DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 03/09/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

- 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 events during the Indian Freedom Struggle:

1. The 'Hunter Committee' was appointed to investigate the disturbances in Bombay Presidency after the Quit India Movement.

2. The 'Crawling Order' was issued in the aftermath of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Hunter Committee (Disorders Inquiry Committee) was set up in 1919 to investigate the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and related disturbances in Punjab, not for the Quit India Movement of 1942.

- Statement 2 is correct: The "Crawling Order" (also called the "Crawling Lane Order") was imposed by General Dyer after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, forcing Indians to crawl on their bellies on the street where an Englishwoman, Miss Marcella Sherwood, had been assaulted.

Q2. Which of the following best explains the ecological role of "Keystone Species"?

(a) They are the most abundant species in a habitat and determine energy flow.
(b) Their removal drastically alters the structure and function of an ecosystem.
(c) They are always top predators and maintain herbivore populations.
(d) They are the first colonisers in a primary succession process.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
Keystone species are not necessarily the most abundant or dominant but play a critical role in maintaining the ecological balance. Their removal results in disproportionate changes, often leading to ecosystem collapse. Example: Sea otters controlling sea urchin populations.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian economy in recent decades:

1. The "twin balance sheet problem" refers to the stressed balance sheets of banks as well as large corporates.

2. The "twin deficits hypothesis" highlights the link between fiscal deficit and current account deficit.

3. The term "crowding out" in fiscal policy refers to the situation where public sector borrowing reduces private sector investment.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct. The twin balance sheet problem was coined in the Economic Survey 2016-17 highlighting stress in corporate and banking sectors simultaneously.

- Statement 2: Correct. The twin deficit hypothesis establishes the correlation between higher fiscal deficit leading to higher current account deficit.

- Statement 3: Correct. Crowding out occurs when government borrowing increases interest rates, thereby reducing funds available for private investment.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the office of the Governor in India:

1. The Governor can recommend President's Rule under Article 356, but such recommendation is not justiciable in courts.

2. The Governor is bound to reserve certain types of bills for the consideration of the President.

3. The Governor's discretion in giving assent to a Bill is identical to that of the President of India.

4. The Governor is appointed for a fixed term of five years and cannot be removed before the expiry of the term.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Governor may recommend imposition of President's Rule, and the validity of the Governor's report itself is not justiciable (as held in S.R. Bommai case), though the proclamation can be reviewed.

- Statement 2: Correct. Bills affecting High Court powers, or which the Governor deems as unconstitutional, must be reserved for the President.

- Statement 3: Incorrect. The President has no discretion in giving assent, but the Governor may exercise discretion in reserving bills.

- Statement 4: Incorrect. Though appointed for five years, the Governor holds office at the pleasure of the President and can be removed earlier.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -
Assertion (A): The western coastal plains of India are narrower and more dissected compared to the eastern

coastal plains.

Reason (R): The Western Ghats run almost parallel to the western coast, leaving little room for extensive alluvial deposits.

(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:

The western coastal plains are narrow (50–100 km wide) and uneven due to the presence of the Western Ghats close to the coast, restricting the formation of broad alluvial plains. In contrast, the eastern coastal plains are wider and smoother as major rivers like Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri deposit large amounts of sediments. Hence both A and R are correct, and R explains A.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS–1:

Q1. "Examine the contributions of the Bhakti and Sufi movements in bridging social and religious divisions in medieval India. How far did they succeed in shaping a pluralistic ethos?"

Answer:
The Bhakti and Sufi movements, emerging between the 8th and 17th centuries, profoundly influenced medieval Indian society. They arose as responses to rigid orthodoxy, caste barriers, and ritualism, offering spiritual alternatives rooted in equality, devotion, and inner experience.

The **Bhakti movement**, spearheaded by saints like Ramanuja, Kabir, Mirabai, and Tukaram, emphasized personal devotion (bhakti) to a chosen deity rather than ritualistic practices. Its message transcended caste and gender. Kabir's couplets, for instance, directly attacked both Hindu and Muslim orthodoxy, preaching the unity of God. Similarly, Mirabai's devotion challenged patriarchal norms and caste hierarchies. The movement spread in vernacular languages, ensuring accessibility to common people, thereby democratizing religion.

The **Sufi movement**, through saints like Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, Nizamuddin Auliya, and Bulleh Shah, emphasized love, tolerance, and service to humanity. Their khanqahs (hospices) became centers of cultural assimilation, where people of all backgrounds interacted. The Sufi principle of *wahdat-al-wujud* (unity of existence) resonated with the Bhakti idea of divine immanence, creating a common spiritual vocabulary.

Together, these movements promoted **pluralism**. They challenged orthodoxy, weakened social barriers, and fostered communal harmony. Their syncretic traditions influenced music, art, and literature—Bhajans, Qawwalis, and poetry reflected this fusion.

However, the success was partial. While they reduced social exclusiveness and laid the foundation for composite culture, caste rigidity and communal divisions persisted. With the later advent of religious revivalism and political conflicts, their unifying influence weakened.

In conclusion, Bhakti and Sufi movements played a transformative role in bridging divisions, shaping India's pluralistic ethos. Their enduring legacy lies in India's cultural syncretism and the values of tolerance, inclusivity, and spiritual democracy.

GS–2:

Q2. "Discuss the role of the Governor in India's federal structure. How do recurring controversies reflect tensions between constitutional ideals and political realities?"

Answer:
The office of the Governor in India occupies a unique place in the federal structure, serving as the constitutional head of the state and as a link between the Union and the state governments. The Constituent Assembly envisioned the Governor as a neutral, apolitical authority safeguarding constitutional provisions.

Constitutional Role:
Articles 153–162 outline the Governor's functions. He acts as the executive head, appoints the Chief Minister, and ensures government functions according to constitutional norms. He also has discretionary powers such as recommending President's Rule (Art. 356), reserving bills for the President's assent, and giving assent to ordinances.

Controversies and Challenges:
Despite the constitutional vision, controversies are frequent:

- **Appointment and removal**: Governors are centrally appointed and hold office at the President's pleasure, raising concerns of political bias.

- **Hung assemblies**: Governors' discretion in inviting parties to form governments often invites allegations of partisanship, as seen in Goa (2017) and Karnataka (2018).

- **Article 356 misuse**: Multiple instances, especially before the Bommai judgment (1994), reflect Governors recommending President's Rule for political motives.

- **Withholding assent to bills**: Recent standoffs, such as in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, highlight tensions between elected state governments and Governors.

The Supreme Court has sought to clarify roles, especially in **SR Bommai (1994)** and **Nabam Rebia (2016)**, limiting arbitrary discretion. Yet, political realities continue to overshadow constitutional ideals.

Way Forward:

- Depoliticizing the appointment process, perhaps via a collegium system.

- Clear codification of discretionary powers to minimize misuse.

- Encouraging cooperative federalism to reduce friction.

In conclusion, while the Governor's office is essential to India's federal balance, its credibility depends on neutrality and adherence to constitutional spirit. Current controversies highlight the need for reforms to align practice with constitutional ideals.

GS–3:

Q3. "Terrorism has significant economic repercussions. Examine the impact of terror attacks on India's tourism sector, with particular reference to Jammu & Kashmir."

Answer:

Terrorism not only undermines security but also has a direct economic impact, particularly on sensitive sectors like tourism, which relies heavily on perceptions of safety and stability. In India, and more specifically in Jammu & Kashmir, this linkage has been particularly pronounced.

Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir has historically been a major contributor to the local economy, often termed the "crown" of Indian tourism due to its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and pilgrimage sites like Amarnath and Vaishno Devi. The sector generates substantial employment in hospitality, transport, handicrafts, and allied services.

Impact of Terrorism:

- **Decline in tourist inflow**: Each major terror attack or militant incident—whether local (Pulwama, 2019) or high-profile incidents like the Parliament attack—has caused sharp declines in tourist arrivals.

- **Economic losses**: Reduced tourism affects small businesses and artisans, particularly the famed Kashmiri handicraft and shawl industries.

- **Image crisis**: Media portrayal of violence amplifies fear, affecting domestic and international tourists alike.

- **Multiplier effect**: Loss of tourism revenues impacts other sectors such as agriculture, transport, and local trade, worsening unemployment.

Beyond J&K: Nationwide attacks such as the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks also damaged India's global tourism image, leading to cancellations and reduced foreign tourist arrivals.

Mitigation Measures:

- **Security strengthening**: Improved counter-terrorism measures have enhanced safety in tourist zones.

- **Government promotion**: Initiatives like "Incredible India" and subsidies for domestic tourists attempt to offset losses.

- **Alternative tourism**: Promoting adventure tourism and eco-tourism has diversified offerings.

In conclusion, terrorism has deeply hampered the tourism sector, particularly in J&K, but sustained security efforts, infrastructural investments, and confidence-building measures are helping revive the sector. For a sustainable recovery, addressing the root causes of terrorism and fostering peace remain indispensable.

GS–4:

Q4. "Ethical governance is critical to public trust. Discuss how principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity can transform governance in India."

Answer:

Governance derives legitimacy from citizens' trust, which rests on the ethical principles of transparency,

accountability, and integrity. In India, where governance often faces challenges of corruption, inefficiency, and opacity, ethical governance becomes vital.

Transparency involves making governmental processes visible and comprehensible to the public. Tools like the **Right to Information Act (2005)** have empowered citizens to scrutinize decision-making, ensuring inclusiveness. Transparent tendering systems, e-governance portals, and open data platforms reduce scope for favoritism and arbitrary actions.

Accountability ensures that public officials are answerable for their actions. Institutional mechanisms like the CAG, Lokpal, and parliamentary committees embody this principle. Citizen charters, social audits (as in MGNREGA), and grievance redressal mechanisms bring accountability closer to the people.

Integrity refers to the moral uprightness of individuals in positions of authority. Codes of conduct, ethical training, and leadership by example foster integrity. The absence of integrity manifests as nepotism, corruption, and policy capture, which undermine governance.

Together, these principles transform governance in several ways:

- **Enhanced efficiency**: Streamlined processes and reduced red tape.
- **Trust-building**: Citizens are more willing to cooperate when governance is credible.
- **Reduced corruption**: Transparency and accountability act as deterrents.
- **Inclusive growth**: Ethical governance prioritizes equity and fairness.

However, challenges remain. Political patronage, weak enforcement of ethics codes, and lack of whistleblower protection dilute ethical norms.

Way forward involves strengthening institutions, leveraging technology for transparency, protecting whistleblowers, and cultivating ethical leadership.

In conclusion, ethical governance grounded in transparency, accountability, and integrity is indispensable for a democratic polity like India. It is not merely a moral aspiration but a functional necessity for inclusive and sustainable development.

Current Affairs

Q5. "Corruption remains a major obstacle to India's developmental trajectory. Critically analyze its causes, consequences, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures."

Answer:
Corruption, defined as abuse of public office for private gain, is deeply entrenched in India's political, bureaucratic, and business systems. Despite institutional and legal safeguards, corruption continues to impede governance and economic development.

Causes:

- **Systemic factors**: Complex regulations, excessive discretion, and bureaucratic red tape create opportunities for rent-seeking.
- **Political funding**: Opaque financing of elections fuels quid pro quo arrangements.
- **Weak enforcement**: Delay in prosecution and low conviction rates embolden corruption.
- **Cultural acceptance**: Petty bribery is often normalized as a "cost of service delivery."

Consequences:

- **Economic costs**: Misallocation of resources, delays in infrastructure projects, and reduced foreign investment.

- **Social costs**: Erosion of trust in public institutions, inequality, and weakened rule of law.

- **Political costs**: Policy capture by vested interests, weakening democratic accountability.

Measures Taken:

- **Legal framework**: Prevention of Corruption Act (1988, amended 2018), Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013).

- **Institutional mechanisms**: CVC, CBI, state vigilance commissions.

- **Technology tools**: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Aadhaar-linked services, and e-procurement have reduced leakages.

- **Judicial interventions**: Supreme Court has acted against arbitrary allocations (e.g., 2G spectrum, coal block cases).

Effectiveness and Challenges:

Despite progress, enforcement remains inconsistent. Political will is selective, and institutions often lack independence. Lokpal, though established, has not realized its potential. Election funding reforms remain incomplete.

Way Forward:

- Electoral reforms for transparent political financing.

- Strengthening autonomy of investigative agencies.

- Enhancing citizen participation through social audits and whistleblower protection.

- Promoting ethical leadership and civic education to change cultural acceptance.

In conclusion, corruption is a systemic malaise that hinders India's development. While anti-corruption measures exist, their effectiveness depends on strong political will, institutional integrity, and active citizenry. A holistic approach combining structural reforms, transparency, and ethics is essential for sustainable progress.