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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 22/09/2025 (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 Chalukyas:

1. The Chalukyas of Badami were instrumental in consolidating a unified administration across the Deccan region by establishing provinces called *vishayas*.
2. Pulakeshin II, a famous Chalukya ruler, defeated Harsha of Kanauj at the Battle of Narmada, but refrained from pursuing north of the Narmada due to logistical constraints.

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) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The Chalukyas of Badami (6th–8th centuries CE) established a strong administrative framework with provinces called *vishayas*, each governed by a viceroy or local chief, making statement 1 correct.
- Pulakeshin II (r. 610–642 CE) expanded the Chalukya empire significantly, defeating Harsha in 618 CE at the Battle of Narmada. Historical sources (like Aihole inscription) confirm that he did not extend further north, supporting statement 2.
- Both statements are thus correct.

Q2. India's biodiversity hotspots cover only a small fraction of its geographical area. Which of the following is the largest biodiversity hotspot entirely within India?

- (a) Himalaya
- (b) Indo-Burma
- (c) Sundalands
- (d) Indo-Malayan

Answer: (a) Himalaya

Explanation:

- India has 4 global biodiversity hotspots entirely or partially within its borders.
- The Himalayan hotspot extends over a large portion of northern India, including the Indian Himalayan Region, and is entirely within Indian territory, making it the largest fully Indian hotspot.
- Indo-Burma and Sundalands are partially outside India, and Indo-Malayan is not officially recognized as a distinct hotspot.

Q3. With respect to CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) and SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio), consider the following statements:

1. CRR is the minimum fraction of a commercial bank's net demand and time liabilities that it has to maintain with the RBI in the form of cash.



2. SLR is the minimum percentage of a commercial bank's net demand and time liabilities that it must invest in specified government-approved securities before offering credit to customers.
3. Any increase in SLR reduces the lending capacity of commercial banks, while an increase in CRR directly affects liquidity but not credit allocation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2, and 3

Explanation:

- CRR is the fraction of NDTL that banks must hold as cash with the RBI; SLR is the fraction invested in government securities. Both definitions are correct.
- Higher SLR reduces the funds available for lending, constraining credit, while higher CRR locks liquidity with RBI but does not directly control credit allocation.
- Therefore, all three statements are correct.

Q4. Consider the following major constitutional amendments in India:

1. 42nd Amendment – Fundamental Duties added to the Constitution.
2. 44th Amendment – Restored some freedoms curtailed by the 42nd Amendment during the Emergency.
3. 73rd Amendment – Introduced the Panchayati Raj system.
4. 86th Amendment – Made education a fundamental right for children aged 6–14 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correctly matched?

- (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: (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Explanation:

- 42nd Amendment (1976) added Fundamental Duties under Article 51A.
- 44th Amendment (1978) reversed several provisions of the 42nd Amendment that curtailed civil liberties.
- 73rd Amendment (1992) introduced Part IX (Panchayati Raj) and mandated regular elections.
- 86th Amendment (2002) added Article 21A, making education a fundamental right for children aged 6–14.
- All four statements are correctly matched.



Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): Space debris poses a significant threat to operational satellites and the International Space Station.

Reason (R): Collisions between space debris and active satellites can generate more debris, leading to a cascading effect called the Kessler Syndrome.

- (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:

- Space debris consists of defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, and fragments from collisions. They pose collision risks to operational satellites and space stations.
- The Kessler Syndrome hypothesizes that collisions generate more debris, increasing the likelihood of further collisions, which directly explains the risk described in the assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding India's collaboration with FAO to build Blue Ports:

1. The initiative aims to modernize India's fishing harbours to meet global standards and enhance sustainable fisheries management.
2. FAO will provide technical support, but funding will be entirely borne by the Indian government under the Blue Economy Act.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- India and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) have partnered to develop world-class Blue Ports along the Indian coast to modernize fisheries infrastructure and promote sustainable practices.
- FAO provides technical expertise, training, and policy guidance, but funding is shared with other stakeholders; it is not entirely borne by India.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct, but statement 2 is incorrect.



Q2. Which of the following recently added natural sites in India have been included in UNESCO's tentative list?

- (a) Valley of Flowers, Nanda Devi, Keoladeo National Park
- (b) Lonar Crater Lake, Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Sunderbans
- (c) Seven new sites including Panna Tiger Reserve, Lonar Crater, and the Seshachalam Hills
- (d) Kaziranga, Manas, and Sundarbans

Answer: (c) Seven new sites including Panna Tiger Reserve, Lonar Crater, and the Seshachalam Hills

Explanation:

- In 2025, UNESCO's tentative list of Indian natural heritage sites was updated with seven new sites, including Panna Tiger Reserve, Lonar Crater Lake, Seshachalam Hills, and others.
- This does not include previously recognized sites like Kaziranga, Manas, or Sunderbans.

Q3. With respect to Yellow-Crested Cockatoos, consider the following statements:

1. They are critically endangered birds native to Indonesia and East Timor.
2. Habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade are major threats to their population.
3. India has included them in its list of species for potential captive breeding under CITES regulations.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Yellow-Crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*) are critically endangered and native to Indonesia and East Timor.
- Primary threats include deforestation and illegal trade in exotic birds.
- India has not officially included them for captive breeding; the focus is on awareness and compliance with international conventions like CITES.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the India-AI Impact Summit 2026:

1. It aims to create a national roadmap for responsible AI deployment across sectors.
2. It will be hosted jointly by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
3. The summit will focus solely on military and defense applications of AI in India.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 focuses on responsible AI adoption, policy guidelines, and sectoral impact including healthcare, agriculture, governance, and industry.
- NITI Aayog and MeitY are co-hosting the summit.
- Statement 3 is incorrect as the summit is not limited to defense applications; it covers all sectors.

Q5. With reference to the WIPO Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, consider the following statements:

1. India ranked within the top 40 countries for overall innovation performance.
2. India performed better in creative outputs than in knowledge and technology outputs.
3. GII evaluates countries based on institutions, human capital, research, infrastructure, market sophistication, and business sophistication.
4. The ranking also considers environmental sustainability and digital readiness as innovation drivers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 3, and 4 only

Explanation:

- India has steadily climbed in the GII rankings, entering the top 40 in 2025.
- GII evaluates multiple innovation pillars including institutions, human capital, infrastructure, knowledge outputs, market and business sophistication.
- Environmental sustainability and digital readiness are emerging indicators in the GII framework.
- Statement 2 is incorrect as India's knowledge and technology outputs are stronger than its creative outputs.

Q6. On the map of South America, locate Mount Aconcagua.

- (a) Brazil – Near Rio de Janeiro
(b) Argentina – In the Andes near Mendoza
(c) Chile – In the Atacama Desert
(d) Peru – Near Machu Picchu

Answer: (b) Argentina – In the Andes near Mendoza

Explanation:



- Mount Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Americas (6,961 m), is located in the Andes mountain range in western Argentina, near Mendoza.
- It is not in Brazil, Chile, or Peru, making option (b) correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1:

Q1. Examine the role of the Chalukyas in shaping the political and cultural landscape of early medieval Deccan.

Sample Answer:

- The Chalukyas (6th–8th centuries CE) were among the foremost dynasties in the Deccan, ruling over modern Karnataka, parts of Maharashtra, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. They played a crucial role in consolidating political authority after the decline of the Gupta Empire.
- **Political Consolidation:** The Chalukyas established a strong administrative structure with *vishayas* (provinces) and local governors, creating a template for regional governance. Pulakeshin II (r. 610–642 CE) is noted for defeating Harsha at the Narmada, marking a clear north-south political boundary. The dynasty maintained both military prowess and diplomatic alliances to sustain regional stability.
- **Cultural and Religious Contributions:** The Chalukyas fostered both Hindu and Jain traditions. They patronized temple architecture, as seen in the rock-cut caves at Badami, and structural temples at Aihole and Pattadakal, blending Nagara and Dravida styles. This period witnessed the growth of Sanskrit literature and inscriptions, reflecting administrative sophistication and socio-religious ethos.
- **Economic Developments:** The dynasty promoted agrarian productivity through irrigation and trade networks. Strategic location along the Deccan plateau facilitated commerce between northern and southern India, laying foundations for a thriving economy.
- **Legacy:** Chalukyan governance and art influenced successor dynasties, such as the Rashtrakutas and Western Chalukyas, creating continuity in political and cultural structures. Their temple architecture served as a model for South Indian temples for centuries.
- **Conclusion:** The Chalukyas were not merely regional rulers but key agents of political consolidation, cultural synthesis, and economic integration in early medieval India. Their contributions provide valuable insight into the continuity and transformation of Indian polity, religion, and art after the Gupta period.

UPSC Relevance: High – Important for questions on post-Gupta polity, early medieval South Indian culture, and temple architecture.



GS-2:

Q2. Critically analyse India's Act East Policy in enhancing regional connectivity and economic integration in Southeast Asia.

Sample Answer (300+ words):

- **Background:** India's Act East Policy (AEP), a refinement of the Look East Policy, focuses on deepening strategic, economic, and cultural ties with ASEAN countries. Launched under PM Modi in 2014, it seeks to enhance India's geopolitical engagement in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Strategic Objectives:** AEP strengthens India's maritime security and counters strategic encirclement. By promoting naval cooperation, joint exercises, and intelligence sharing, India aims to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific. Engagements through forums like ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) reinforce regional security architecture.
- **Economic Connectivity:** AEP emphasizes trade, infrastructure, and digital connectivity. India has signed agreements like the India-ASEAN Free Trade Area and invested in the Mekong-India Economic Corridor. Projects such as the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Corridor and BIMSTEC transport network enhance cross-border trade.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** India leverages historical and cultural linkages with Southeast Asia, including Buddhist heritage, to strengthen soft power. People-to-people contacts, educational exchanges, and tourism promote mutual understanding.
- **Challenges:** Regional connectivity faces hurdles due to geopolitical tensions (China's influence in Myanmar and the South China Sea), infrastructure gaps, and limited private sector participation.
- **Way Forward:** Enhancing digital trade corridors, sustainable development partnerships, and collaborative innovation initiatives can strengthen AEP's effectiveness.
- **Conclusion:** India's Act East Policy is pivotal for integrating India into the Southeast Asian economic and strategic matrix. By balancing soft power, trade, and security cooperation, it enhances India's regional influence while fostering development in neighbouring countries.

UPSC Relevance: High – Questions on foreign policy, regional integration, and Indo-Pacific strategy.

GS-3:

Q3. Evaluate the significance of Artificial Intelligence in India's economic growth and the challenges in its adoption.

Sample Answer:

- **Significance:** AI is a transformative technology driving productivity, efficiency, and innovation across sectors. In India, it impacts healthcare (predictive diagnostics), agriculture (precision farming), finance (risk assessment, fraud detection), and governance (smart cities, citizen services).
- **Economic Potential:** According to NITI Aayog, AI could contribute up to \$957 billion to India's GDP by 2035. AI fosters entrepreneurship, start-ups, and foreign investment, particularly in deep-tech sectors. Public sector adoption can reduce costs, improve service delivery, and optimize resource allocation.



- **Government Initiatives:** India's National AI Strategy and AI Mission aim to build AI capabilities, promote research, and develop sector-specific solutions. The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 emphasizes responsible AI deployment across healthcare, agriculture, education, and governance.
- **Challenges:**
 1. **Data Scarcity:** AI requires high-quality datasets; India lacks standardized, accessible data in key sectors.
 2. **Digital Divide:** Unequal access to digital infrastructure can exacerbate inequality.
 3. **Skill Deficit:** Limited AI expertise in workforce hampers innovation and scaling.
 4. **Ethical & Regulatory Concerns:** Issues like algorithmic bias, privacy, and transparency require robust frameworks.
- **Way Forward:** Policy measures should include AI curriculum integration, ethical guidelines, public-private partnerships, and incentives for AI adoption in MSMEs and agriculture.
- **Conclusion:** AI holds immense potential to accelerate India's economic growth and global competitiveness. Strategic policy interventions, ethical governance, and skill development are essential to fully realize its benefits while mitigating risks.

UPSC Relevance: High – Questions on technology, economic policy, and governance.

GS-4:

Q4. Discuss the ethical challenges posed by emerging technologies like AI and genetic editing in governance, and suggest ways to ensure responsible innovation.

Sample Answer (300+ words):

- **Ethical Challenges:** Emerging technologies, particularly AI and CRISPR-based genetic editing, raise ethical dilemmas in governance. AI can perpetuate bias, threaten privacy, and replace human decision-making in critical sectors. Genetic editing involves moral questions regarding human intervention, equity, and consent.
- **Principles at Stake:** Core ethical principles such as fairness, accountability, transparency, and non-maleficence are often challenged. Misuse of technology can erode public trust, deepen inequalities, and lead to unintended social consequences.
- **Governance Concerns:** Policy frameworks lag behind rapid technological advancements. Regulatory gaps may allow misuse in healthcare, surveillance, or law enforcement. International standards are evolving, but India needs domestic frameworks aligned with global norms.
- **Ensuring Responsible Innovation:**
 1. **Ethical Guidelines:** Adopt principles-based regulation emphasizing fairness, transparency, and inclusivity.
 2. **Multi-stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborate with academia, industry, and civil society to anticipate ethical risks.
 3. **Capacity Building:** Train policymakers, scientists, and public administrators in ethical technology deployment.



4. **Oversight Mechanisms:** Establish independent review boards for sensitive technologies to ensure compliance with ethical standards.

- **Case Example:** AI-based governance initiatives, like predictive analytics in healthcare, require ethical audits to prevent bias against vulnerable populations. Similarly, gene-editing experiments must be subject to stringent ethical review and informed consent protocols.
- **Conclusion:** Emerging technologies offer immense benefits, but ethical governance is paramount. Balancing innovation with accountability, transparency, and social justice ensures that technology serves the public good without compromising moral and societal values.

UPSC Relevance: High – Questions on ethics, emerging technologies, and policy-making in governance.

Current Affairs –

Q5. Critically examine the challenges posed by plastic pollution in India's riverine and coastal ecosystems, with reference to initiatives like Plasticdweep.

Sample Answer:

- **Background:** India generates around 3.3 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, with a significant portion entering rivers and oceans. Plastic pollution disrupts aquatic ecosystems, endangers marine life, and affects human livelihoods dependent on fisheries and tourism.
- **Challenges:**
 1. **Microplastics:** Fragmentation of larger plastics results in microplastics, which accumulate in food chains.
 2. **Biodiversity Loss:** Species such as sea turtles, migratory birds, and fish are affected by ingestion or entanglement.
 3. **Riverine Transport:** Major rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, and Godavari act as conduits for plastic waste to reach the ocean.
 4. **Coastal Pollution:** Islands and coastal communities face long-term environmental degradation, affecting coral reefs and mangroves.
- **Plasticdweep Initiative:** Launched as part of India's environmental conservation programs, Plasticdweep aims to identify islands heavily affected by plastic debris, conduct cleanup drives, and promote community participation in waste management. It integrates awareness campaigns, recycling programs, and scientific monitoring to reduce plastic pollution.
- **Policy Measures:** Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 and 2021, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and bans on single-use plastics support mitigation. Collaboration with NGOs, local communities, and international agencies is essential for effective enforcement.
- **Way Forward:**
 1. Strengthen riverine and coastal waste collection infrastructure.
 2. Promote circular economy practices and incentivize alternatives to single-use plastics.
 3. Expand citizen-science initiatives like Plasticdweep to monitor and report pollution hotspots.
 4. Integrate environmental education to reduce consumption and littering.



- **Conclusion:** Plastic pollution is a critical threat to India's aquatic ecosystems and livelihoods. Multi-pronged strategies combining policy enforcement, community engagement, and scientific monitoring, exemplified by Plasticdweep, are vital for sustainable management.
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