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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 29/10/2026 (THURSDAY)

- **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

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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

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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. With reference to the GST Council under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Centre has one-third of the total weighted votes cast in the Council, and the States collectively have two-thirds.
2. Since the GST Council is a constitutional body, its recommendations automatically acquire the force of law without any further legislative or executive action.

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

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Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Under Article 279A, the Centre has one-third of the weighted votes and the States collectively have two-thirds. Any decision needs at least three-fourths of the weighted votes of members present and voting.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Constitutional status does not make every recommendation binding law. In *Union of India v. Mohit Minerals Pvt. Ltd.* (2022), the Supreme Court held that GST Council recommendations have persuasive value. Parliament and State legislatures retain their legislative powers.

- **Examiner's note:** A constitutional body can make recommendations without those recommendations being enforceable law.

Q2. The 2026 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Navanethem "Navi" Pillay. Which one of the following correctly identifies the international offices she has held?

(a) Judge, Special Court for Sierra Leone — Judge, International Criminal Court — UN High Commissioner for Refugees
(b) Judge, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — Judge, International Criminal Court — UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
(c) Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia — Judge, International Criminal Court — UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
(d) Judge, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — President, Permanent Court of Arbitration — UN Secretary-General

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Pillay is a South African jurist of Indian Tamil origin. The Norwegian Nobel Committee honoured her for her efforts to promote peace and international law.
- She served as a judge, and later President, of the ICTR, which tried crimes linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide. She was then a judge of the ICC, a permanent court under the Rome Statute. From 2008 to 2014 she was UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Option (a) is wrong because of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Sierra Leone court. Option (c) is wrong because she was never a prosecutor. Option (d) is wrong because she was neither President of the PCA nor UN Secretary-General.
- **Examiner's note:** The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are different offices.

Q3. Consider the following Assertion (A) and two Reasons (R1 and R2) regarding Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

Assertion (A): An order under Section 163 cannot be justified merely by administrative convenience. Its exercise must satisfy the statutory requirements and constitutional safeguards.

Reason 1 (R1): Section 163 empowers an Executive Magistrate to issue written directions where there are sufficient grounds for urgent prevention or speedy remedy, including threats to public tranquillity or human safety.

Reason 2 (R2): Because Section 163 is a preventive provision, every order under it is exempt from judicial review once the Executive Magistrate records satisfaction.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) Both R1 and R2 are correct, and both explain A.
(b) Both R1 and R2 are correct, but only R1 explains A.
(c) R1 is correct but R2 is incorrect; R1 explains A.
(d) R1 is incorrect but R2 is correct.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **A is correct.** Preventive powers must rest on legally relevant grounds and respect constitutional protections such as the freedom of peaceful assembly and personal liberty.
- **R1 is correct.** Section 163 replaces Section 144 of the CrPC, 1973. It allows urgent written orders by an empowered Executive Magistrate where the statutory conditions are met. This shows that the power is conditional, so it explains A.
- **R2 is incorrect.** Recording satisfaction does not give immunity from judicial review. Courts can test whether an order is lawful, based on relevant material, necessary and proportionate.
- An order under Section 163 ordinarily operates for up to two months. The State Government may extend it by a further period, within the outer limit prescribed in the section.
- **Examiner's note:** Preventive jurisdiction does not mean unrestricted executive discretion.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding India's maritime security infrastructure:

1. INS Mangrol is an indigenously built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited and commissioned at Mumbai in October 2026.
2. Project Seabird at Karwar is intended to develop a major naval base, with facilities for basing, maintaining and supporting warships and submarines.
3. The primary strategic rationale for Project Seabird is to shift India's principal naval base from the western coast to the eastern coast, reducing dependence on the Arabian Sea.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** INS Mangrol (P82) was commissioned on 12 October 2026 at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. Cochin Shipyard built it, with over 80% indigenous content, for anti-submarine warfare in coastal and shallow waters.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Project Seabird is centred on the naval base at Karwar, Karnataka. It supports naval operations, maintenance, logistics and the basing of ships and submarines.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Karwar is on the western coast, facing the Arabian Sea. The project adds operational capacity and strategic depth, including by easing congestion at Mumbai. It is not a relocation to the eastern coast.
- **Examiner's note:** Separate a platform's operational role (INS Mangrol) from a base's infrastructure role (Project Seabird).

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the Nobel Peace Prize, whereas the other Nobel Prizes are awarded by different institutions under the Nobel Prize framework.
2. Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023, is the direct successor to Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
3. The GST Council derives its constitutional basis from Article 280, which empowers it to recommend the distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States.
4. INS Mangrol's shallow-water anti-submarine role and Project Seabird's naval base development are complementary aspects of maritime security, but are institutionally and operationally distinct.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the Peace Prize. The other prizes are awarded by designated Swedish institutions, and the economics prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Section 163 of the BNSS replaces Section 144 of the CrPC and provides for urgent preventive orders by empowered Executive Magistrates.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The GST Council is established under Article 279A, inserted by the Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016. Article 280 deals with the Finance Commission, a separate body.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** INS Mangrol is a combat platform for shallow-water ASW. Project Seabird is naval infrastructure at Karwar. Each contributes to maritime security through different capabilities.
- **Examiner's note:** Article 279A (GST Council) and Article 280 (Finance Commission) are often confused.

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Q6. With reference to the geographical location of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (NDBR), consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Uttarakhand and has Nanda Devi National Park and Valley of Flowers National Park as its core areas.
2. It lies in the eastern Himalaya, primarily across Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
3. The Rishi Ganga is part of the drainage associated with the reserve and joins the Dhauliganga, which forms part of the Alaknanda river system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** NDBR lies in the Garhwal–Kumaon Himalaya of Uttarakhand. Its two core areas are Nanda Devi National Park and Valley of Flowers National Park, which together form a UNESCO World Heritage property.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The reserve is in the western Himalaya. Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland are far to the east.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Rishi Ganga joins the Dhauliganga, which later joins the Alaknanda.
- **Map-based elimination:** Uttarakhand lies in northwestern India, east of Himachal Pradesh and west of Nepal. The reserve is in the high Himalaya of Chamoli district and adjoining areas.

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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