DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 21/08/2025 (THURSDAY)

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

QUIZ TIME!

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of the Delhi Sultanate:

1. **The Iqta system under Iltutmish granted hereditary rights to revenue assignments to nobles.**

2. **The revenue collected through the Iqta system was primarily meant for the personal expenses of the Iqtadars and not for maintaining troops.**

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:

- The **Iqta system** was introduced by Iltutmish but **did not grant hereditary rights** to nobles. Iqtas were transferable to prevent feudal tendencies (hence statement 1 is incorrect).

- The **main purpose of Iqta revenue** was to **maintain troops and administrative machinery**, not purely for personal expenditure (hence statement 2 is incorrect).

- The Sultan retained overall control by frequently transferring Iqtadars to avoid creation of autonomous power centres.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Mangrove Ecosystems in India:

1. **Mangroves act as significant carbon sinks by storing more carbon per hectare than tropical rainforests.**

2. **Mangrove species diversity is higher on the eastern coast of India than on the western coast.**

3. **Mangroves cannot tolerate any degree of freshwater influx and hence are confined only to saline estuarine zones.**

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Mangroves have higher carbon sequestration potential than most tropical forests due to large below-ground biomass.

- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The eastern coast, with deltas of the Ganga, Godavari, Krishna, and Mahanadi, has richer mangrove diversity compared to the west.

- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Mangroves **can tolerate freshwater influx** to some extent; in fact, mixed salinity supports certain species. Hence they are not confined solely to saline zones.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding "Bond Yield" in financial markets:

1. **Bond yield moves inversely to the price of the bond in secondary markets.**

2. **An increase in bond yield generally indicates higher demand for government securities.**

3. **Bond yield can influence the cost of borrowing for the government in subsequent issuances.**

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Bond price and yield are inversely related — if prices fall due to lower demand, yields rise.

- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Higher yield usually **indicates lower demand** (investors require more return to hold the bond).

- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Rising bond yields signal that the government must offer higher interest rates on future borrowings, impacting fiscal costs.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding **Speaker of the Lok Sabha**:

1. **The Speaker's decision on disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is subject to judicial review.**

2. **The Speaker is elected by a simple majority of members present and voting in the House.**

3. **The Speaker continues in office even after dissolution of the Lok Sabha until a new Speaker is elected.**

4. **The Speaker has no voting right in the House under any circumstances.**

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Supreme Court (Kihoto Hollohan case) held that the Speaker's decision under the anti-defection law is **subject to judicial review**.

- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Speaker is elected by **a majority of members present and voting**, but this is usually ensured through consensus; however, the statement becomes ambiguous if interpreted as always strictly by voting — still technically correct. But UPSC expects nuance — the election is not constitutionally mandated to be by *simple majority only* but by *majority of present and voting* (so careful reading needed).

- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Speaker **continues till new House elects a Speaker** even after dissolution.
- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** The Speaker has a **casting vote in case of tie**, though no ordinary vote.

Q5. Assertion–Reason type –

Assertion (A): The paintings of the Ajanta caves primarily depict the Jataka tales and life of the Buddha.
Reason (R): These paintings were exclusively patronized by Shaivite rulers of the Deccan during the early medieval period.

(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: (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect

Explanation:

- **Assertion:** Correct – Ajanta murals mainly narrate Buddhist Jataka stories and events from Buddha's life.

- **Reason:** Incorrect – Ajanta caves were patronized by **Vakatakas and Satavahanas**, not Shaivite rulers. The patronage was primarily Buddhist, not exclusively Shaivite.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Mercator projection of maps:
1. It preserves directions accurately, making it suitable for marine navigation.
2. It represents land masses at higher latitudes proportionally larger than those near the equator.

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: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Mercator projection is a **cylindrical conformal projection** which preserves angles and directions, making it ideal for navigation, though not for comparing areas.

- **Statement 2 – Correct:** This projection **distorts size** at higher latitudes (e.g., Greenland appears comparable to Africa though it's far smaller).

- Hence both statements are true.

Q2. The **130th Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025** primarily deals with:
(a)   Reserving seats for OBCs in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
(b)   Introducing uniform delimitation across States irrespective of population size
(c)   Providing constitutional status to the GST Appellate Tribunal
(d)   Strengthening provisions related to cooperative societies and local governance

Answer: (b) Introducing uniform delimitation across States irrespective of population size

Explanation:

- The Bill seeks to **remove the current population freeze** and ensure **equitable representation** in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies based on latest Census figures.

- It does **not relate to OBC quotas, GST Tribunal, or cooperative societies**, making (b) correct.

Q3. Consider the following statements about **India's draft Climate Finance Taxonomy (CFT):**
1.   It provides a classification framework for investments aligned with climate mitigation and adaptation goals.
2.   The draft has been prepared solely by the Reserve Bank of India without inter-ministerial inputs.
3.   It aims to reduce "greenwashing" by setting uniform criteria for what qualifies as climate-friendly finance.

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a)   Only one
(b)   Only two
(c)   All three
(d)   None

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The CFT defines clear parameters for identifying sustainable projects aligned with India's NDCs and net-zero targets.

- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The draft was **jointly developed** by RBI, Ministry of Finance, and other regulators, not solely by RBI.

- **Statement 3 – Correct:** One key purpose is to **reduce greenwashing** by ensuring transparent, standardized reporting.

Q4. Consider the following statements about **Machine Readable Electoral Rolls (MRER):**
1.   They aim to use open data standards to integrate electoral rolls with Aadhaar and other government databases.
2.   They will enable real-time verification of voter information and faster updation of electoral rolls.
3.   MRER is being implemented under the direct supervision of the Election Commission without any legislative amendment.

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a)   Only one
(b)   Only two
(c)   All three
(d)   None

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Though MRER uses open standards, **direct integration with Aadhaar or other databases is not automatic**, due to privacy concerns and SC rulings.

- **Statement 2 – Correct:** MRER is expected to **speed up verification and roll updates** using standardized machine-readable formats.

- **Statement 3 – Correct:** It is being implemented **administratively by the Election Commission** without a constitutional amendment, relying on existing powers under the Representation of the People Act.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the **Online Gaming Regulation Bill, 2025:**
1. It empowers a central regulator to license and oversee all online games involving monetary stakes.
2. It explicitly prohibits any involvement of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Indian gaming platforms.
3. The Bill proposes uniform taxation on online games under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.
4. States have been completely divested of any power to regulate online gaming within their territory.

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Bill creates a **central licensing authority** to regulate online games with real-money components.

- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** FDI is **not fully prohibited**; it is subject to screening and compliance.

- **Statement 3 – Correct:** A **uniform GST framework** has been proposed to end differential taxation.

- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** States **retain regulatory powers** under Entry 34, List II (betting and gambling).

Q6. Which of the following physical/geographical features is correctly matched with its location in **Nigeria**?
(a) Lake Volta – Located in Northern Nigeria
(b) Jos Plateau – Known for tin mining in central Nigeria
(c) Sahara Desert – Extends into Southern Nigeria
(d) River Congo – Forms Nigeria's western boundary

Answer: (b) Jos Plateau – Known for tin mining in central Nigeria

Explanation:

- **Lake Volta** is in Ghana, not Nigeria → (a) incorrect.

- **Jos Plateau** lies in central Nigeria, famous for **tin and columbite mining** → (b) correct.

- **Sahara Desert** affects northern Nigeria (Sahel region), not southern → (c) incorrect.

- **River Congo** does not flow through or bound Nigeria; Nigeria's major rivers are **Niger and Benue** → (d) incorrect.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1:

Q1. *"Urbanisation in India has not only transformed the economic landscape but has also generated deep social and environmental challenges." Critically analyse.* (15 Marks)

Sample Answer

Introduction

- Urbanisation refers to the increasing proportion of population residing in urban areas.

- India's urban population is projected to reach **600 million by 2036 (Census projections)**, transforming economic activity but generating multidimensional challenges.

Positive Impacts

- **Economic growth:** Urban centres contribute **~63% of India's GDP**.

- **Infrastructure development:** Smart Cities Mission, metro rail, and SEZs have spurred growth.

- **Cultural integration:** Cities facilitate social mobility and diversity.

Challenges

1. **Social Issues**

   o *Urban poverty & slums*: Over **35% of urban population lives in informal settlements (NITI Aayog 2023)**.

   o *Displacement*: Development projects trigger loss of livelihoods.

   o *Rising inequality*: Gated communities vs. urban ghettos.

2. **Environmental Issues**

   o *Pollution*: Delhi, Mumbai among most polluted cities.

   o *Urban floods*: Encroachment on wetlands (e.g., Chennai 2015 floods).

   o *Heat islands*: Concrete concentration increases temperature.

Government Initiatives

- **PMAY-Urban**, **AMRUT**, **National Urban Housing Fund** to address housing and services.

- **Clean Air Programme** and **urban green space projects** to mitigate pollution.

Way Forward

- *Integrated urban planning*: Land-use + transport + waste management.

- *Affordable housing*: Ensure equitable access to services.

- *Sustainable urban design*: Energy-efficient buildings, eco-sensitive zoning.

Conclusion

Urbanisation is inevitable and can be a **growth driver if inclusive and sustainable planning is ensured**, preventing social fragmentation and environmental degradation.

GS Paper 2:

Q2. *"The rapid expansion of social media has challenged the regulatory capacity of the Indian state." Discuss with reference to misinformation, hate speech, and digital governance gaps.* (15 Marks)

Sample Answer

Introduction

- India has **over 850 million internet users (2024)**, making social media a key tool of communication and politics.

- However, unchecked content circulation has raised governance concerns.

Key Challenges

1. **Misinformation and Fake News**

   o Election interference, health rumours during COVID-19, communal flare-ups.

2. **Hate Speech and Radicalisation**

   o Targeted campaigns inciting violence (e.g., 2020 Delhi riots triggers).

3. **Digital Governance Gaps**

   o IT Act 2000 outdated for AI-driven content; platforms use opaque algorithms.

4. **Cross-border Influence**

   o Foreign troll farms, cyber propaganda threatening sovereignty.

Government Measures

- **IT Rules 2021**: Mandatory grievance redressal, traceability of originators.

- **Digital India Act (proposed)** to replace IT Act with stronger accountability norms.

- **Fact Check Units** to counter fake news.

- **International cooperation** through G20 Digital Economy Working Group.

Concerns

- *Over-regulation risks*: Threat to freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a).

- *Implementation gaps*: Enforcement capacity of agencies is limited.

Way Forward

- **Balanced regulation**: Focus on algorithmic transparency, self-regulation + legal checks.

- **Public digital literacy campaigns**.

- **Independent regulatory body** to avoid political misuse.

Conclusion

India needs a **"light but firm regulatory touch"** to curb harms while **safeguarding democratic discourse** in the digital age.

GS Paper 3:

Q3. *"India's transition to a green economy faces multiple challenges despite ambitious renewable energy targets." Examine.* (15 Marks)

Sample Answer

Introduction

- India targets **500 GW of renewable capacity by 2030** and **Net Zero by 2070**, reflecting its climate commitments under COP26.

- However, systemic barriers persist.

Key Challenges

1. **Financial Constraints**

   o High capital costs for solar, wind, storage; limited green finance access.

2. **Technological Gaps**

   o Inadequate domestic manufacturing of solar PV cells, wind turbines.

3. **Grid Integration Issues**

   o Intermittency of renewables causing instability in power supply.

4. **Land Acquisition & Environmental Clearance**

   o Solar/wind parks face local opposition and displacement concerns.

5. **Policy Inconsistency**

   o Frequent tariff changes deter private investment.

Government Initiatives

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** for solar manufacturing.

- **Renewable Energy Development Agencies (IREDA)** financing clean projects.

- **Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme** for industrial efficiency.

Way Forward

- *Stable policy regime*: Long-term tariff security for investors.

- *Strengthen R&D*: Indigenous tech for energy storage and smart grids.

- *Public-private partnerships*: To mobilize capital and share risks.

- *Just transition approach*: Protect coal-dependent communities.

Conclusion

India's green economy is a **necessity, not a choice**. Overcoming systemic hurdles through **finance, technology, and governance reforms** will ensure sustainable and equitable growth.

GS Paper 4:

Q4. *"Public service ethics are tested more in ordinary situations than extraordinary ones." Discuss with suitable examples.* (10 Marks)

Sample Answer

Introduction

- Ethics in public service involve adherence to **integrity, impartiality, accountability**, and **commitment to public welfare**.

- While crises draw attention, **routine decisions test character more frequently**.

Why Ordinary Situations Test Ethics More

1. **Frequency of Occurrence**

   o Daily administrative tasks like granting permits, file clearances, or routine procurement provide constant temptations for minor favors.

2. **Lower Public Scrutiny**

   o Unlike emergencies, everyday decisions happen outside the media spotlight, making unethical shortcuts easier.

3. **Subtle Conflicts of Interest**

   o Personal relationships, local pressures, and community ties influence routine governance more than rare crises.

Examples

- A municipal officer resisting bribes in issuing trade licenses.

- A revenue official avoiding favoritism while assessing land records.

- A teacher ensuring fair internal assessments despite pressure.

Lessons

- *Integrity must be internalized as a habit, not an event response.*

- *Codes of conduct, transparency mechanisms, and whistleblower protection* strengthen day-to-day ethics.

- **Conclusion**

  Ethical conduct in ordinary situations **cements credibility**, ensuring that in extraordinary moments, public servants act with courage and consistency.

Current Affairs:

Q5. *"The successful test of Agni-5 Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile reflects India's growing strategic deterrence capability." Analyse its significance for India's security and diplomacy.* (15 Marks)

Sample Answer

Introduction

- In **August 2025**, India successfully test-fired the **Agni-5 missile (range ~5,000–5,500 km)**, part of the Strategic Forces Command arsenal.

- It enhances India's **credible minimum deterrence** posture under its **No-First-Use (NFU)** nuclear doctrine.

Significance for National Security

1. **Extended Strike Capability**

   o Can reach strategic targets across Asia-Pacific, including deep Chinese mainland.

2. **Technological Maturity**

   o Advanced guidance, MIRV (Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicle) potential increases accuracy and survivability.

3. **Second-Strike Assurance**

   o Complements sea-based deterrence from Arihant-class SSBNs.

Diplomatic Implications

- **Strengthens India's voice** in global disarmament negotiations as a responsible nuclear power.

- **Counters regional threats** without violating MTCR or NPT norms.

- Signals strategic balance in Indo-Pacific amidst rising China–US tensions.

Challenges Ahead

- *Need for rapid MIRV operationalization* and indigenous navigation systems.

- *Missile defence countermeasures*: Adversaries developing anti-missile shields.

- *Balancing deterrence vs. arms race*: Avoiding escalation with neighbours.

Way Forward

- *Focus on triad completion*: Land, air, sea delivery systems.

- *Invest in hypersonic and counter-space capabilities* for future readiness.

- *Strengthen export control diplomacy*: Showcase responsible use to avoid sanctions or mistrust.

Conclusion

Agni-5 symbolizes India's **technological self-reliance and credible deterrence**, securing its strategic autonomy while maintaining **NFU and non-aggressive posture**.