DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 14/08/2025 (THURSDAY)

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

QUIZ TIME!

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The *Brahmadeya* grants in early medieval India were typically made to Brahmanas and resulted in the creation of revenue-free villages.
2. The *Devadana* lands were exclusively reserved for the personal use of temple priests and could not be cultivated by non-priestly communities.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** *Brahmadeya* were indeed tax-free land grants given to Brahmanas, often entire villages, exempt from royal taxes, enhancing Brahmanical influence.

- **Statement 2:** *Devadana* lands were endowed to temples, but cultivation was often done by peasants or other local communities; they were not exclusively for personal priestly use.

- **Note:** The word "exclusively" in statement 2 is extreme and historically inaccurate.

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Mangroves act as carbon sinks and have a higher carbon sequestration rate per hectare compared to most terrestrial forests.
2. The Gulf of Kachchh hosts the largest contiguous area of mangroves in India.
3. Mangroves in India are protected under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as well as included in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) framework.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** True — Mangroves store large amounts of "blue carbon," surpassing many terrestrial forests in carbon sequestration efficiency.

- **Statement 2:** False — The largest contiguous mangrove area in India is the Sundarbans in West Bengal, not the Gulf of Kachchh.

- **Statement 3:** True — Protected under EPA 1986 and regulated under CRZ-I classification.

- **Note:** UPSC often tests *largest/largest contiguous* type facts — here the location makes the difference.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the "Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)" of the Reserve Bank of India:

1. It allows scheduled commercial banks to borrow overnight funds from the RBI against approved government securities up to 1% of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL).
2. The MSF rate is typically higher than the repo rate, making it the lender of last resort in the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor.
3. Unlike the repo facility, MSF borrowing can be accessed even if a bank's Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) holding falls below the prescribed limit.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** True — Banks can borrow overnight up to 1% of NDTL against G-secs.

- **Statement 2:** True — MSF rate > Repo rate; it serves as an emergency borrowing option, hence "last resort."

- **Statement 3:** True — In repo borrowing, SLR must be maintained; MSF allows dipping into SLR holdings.

- **Note:** All statements are correct, but the subtle difference between repo and MSF in SLR requirements is the key.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Inter-State Council in India:

1. It is a constitutional body established under Article 263 of the Constitution of India.
2. Its recommendations are binding on the Union as well as the States.
3. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Inter-State Council.
4. It was first constituted in 1990 following the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** True — Article 263 provides for it.

- **Statement 2:** False — Its recommendations are advisory, not binding.

- **Statement 3:** True — PM chairs it.

- **Statement 4:** True — Constituted in 1990 on Sarkaria Commission's recommendation.

- **Trap:** "Binding" vs "Advisory" nature is the major catch here.

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type –

Assertion (A):
In lithium-ion batteries, cobalt is often used in the cathode to improve energy density and stability.

Reason (R):
Cobalt has a high electrochemical potential and helps maintain structural integrity of the cathode during repeated charge-discharge cycles.

(a)   Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b)   Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c)   A is correct, but R is incorrect.
(d)   A is incorrect, but R is correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **A:** True — Lithium cobalt oxide ($LiCoO_2$) is common in rechargeable Li-ion batteries, providing high energy density.

- **R:** True — Cobalt's electrochemical properties prevent cathode degradation, explaining its use.

- Here, R directly explains A.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* is typically associated with an acute clinical course and is endemic mainly in East and Southern Africa.

2. In 2025, Kenya was validated by WHO for eliminating human African trypanosomiasis as a public health problem.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- *T. b. rhodesiense* causes a rapidly progressive (acute) disease and predominates in East & Southern Africa; *T. b. gambiense* is chronic and occurs in West & Central Africa.

- On 8 August 2025, WHO announced Kenya's validation for eliminating sleeping sickness as a public health problem.

- Both statements are correct — the first tests disease–geography mapping, the second a very recent event.

Q2. 'SabhaSaar', recently launched in August 2025, is best described as which of the following?

(a) An AI tool of MeitY to auto-translate court judgments into Indian languages
(b) A MoPR AI tool that generates structured Minutes of Meeting from Gram Sabha audio/video, integrated with Bhashini
(c) An AI chatbot of TRAI to resolve telecom consumer grievances in regional languages
(d) A PIB module to auto-draft press releases for Ministries

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- SabhaSaar is an AI-based tool launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to record and transcribe Gram Sabha proceedings into structured Minutes of Meeting.

- Integrated with Bhashini, it initially supports 13 Indian languages.

- Aimed at improving transparency and documentation in local governance.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)*:

1. NMBA is implemented by the Department of Health & Family Welfare with technical support from NITI Aayog.

2. The programme initially targeted 272 most vulnerable districts and has since been expanded to all districts of India.

3. Under NMBA, up to ₹10 lakh per district per year is provided for IEC activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect — NMBA is run by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, not Health.

- Statement 2 is correct — started in 272 districts, now expanded nationwide.

- Statement 3 is correct — funding provision is ₹10 lakh per district per year for awareness campaigns (IEC).

Q4. With reference to TRAI's Property Rating Framework for Digital Connectivity, consider the following statements:

1. The *Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024* provide for Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs) to rate properties.

2. The rating is mandatory for all commercial buildings from 2025.

3. The manual considers parameters such as fibre-readiness, in-building mobile coverage, Wi-Fi readiness, and availability of multiple ISPs.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct — DCRAs will assess and rate properties for connectivity infrastructure.

- Statement 2 is incorrect — the framework is voluntary for now; not mandatory.

- Statement 3 is correct — parameters include fibre readiness, indoor coverage, Wi-Fi infra, and multiple ISP options.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

1. On 12 August 2025, the Union Cabinet approved four semiconductor projects in Odisha (two units), Andhra Pradesh (one), and Punjab (one).

2. With these approvals, the total sanctioned projects under ISM reached 10 across six states, with cumulative investments of about ₹1.6 lakh crore.

3. The newly approved SiCSem and 3D Glass Solutions units are to be located in Bhubaneswar's Info Valley (Odisha).

4. ISM functions under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- All four statements are correct — these are the latest approvals adding to ISM's expansion across multiple states.

- Odisha's Info Valley gets two new advanced packaging and fabrication units.

- ISM is anchored in MeitY as the nodal mission.

Q6. With reference to the Chumbi Valley area, consider the following pairs:

Pass/Point	Location/Description
1. Nathu La	Sikkim–Tibet (China) border pass on the western rim of Chumbi Valley
2. Jelep La	Historic route from Kalimpong into Chumbi Valley on the Sikkim–Tibet border
3. Batang La	India–Bhutan position of the tri-junction with Tibet (China)
4. Gipmochi	Point claimed by China for the tri-junction, southeast of Doklam

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- All four pairs are correctly matched.

- Nathu La and Jelep La are two major passes leading into Chumbi Valley from Sikkim.

- Batang La is Bhutan's preferred tri-junction point; Gipmochi is China's claim.

- These passes and points are strategically important due to their proximity to the Siliguri Corridor.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1:

Q1. *Discuss the role of the Bhakti and Sufi movements in promoting religious harmony in medieval India. How relevant are their teachings in contemporary India?*

Answer:

Introduction:
The Bhakti and Sufi movements emerged between the 13th and 17th centuries, as spiritual and social reform movements that transcended religious orthodoxy and caste barriers. While Bhakti evolved within Hindu traditions, Sufism represented a mystical dimension of Islam.

Role in Promoting Religious Harmony:

1. **Common Spiritual Ideals**

   o Both emphasized *love for the divine*, devotion over rituals, and the inner purity of the soul.

   o Saints like Kabir, Guru Nanak, and Nizamuddin Auliya rejected rigid religious divisions.

2. **Use of Vernacular Languages**

   o Poems, songs, and dohas were composed in local dialects (e.g., Kabir's *sakhis*, Tulsidas's *Ramcharitmanas*), making spiritual ideas accessible to the masses.

3. **Opposition to Social Discrimination**

   o Denounced caste hierarchy and untouchability.

   o Advocated equality of all before God.

4. **Cultural Syncretism**

   o Fusion of Hindu and Islamic cultural elements — music (qawwali, bhajans), architecture, and art.

Relevance in Contemporary India:

- **Interfaith Dialogue:** Their emphasis on unity and tolerance is vital in a pluralistic society facing communal polarization.

- **Social Justice:** Their rejection of casteism resonates with constitutional values of equality.

- **Cultural Heritage:** Bhakti and Sufi poetry continue to inspire literature, music, and theatre, serving as soft power globally.

Challenges in Applying Teachings Today:

- Modern religious conflicts are often politicized, requiring both social and institutional mechanisms to revive the spirit of harmony.

Conclusion:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements were not merely religious but deeply social revolutions. In today's climate of identity-based polarization, revisiting their inclusive philosophy can strengthen India's secular fabric.

GS-2:

Q2. *Critically examine the role of Parliamentary Committees in strengthening legislative oversight in India.*

Answer:

Introduction:

Parliamentary Committees are small working groups comprising MPs from various parties, functioning as extensions of Parliament to scrutinize bills, budgets, and government functioning.

Role in Legislative Oversight:

1. **Detailed Scrutiny of Bills**

   o Standing Committees examine legislative proposals clause-by-clause, inviting expert and public inputs.

   o Example: Examination of the Consumer Protection Bill before enactment.

2. **Budgetary Control**

   o Department-related committees review Demands for Grants, ensuring financial accountability.

3. **Accountability Mechanism**

   o Public Accounts Committee (PAC) reviews CAG reports, exposing irregularities (e.g., 2G spectrum case).

4. **Policy Evaluation**

   o Committees undertake studies on emerging issues (e.g., AI regulation, climate change).

Strengths:

- Non-partisan discussions due to absence of media glare.

- Expert consultations improve legislative quality.

Limitations:

- Recommendations are advisory, not binding.

- Government often bypasses committees (e.g., certain bills passed without referral).

- Delays in report submission reduce relevance.

Reforms Needed:

- Make referral of all bills to committees mandatory.

- Increase public accessibility of committee proceedings.

- Provide committees with independent research staff.

Conclusion:

Parliamentary Committees act as the "mini-Parliaments" that enable thorough deliberation beyond the constraints of the House. Strengthening them is crucial for deepening legislative oversight in India's democracy.

GS-3:

Q3. *Discuss the challenges and opportunities for India in achieving net zero emissions by 2070.*

Answer:

Introduction:

At COP26, India pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070, aligning with the Paris Agreement goals. This transition requires balancing developmental needs with environmental sustainability.

Challenges:

1. **Energy Dependence on Fossil Fuels**

   o ~57% of electricity from coal; phasing out is economically and politically sensitive.

2. **Industrial Transition Costs**

   o Steel, cement, and fertilizer industries are emission-intensive, requiring costly technology shifts.

3. **Transport Sector Emissions**

   o Low EV penetration, inadequate charging infrastructure.

4. **Financing the Transition**

   o Estimated $10 trillion investment needed by 2070; climate finance commitments from developed nations remain insufficient.

5. **Social Impact**

   o Job losses in coal-dependent regions require just transition strategies.

Opportunities:

1. **Renewable Energy Leadership**

   o India targets 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030; vast solar potential.

2. **Green Hydrogen Mission**

   o Potential to decarbonize heavy industries and export to global markets.

3. **Energy Efficiency Innovations**

   o Schemes like PAT, UJALA, and building energy codes reduce consumption.

4. **Nature-based Solutions**

   o Afforestation, mangrove restoration enhance carbon sequestration.

Way Forward:

- Policy consistency in renewable subsidies.

- Strengthening carbon markets.

- International partnerships for finance and technology transfer.

Conclusion:

While India's net zero target is ambitious, it offers a chance to reorient growth towards sustainability. Strategic investments, policy reforms, and global cooperation are essential for a just and equitable transition.

GS-4:

Q4. *"Public service must be guided not only by legality but also by moral responsibility." Discuss with suitable examples.*

Answer:

Introduction:

While laws provide the framework for governance, moral responsibility ensures that public servants act in the spirit of justice, empathy, and public welfare, beyond mere compliance.

Legal vs. Moral Responsibility:

- **Legal Responsibility:** Acting in accordance with statutes and rules.

- **Moral Responsibility:** Acting with integrity, fairness, and compassion, even when the law is silent.

Importance in Public Service:

1. **Ethical Decision-making:**

   o Laws may permit actions that are ethically questionable.

   o Example: Legal eviction of slum dwellers without providing alternative housing may be lawful but morally insensitive.

2. **Trust-building:**

   o Citizens' faith in governance increases when public servants show empathy, transparency, and fairness.

3. **Discretionary Powers:**

   o Officers often exercise discretion in policy implementation; moral judgment ensures fairness.

Examples:

- **E. Sreedharan** delaying Metro inauguration to ensure safety standards were met, prioritizing public welfare over political pressure.

- Civil servants in disaster zones staying beyond official duty hours to ensure complete relief coverage.

Challenges:

- Conflicts between personal ethics and institutional directives.

- Political pressure compromising moral decision-making.

Way Forward:

- Ethics training in civil service.

- Leadership by example at the top.

- Public recognition of morally courageous decisions.

Conclusion:
Legality without morality can lead to governance that is technically correct but socially unjust. Public service must harmonize legal compliance with moral responsibility to truly serve the people.

Current Affairs:

Q5. *Critically evaluate the proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Bill in the context of higher education reforms in India.*

Answer:

Introduction:
The Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Bill aims to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other bodies with a single umbrella regulator, aligning with the *National Education Policy 2020*.

Key Provisions:

1. **Single Regulatory Framework:**
   o Merges UGC, AICTE, and NAAC functions under HECI.

2. **Four Vertical Divisions:**
   o Regulation, accreditation, funding, and academic standards.

3. **Outcome-based Approach:**
   o Emphasis on learning outcomes, employability, and research quality.

4. **Digital Governance:**
   o Use of technology for transparent accreditation and funding decisions.

Potential Benefits:

- **Reduced Overlap:** Eliminates multiple regulatory bodies, ensuring clarity and efficiency.

- **Quality Assurance:** Outcome-based accreditation encourages performance.

- **Autonomy:** Promotes institutional flexibility in curriculum and governance.

- **International Alignment:** Brings Indian higher education closer to global standards.

Concerns:

- **Over-centralization:** Risk of excessive control from the Centre, undermining federalism in education.

- **Implementation Capacity:** Need for trained evaluators and robust digital systems.

- **Funding Concerns:** Shift from grant-based to performance-linked funding may disadvantage smaller institutions.

Way Forward:

- Safeguards for state participation in governance.

- Phased implementation with capacity building.

- Special provisions for rural and disadvantaged institutions.

Conclusion:

The HECI Bill is a significant step towards modernizing Indian higher education, but its success depends on balancing efficiency with inclusivity and academic freedom. Thoughtful implementation will determine whether it transforms the sector or becomes another bureaucratic layer.