declining/stagnant population, and economic backwardness.
- (a) is incorrect: PESA relates to governance in Scheduled Areas, not PVTG classification.
- (c) is incorrect: PVTG identification requires central notification, not automatic inclusion.
- (d) is incomplete: Geographical isolation is one factor but not the sole criterion.

Q3. With reference to the India–Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), consider the following statements:

1. The CSP allows both countries to conduct joint naval patrols in the South China Sea under the framework of ASEAN Defense Ministers' Plus mechanism.
2. India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has recently been integrated with Singapore's PayNow system as part of the CSP framework.
3. Defence cooperation under the CSP includes access for Indian naval ships to Changi Naval Base.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: While India and Singapore conduct naval exercises (SIMBEX), joint patrols in South China Sea are not formally institutionalized under CSP.
- Statement 2 is correct: In 2023, UPI–PayNow linkage was launched, boosting fintech connectivity.



- Statement 3 is correct: Indian naval ships get access to Singapore's Changi Naval Base for logistics and operational support.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Beas and Sutlej rivers:

1. The Beas River originates from Beas Kund near Rohtang Pass, while the Sutlej originates from Lake Rakshastal near Mount Kailash in Tibet.
2. The Beas merges with the Sutlej in Punjab, after which their waters flow into the Indus basin.
3. Both rivers are part of the Indus Waters Treaty, where India has exclusive rights over their waters.

Which of the statements given above 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: Beas originates from Beas Kund, Rohtang Pass (Himachal Pradesh); Sutlej from Lake Rakshastal near Mount Kailash, Tibet.
- Statement 2 is correct: Beas joins Sutlej at Harike in Punjab before both flow into Pakistan as part of the Indus basin.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Under Indus Waters Treaty, India has rights over eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej), but not “exclusive”—usage is subject to treaty obligations like storage limits.

Q5. With reference to Environmental Auditors in India, consider the following statements:

1. They are mandated under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to independently certify compliance of industries with pollution control norms.
2. In practice, environmental auditors in several states function under State Pollution Control Boards but are often accused of conflict of interest as they are paid by the very industries they audit.
3. A recent Supreme Court observation highlighted the “toothless nature” of environmental audits in India and stressed the need for an independent accreditation mechanism.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Environmental auditing flows from provisions of Environment Protection Act, though implementation varies.



- Statement 2 is correct: Paid directly by industries, raising conflict of interest.
- Statement 3 is correct: SC and NGT have criticized environmental auditing, calling for reforms.

Q6. Lipulekh Pass, recently in news, is strategically significant because:

- (a) It connects Uttarakhand's Kumaon region with Western Nepal and provides access to the Mansarovar region in Tibet.
- (b) It is the only pass linking Sikkim to Bhutan and China simultaneously.
- (c) It lies on the tri-junction of Arunachal Pradesh, Myanmar, and China.
- (d) It connects Ladakh to Gilgit-Baltistan via the Shyok Valley.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Lipulekh Pass lies at the tri-junction of India (Uttarakhand), Nepal, and Tibet (China).
- It serves as a route for Kailash–Mansarovar Yatra.
- The pass is disputed with Nepal, which claims inclusion of Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura areas in its revised 2020 political map.
- Options (b), (c), (d) are incorrect as they refer to other passes/locations.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS–1)

Q1. *Discuss the role of women in India's freedom struggle with special reference to their contributions in regional movements. How did their participation reshape gender perceptions in colonial India?*

Sample Answer:

The freedom struggle of India was not merely a political confrontation with colonial rule but also a social revolution that expanded the scope of public participation. Women, long confined to domestic spaces, emerged as powerful actors in both national and regional movements.

In Bengal, the **Swadeshi Movement (1905–11)** witnessed the active participation of women in boycotts, picketing of foreign goods, and the promotion of indigenous industries. Figures like **Sarojini Naidu** and **Basanti Devi** mobilized women to defy social barriers. Similarly, the **Quit India Movement (1942)** saw large-scale involvement of women at the grassroots—Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the Congress flag in Mumbai, while Usha Mehta set up the secret Congress Radio to keep the movement alive.



At the regional level, women were equally prominent. In the **North-East**, Rani Gaidinliu spearheaded a socio-religious movement that transformed into an anti-colonial struggle. In Andhra, **Durgabai Deshmukh** mobilized women for constructive programmes under Gandhian leadership. The **Civil Disobedience Movement in Gujarat** was strengthened by Kasturba Gandhi and women salt satyagrahis. Tribal women like **Matangini Hazra** in Bengal and Kanaklata Barua in Assam sacrificed their lives in processions, displaying both political courage and regional identity.

Women's participation had profound implications. It challenged Victorian ideals of "separate spheres" and Indian patriarchal norms by legitimizing women's presence in public and political domains. Their sacrifices reshaped gender perceptions, laying foundations for constitutional guarantees of equality and political rights in independent India.

Thus, the role of women in freedom struggle—both in mainstream and regional contexts—was not merely supportive but transformative. It broadened the base of the nationalist movement and simultaneously sowed the seeds of gender emancipation in modern India.

(GS-2)

Q2. *Judicial reforms in India often oscillate between concerns of pendency, judicial appointments, and accountability. Critically examine the challenges posed by pendency of cases and the collegium vs NJAC debate in ensuring judicial efficiency and independence.*

Sample Answer:

India's judiciary, hailed as the guardian of constitutional rights, faces a twin crisis: enormous pendency of cases and institutional debates on judicial appointments. Both issues are interlinked with questions of efficiency, independence, and accountability.

The pendency problem is staggering. As per recent data, over **5 crore cases** are pending across all levels of judiciary. The implications are manifold: delayed justice erodes public faith, burdens the economy through stalled contracts, and undermines constitutional rights of undertrials languishing in prisons. Causes include shortage of judges (India has ~21 judges per million population compared to 50 in developed countries), inadequate infrastructure, frequent adjournments, and procedural inefficiencies.

Judicial appointments add another dimension. The **Collegium System**, evolved through judicial interpretation (Second Judges Case, 1993), ensures that judges appoint judges, thereby safeguarding judicial independence from executive overreach. However, critics argue that it lacks transparency and accountability. The **NJAC (National Judicial Appointments Commission)**, passed in 2014, attempted to introduce a participatory mechanism involving executive and eminent persons. Yet, the Supreme Court struck it down in 2015, citing violation of judicial independence as part of the basic structure.

The debate, therefore, reflects a tension between independence and accountability. While the collegium preserves autonomy, its opacity undermines democratic legitimacy. Conversely, NJAC promised transparency but risked politicisation.

Reform solutions require a balanced approach:

- Filling vacancies through time-bound appointment processes.
- Leveraging technology (e-Courts, AI-assisted case management) to streamline disposal.
- Establishing All-India Judicial Service to strengthen lower judiciary.



- Introducing transparency in collegium functioning—publishing reasons for appointments and transfers.
- Institutional innovations like National Court of Appeal to reduce Supreme Court burden.

In conclusion, pendency and appointments are not isolated issues but symptomatic of systemic undercapacity. True judicial reform must reconcile efficiency with independence, ensuring justice remains timely, accessible, and credible—the soul of a constitutional democracy.

(GS–3)

Q3. *India's energy transition is framed as a delicate balance between sustaining economic growth and fulfilling climate commitments. Critically evaluate the opportunities and challenges India faces in achieving this dual objective.*

Sample Answer:

India, the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, is simultaneously one of the fastest-growing economies. Its energy transition, therefore, represents a unique challenge: balancing developmental imperatives with global climate responsibilities.

Opportunities:

India has set ambitious targets—**net-zero by 2070**, 50% cumulative electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and reducing emissions intensity of GDP by 45%. Renewable energy expansion is a key driver, with solar capacity (70+ GW) positioning India as a leader in the International Solar Alliance. Investments in green hydrogen and offshore wind promise to diversify the energy mix. Transitioning to clean energy also reduces import dependence, enhancing energy security while creating green jobs and boosting innovation.

Challenges:

The path is fraught with contradictions. Nearly 70% of electricity still comes from coal, vital for base-load requirements. Premature transition risks economic slowdown and job losses in coal-dependent regions. Financing remains a bottleneck; India requires over **\$10 trillion by 2070** for decarbonisation. Technological gaps in storage, grid integration, and green hydrogen make scaling difficult. Moreover, climate commitments must align with developmental equity—India's per capita emissions remain one-third of the global average, making developmental growth a moral necessity.

Policy Dilemmas:

Balancing is evident in policies like expanding renewable capacity while simultaneously auctioning new coal mines. States face political pressures of providing cheap energy while adhering to renewable targets. Energy justice—ensuring affordability, accessibility, and sustainability—complicates the transition.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen domestic manufacturing (solar panels, storage batteries) to reduce import dependence.
- Mobilize global climate finance and technology transfer under UNFCCC principles.
- Adopt just transition policies for coal workers.
- Invest in smart grids, storage, and green hydrogen.
- Enhance regional cooperation (e.g., One Sun, One World, One Grid).



In sum, India's energy transition is not a linear shift but a calibrated balancing act. Success lies in synchronising climate goals with inclusive growth, ensuring that sustainability does not compromise developmental aspirations.

(GS-4)

Q4. *Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies present unprecedented ethical challenges. Discuss the ethical issues involved and suggest a framework for their responsible deployment in governance and society.*

Sample Answer:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies are transforming governance, economy, and society. While their potential is immense—from predictive healthcare to precision agriculture—they raise profound ethical dilemmas.

Ethical Issues:

1. **Bias and Discrimination:** Algorithms often reflect biases in training data, leading to discriminatory outcomes in recruitment, credit scoring, or law enforcement.
2. **Privacy Concerns:** AI-enabled surveillance, facial recognition, and data collection threaten citizens' right to privacy (K.S. Puttaswamy judgment, 2017).
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** AI operates as a "black box," making it difficult to assign responsibility when errors or harms occur.
4. **Autonomy and Human Dignity:** Over-reliance on machines risks undermining human agency, especially in decision-making contexts like judicial sentencing or medical care.
5. **Security Risks:** Emerging technologies raise threats of cyber warfare, deepfakes, and autonomous weapons.
6. **Job Displacement:** Automation could exacerbate unemployment and inequality.

Framework for Responsible Deployment:

- **Ethical Principles:** AI systems must adhere to fairness, accountability, transparency, and explainability (FATE).
- **Legal Safeguards:** Establish data protection legislation, algorithmic audit mechanisms, and regulatory bodies for oversight.
- **Inclusive Design:** Ensure diverse datasets, participatory design involving marginalised communities, and socio-economic inclusivity.
- **Human-Centric AI:** Maintain human-in-the-loop in critical decision-making; AI should augment rather than replace human judgment.
- **Global Norms:** Collaborate with international frameworks (OECD AI Principles, UNESCO's AI Ethics framework) to ensure interoperability.
- **Education and Reskilling:** Prepare workforce for technological disruptions by investing in digital literacy and future skills.

In conclusion, AI is both a transformative tool and an ethical test for governance. Responsible deployment requires balancing innovation with rights, efficiency with dignity, and global competitiveness with ethical



stewardship. India's approach must align technological progress with constitutional values of justice, equality, and liberty.

Current Affairs:

Q5. *Ageing is emerging as a critical public health and socio-economic challenge for India. Examine the implications of an ageing population and suggest policy measures to address the growing health and social burden.*

Sample Answer:

India, once perceived as a young nation, is undergoing a demographic transition. By 2050, nearly **20% of its population will be above 60 years**, compared to 8% in 2015. While longevity reflects developmental progress, ageing presents complex health and social challenges.

Implications:

- **Health Burden:** Elderly populations face higher incidence of non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular, diabetes, cancer). Rising cases of dementia and mental health issues strain the healthcare system. Geriatric care remains underdeveloped.
- **Economic Strain:** Increased dependency ratio puts pressure on working-age population. Informal labour markets and lack of pension coverage worsen vulnerability.
- **Social Concerns:** Breakdown of joint family structures reduces informal care. Elder abuse, neglect, and loneliness are growing concerns.
- **Policy Gaps:** Current schemes like National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme have limited reach, inadequate funding, and urban bias.

Policy Measures:

1. **Healthcare Strengthening:** Expand geriatric care units at district hospitals, promote home-based care, integrate telemedicine for rural elderly.
2. **Financial Security:** Universal social pension schemes, insurance coverage for elderly, and incentivised savings instruments are critical.
3. **Preventive Health:** Focus on active ageing through lifestyle interventions, regular screenings, and community-based wellness centres.
4. **Social Infrastructure:** Promote community-based care centres, day-care facilities, and elderly-friendly urban designs.
5. **Technology Use:** Deploy assistive technologies—wearables, AI-based health monitoring—for elderly safety and independence.
6. **Legal and Institutional Support:** Strengthen implementation of Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act; create grievance redressal mechanisms for elder abuse.
7. **Intergenerational Engagement:** Encourage policies integrating elderly wisdom in schools, workplaces, and civic life.



In essence, ageing should not be seen as a burden but as an opportunity to harness the “silver dividend.” A holistic approach, combining healthcare, financial security, and social dignity, is essential for India to manage its ageing population while upholding its civilisational ethos of respect for elders.

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