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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 16/10/2026 (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:

1. The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins on a large scale.
2. The Satavahanas were known for issuing coins with bilingual inscriptions, one in Prakrit and another in Greek.

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 – Incorrect:** Indo-Greeks issued gold coins but not extensively. The Kushanas were the first to issue gold coins on a large scale in India. Indo-Greeks primarily issued silver and copper coins.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Satavahana coins had bilingual inscriptions, but the second language was usually Tamil or inscriptions in Brahmi script with Prakrit, not Greek. Greek inscriptions were mainly used by Indo-Greeks.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Ramsar Wetlands:

1. A site can be declared as a Ramsar site only if it meets all nine criteria defined by the Ramsar Convention.
2. Once a site is designated as a Ramsar site, it cannot be delisted under any circumstances.
3. India is a party to the Ramsar Convention but is not a member of the Montreux Record mechanism.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Answer: (b) 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** A site needs to meet **at least one** of the nine criteria, not all.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Ramsar sites can be **delisted** or placed under Montreux Record if their ecological character changes.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Montreux Record is not a "membership" body but a list of sites under Ramsar facing ecological changes. India has engaged with this mechanism in the past.

Q3. Consider the following statements about 'Ways and Means Advances' (WMA):

1. They are temporary advances given by the Reserve Bank of India to the Central and State Governments to meet temporary mismatches in cash flow.
2. WMA rates are decided by the Monetary Policy Committee of RBI.
3. The maximum limit for WMA for the Central Government is decided jointly by RBI and the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 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 – Correct:** WMAs are short-term loans from RBI to governments to bridge liquidity gaps.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** WMA interest rate is linked to the repo rate but is set administratively by RBI, not by the MPC.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** For the Centre, WMA limits are set jointly by RBI and the Ministry of Finance; for states, RBI decides separately.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. The CAG is appointed by the President and can be removed by the President without any Parliamentary procedure.
2. The CAG's salary is equal to that of a Supreme Court Judge.
3. The CAG audits both receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the States.
4. The CAG is not responsible for auditing the accounts of Government-owned corporations.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Removal requires the same procedure as a Supreme Court judge — by Parliament, not just the President.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** CAG's salary matches that of a Supreme Court judge.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** CAG audits receipts and expenditure of Union and State Governments.

- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** CAG does audit government-owned corporations under provisions of their respective legislations.

Q5. Assertion-Reason type

Assertion (A): Western Ghats have higher biodiversity than Eastern Ghats.
Reason (R): Western Ghats receive higher and more uniform annual rainfall compared to Eastern Ghats.

(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:

- Western Ghats are a UNESCO World Heritage site and biodiversity hotspot.
- Their high and evenly distributed rainfall supports lush evergreen forests and diverse ecosystems, explaining the higher biodiversity compared to the drier Eastern Ghats.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the GOBARdhan Central Sector Scheme launched in October 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme seeks to scale up commercial Compressed Biogas (CBG) production through a combination of assured offtake, pricing support, capital assistance and connectivity to gas networks.
2. The Compressed Biogas Obligation (CBO) requires City Gas Distribution networks to meet a prescribed share of their obligation through CBG, with the prescribed percentage rising in a phased manner.

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

Detailed Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The GOBARdhan Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, with an announced outlay of ₹23,731 crore for FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36. It integrates pricing support, capital subsidies, pipeline connectivity, credit guarantees and ecosystem development to expand commercial CBG production.
- Statement 2 is correct. The scheme provides for a phased CBO on City Gas Distribution networks: 3% in FY 2026–27, 4% in FY 2027–28 and 5% from FY 2028–29 onwards.

- Conceptual distinction: CBG is produced by processing organic material, such as cattle dung and agricultural waste, whereas conventional natural gas is a fossil fuel extracted from geological reservoirs.
- The scheme also seeks to improve waste management, reduce biomass burning, generate organic manure and reduce dependence on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG).

UPSC trap: Do not confuse a blending or procurement obligation imposed on gas-distribution networks with a mandatory obligation imposed on every individual household.

Q2. Under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, which of the following most accurately describes the legal position of a person who wishes to donate a kidney to an unrelated recipient voluntarily, without monetary consideration?

(a) Such donation is prohibited because the Act permits living donation only between near relatives.
(b) Such donation is automatically permissible if both parties provide written consent, without any further statutory scrutiny.
(c) Such donation may be permitted on grounds of affection, attachment or special reasons, subject to the prescribed scrutiny and approval of the Authorisation Committee.
(d) Such donation is permissible only when the recipient is a foreign national and the donor is an Indian citizen.

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- Section 9(3) of THOTA provides the relevant framework for donations by persons who are not near relatives, where the donation is based on affection, attachment or other special reasons.
- Such a transplant is not automatically authorised merely because both parties consent. The statutory Authorisation Committee examines the circumstances to detect commercial dealings, coercion, inducement or other unlawful arrangements.
- The Act distinguishes between voluntary altruistic donation and commercial organ transactions. A donation without payment may be lawful, but the prescribed safeguards must still be satisfied.
- The Act also regulates the removal, storage and transplantation of human organs and tissues for therapeutic purposes and prohibits commercial dealings in human organs.

UPSC trap: Consent is necessary but does not, by itself, eliminate the statutory approval requirements for unrelated-donor transplantation.

Q3. With reference to the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme, consider the following statements:

3. RoDTEP seeks to remit embedded taxes and levies on exported products that are not refunded through other mechanisms, thereby reducing the incidence of domestic taxes on exports.
4. The scheme operates through transferable electronic duty-credit scrips that may be used to pay Basic Customs Duty on imports, subject to applicable rules.
5. Since RoDTEP is designed to improve export competitiveness, it necessarily reimburses every tax paid by an exporter, including taxes already refunded under another mechanism and all direct taxes on corporate profits.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 — Correct. RoDTEP aims to neutralise previously unrefunded embedded Central, State and local taxes and levies borne by exported goods. Examples include certain electricity duties, mandi taxes and taxes on transport fuel that are not otherwise rebated. The scheme came into effect on 1 January 2021, replacing the WTO-disputed Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).

Statement 2 — Correct. Benefits are issued through electronic duty-credit scrips maintained in a digital ledger on ICEGATE. These scrips can be used to pay Basic Customs Duty on imports or transferred to other eligible firms, subject to the scheme's rules.

Statement 3 — Incorrect. RoDTEP is not an unrestricted reimbursement of every tax or fiscal liability. It targets eligible embedded taxes and levies that have not been refunded elsewhere. The scheme does not provide a blanket refund of corporate income tax or duplicate refunds for taxes already remitted through another mechanism.

Why the distinction matters: RoDTEP is intended to neutralise tax-induced cost disadvantages, not to guarantee exporters a profit or provide an unrestricted export subsidy. Its design is intended to remain consistent with WTO disciplines.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Buxa Tiger Reserve and tiger reintroduction:

6. Buxa Tiger Reserve is located in the Dooars region of West Bengal, and its landscape has ecological connections with Bhutan and adjoining protected areas of northeastern India.
7. The translocation of a tigress from Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar is, by itself, sufficient evidence that a self-sustaining breeding population has already been established in Buxa.
8. The success of tiger reintroduction depends not merely on releasing animals but also on prey availability, habitat quality, connectivity, scientific monitoring and management of human–wildlife conflict.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 — Correct. Buxa Tiger Reserve is situated in the Dooars landscape of northern West Bengal. It is connected ecologically with Bhutan's Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and forms part of a wider landscape linked with protected areas such as Manas Tiger Reserve and other habitats in the region.

Statement 2 — Incorrect. The release of a single tigress is an important conservation intervention, but it does not establish a self-sustaining population. Such a conclusion would require evidence of survival, successful reproduction, recruitment of young animals and long-term population viability.

Statement 3 — Correct. Reintroduction programmes require suitable habitat, an adequate prey base, ecological connectivity, veterinary supervision and post-release monitoring through methods such as camera traps and telemetry collars. Community participation and measures to reduce livestock losses and human–tiger conflict are also important.

Analytical takeaway: Animal translocation is an intervention; population recovery is an outcome. UPSC may test whether a candidate incorrectly treats the former as proof of the latter.

Q5. With reference to TAPAS-1, recently reported in India's private space sector, consider the following statements:

9. TAPAS-1 is a thermal-imaging payload developed by Ahmedabad-based Satleo Labs and is designed to capture variations in thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface.
10. It was launched aboard India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and placed in a geostationary orbit to provide continuous thermal surveillance of a fixed region.
11. Thermal-imaging observations can assist in identifying urban heat islands, assessing agricultural stress and monitoring certain wildfire-related thermal anomalies.
12. The commercial development of a thermal-imaging payload by a private company necessarily means that the satellite's launch vehicle, all onboard components and the entire mission infrastructure were also developed by that company.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: (b) Only two

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Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1 — Correct. TAPAS-1 stands for Thermal Access Platform for Analytics & Solutions. Developed by Satleo Labs, it is described as an indigenously designed commercial private thermal-imaging nanosatellite payload, with a mass of approximately 1.5 kg. It captures thermal infrared variations from the Earth's surface.

Statement 2 — Incorrect. TAPAS-1 was launched aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9, as part of the Transporter-18 rideshare mission. Its reported orbital profile is a Sun-synchronous Low Earth Orbit at approximately 500 km, not a geostationary orbit.

A Sun-synchronous orbit is useful for Earth observation because it enables observations under broadly consistent local solar illumination conditions. A geostationary satellite, by contrast, orbits above the equator with a period matching Earth's rotation and appears stationary relative to a point on Earth.

Statement 3 — Correct. Thermal imagery can help identify surface-temperature variations associated with urban heat islands, crop and water stress, and thermal anomalies from fires. Such applications can support climate adaptation, agricultural decision-making and disaster monitoring.

Statement 4 — Incorrect. Developing a payload does not imply developing every component of the launch and mission system. TAPAS-1's reported launch aboard a SpaceX rocket illustrates the distinction between a privately developed payload and the launch vehicle used to deploy it.

UPSC analytical takeaway: Distinguish among the payload, satellite bus, launch vehicle, orbital profile and downstream data-analytics system. They represent different elements of a space mission.

Q6. Consider the following geographical description:

An independent archipelagic country in Micronesia, situated in the central-western Pacific Ocean, comprising two principal island chains known as Ratak and Ralik. Its capital is Majuro, and Kwajalein Atoll hosts a major US missile-testing and tracking facility.

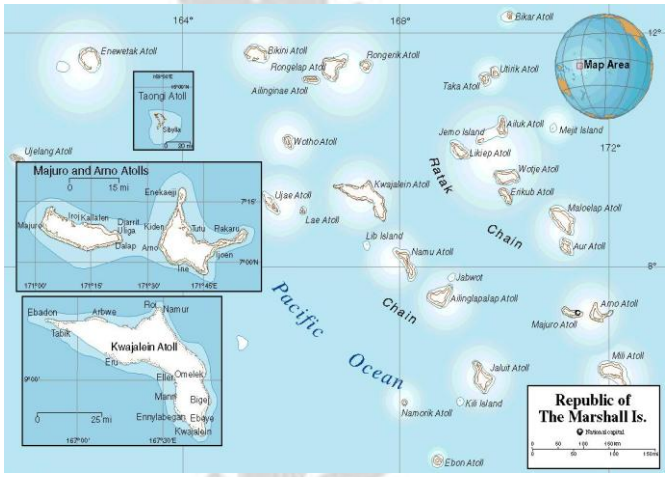
Which of the following countries is being described?

(a) Federated States of Micronesia

(b) Republic of Palau

(c) Republic of the Marshall Islands

(d) Republic of Kiribati



Answer: (c) Republic of the Marshall Islands

Detailed Explanation:

- Location: The Marshall Islands lie in Micronesia in the central-western Pacific, north of the Equator, broadly between Hawaii and Australia.
- Island chains: The eastern chain is known as Ratak, or the Sunrise chain, while the western chain is known as Ralik, or the Sunset chain.
- Capital: Majuro.
- Strategic significance: Kwajalein Atoll hosts the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site, used for missile testing, tracking and space-related activities.
- Political relationship: The Marshall Islands is a sovereign country associated with the United States under a Compact of Free Association. This arrangement provides for US defence responsibilities and financial assistance, alongside specified US strategic rights.
- Environmental vulnerability: Its low-lying coral atolls face serious risks from sea-level rise, coastal inundation and saltwater intrusion into freshwater resources.

Why the other options are incorrect:

- (a) Federated States of Micronesia: Another sovereign Pacific island country, but distinct from the Marshall Islands.
- (b) Palau: An island country in the western Pacific, west of the Federated States of Micronesia.
- (d) Kiribati: A Pacific island country spanning parts of Micronesia and Polynesia, with a different geographical configuration.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1

Q1. Discuss the changing dynamics of joint family systems in India in the context of urbanization and economic transformations.

Sample Answer:
The joint family system, a traditional socio-cultural institution in India, has undergone significant transformation due to the forces of urbanization, industrialization, and economic change.

Historically, joint families offered economic security, shared resources, and a social safety net. They were prevalent in agrarian societies where land was the main source of livelihood and collective labor ensured stability.

Impact of Urbanization:

- **Spatial constraints:** Urban housing patterns make accommodating large families difficult.
- **Occupational mobility:** Migration for jobs and education leads to nuclear family setups.
- **Individualism:** Exposure to modern values promotes personal autonomy over collective decision-making.

Economic Transformations:

- Shift from agrarian to service-based economy reduced dependence on family labor.
- Women's participation in the workforce has altered intra-family roles and authority patterns.
- Rising aspirations and consumerism have encouraged financial independence.

Contemporary Trends:

- **Modified extended families** exist, where nuclear units maintain strong emotional and economic ties with the larger kin network.
- Digital connectivity enables virtual togetherness despite physical separation.
- Economic uncertainties during crises (e.g., COVID-19) highlighted the resilience of extended family support systems.

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Challenges:

- Care for elderly members is becoming fragmented.
- Erosion of traditional knowledge transfer.
- Inter-generational value conflicts.

Way Forward:
Policy measures such as multi-generational housing, tax incentives for caregiving, and community eldercare facilities can blend tradition with modernity.

Conclusion:
While urbanization and economic changes have diluted the traditional joint family model, its values of mutual support and collective responsibility remain relevant, albeit in adapted forms. The future may see hybrid structures combining economic practicality with cultural continuity.

GS-2

Q2. Critically examine the role of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in strengthening grassroots democracy in India.

Sample Answer:
The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, marked a watershed in India's democratic journey by granting constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and ensuring decentralized governance.

Salient Features:

- **Three-tier structure:** Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad.
- **Constitutional backing:** Part IX of the Constitution (Articles 243–243O).
- **Regular elections:** Every five years.
- **Reservation:** One-third seats for women, reservation for SC/STs proportionate to population.
- **State Finance Commission:** To ensure financial viability.

Achievements:

- Enhanced political participation, especially among marginalized groups.
- Women's representation rose significantly; studies show increased focus on social welfare and public goods in women-led Panchayats.
- Localized decision-making has improved responsiveness to community needs.

Challenges:

- **Capacity deficits:** Lack of training and administrative expertise hampers effective governance.
- **Fiscal dependence:** States control funds; devolution of financial powers remains weak.
- **Elite capture:** Local elites often dominate decision-making, undermining inclusivity.
- **Parallel bureaucracy:** Limited control over local officials reduces PRI autonomy.

Critical Perspective:
While the 73rd Amendment has democratized local governance, its transformative potential is constrained by structural, financial, and capacity-related issues. States vary widely in empowering PRIs, reflecting political will and local socio-economic conditions.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen capacity building through regular training.
- Ensure untied funds and fiscal autonomy.
- Use technology for transparency and citizen participation.
- Legal safeguards against undue state interference.

Conclusion:
The 73rd Amendment has laid the foundation for grassroots democracy, but its success hinges on deepening devolution, building institutional capacity, and fostering an empowered citizenry.

GS-3

Q3. Evaluate the strategic significance of hypersonic missile technology for India's defence preparedness.

Sample Answer:
Hypersonic missile technology, capable of speeds greater than Mach 5, represents a transformative advancement in modern warfare due to its speed, maneuverability, and reduced reaction times for adversaries.

Strategic Advantages:

1. **Enhanced Deterrence:** The speed and unpredictability of hypersonic weapons complicate interception by current air defence systems.
2. **Precision Strike Capability:** They can strike high-value targets deep inside enemy territory with minimal warning.
3. **Reduced Detection Time:** Limits adversary's decision-making window.
4. **Force Multiplication:** Enhances the credibility of India's second-strike capability in the nuclear triad.

India's Progress:

- DRDO is developing the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV).
- Collaboration with Russia on hypersonic variants of the BrahMos missile.
- Development aligned with the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) vision for self-reliance.

Challenges:

- **Technological complexity:** Thermal management, propulsion, and material durability at extreme speeds.
- **Cost and infrastructure:** High R&D expenditure and advanced testing facilities required.
- **Geopolitical race:** The US, China, and Russia are ahead in operational deployment, intensifying strategic competition.

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Strategic Context:

- Hypersonic capability fits into India's strategic posture against two-front threats (China and Pakistan).
- Countering China's DF-17 missile system is a key motivation.
- It contributes to India's role in emerging defence partnerships like QUAD.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen indigenous R&D while exploring strategic collaborations.
- Integrate hypersonic systems into overall deterrence strategy without triggering destabilizing arms race.

Conclusion:
Hypersonic missiles are not just technological milestones but strategic assets. For India, they can reinforce

deterrence, enhance operational readiness, and ensure credible defence in a rapidly evolving threat landscape.

GS-4

Q4. "Transparency is the antidote to corruption." Discuss the ethical significance of transparency in public administration with suitable examples.

Sample Answer:
Transparency refers to openness in decision-making, accessibility of information, and accountability in governance processes. Ethically, it is grounded in principles of fairness, justice, and public trust.

Ethical Significance:

1. **Accountability:** Transparency ensures that public officials are answerable for their actions, deterring misuse of power.
2. **Public Trust:** Open governance fosters citizen confidence in institutions.
3. **Equity and Fairness:** Decisions taken transparently reduce bias and discrimination.
4. **Prevention of Corruption:** When processes are visible, opportunities for rent-seeking diminish.

Examples:

- **Right to Information Act, 2005:** Empowered citizens to demand records, leading to exposure of scams.
- **E-procurement systems:** Reduced leakages in public contracts by minimizing human discretion.
- **Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile (JAM) Trinity:** Increased direct benefit transfers, reducing middlemen.

Ethical Challenges:

- Excessive transparency may compromise privacy and national security.
- Information overload can obscure critical issues.
- Resistance from vested interests to disclose information.

Balancing Transparency with Other Values:

- Must be paired with data protection laws.
- Citizens should be educated to use information responsibly.

Conclusion:
Transparency is a moral imperative in democratic governance, enabling participatory decision-making and reducing corruption. However, it must be implemented with safeguards to protect sensitive information while ensuring public accountability.

Current Affairs –

Q5. Analyze the evolving India–Philippines Strategic Partnership in the Indo-Pacific context.

Sample Answer:
India–Philippines relations have gained unprecedented momentum in recent years, shaped by shared

strategic concerns in the Indo-Pacific. The partnership spans defence, trade, maritime security, and people-to-people ties.

Strategic Context:

- The Indo-Pacific has emerged as a central geopolitical theatre, with rising tensions in the South China Sea due to China's assertiveness.
- Both countries are committed to a rules-based maritime order under UNCLOS.

Key Developments:

1. **Defence Cooperation:**
    - India supplied the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system to the Philippines in a landmark deal worth $375 million — its first major arms export in this category.
    - Joint military training and capacity-building in maritime domain awareness.
2. **Economic Engagement:**
    - Growing bilateral trade in pharmaceuticals, IT, and agriculture.
    - Cooperation under ASEAN–India framework and BIMSTEC observer linkages.
3. **Maritime Security:**
    - Joint efforts in countering piracy, illegal fishing, and HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief).
4. **People-to-People Ties:**
    - Academic exchanges, cultural diplomacy, and diaspora engagement.

Opportunities:

- Expansion of defence manufacturing collaboration.
- Coordinated stance in multilateral forums like EAS, ARF, and IORA.
- Joint ventures in renewable energy and digital connectivity.

Challenges:

- China's likely reaction to closer India–Philippines defence ties.
- Need to navigate ASEAN's internal divisions on South China Sea disputes.

Conclusion:
The India–Philippines strategic partnership is a significant pillar of India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific strategy. It enhances maritime security, promotes economic resilience, and strengthens the regional balance of power in favour of a free and open Indo-Pacific.