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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 22/10/2026 (THURSDAY)

- **Static mcq's**
- **Current Affairs mcq's**
- **Mains Practice Questions**



9972258970 & 9740702455

#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the administrative and cultural aspects of the Vijayanagar Empire:

1. The Amaranayaka system under Vijayanagar rule was a feudal military institution, but it also had significant revenue administrative functions.
2. Krishnadeva Raya's court patronized Telugu and Tamil scholars, but Sanskrit was officially discouraged in court literature to promote regional languages.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The **Amaranayaka system** was akin to the Iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate. The Amaranayakas were military chiefs who were given land in exchange for maintaining a certain number of troops. They were responsible for collecting **revenue**, administering the territory, and contributing to military campaigns.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: While Krishnadeva Raya indeed **patronized Telugu and Tamil**, he was also a great patron of **Sanskrit**. In fact, he himself wrote a **Sanskrit** work *Jambavati Kalyanam*. Sanskrit was **not discouraged**; instead, it coexisted with regional languages.

Q2. Consider the following statements about ecological pyramids and trophic levels:

1. In a typical pyramid of energy, about 90% of the energy is lost at each successive trophic level primarily through heat.
2. A pyramid of biomass can sometimes be inverted in aquatic ecosystems but the pyramid of numbers is always upright.
3. Decomposers are not shown in ecological pyramids because they do not consume energy directly from producers or consumers.

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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: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The **10% law** applies to energy flow in trophic levels. About 90% of energy is lost mainly as **heat** due to metabolic processes.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: The **pyramid of numbers can also be inverted**, for example in a tree ecosystem where one tree supports numerous herbivores.

- **Statement 3 is correct**: **Decomposers (fungi, bacteria)** are often **excluded from ecological pyramids** because the model focuses on direct trophic energy transfer. Decomposers consume detritus from **all levels** and hence do not fit neatly into one level.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Pacific Ocean and its geophysical features:

1. The Mariana Trench, the deepest oceanic trench, is a convergent boundary where the Pacific Plate subducts beneath the Philippine Plate.
2. The Pacific Ocean experiences the highest frequency of tsunamis due to its vast size and tectonic plate activity along the Ring of Fire.
3. The western margins of the Pacific are characterized by broad continental shelves and extensive estuaries, unlike its eastern margins.

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) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The **Mariana Trench** is the result of the **Pacific Plate subducting** under the **Philippine Plate**, forming a **convergent boundary**.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: The **Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire"** is the most seismically active zone, making it highly prone to **tsunamis**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**: The **eastern margins** of the Pacific (e.g., along South and North America) have **narrow continental shelves**, and **western margins** (e.g., around Southeast Asia) have **narrower shelves** and deep trenches, not broad ones.

Q4. With reference to the Khajuraho group of temples, consider the following statements:

1. The temples are primarily dedicated to Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions, but also include a few Jain temples.
2. The architectural style follows the Nagara tradition of temple architecture with distinctive shikharas.
3. Erotic sculptures form the core sanctum (garbhagriha) motifs representing tantric rituals.
4. These temples were built by the Chandellas between the 9th and 12th centuries CE.

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Which of the above statements are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The temples of Khajuraho are dedicated mostly to **Hindu deities** (Shiva and Vishnu), but **Jain temples** are also present.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: The temples exhibit **Nagara architecture**, with **curvilinear shikharas** and intricate carvings.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**: The **erotic sculptures** are **not in the sanctum (garbhagriha)**, but on **outer walls**. They do **not represent tantric rituals** as a whole but signify human and divine union as a philosophical metaphor.
- **Statement 4 is correct**: They were constructed under the **Chandella dynasty**, roughly between **950–1050 CE**.

Q5. Assertion–Reason -

Assertion (A): Vaccines use antigens to stimulate the immune system to build memory cells.
Reason (R): Antigens are proteins that directly destroy pathogens during the primary immune response.

What is your answer?
(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: (c) A is true but R is false

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct**: Vaccines **introduce antigens** (weakened/killed/inactivated pathogen components) to **train the immune system** and form **memory cells**.
- **Reason is incorrect**: **Antigens do not destroy pathogens**. They are **foreign molecules**, often **proteins or polysaccharides**, **on the surface of pathogens**, which trigger the **immune response**. It is **antibodies and immune cells** (e.g., cytotoxic T-cells) that **neutralize/destroy** the pathogen.

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The recently imposed 25% tariff by the U.S. on select Indian imports is primarily justified under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act for protecting national security and safeguarding domestic technology.
2. India has filed a counter-case in the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body invoking the principle of "Special and Differential Treatment" under Article XX of GATT.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The **25% tariff** on certain Indian goods (including steel and electronics components) was imposed by the **U.S. invoking Section 301** of the Trade Act, alleging **unfair trade practices and IP theft**, and citing **national security concerns** related to tech transfer.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: **India has not invoked Article XX** (which relates to general exceptions), nor can **"Special and Differential Treatment"** (S&DT) under WTO be used to **challenge retaliatory tariffs**. India has rather **sought consultations** under the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) of WTO but not under Article XX.

Q2. Klyuchevskoy volcano, recently in news for a violent eruption, is located on which of the following tectonic features?
(a) Mid-Atlantic Ridge
(b) Kamchatka subduction zone
(c) East African Rift
(d) Mariana volcanic arc

Answer: (b) Kamchatka subduction zone

Explanation:

- **Klyuchevskoy** is **Eurasia's tallest active stratovolcano**, located in the **Kamchatka Peninsula of Russia**.
- It lies along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, particularly the **Kamchatka subduction zone**, where the **Pacific Plate subducts under the North American Plate**. This region is highly volcanic and tectonically active.

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE):

1. NSE operates on an order-driven electronic trading platform with no market makers, ensuring complete transparency in price discovery.
2. SEBI's regulatory jurisdiction over NSE includes approval of products, circuit filters, and disclosure norms, but not the appointment of top-level executives.
3. NSE's co-location facilities were recently under scrutiny for violating fair access norms, enabling some traders to gain latency advantage.

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) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: NSE operates on a **fully automated screen-based system** that is **order-driven**, without market makers. This increases **anonymity and transparency** in trading.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: SEBI **does regulate the appointment** of key managerial personnel in stock exchanges under **SEBI (Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations) Regulations, 2018**.
- **Statement 3 is correct**: The **co-location scam** involved **preferential access** to trading servers by certain brokers, who used high-frequency trading (HFT) to gain milliseconds advantage, violating **fair access norms**.

Q4. With reference to the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Act provides for the reduction of the minimum government shareholding in public sector banks (PSBs) below 51%.
2. It enables the RBI to initiate merger or restructuring of PSBs without requiring Central Government approval.
3. The Act omits the banking sector from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act to prevent public disclosure of confidential credit data.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The **2025 Amendment Act** provides for **government shareholding in PSBs to fall below 51%**, enabling partial **privatization** of select PSBs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: **RBI cannot initiate restructuring** of PSBs on its own; it **requires approval from the Central Government**, as per existing legal framework.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**: The **RTI Act still applies** to public banks. However, **Section 8(1)(d)** of the RTI Act already provides exemptions for confidential commercial information. The 2025 Act does **not exclude banks from RTI**.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the India-sponsored Wetlands Resolution formally adopted at Ramsar COP15:

1. The Resolution emphasizes mainstreaming wetlands in urban planning and integrating them into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
2. It calls for adoption of a “no net loss” policy, wherein wetlands destroyed for development are mandatorily compensated through restoration elsewhere.
3. The Resolution was co-sponsored by over 20 African and Southeast Asian countries, reflecting Global South solidarity on ecological issues.
4. It binds Ramsar signatories to submit national wetland inventories and legislative reforms within two years.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The Resolution indeed promotes **mainstreaming wetlands into urban planning** and **climate strategies (NDCs)**, acknowledging their **carbon sequestration and flood-mitigation** roles.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: The **"no net loss" principle** is emphasized, aiming to offset development-induced wetland degradation via **compensatory restoration**.
- **Statement 3 is correct**: Over **20 Global South countries**, including from **Africa and Southeast Asia**, co-sponsored the Resolution.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect**: The Resolution is **non-binding** under the Ramsar framework. It **encourages**, but does not mandate, **submission of inventories or legal reforms**.

Q6. Which of the following mountain passes are correctly matched with the states they lie in?

1. Niti Pass – Uttarakhand
2. Bum La Pass – Sikkim
3. Zoji La – Himachal Pradesh
4. Lipulekh Pass – Uttarakhand

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Niti Pass** lies in **Uttarakhand**, near the India-China border.
- **Bum La Pass** is located in **Arunachal Pradesh**, not Sikkim.
- **Zoji La** is in **Jammu & Kashmir (between Srinagar and Leh)**, not Himachal Pradesh.
- **Lipulekh Pass** is in **Uttarakhand**, used for the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 (World History)

Q1. ***Examine the role of Enlightenment philosophy in shaping modern political revolutions, with specific reference to the American and French Revolutions.***
(15 marks, 250 words)

Answer:

The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement in 17th and 18th century Europe that emphasized **reason, individual liberty, secularism, and skepticism of authority**. It laid the ideological foundation for modern democracies and catalyzed political upheavals like the American and French Revolutions.

Role in the American Revolution:

- Thinkers like **John Locke** advocated the idea of **natural rights** — life, liberty, and property — and emphasized the **social contract**, which influenced American revolutionaries.
- **Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence (1776)** reflects Locke's ideas, asserting that governments derive their power from the **consent of the governed**.
- Enlightenment ideals supported **republicanism**, opposing monarchy and hereditary privilege.

Role in the French Revolution:

- **Voltaire**, **Rousseau**, and **Montesquieu** inspired the French revolutionaries with ideas of **secular governance**, **popular sovereignty**, and **separation of powers**.
- **Rousseau's "general will"** theory justified the radical restructuring of French society and the **abolition of aristocratic privileges**.
- The **Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789)** enshrined Enlightenment values like equality and freedom.

Broader Impact:

- Enlightenment thinking challenged the **divine right of kings**, fueling mass mobilization against feudalism and absolutism.
- It promoted the idea that **individuals are rational beings** capable of self-governance.
- Both revolutions set global precedents for **constitutionalism and democratic governance**.

Conclusion:
The Enlightenment fundamentally reshaped political thought, replacing divine rule with rational, people-centric governance. It provided the **intellectual legitimacy for revolution** and remains foundational to modern democratic ideals.

GS Paper 2 (Polity)

Q2. ***Critically evaluate the role of Governor in Indian federalism in light of increasing instances of confrontation between State governments and the Raj Bhavan.***
(15 marks, 250 words)

Answer:

The Governor, as the **constitutional head of the State**, plays a pivotal role in Indian federalism. However, the **increasing politicization** of the office has triggered intense debates on its neutrality and relevance.

Constitutional Role:

- Article 153–162 delineate the Governor's powers.
- Appointed by the President under Article 155, the Governor acts on the advice of the State Council of Ministers (Article 163).
- Discretionary powers include **reserving bills for Presidential assent** (Article 200), **recommending President's Rule** (Article 356), etc.

Issues and Controversies:

- **Withholding assent to Bills** or excessive delays (e.g., Tamil Nadu and Kerala) raise concerns about democratic obstruction.
- **Frequent intervention in legislative matters**, such as summoning/dissolving Assemblies, undermines elected governments.
- Allegations of **partisan conduct** — acting at the behest of the Union government — erode cooperative federalism.

Judicial Standpoint:

- In **Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab (1974)**, the SC held that Governor is a constitutional figurehead bound by the Council's advice.
- In **Nabam Rebia v. Deputy Speaker (2016)**, the SC limited the discretionary powers of the Governor.

Reform Proposals:

- **Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions** recommended that Governors should be apolitical and appointed after consulting the State CM.
- Fixed tenure and removal only via **due process** could enhance credibility.

Conclusion:
The office of Governor is meant to be an impartial link between Centre and State, but it is often misused. Institutional reforms and adherence to constitutional morality are vital to **protect Indian federalism from executive overreach**.

GS Paper 3 (Economy + Science & Tech)

Q3. ***What are the implications of India's growing digital payment ecosystem on financial inclusion and data security? Discuss with examples.***
(15 marks, 250 words)

Answer:

India's digital payment ecosystem has seen exponential growth, driven by innovations like **UPI**, **Aadhaar-linked payments**, **e-RUPI**, and **Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM)** trinity.

Implications for Financial Inclusion:

- **Expanded access**: Over 50 crore bank accounts under PMJDY enable even rural citizens to use digital payments.
- **Ease of transactions**: UPI has democratized payments with minimal transaction costs and mobile-based access.
- **Increased participation**: Women, daily wage workers, and small traders are now active users, especially during COVID-19.

Implications for Data Security:

- **Concerns of digital surveillance**: Centralized data storage raises privacy concerns, especially with Aadhaar-linked wallets.
- **Cybersecurity threats**: Increased phishing, digital fraud, and misuse of payment platforms (e.g., fake QR scams).
- **Inadequate regulation**: India's data protection laws are still evolving; the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** is a step forward.

Balancing Innovation and Risk:

- **Fintech literacy programs** and multilingual UPI apps help reduce digital exclusion.
- RBI's **Payment Security guidelines**, **tokenization**, and **account aggregator framework** seek to protect consumer data.
- India Stack's open architecture balances public and private innovation.

Conclusion:
While digital payments empower financial inclusion, they also bring challenges of **digital inequality and data protection**. A robust legal framework, user education, and ethical tech design are crucial for **inclusive and secure digitization**.

GS Paper 4 (Ethics)

Q4. ***"Ethics is less about laws and more about conscience." In light of this statement, discuss the role of ethical judgment in public administration.***
(10 marks, 150 words)

Answer:

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Ethics goes beyond legal compliance; it is rooted in **conscience and moral reasoning**. While laws provide an external framework, **ethical judgment guides decision-making in gray areas** where laws are silent or ambiguous.

Role in Public Administration:

- **Moral Compass:** Bureaucrats face conflicting demands — legal, political, and social. Ethical judgment ensures decisions align with **public interest** and **justice**.
- **Preventing Discretionary Misuse:** A strong conscience helps prevent corruption and favoritism, especially in areas with **administrative discretion**.
- **Upholding Constitutional Values:** Ethics ensures commitment to **equality, transparency, and accountability**, even under pressure.

- **Whistleblowing and Integrity:** Officers like **E. Sreedharan** and **Ashok Khemka** exemplify how conscience-driven service strengthens governance.

Conclusion:
Laws ensure order, but ethics sustains **trust and legitimacy** in governance. Public servants must cultivate **ethical awareness** to make governance more **humane and equitable**.

Current Affairs

Q5. ***India's collaboration with NASA on the NISAR mission signifies a milestone in strategic and scientific cooperation. Analyze the key objectives and significance of NISAR for India.***
(15 marks, 250 words)

Answer:

The **NASA–ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)** satellite, launched successfully in 2025, represents a landmark Indo-U.S. collaboration in space. It is the first radar imaging satellite that uses **dual-frequency L-band and S-band SAR**, enabling **unprecedented earth observation** capabilities.

Key Objectives of NISAR:

- **Monitor Earth's surface dynamics**: Tracks changes in ecosystems, ice mass, and land deformation with millimeter precision.
- **Disaster management**: Enables early detection of earthquakes, landslides, and floods through real-time ground motion tracking.
- **Agricultural productivity**: Assesses crop growth, soil moisture, and land use patterns, aiding in smart farming.
- **Climate change tracking**: Measures glacier melting, forest biomass, and carbon fluxes.

Significance for India:

- **Boost to space diplomacy**: NISAR reinforces India's global standing as a **space-faring nation and partner**.
- Enhances India's ability to **monitor Himalayan glaciers and tectonic movements**, critical for climate resilience.
- Provides rich **data for governance**, such as urban planning, water resource management, and infrastructure development.
- Sets a precedent for **tech-transfer and R&D collaboration** in cutting-edge satellite technologies.

Strategic Implications:

- Bolsters Indo-U.S. ties under the **Critical and Emerging Technology Initiative (iCET)**.
- Supports India's ambitions in developing **next-generation Earth Observation satellites** and data analytics.

Conclusion:
NISAR is more than a technological marvel; it is a **strategic enabler** for climate resilience, disaster management, and geospatial intelligence. It symbolizes the **synergy of science and diplomacy** in solving global challenges.