DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 17/01/2026 (SATURDAY)

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

QUIZ TIME!

📞 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding the early medieval power struggle in eastern and northern India:

- **Statement I:** The Palas initially derived legitimacy primarily through Brahmanical land grants, whereas the Gurjara-Pratiharas relied more on military control over trade routes of the Ganga–Yamuna doab.

- **Statement II:** The Tripartite Struggle indicates that control over Kannauj was symbolically important but economically marginal to both the Palas and the Pratiharas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) Statement I only

(b) Statement II only

(c) Both Statement I and Statement II

(d) Neither Statement I nor Statement II

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement I is correct:** The Palas consolidated power in Bengal and Bihar through extensive land grants (*agraharas*) to Brahmanas, strengthening agrarian expansion and legitimacy. The Gurjara-Pratiharas emphasized military dominance over the Ganga–Yamuna doab, a key commercial and strategic corridor.

- **Statement II is incorrect:** Kannauj was both symbolically and economically crucial due to its control over fertile plains and trade routes; it was far from marginal.

Question 2: With reference to ecological succession, consider the following:

(a) Primary succession necessarily proceeds faster than secondary succession because it starts with nutrient-rich substrates.

(b) Secondary succession always restores the original climax community irrespective of changes in climatic conditions.

(c) In xerarch succession, lichens contribute to soil formation primarily through chemical weathering of rock surfaces.

(d) The rate of succession is independent of the life-history traits of pioneer species.

Which of the options given above is correct?

(a) (a) and (b) only

(b) (c) only

(c) (b) and (d) only

(d) (a), (c), and (d) onlyShutterstock

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** Primary succession is much slower than secondary succession because it starts on bare rock/surfaces without existing soil.

- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Secondary succession does not necessarily restore the same climax if the local climate or environmental conditions have shifted.

- **Option (c) is correct:** In xerarch (dry) environments, lichens act as pioneer species, secreting acids that chemically weather rocks to begin soil formation.

- **Option (d) is incorrect:** Succession rates are heavily dependent on the traits of pioneer species (e.g., growth rate, seed dispersal).

Question 3: Consider the following statements about India's fiscal framework:

1. The distinction between revenue and capital expenditure is irrelevant for assessing fiscal sustainability.

2. Off-budget borrowings reduce fiscal transparency but do not immediately affect the debt-to-GDP ratio.

3. A decline in revenue deficit necessarily implies improved quality of government expenditure.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The composition of expenditure (Capital vs. Revenue) is critical. Capital expenditure creates assets and is generally considered more sustainable.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Off-budget borrowings obscure true liabilities and may not instantly reflect in headline debt figures, though they remain a long-term liability.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** A reduced revenue deficit does not automatically ensure that the government is spending money productively on capital assets.

Question 4: Consider the following statements regarding constitutional offices in India:

1. The President can return a money bill for reconsideration by Parliament.

2. The Governor's discretionary powers are explicitly enumerated in the Constitution.

3. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha ceases to hold office immediately upon dissolution of the House.

4. Removal of the Vice-President requires a special majority in both Houses of Parliament.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The President can give assent or withhold it, but **cannot** return a money bill for reconsideration.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the Governor has discretionary powers (unlike the President), they are not all "explicitly enumerated"; some are situational/implied.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Speaker continues to hold office until immediately before the first meeting of the newly elected Lok Sabha.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Removing the Vice-President requires a resolution passed by a "majority of all the then members" (Effective/Special Majority) of the Rajya Sabha and agreed to by a simple majority in the Lok Sabha.

Question 5: Physical Geography

Assertion (A): The distribution of major deserts across the world is closely associated with the descending limb of the Hadley cell.

Reason 1 (R1): Descending air in subtropical high-pressure belts suppresses cloud formation and precipitation.

Reason 2 (R2): Ocean currents play no role in modifying desert climates along western continental margins.

Which of the following is correct?

(a) A is true; both R1 and R2 are true, and both explain A

(b) A is true; R1 is true and explains A; R2 is false

(c) A is true; R1 is false; R2 is true

(d) A is false; R1 is true

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is correct:** Subtropical deserts (like the Sahara) are found where the Hadley cell air descends (around 30° N/S).

- **Reason 1 (R1) is correct:** Descending air warms adiabatically and creates high pressure, which inhibits the rising motion needed for cloud formation.

- **Reason 2 (R2) is false:** Cold ocean currents (like the Benguela or Peru currents) significantly increase aridity on the western coasts of continents by chilling the air and reducing its moisture-carrying capacity.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched logo and mascot of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI):

Statement I: The new branding seeks to shift the ministry's image from a passive data repository to an active, tech-driven facilitator of evidence-based policymaking under the 'Viksit Bharat' framework.

Statement II: The mascot is designed to represent 'Data Integrity' and 'Temporal Consistency,' specifically highlighting the transition from the traditional Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a real-time Big Data-driven index.

Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?123

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I456

(b) Both Statement I and Statemen7t II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I89

(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect1011

(d) Sta12tement I is incorrect but Statement II is correc13t

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation: Statement I is correct as the new identity aims to modernize the ministry's perception. However, Statement II is incorrect. While the branding emphasizes technology and data democratization, there has been no official announcement that the mascot specifically represents a transition of CPI to a "Big Data-driven index" as a singular functional mandate. The mascot primarily represents accessibility and trust in official statistics.

Question 2: The 'E-Bill System' recently introduced for fertilizer subsidies primarily aims to address which of the following specific structural inefficiencies in the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) 2.0 framework?

(a) Elimination of the 'Point of Sale' (PoS) authentication requirement for marginal farmers.

(b) Reduction of the working capital cycle for manufacturers by automating the generation and tracking of claims.

(c) Capping the total quantity of urea accessible to non-farming industrial units through biometric locks.

(d) Shifting the subsidy burden from the Department of Fertilizers to the State Governments via an escrow model.

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation: The E-Bill system is a major step in 'Ease of Doing Business.' In the fertilizer sector, manufacturers often face liquidity crunches due to delays in subsidy processing. The E-Bill system automates the billing process, reducing human intervention, enhancing transparency, and significantly shortening the time it takes for the government to reimburse companies after a sale is verified.

Question 3: With reference to the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, consider the following statements:

1. The LoC is a legally recognized international boundary defined by the Radcliffe Line of 1947.

2. The 'NJ9842' coordinate marks the northernmost point where the LoC ends and the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) begins.

3. Unlike the International Border (IB), the LoC is under the operational control of the Indian Army, not the Border Security Force (BSF).

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The LoC is a "de facto" border resulting from the 1948 ceasefire and the 1972 Simla Agreement; it is not the Radcliffe Line (which defines the International Border in Punjab/Bengal).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** NJ9842 is the terminal point of the LoC. Beyond this lies the Siachen Glacier area, where the line is known as the AGPL.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The International Border is guarded by the BSF (Ministry of Home Affairs), while the LoC is a live military line guarded by the Indian Army (Ministry of Defence).

Question 4: Consider the following statements regarding the Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) service recently launched by BSNL:

1. VoWiFi utilizes IEEE 802.11 standards to carry voice packets over an IP network, bypassing the need for cellular towers.

2. The technology requires a specialized Unlicensed Mobile Access (UMA) network to allow seamless handovers between WiFi and LTE without dropping calls.

3. VoWiFi calls are exempted from the Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) because they do not utilize the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** VoWiFi uses WiFi protocols (IEEE 802.11) to transmit voice data, which is highly effective in "dark zones" with poor indoor cellular coverage.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** UMA/GAN technology allows the phone to treat a WiFi hotspot like a cellular base station, enabling seamless switching.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Even if the call starts on WiFi, if it terminates on a different operator's network (PSTN/PLMN), it may still involve interconnect protocols and regulatory charges; it is not "exempted" by default purely due to the technology.

Question 5: Regarding the Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Act seeks to bring petroleum crude, high-speed diesel, and natural gas under the ambit of Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT) to replace the existing GST framework.

2. It introduces a 'Green Cess' on non-renewable energy inputs used in the production of excisable goods.

3. The Act mandates the mandatory use of blockchain-based 'Excise-Trace' for all tobacco-related products to curb illicit trade.

4. It empowers the Central Government to unilaterally increase excise duties on "sin goods" beyond the ceiling limits prescribed by the GST Council.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Petroleum products are currently outside GST; the amendment deals with streamlining excise on items still under the old regime, not replacing GST.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** (Hypothetical distracter) Green cesses are usually under specialized environmental acts or Finance Acts, not the core Excise Amendment.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Modern excise reforms (2025-26) emphasize digital tracking (Track and Trace) to prevent revenue leakage in tobacco and alcohol (where applicable).

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Central Government cannot override the GST Council's structural decisions regarding goods already under GST; Excise only applies to non-GST items.

Question 6: Geography/Map-Based (Bulgaria)

Assertion (A): Bulgaria serves as a critical transit hub for the Middle Corridor (Trans-Caspian International Transport Route) connecting Central Asia to the European Union.

Reason 1 (R1): Bulgaria shares a maritime border with the Caspian Sea, allowing direct ferry access to Kazakhstan.

Reason 2 (R2): The Port of Varna and the Port of Burgas provide the primary Black Sea entry points for goods bypassing Russian territory.

Which of the following is correct?

(a) A is true; both R1 and R2 are true, and both explain A

(b) A is true; R1 is false; R2 is true and explains A

(c) A is false; R1 is true

(d) A is true; R1 is true; R2 is false

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true:** Bulgaria's location on the Black Sea makes it a vital link for the Middle Corridor.

- **Reason 1 (R1) is false:** Bulgaria is on the **Black Sea**, not the Caspian Sea. There is no direct maritime border with Kazakhstan.

- **Reason 2 (R2) is true:** Varna and Burgas are critical ports that allow goods coming across the Black Sea (from Georgia/Turkey) to enter the EU, making it a key part of the "bypass Russia" logistics strategy.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1: Indian Heritage & Culture / Geography

Q. "The Bhakti and Sufi movements were not merely religious reforms but were instrumental in shaping the socio-cultural fabric of medieval India." Discuss. (15 Marks, 250-300 Words)

Sample Answer:

The Bhakti and Sufi movements, spanning from the 7th to the 17th century, represented a monumental shift in the Indian psyche. They moved beyond ritualistic orthodoxy to emphasize a personal, emotional bond with the Divine, acting as catalysts for deep-seated social change.

Socio-Cultural Impacts:

- **Egalitarianism and Social Reform:** Both movements challenged the rigid caste hierarchy. Bhakti saints like Kabir and Ravidas, and Sufi pirs like Nizamuddin Auliya, preached the equality of all humans. This provided a "spiritual safety valve" for the oppressed classes, preventing large-scale social fragmentation.

- **Linguistic Revolution:** To reach the masses, these movements abandoned Sanskrit and Persian in favor of regional vernaculars. This led to the growth of literature in Marathi (Namdev), Bengali (Chaitanya), Hindi (Tulsidas), and Punjabi (Guru Nanak), which unified linguistic identities.

- **Syncretic Culture (Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb):** The interaction between Sufi mysticism and Bhakti spirituality birthed a shared cultural space. The *Dargahs* became centers where both Hindus and Muslims congregated, fostering communal harmony and a shared architectural and musical heritage (e.g., Qawwali and Bhajans).

- **Status of Women:** Bhakti provided a platform for women like Mirabai, Akka Mahadevi, and Andal to assert their agency, challenging patriarchal norms by prioritizing spiritual devotion over domestic servitude.

Conclusion:

In essence, the Bhakti and Sufi movements democratized religion. They did not just reform "faith"; they reformed "society" by embedding the values of tolerance, empathy, and simplicity into the Indian consciousness, creating a pluralistic foundation that continues to define modern India.

GS-2: Polity & Governance

Q. "Constitutional Morality is a safeguard against the 'tyranny of the majority' and a prerequisite for a thriving democracy." Examine the statement with recent judicial trends. (15 Marks, 250-300 Words)

Sample Answer:

Constitutional Morality (CM) refers to the adherence to the core values of the Constitution—justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity—rather than just the literal text. As propounded by Dr. Ambedkar, it is not a natural instinct but must be cultivated to prevent democracy from devolving into a mere "majoritarian" rule.

Role as a Safeguard:

- **Protecting Minority Rights:** CM ensures that the fundamental rights of individuals or minority groups are not trampled upon by the preferences of the majority. It prioritizes "rights" over "numbers."

- **Check on Executive Arbitrariness:** It acts as a benchmark for the judiciary to review laws that might be procedurally valid but substantially violate the spirit of the Constitution.

- **Institutional Integrity:** It mandates that holders of constitutional offices (Speaker, Governor, etc.) act with impartiality, preserving the "checks and balances" essential for federalism.

Recent Judicial Trends:

1. **Navtej Singh Johar Case:** The Supreme Court used CM to decriminalize consensual same-sex acts, stating that popular morality cannot supersede constitutional rights.

2. **Sabarimala Judgment:** The Court held that "notions of purity and pollution" (social morality) must yield to the "constitutional morality" of gender equality (Article 15).

3. **Governance of Delhi (Article 239AA):** The Court emphasized that "collaborative federalism" and "constitutional trust" between the Centre and States are vital components of CM.

Conclusion:

While critics argue that CM allows for "Judicial Overreach," it remains the ultimate shield against the "Rule of Men" replacing the "Rule of Law." For a diverse nation like India, Constitutional Morality is the glue that binds the democratic aspirations of a billion people to the vision of its founding fathers.

GS-3: Economy / Science & Tech

Q. "The transition to a 'Circular Economy' is no longer an environmental choice but an economic necessity for India's sustainable growth." Analyze. (15 Marks, 250-300 Words)

Sample Answer:

A Circular Economy (CE) moves away from the traditional "Take-Make-Dispose" linear model to one based on "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Recover." For India, aiming for a $5 trillion economy, resource efficiency is the only way to decouple growth from environmental degradation.

Economic Necessity:

- **Resource Security:** India is heavily dependent on imports for critical minerals (Lithium, Cobalt) and energy. Recycling urban mines (E-waste) can reduce import bills and volatility.

- **Job Creation:** The transition is estimated to create millions of "green jobs" in waste management, repair services, and high-tech recycling sectors.

- **Cost Efficiency:** For MSMEs, reusing raw materials reduces production costs, making Indian exports more competitive globally under regimes like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

- **Managing Urbanization:** With India's waste generation expected to double by 2030, CE models prevent the collapse of urban infrastructure and reduce the economic cost of health crises linked to pollution.

Challenges and Way Forward:

The shift faces hurdles like the lack of specialized technology, a dominant informal waste sector, and low consumer awareness.

- **Government Initiatives:** The **Battery Waste Management Rules 2022** and the **Vehicle Scrappage Policy** are steps in the right direction.
- **Policy Push:** India needs to incentivize "Design for Disassembly" and provide tax breaks for products using recycled content.

Conclusion:

A Circular Economy is the cornerstone of "Viksit Bharat." By transforming waste into wealth, India can achieve its Net Zero 2070 targets while ensuring that its industrial expansion remains resilient, self-reliant, and inclusive.

GS-4: Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude

Q. You are the District Magistrate of a district where a major infrastructure project is planned. The project will bring huge investment but requires the displacement of a tribal community. The community is protesting, and a local political leader is instigating them for personal gain. How will you handle this situation? (Case Study - 15 Marks, 300 Words)

Sample Answer:

This case involves a conflict between Developmental Needs and Human Rights, complicated by Political Opportunism. My primary responsibility is to uphold the law while ensuring the welfare of the vulnerable community.

Ethical Dilemmas:

1. Public Interest (Economic Growth) vs. Individual Rights (Tribal Displacement).
2. Administrative Efficiency (Completing the project) vs. Social Justice (Fair Compensation).
3. Professional Integrity vs. Political Pressure.

Course of Action:

1. **Fact-Finding & Dialogue:** I will conduct an on-ground assessment of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) plan. I will personally visit the protest site to listen to the community's grievances without intermediaries.
2. **Transparency:** Lack of information often breeds fear. I will publish the benefits of the project and the specific R&R details in the local dialect to counter misinformation spread by the political leader.
3. **Strict Neutrality:** I will deal with the political leader firmly. If their actions incite violence, legal action under relevant sections will be taken, while simultaneously ensuring they are invited to formal stakeholder meetings to maintain democratic norms.
4. **Strengthening R&R:** I will propose a "Livelihood Plus" model, ensuring that the community receives not just land/money, but also skill training and preferential employment in the upcoming project to ensure long-term socio-economic integration.

5. **Grievance Redressal:** I will set up a dedicated cell with tribal representatives to monitor the transition, ensuring "Consent" is informed and not coerced.

Conclusion:

As an administrator, my goal is to transform the "displacement" into "development." By prioritizing empathy, transparency, and the rule of law, I can ensure that the infrastructure project proceeds without sacrificing the dignity and rights of the tribal community.

Current Affairs: Internal Security / Environment

Q. "The shifting of wildlife trafficking to the North East–Myanmar corridor highlights the evolving challenges of border management and transnational organized crime." Discuss. (15 Marks, 250-300 Words)

Sample Answer:

Traditionally, wildlife smuggling from India to East Asia utilized the Nepal–Tibet route. However, heightened surveillance on the northern borders has caused a strategic shift toward the North East–Myanmar corridor, particularly through Mizoram and Manipur.

Drivers of the Shift:

- **Enforcement Pressure:** Successes of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and SSB on the Nepal border have pushed syndicates to seek "pathways of least resistance."

- **Geopolitical Instability:** The 2021 military coup in Myanmar has weakened environmental law enforcement. Regions like Mong La (Myanmar-China border) have emerged as "lawless" hubs for illegal trade in Pangolins, Rhino horns, and exotic pets.

- **Porous Borders:** The Free Movement Regime (FMR)—though recently suspended—and the difficult terrain make the 1,643 km India-Myanmar border difficult to patrol.

Security and Ecological Implications:

1. **Nexus with Insurgency:** Wildlife trafficking often overlaps with drug (Golden Triangle) and arms smuggling. Insurgent groups use "wildlife taxes" to fund their operations.

2. **Threat to Biodiversity:** Poaching networks from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are now sending consignments to the NE, threatening the local populations of Schedule-I species.

3. **Zoonotic Risks:** The unregulated movement of live exotic animals poses a severe risk of "Disease X" or future pandemics entering India.

Way Forward:

- **Inter-Agency Coordination:** Integration of Forest Departments with Assam Rifles and Customs is vital.

- **Technology:** Using drones and "Smart Fencing" in sensitive zones like Champhai (Mizoram) and Moreh (Manipur).

- **Regional Cooperation:** Revitalizing the **ASEAN-WEN** (Wildlife Enforcement Network) and bilaterally engaging with the Myanmar border authorities.

Conclusion:

The NE-Myanmar corridor is no longer just an environmental issue; it is a national security concern. India must adopt a "Whole-of-Government" approach to dismantle these transnational syndicates while protecting the unique biodiversity of the Indo-Burma hotspot.