DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 15/10/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

- **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 regarding Indian temple architecture:

1. In the Dravida style of temple architecture, the shikhara is pyramidal in shape and consists of progressively smaller storeys called *talas*.

2. In the Nagara style, the garbhagriha and the mandapa are often joined together by a flat-roofed hall called *antarala*.

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:

- In **Dravida temples** (prevalent in South India), the *vimana* (tower over the sanctum) is **pyramidal**, composed of diminishing storeys (*talas*) stacked vertically, culminating in a dome-like structure (*sikhara*).
- In **Nagara temples** (North India), the *garbhagriha* and *mandapa* are connected by an *antarala* (vestibule or intermediate chamber). This feature allows a gradual transition from the sanctum to the hall. Hence, both statements are correct.

Q2. Which of the following is *correctly* matched with its respective Biosphere Reserve and characteristic feature?

(a) Nokrek – Presence of Red Panda population in Eastern Himalayas
(b) Similipal – Sal-dominated forest ecosystem of Eastern Ghats
(c) Agasthyamalai – Tropical rainforests with endemic flora of Western Ghats
(d) Great Nicobar – Mangrove swamps of Sundarbans deltaic region

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Nokrek** (Meghalaya) is known for **Hoolock Gibbon**, not Red Panda.

- **Similipal** (Odisha) lies in the **Eastern Ghats**, but the Red Panda does not occur there; its forests are **moist deciduous with Sal dominance**, which is correct, yet it is *not* in Eastern Ghats but in the **Chotanagpur Plateau region**, making the statement partially incorrect.

- **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve** (Kerala–Tamil Nadu) contains **tropical rainforests, evergreen and shola forests**, and is rich in **endemism**—correctly matched.

- **Great Nicobar** has **tropical evergreen forests** and coastal mangroves but is not part of the **Sundarbans**.
  Hence, option (c) is correct.

Q3. Consider the following statements about the Finance Commission of India:

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1. The recommendations of the Finance Commission are binding on the President.

2. The Finance Commission is required to recommend measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of the States to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities.

3. The Finance Commission is a constitutional body whose composition and functions are defined under Article 280 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is **incorrect** — The Finance Commission's recommendations are **advisory**, not binding.

- Statement 2 is **correct** — Under Article 280(3)(bb) and (c), it shall recommend measures to augment the resources of States for **Panchayats and Municipalities**.

- Statement 3 is **correct** — The Finance Commission is a **constitutional body** established under **Article 280**.
  Hence, (b) is the correct answer.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding some landmark Constitutional Amendments in India:

1. The 42nd Amendment is known as the "Mini-Constitution" because it made sweeping changes, including the addition of Fundamental Duties.

2. The 44th Amendment Act restored the term of Lok Sabha from six years to five years as originally provided.

3. The 52nd Amendment Act introduced the Anti-Defection Law in the Tenth Schedule.

4. The 73rd Amendment Act inserted a new Part IX dealing with Municipalities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **42nd Amendment (1976):** Added **Fundamental Duties** and altered many provisions — correct.

- **44th Amendment (1978):** Restored **Lok Sabha's term** to five years — correct.

- **52nd Amendment (1985):** Introduced **Anti-Defection Law** — correct.

- **73rd Amendment (1992):** Inserted **Part IX** for *Panchayats*, while **74th Amendment (1992)** inserted *Part IX-A* for *Municipalities* — hence incorrect.
  Therefore, **three statements** (1, 2, and 3) are correct.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type -

Assertion (A): In modern biotechnology, recombinant DNA technology allows the production of human insulin in bacterial cells.

Reason (R): The gene responsible for insulin synthesis in humans can be inserted into bacterial plasmids, enabling bacteria to express human proteins.

(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)

Explanation:

- Recombinant DNA technology allows **isolation and insertion** of the human *insulin gene* into **plasmids** (small circular DNA molecules) of bacteria such as *E. coli*. These bacteria then **produce insulin identical to human insulin** (commercially known as *Humulin*). Thus, both the Assertion and Reason are correct, and the Reason correctly explains the Assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements about India's National Red List Roadmap (Vision 2025–2030) launched recently:

1. The Roadmap mandates legal protection for any species once it is listed under the National Red List, requiring automatic inclusion in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

2. The Roadmap envisages a coordinated national mechanism that uses IUCN Red List criteria adapted for India and aims to complete assessments of nearly 11,000 species groups by 2030.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The National Red List Roadmap provides a scientific framework for assessing extinction risk using IUCN-adapted criteria and monitoring biodiversity but does not

automatically provide legal protection. Separate statutory action under wildlife laws is required for that.

- Statement 2 is correct. The Roadmap seeks a coordinated national assessment process led by the Zoological Survey of India and the Botanical Survey of India to evaluate about 11,000 species by 2030, aligning national data with the global IUCN process.

Q2. With reference to India's newly launched Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) at GIFT City, consider the following single-line statement and choose the most accurate interpretation:

"FCSS enables real-time settlement of certain foreign currency transactions within IFSC, improving liquidity and reducing settlement risk."

Which one of the following interpretations is **MOST** accurate?

a. It allows any rupee-based retail transaction between any two Indian entities to be settled in foreign currency in real time across India.
b. It provides a platform within the IFSC for faster settlement of eligible foreign currency transactions (including dollar clearing) — limited to permitted participants and subject to regulatory oversight — thereby improving liquidity and operational resilience.
c. It replaces SWIFT entirely for India's cross-border payments and mandates all banks to route forex settlements only through GIFT City.
d. It is a fiscal policy tool that allows the Government to borrow externally in domestic rupee terms through IFSC intermediaries.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:
Option (b) accurately describes the FCSS. It facilitates real-time or near-real-time settlement of foreign currency transactions within the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) framework, enhancing liquidity and risk management. It operates under regulatory supervision and involves only approved participants. Options (a), (c), and (d) either overstate or mischaracterize its scope and purpose.

Q3. Consider the following statements about the DRAVYA Portal recently launched for AYUSH knowledge systems:

1. DRAVYA is an AI-ready national repository that will catalogue classical and modern research on 100 AYUSH substances in its first phase and will link pharmacognosy, phytochemistry, safety and clinical evidence.

2. The portal will function as a legally binding pharmacopeia for AYUSH products — manufacturers will be required to follow DRAVYA entries as mandatory regulatory standards.

3. DRAVYA is designed to integrate with Ayush Grid and other digital health initiatives to facilitate cross-disciplinary research and interoperability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. DRAVYA serves as an AI-ready repository compiling information from classical texts and modern scientific data on AYUSH substances.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The portal does not have statutory authority as a pharmacopeia; it is primarily a research and reference platform.
- Statement 3 is correct. DRAVYA is meant to integrate with Ayush Grid and other digital health initiatives to encourage research collaboration and interoperability.

Q4. Consider the following statements about the Nobel Prize in Literature 2025 (winner and cited merits):

1. The 2025 prize was awarded to a Central European novelist noted for extremely long, syntactically dense sentences and a preoccupation with apocalyptic/declinist themes.

2. The Swedish Academy cited this author's contribution to postcolonial literature and decolonisation narratives as the central reason for the award.

3. The laureate's best-known work, "Satantango," gained fame both as a novel and for a film adaptation by a major art-house director.

Which of the statements given above 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 is correct. The Nobel Prize in Literature 2025 was awarded to Hungarian novelist László Krasznahorkai, known for his complex style and apocalyptic vision.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The award citation focused on the depth and visionary nature of his writing, not postcolonial themes.
- Statement 3 is correct. His novel *Satantango* is internationally acclaimed and was adapted into a film by director Béla Tarr.

Q5. Consider the following statements about India's SAKSHAM Counter-Unmanned Aerial Threat Grid System recently fielded:

1. SAKSHAM is a modular, AI-driven command-and-control grid that integrates radar, electro-optical sensors, and both soft-kill (jamming/spoofing) and hard-kill (kinetic) effectors to secure the Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS) up to ~3,000 metres altitude.

2. The system was developed entirely by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) without industry participation.

3. SAKSHAM is intended only for static urban installations and cannot be networked across mobile frontline units or the Army Data Network.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. SAKSHAM is an indigenous modular counter-UAS command system integrating sensors, AI analytics, and coordinated soft/hard-kill responses to neutralize aerial threats.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Private defence industry partners contributed to its design and manufacturing; it was not an exclusively DRDO project.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. SAKSHAM is designed for both mobile and static deployment and can be networked with the Army Data Network for shared situational awareness.

Q6 On the blank outline map of South America, which one of the following descriptions most accurately locates the core area of the Atacama Desert?

a. A narrow coastal strip extending along northern Chile and southern Peru between the Pacific coast and the Andes, concentrated roughly between the cities of Arica (north) and Antofagasta/Calama (south-central), with the driest core in the rain-shadow east of the coastal cordillera.
b. A broad interior desert occupying eastern Bolivia and north-west Argentina, bounded by the Amazon to the north and the Pampas to the south.
c. A coastal plain on the Atlantic coast of South America stretching from northern Brazil down to Uruguay.
d. A high plateau desert centered in southern Paraguay and western Paraguay, west of the Brazilian shield.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:
The Atacama Desert lies along the Pacific coast of northern Chile, extending slightly into southern Peru, between the Andes and the ocean. It is one of the driest regions on Earth due to the combined effect of the cold Humboldt Current and the Andean rain shadow. The driest core lies between Arica and Antofagasta. Options (b), (c), and (d) locate it in entirely incorrect regions.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 — Art & Culture

Q1. *Discuss the salient features of Islamic and Indo-Islamic architecture in India with suitable examples. How did this architectural synthesis reflect the cultural amalgamation of the period?*

Answer:
The introduction of **Islamic architecture** in India from the 12th century onwards marked a significant shift

from the prevailing indigenous styles of temple and palace architecture. Yet, rather than displacing earlier forms, it **blended** with them, producing the distinctive **Indo-Islamic architectural tradition**.

Features of Islamic Architecture:

- **Functional Elements:** Mosque (*masjid*), tomb (*maqbara*), fort, and madarsa were key structures.

- **Design Characteristics:** Use of arches, domes, minarets, vaulted ceilings, and geometrical ornamentation instead of figurative carvings.

- **Materials and Techniques:** Extensive use of red sandstone and marble; calligraphy and arabesque motifs adorned walls.

Synthesis in Indo-Islamic Architecture:

1. **Delhi Sultanate Period:**

   o *Qutb Minar* and *Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque* combined Islamic arches with spolia from Hindu temples.

   o *Alauddin Khalji's Alai Darwaza* introduced true arches and domes.

2. **Mughal Period:**

   o *Humayun's Tomb* (Persian garden concept) became a precursor to the *Taj Mahal*.

   o *Fatehpur Sikri* reflects Rajput chhatris, jaalis, and bracketed columns harmonized with Islamic symmetry.

3. **Regional Styles:**

   o *Gol Gumbaz* (Bijapur) with its massive dome and echoing gallery.

   o *Charminar* (Hyderabad) combining Persian arches with local ornamentation.

Cultural Amalgamation:
This synthesis symbolized the **fusion of Persian-Islamic ideals with Indian craftsmanship**, embodying a broader civilizational dialogue. Hindu artisans adapted Islamic geometrical precision, while Persian architects absorbed Indian decorative richness, producing architecture that transcended religion and region.

Conclusion:
Indo-Islamic architecture was not merely aesthetic but a **visible expression of India's composite culture**, where spiritual and secular worlds met, leaving an enduring legacy of unity in diversity.

GS Paper 2 — Polity

Q2. *Compare and contrast the composition, powers, and privileges of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. How do these two Houses collectively ensure parliamentary accountability in India?*

Answer:
The Indian Parliament embodies the principle of **bicameralism**, ensuring both **representation of the people (Lok Sabha)** and **representation of the States (Rajya Sabha)**.

Composition:

- **Lok Sabha:** Maximum 552 members — directly elected by citizens on the basis of universal adult suffrage (Art. 81).

- **Rajya Sabha:** 250 members — indirectly elected by State Legislatures through proportional representation (Art. 80).

Powers:

1. **Legislative Powers:**

   o Both Houses have equal powers in ordinary legislation.

   o However, in case of disagreement, a **joint sitting** is convened (Art. 108), where the Lok Sabha's numerical superiority prevails.

2. **Financial Powers:**

   o **Lok Sabha dominates:** Money Bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha (Art. 110). The Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations.

3. **Executive Oversight:**

   o The **Council of Ministers** is collectively responsible only to the Lok Sabha (Art. 75).

   o Yet, the Rajya Sabha exercises indirect oversight through debates, questions, and committees.

4. **Constitutional Powers:**

   o Both participate equally in constitutional amendments (Art. 368).

   o Rajya Sabha alone can authorize Parliament to legislate on State subjects (Art. 249).

Privileges:
Both Houses enjoy **freedom of speech**, **immunity from legal proceedings for official acts**, and power to regulate their internal procedures — ensuring independence and dignity.

Ensuring Accountability:
Through instruments like **Question Hour**, **Censure Motions**, **Committee Reports**, and **Public Accounts Committee**, both Houses scrutinize the Executive. The **Rajya Sabha's continuity** provides stability and institutional memory, while the **Lok Sabha's electoral legitimacy** ensures responsiveness.

Conclusion:
Together, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha create a **dynamic balance of accountability and continuity**, embodying India's federal character and democratic ethos.

GS Paper 3 — Economy

Q3. *Examine the challenges faced by India's agricultural sector in the context of World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. Suggest reforms to safeguard farmers' interests while complying with global trade norms.*

Answer:
India's agriculture operates within the **framework of the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)**, which aims to liberalize agricultural trade through three pillars — market access, domestic support, and export subsidies.

Challenges Under WTO Framework:

1. **Domestic Support Limits:**

- o India's Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement are classified as "Amber Box" subsidies.

- o The WTO restricts such support to **10% of the value of production**, but India's calculation uses outdated 1986–88 prices, making it appear inflated.

2. **Public Stockholding (PSH) Issue:**

   - o India's food security programs (like NFSA) are questioned for trade-distorting impacts.

3. **Export Restrictions:**

   - o India faces pressure for banning or restricting exports (like rice or wheat), affecting its policy autonomy.

4. **Market Access Barriers:**

   - o Developed countries maintain high non-tariff barriers and subsidies, creating an unlevel playing field.

Reforms and Way Forward:

- **Data and Classification Reform:** Update the base year for subsidy calculations; push for permanent solution to PSH issue.

- **Diversification:** Encourage high-value crops and reduce over-dependence on cereals.

- **Technological Empowerment:** Invest in agri-tech and digital platforms to increase competitiveness.

- **Institutional Reforms:** Strengthen Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for better market negotiation.

- **Diplomatic Leverage:** Lead developing-country coalitions (G-33) to demand fair trade practices.

Conclusion:
Balancing WTO obligations with domestic needs is a test of policy skill. India must pursue **food security with trade fairness**, ensuring that global norms do not compromise the livelihoods of its 50% population dependent on agriculture.

GS Paper 4 — Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude

Q4. *Explain the importance of "Ethical Leadership" in public administration. Discuss how ethical leadership helps in promoting integrity, trust, and citizen-centric governance.*

Answer:
Ethical leadership refers to the practice of decision-making guided by moral values, transparency, and accountability. In public administration, it goes beyond compliance — it represents a commitment to **public welfare, fairness, and integrity**.

Importance in Public Administration:

1. **Moral Compass:** Ethical leaders serve as role models, guiding subordinates to adhere to honesty and fairness.

2. **Integrity in Governance:** Upholds rule of law and deters corruption by creating a culture of moral responsibility.

3. **Trust-Building:** Transparent actions and accountability enhance public confidence in institutions.

4. **Decision-Making under Dilemmas:** Ethical leadership ensures decisions align with constitutional values rather than political expediency.

Impact on Governance:

- **Integrity:** Leaders who demonstrate probity inspire others, reducing misuse of power.

- **Transparency:** Ethical leaders promote openness, e-governance, and proactive disclosure of information.

- **Citizen-Centric Administration:** By emphasizing empathy, service, and justice, ethical leadership ensures that governance outcomes reflect people's real needs.

- **Sustainable Institutions:** Ethical leadership institutionalizes accountability, preventing systemic decay.

Examples:

- *E. Sreedharan's leadership* in the Delhi Metro exemplified professionalism, punctuality, and integrity.

- *Lal Bahadur Shastri* embodied ethical conduct by aligning national policy with personal simplicity and honesty.

Conclusion:

Ethical leadership acts as the **moral infrastructure of governance**. In an era of increasing complexity and cynicism, it ensures that administration remains people-oriented, transparent, and faithful to constitutional morality.

GS Paper — Current Affairs

Q5. *The recent UN Report has called for global financial reform to ensure responsible mining for the clean energy transition. Examine the key issues raised by the report and discuss how India can balance its mineral development with sustainability.*

Answer:

The **UN's 2025 report on Responsible Mining and the Energy Transition** emphasizes the urgent need for **financial, regulatory, and environmental reforms** to prevent "green extractivism" — unsustainable mining in the name of renewable energy.

Key Issues Highlighted:

1. **Unequal Financing Structure:** Current global finance favours capital-rich mining firms from developed countries, marginalizing developing economies.

2. **Environmental Risks:** Accelerated mining for lithium, cobalt, and rare earths is causing land degradation, water contamination, and community displacement.

3. **Governance Gaps:** Weak regulatory frameworks and corruption undermine ethical sourcing.

4. **Just Transition:** The report calls for financing mechanisms that ensure workers' rights, fair wages, and local community benefits.

Implications for India:

India's growing demand for critical minerals (like lithium and cobalt for EVs) must be balanced against ecological sustainability.

Way Forward for India:

- **Institutional Reforms:** Strengthen the National Mineral Policy (2019) to align with ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) principles.

- **Transparent Financing:** Promote green bonds and sovereign funds to channel sustainable mining investments.

- **Community Participation:** Implement Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for affected communities.

- **Circular Economy:** Encourage mineral recycling and reuse, especially in battery value chains.

- **International Cooperation:** Collaborate under platforms like the *Critical Minerals Partnership* to ensure fair pricing and ethical sourcing.

Conclusion:

The UN report underscores that **clean energy cannot be built on dirty mining**. India's policy challenge lies in creating a mineral economy that is **green, just, and globally responsible** — ensuring that sustainability becomes the foundation of progress, not its casualty.