DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 17/11/2025 (MONDAY)

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

QUIZ TIME!

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The Amara-Nayaka system under the Vijayanagara rulers closely resembled the Mansabdari system of the Mughals in both military and administrative structure.

2. The Royal Centre in Hampi was entirely reserved for the royal family and religious elite, with no economic or cultural activity permitted within its precincts.

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Both
(c) None
(d) Cannot be determined from the given information

Answer: (c) None

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Amara-Nayaka system did have military and administrative roles, but it was not structurally similar to the centrally controlled Mansabdari system. The Nayakas had considerable autonomy and often hereditary control.

- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Royal Centre in Hampi included not just palaces and temples but also administrative offices, marketplaces, and other structures indicating a mix of activities.

Q2. Which of the following best describes the concept of "Phreatophytic vegetation"?
(a) Plants that grow only in saline coastal zones
(b) Deep-rooted plants that obtain water from the water table
(c) Epiphytic plants relying on air moisture
(d) Plants that grow exclusively in volcanic soils

Answer: (b) Deep-rooted plants that obtain water from the water table

Explanation:
Phreatophytes are plants that grow roots deep enough to tap groundwater, surviving in arid or semi-arid regions by accessing the phreatic zone. Tamarisk and mesquite are common examples.

Q3. With reference to Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) in India, consider the following statements:

1. AMT is imposed primarily on individuals and Hindu Undivided Families to prevent complete tax avoidance.

2. AMT rate is lower than the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) applicable to companies.

3. AMT provisions apply only if taxable income exceeds a specified threshold.

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: AMT primarily applies to non-corporate taxpayers (including LLPs and partnership firms), not just individuals and HUFs.

- Statement 2 is correct: AMT is levied at 18.5%, while MAT for companies is 15% (after changes), making AMT higher in comparison.

- Statement 3 is incorrect: AMT applies if adjusted total income exceeds ₹20 lakh, but many exemptions exist, making the application conditional, not universal.

Q4. With reference to the Doctrine of Severability under the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The doctrine allows only the specific unconstitutional provision of a statute to be declared void, keeping the rest intact.

2. The doctrine is rooted in Article 13 of the Indian Constitution.

3. This doctrine prevents courts from striking down entire laws, even if the unconstitutional part cannot be separated.

4. It was most notably applied in the case of R.M.D.C. vs. Union of India (1957).

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Doctrine of Severability ensures that only unconstitutional parts of a law are struck down.

- Statement 2 is correct: It emerges from Article 13 which invalidates laws contravening Fundamental Rights.

- Statement 3 is incorrect: If the constitutional and unconstitutional parts are inseparable, courts can strike down the whole law.

- Statement 4 is incorrect: The doctrine was discussed earlier; the case often cited is *A.K. Gopalan vs. State of Madras (1950)* and *State of Bombay vs. F.N. Balsara (1951)*.

Q5. Assertion Reason type -
Assertion (A): Incised meanders are commonly associated with rejuvenated rivers in strongly uplifted regions.
Reason (R1): Incised meanders form due to lateral erosion dominating over vertical down-cutting in youthful river stages.
Reason (R2): Incised meanders can occur even without a significant change in river energy or base level.

Which of the following is correct?
(a) A is true, and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A

(b) A is true, but only R1 correctly explains A
(c) A is true, but neither R1 nor R2 correctly explains A
(d) A is false, but both R1 and R2 are true

Answer: (c) A is true, but neither R1 nor R2 correctly explains A

Explanation:

- Assertion is true: Incised meanders form when rivers cut deeply into their own floodplain due to rejuvenation.

- Reason R1 is incorrect: Vertical erosion dominates in incised meanders, not lateral erosion.

- Reason R2 is incorrect: Incised meanders generally require a change in base level or river energy due to tectonic uplift or sea level changes, so they are not formed without these changes.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the CAG's proposal regarding restructuring of Indian Audit and Accounts Service, consider the following statements:

1. The proposed 'Performance Audit Cadre' aims to exclusively monitor the fiscal deficit targets of the Union government.

2. The 'Digital Systems Audit Cadre' under this proposal will be responsible for auditing IT systems and cybersecurity frameworks of public sector enterprises.

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Both
(c) None
(d) Cannot be determined from the given information

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Performance Audit Cadre aims to strengthen audit-based governance not limited to fiscal deficit but likely includes program and outcome audits across sectors.

- Statement 2 is correct: The Digital System Audit Cadre is proposed to focus on emerging risks related to digitization in public sector including cybersecurity.

Q2. In the context of recent environmental classifications, Gogabeel Lake, recently designated as the 94th Ramsar site of India, is located in:
(a) Assam
(b) Bihar
(c) Tripura
(d) Punjab

Answer: (b) Bihar

Explanation:
Gogabeel Lake, located in Katihar district, Bihar, is a freshwater oxbow lake which plays a crucial role as a wetland ecosystem, especially for migratory birds. It was designated as a Ramsar site in 2024.

Q3. With reference to Project Suncatcher, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the International Renewable Energy Agency to promote floating solar projects on reservoirs and abandoned mines.

2. The project aims to develop hydrogen production facilities solely based on solar photovoltaic plants.

3. India is one of the founding members and pilot countries for this initiative.

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 is correct: Project Suncatcher aims to scale floating solar and hybrid solar systems across under-utilized waterbodies, with global cooperation under IRENA.

- Statement 2 is incorrect: While hydrogen-based solutions are part of the long-term goal, the project is not solely focused on hydrogen production.

- Statement 3 is correct: India has partnered as a pilot nation and founding member participating through SECI and NTPC in selected states.

Q4. With reference to the Doha Political Declaration, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to align UN peacekeeping mandates with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16.

2. The document proposes stronger mechanisms for sanctioning non-state actors violating ceasefire agreements.

3. The declaration explicitly mentions the role of regional organizations like ASEAN and AU in conflict resolution.

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 is correct: The declaration emphasizes peace, justice, and strong institutions, aligning with SDG 16.

- Statement 2 is correct: It includes provisions for enhanced monitoring and consequences for ceasefire violations by both state and non-state actors.

- Statement 3 is incorrect: While regional collaboration is encouraged, specific organizations like ASEAN or AU were not explicitly mentioned in the declaration.

Q5. With reference to Ethiopia's adoption of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), consider the following statements:

1. Ethiopia aims to adopt DAY-NRLM as a tool for rural women's empowerment through self-help groups.

2. The initiative is part of India's Line of Credit under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme.

3. The program will be implemented with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

4. The Government of India will directly fund the entire program for its first five years in Ethiopia.

How many of the above statements are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: DAY-NRLM in Ethiopia is focused on women's self-employment and SHG-based model.

- Statement 2 is incorrect: It is not under LOC funding but implemented through capacity-building support and cooperation.

- Statement 3 is correct: UNDP and World Bank are supporting the knowledge-sharing framework.

- Statement 4 is incorrect: India is not funding it fully; Ethiopia will mobilize resources with external support.

Q6. Which of the following Ramsar sites lies closest to the Tropic of Cancer?
(a) Sambhar Lake
(b) Keoladeo National Park
(c) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
(d) Loktak Lake

Answer: (a) Sambhar Lake

Explanation:
The Tropic of Cancer passes slightly north of Rajasthan, and Sambhar Lake is geographically closest to it.

Keoladeo lies further south, while Bhitarkanika and Loktak are far in the east and closer to sea level and lower latitudes.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. *"The American War of Independence was not just a colonial revolt but a chronic struggle over ideas of liberty, governance, and the nature of political authority." Discuss how the ideological foundations of the American Revolution influenced subsequent political revolutions globally.*

Sample Answer:
The American War of Independence (1775–1783) was more than a rebellion against British colonial authority; it was a watershed moment in world history. The revolution was grounded in Enlightenment ideals—natural rights, sovereignty of the people, and representative government—articulated through seminal texts like Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and the *Declaration of Independence*. These ideas challenged monarchical despotism and promoted a republican structure based on consent of the governed.

The ideological foundation of the American Revolution was rooted in Enlightenment philosophies, notably the works of John Locke, which emphasized individual liberty and resistance to tyranny. The American colonists opposed the British Parliament's taxation and authoritarian rule without representation, framing it as a violation of natural rights. The successful establishment of the United States Constitution—with its separation of powers, checks and balances, and codified Bill of Rights—inspired political thinkers and revolutionaries across the globe.

Globally, the ideological impact was profound. The French Revolution (1789) borrowed heavily from American revolutionary rhetoric, as reflected in the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*. The Latin American independence movements, led by figures like Simón Bolívar, drew inspiration from the American struggle, adopting republican constitutions and anti-colonial sentiments. In Europe, the revolution ignited debates on constitutionalism and civic rights, influencing reformist movements in Britain and elsewhere.

The American Revolution also served as a template for challenging imperialism. Colonized nations in Asia and Africa later invoked similar arguments of self-rule and popular sovereignty during their liberation struggles in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Thus, the American War of Independence heralded the global age of republicanism. It set a precedent for modern democracies and established key principles—rule of law, civil liberties, and participatory governance—that continue to shape global political discourse.

GS Paper 2

Q2. *Sevottam Model was introduced to bring citizen-centric governance in public service delivery. Critically examine its design, objectives, implementation status, and challenges.*

Sample Answer:
The Sevottam Model, introduced by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

(DARPG), is a framework for improving public service delivery, focusing on citizen-centric standards and accountability. The term *Sevottam* means "excellence in service." Conceived in the early 2000s, it provides a structured approach to institutionalizing quality in public administration and making government agencies more responsive.

Design and Components:

The Sevottam Model is built on three pillars:

1. **Citizen Charter Implementation** – defining service standards, timelines, and transparency for public services.

2. **Grievance Redress Mechanism** – ensuring that citizens have avenues to lodge complaints and receive timely responses.

3. **Service Delivery Capability** – ensuring internal processes, human resources, and infrastructure align with service standards.

The model emphasizes self-assessment and continual improvement, drawing from Total Quality Management principles.

Objectives:

- To enhance trust between citizens and government.

- To introduce measurable service delivery standards.

- To make government more responsive, transparent, and accountable.

- To standardize grievance handling and feedback loops.

Implementation Status:

Sevottam has been partially implemented in various departments such as CBDT, CBEC, Railways, Passport Offices, EPFO, and some state departments. The frameworks have shown improvements in grievance redressal times, service standards, and citizen satisfaction in pilot initiatives.

However, full-scale adherence remains uneven. While centralized departments have made progress, state and district-level offices lag in structural reforms.

Challenges:

- **Lack of Institutional Will**: Resistance to accountability and lack of internal incentives for reform.

- **Inadequate Capacity**: Insufficient training and resource allocation at lower administrative levels.

- **Technological Gaps**: Digital infrastructure unevenness limits automation and tracking mechanisms.

- **Monitoring Deficits**: No dedicated oversight body to gauge outcomes and enforce compliance.

Conclusion:

Sevottam was a pioneering initiative toward citizen-centric governance, but its effectiveness has been undermined by implementation gaps. Strengthening inter-departmental coordination, investing in capacity building, and institutionalizing monitoring systems are crucial for realizing its transformative potential.

GS Paper 3

Q3. *Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act has been a key pillar of India's fiscal policy framework. Critically analyze its relevance today in light of contemporary macroeconomic challenges.*

Sample Answer:

The **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act**, enacted in 2003, aimed to institutionalize fiscal discipline by setting targets for revenue and fiscal deficit reduction. Over the years, it has served as a fiscal anchor, promoting transparency in government finances and enhancing macroeconomic stability. However, its relevance in today's evolving economic landscape warrants examination.

The FRBM Act originally targeted elimination of revenue deficit and reduction of fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP by 2008. Various amendments and revisions—most notably the 2018 NK Singh Committee recommendations—updated the targets and added an "escape clause" for deviations due to unforeseen circumstances.

Relevance Today:

1. **Fiscal Prudence**: With rising public spending on infrastructure, welfare, and pandemic-related stimulus, India's fiscal deficit has exceeded 6%. The FRBM helps maintain long-term debt sustainability and ensures intergenerational equity.

2. **Investor Confidence**: Adherence to fiscal discipline fosters domestic and foreign investor trust, reducing sovereign risk and borrowing costs.

3. **Macroeconomic Stability**: Fiscal deficits are correlated with inflation and external vulnerability; FRBM compliance stabilizes these indicators.

Challenges in Current Context:

- **Pandemic Impact**: COVID-19 necessitated unprecedented spending, stretching the utility of rigid fiscal targets.

- **Infrastructure Push**: India's aspiration for high growth demands expanded capital expenditure, potentially clashing with deficit reduction mandates.

- **State Finances**: FRBM applies to states through the 12th Finance Commission guidelines, but large off-budget borrowings through state PSUs weaken the framework.

Reforms Needed:

- Shift from numerical deficit targets to a broad medium-term fiscal framework.

- Focus on quality of expenditure rather than just quantum.

- Adopt a counter-cyclical fiscal policy to enable flexibility during downturns.

- Enhance transparency on off-budget borrowings and contingent liabilities.

Conclusion:

While the FRBM Act remains a crucial anchor for fiscal management, it must evolve with changing macroeconomic realities. Balancing fiscal prudence with growth imperatives requires a flexible, dynamic framework that accommodates shocks while preserving responsibility.

GS Paper 4

Q4. *"Public office is a public trust" – Examine this statement in the context of ethical conduct in public administration. Suggest measures to strengthen public trust in governance.*

Sample Answer:

The maxim **"Public office is a public trust"** captures the moral foundation for ethical conduct in public service. The phrase implies that public servants are entrusted with authority not for personal gain but for the collective good. Ethical public administration thus demands integrity, transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to citizens.

At its core, public trust is built on the expectation that officials will discharge duties honestly, make decisions impartially, and avoid conflicts of interest. When breached, it leads to governance deficits, corruption, and public disillusionment.

Ethical Foundations:

- **Integrity**: Absolute honesty in public function.

- **Objectivity and Fairness**: Decisions based on merit, not personal bias.

- **Accountability**: Being answerable to the public for decisions taken.

- **Transparency**: Disclosures through RTI, open data platforms, and public consultations.

India's administrative ethics are governed by multiple instruments: Code of Conduct for civil servants, Prevention of Corruption Act, RTI Act, Lokpal, and citizen charters. However, systemic challenges persist: delayed justice, political interference, opaque processes, and institutional capture.

Improving Public Trust:

1. **Strengthen Ethical Governance Frameworks**: Introduce mandatory ethics training, enforce conflict of interest protocols, and empower vigilance bodies.

2. **Technological Transparency**: Digitization of service delivery and process automation reduces discretion and corruption.

3. **Whistleblower Protection**: Ensuring confidentiality, safety, and rewards for ethical disclosures.

4. **Citizen Engagement**: Platforms like *MyGov*, participatory budgeting, and grievance redressal mechanisms strengthen public voice.

5. **Leadership by Example**: Ethical conduct by senior public officials promotes a culture of integrity.

The **Sevottam Model**, RTI, and social audits also enhance trust in governance by promoting citizen-centric accountability.

Conclusion:

Public service is not just a career—it is a moral commitment. Strengthening ethical governance is essential for fostering public trust and ensuring good governance. Institutional reforms, combined with a culture of integrity, can transform public perception and improve democratic resilience.

Current Affairs

Q5. *Puducherry's innovative green transformation model seeks to combine ecological sustainability with local governance and community involvement. Assess its key initiatives and their significance for urban resilience in India.*

Sample Answer:

Puducherry, recently recognized for its innovative green urban transformation model, has emerged as a

national frontrunner in sustainable city planning. The Union Territory's climate-sensitive initiatives integrate ecological conservation, urban resilience, and participatory governance.

Key Initiatives:

1. **Green Mobility**: Puducherry launched affordable e-rickshaws, solar-powered buses, and cycle-sharing networks. This reduces urban congestion and carbon emissions while creating sustainable employment.

2. **Wetland Restoration**: The revival of urban wetlands like Ousteri Lake and Bahour Lake has bolstered biodiversity, improved water tables, and provided climate buffers against floods. Integrated Wetland Management under AMRUT ensured community participation and scientific planning.

3. **Renewable Energy Transition**: Rooftop solar policies have made Puducherry a leader in decentralized energy. Public buildings, parks, and streetlights run on solar power, reducing dependency on fossil fuels.

4. **Waste Management Reforms**: Door-to-door waste collection, source segregation, and decentralized composting have minimized landfill pressure. Waste-to-energy pilots have further expanded energy access.

5. **Blue-Green Infrastructure**: Stormwater management linking waterbodies, green belts, and coastal protection structures enhance climate resilience. Initiatives like open storm drains with porous pavements reduce urban flooding.

6. **Participatory Governance**: Local bodies, NGOs, and self-help groups play a key role in planning and implementation, ensuring both inclusivity and accountability.

Significance for Urban Resilience:

- **Climate Resilience**: Integrating wetlands and green mobility mitigates flood and heat impacts.

- **Livelihoods**: Local communities benefit from eco-tourism, green jobs, and improved public services.

- **Replicability**: The model provides a blueprint for other small and medium-sized cities to align development with sustainability goals.

Conclusion:
Puducherry's transformation underscores the potential of environmentally conscious urban governance. Through decentralization, innovation, and community ownership, it demonstrates how sustainable development can be both inclusive and scalable.