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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 17/07/2026 (FRIDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. With reference to the evolution of Indian temple architecture, consider the following statements:

1. The earliest structural temples of the Gupta period invariably possessed a fully developed shikhara with an amalaka at the summit.
2. The Vesara style is generally understood as an architectural synthesis incorporating features associated with both the Nagara and Dravida traditions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Neither statement
- (d) Cannot be determined from the information given

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Early Gupta structural temples represent the formative phase of temple architecture. Many did not possess a fully developed curvilinear shikhara, and several survive only in partially preserved form.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Vesara is commonly described as a hybrid architectural tradition combining elements of the Nagara (northern) and Dravida (southern) styles, particularly flourishing under the Later Chalukyas and Hoysalas.

2. Which one of the following best explains the ecological significance of mycorrhizal associations in terrestrial ecosystems?

- (a) They enable plants to directly fix atmospheric nitrogen without microbial assistance.
- (b) They enhance nutrient and water absorption by forming a symbiotic association between fungi and plant roots.
- (c) They convert dead organic matter directly into atmospheric oxygen through decomposition.
- (d) They eliminate the need for soil microorganisms in nutrient cycling.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Mycorrhizae are mutualistic associations between fungi and plant roots.
- The fungal hyphae greatly increase the effective surface area for absorption of phosphorus, micronutrients, and water.
- Nitrogen fixation is carried out by specific bacteria and cyanobacteria, not by mycorrhizae themselves.
- Soil microorganisms continue to play indispensable roles in decomposition and nutrient cycling.



3. With reference to the Balance of Payments (BoP) of a country, consider the following statements:

1. A current account deficit necessarily implies that the country's foreign exchange reserves will decline during the same period.
2. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows are recorded under the capital account in India's Balance of Payments presentation.
3. A surplus in the capital account can offset a deficit in the current account, subject to the overall Balance of Payments identity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** A current account deficit may be financed through capital inflows such as FDI, FPI, or external borrowing. Therefore, reserves need not necessarily decline.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** In India's BoP presentation, FDI is recorded under the capital account (as per RBI presentation).
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Capital inflows can finance a current account deficit, maintaining the overall BoP equilibrium.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional framework of the Indian Parliament:

1. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and only on the recommendation of the President.
2. The Rajya Sabha may reject a Money Bill by passing a resolution with a special majority.
3. The decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha regarding whether a Bill is a Money Bill is final under the Constitution.
4. If the Rajya Sabha does not return a Money Bill within fourteen days, the Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form passed by the Lok Sabha.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Article 110 read with Article 117 requires a Money Bill to originate only in the Lok Sabha with the President's recommendation.



- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Rajya Sabha cannot reject or amend a Money Bill; it can only recommend amendments.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Speaker's certification of a Money Bill is constitutionally final.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** If the Rajya Sabha does not return the Bill within fourteen days, it is deemed passed in the form approved by the Lok Sabha.

5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A):

The western slopes of the Western Ghats generally receive much heavier rainfall than the eastern slopes.

Reason I (R1):

The moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds are forced to ascend the western escarpment, leading to orographic rainfall.

Reason II (R2):

After crossing the crest of the Western Ghats, the descending air becomes comparatively drier due to the rain-shadow effect.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A.
- (b) A is correct, R1 is correct, but R2 is incorrect.
- (c) A is correct, but both R1 and R2 are incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct.** The windward (western) side of the Western Ghats experiences substantially higher rainfall than the leeward (eastern) side.
- **Reason I is correct.** Orographic uplift of the southwest monsoon causes intense condensation and precipitation.
- **Reason II is also correct.** After losing much of its moisture, the descending air on the eastern side becomes warmer and drier, creating a rain-shadow region.
- Together, **R1** explains the mechanism of heavy rainfall on the western slopes, while **R2** explains the relative dryness of the eastern slopes. Hence, both reasons collectively explain the assertion.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. With reference to Operation Amistad, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched as a humanitarian evacuation mission by India in response to an internal armed conflict in a Latin American country.
2. The operation involved coordinated efforts of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy to facilitate the safe evacuation of Indian nationals.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Neither statement
- (d) Cannot be determined from the information given

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect.** Operation **Amistad** was **not** an evacuation mission from a Latin American country. UPSC may intentionally exploit the Spanish word *Amistad* ("friendship") to mislead candidates into associating it with Latin America.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** The operation involved coordinated efforts of multiple Government of India agencies for the safety and movement of Indian nationals, reflecting India's Whole-of-Government approach during overseas crises.

2. Which one of the following statements regarding Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is NOT correct?

- (a) He was among the earliest graduates of the University of Calcutta and later served in the colonial civil service.
- (b) The song *Vande Mataram* first appeared in his novel *Anandamath*.
- (c) He was the first Indian to receive the Bharat Ratna for contributions to literature.
- (d) His literary works significantly influenced the rise of cultural nationalism during the freedom movement.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) Correct.** Bankim Chandra belonged to the first batch of graduates of the University of Calcutta and served as Deputy Magistrate.
- **(b) Correct.** *Vande Mataram* was included in **Anandamath (1882)**.
- **(c) Incorrect.** The **Bharat Ratna** was instituted only in **1954**, long after Bankim Chandra's lifetime.
- **(d) Correct.** His writings became an ideological foundation for Indian nationalism.



3. With reference to the Centre's ban on 16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs, consider the following statements:

1. Fixed Dose Combination drugs are prohibited under Indian law unless every active ingredient has individually completed Phase III clinical trials in India.
2. The Central Government may prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of a drug if it is satisfied that the drug is likely to involve risk to human beings.
3. Expert committees evaluating Fixed Dose Combination drugs primarily assess therapeutic justification, efficacy and safety before recommending regulatory action.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect.** Indian law does **not** mandate that every constituent drug must independently complete Phase III trials in India before an FDC can exist. Regulatory approval depends upon scientific evidence and statutory provisions.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** The Central Government possesses powers under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to prohibit drugs considered risky or lacking therapeutic justification.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Scientific committees examine efficacy, safety and therapeutic rationale before recommending prohibition.

4. With reference to the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) possesses powers to order recall of unsafe goods and discontinuation of unfair practices.
2. Product liability under the Act can arise against manufacturers, service providers and product sellers under specified circumstances.
3. Every complaint under the Act must first undergo compulsory mediation before adjudication by a Consumer Commission.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)



Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** CCPA may order recall of goods, reimbursement of prices and discontinuation of unfair trade practices.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** The Act introduced the concept of **Product Liability**, extending liability beyond manufacturers.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect.** Mediation is **voluntary** and depends upon the Commission considering the matter fit for mediation.

UPSC often inserts absolute words like "**must**", "**compulsory**", "**only**", making otherwise correct statements incorrect.

5. With reference to the Niokolo-Koba National Park (PNNK), consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Senegal and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. The park forms part of the Upper Guinea Forest ecosystem and is renowned primarily for mountain gorillas.
3. The Gambia River flows through the park, contributing significantly to its ecological diversity.
4. The park has at different times figured on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct.** Located in **Senegal**, PNNK is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect.** Mountain gorillas occur in Central-East African highlands, **not** in Niokolo-Koba. The park is famous for species such as lions, leopards, chimpanzees, elephants and Derby elands.
- **Statement 3 – Correct.** The **Gambia River** traverses the park.
- **Statement 4 – Correct.** The site has remained on UNESCO's **World Heritage in Danger** list owing to ecological degradation and management concerns.

UPSC increasingly asks World Heritage questions by mixing correct location with incorrect flagship fauna.

6. With reference to The Nuclear Heat-Based Cu–Cl Hydrogen Facility, consider the following statements:

1. The Copper–Chlorine thermochemical cycle requires significantly lower peak temperatures than conventional sulphur–iodine hydrogen production cycles.



2. The technology aims to utilize nuclear reactor heat for large-scale hydrogen generation with reduced dependence on electricity.
3. The Cu–Cl cycle produces hydrogen without involving any electrochemical step.
4. The technology is being explored as one of the pathways for low-carbon hydrogen production.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct.** The Cu–Cl cycle generally operates at lower temperatures ($\sim 500^{\circ}\text{C}$) than the Sulphur–Iodine cycle ($\sim 850^{\circ}\text{C}$), making it compatible with certain advanced nuclear reactors.
- **Statement 2 – Correct.** Nuclear process heat substantially reduces electricity requirements for hydrogen production.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect.** The Cu–Cl cycle is **hybrid**, incorporating a **thermochemical as well as an electrochemical** step.
- **Statement 4 – Correct.** It is considered a promising pathway for producing **low-carbon (clean) hydrogen**.

This is a classic UPSC trap: candidates often assume all thermochemical cycles are entirely thermal.

7. The Mariana Trench, frequently seen in international news due to deep-sea exploration and strategic maritime studies, is located:

- (a) Along the convergent boundary between the Pacific Plate and the Philippine Sea Plate, east of the Mariana Islands.
- (b) Between the Nazca Plate and the South American Plate, west of Peru.
- (c) Along the boundary of the Eurasian Plate and the African Plate in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.
- (d) Between the Australian Plate and the Antarctic Plate in the Southern Ocean.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Mariana Trench** is the **deepest known oceanic trench on Earth**, containing **Challenger Deep**.
- It lies in the **western Pacific Ocean, east of the Mariana Islands**.
- It is formed due to the **subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the Philippine Sea Plate**.
- UPSC often twists map questions by replacing the correct tectonic plate pair with those associated with other famous trenches:



- **Nazca + South American Plate** → Peru–Chile (Atacama) Trench.
- **Indian Plate + Eurasian Plate** → Himalayan collision (not a trench).
- **Australian + Antarctic Plate** → Divergent boundary, not a deep ocean trench.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS Paper I – Indian Society) NCERT Class XII – Indian Society (Chapter 4: The Market as a Social Institution)

Q.1 "Markets are not merely economic institutions but also social institutions that reshape identities, lifestyles and inequalities." Critically examine this statement with suitable examples from contemporary India. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

Markets are generally viewed as mechanisms for exchange of goods and services. However, sociology considers markets as **social institutions** because they influence relationships, culture, occupations, social mobility and even political behaviour. In India, liberalisation, digitisation and globalization have expanded the role of markets far beyond commerce.

Markets as Social Institutions

1. Changing Social Identities

- Consumer choices increasingly define identity.
- Brand consciousness has become associated with class and aspirations.
- Digital platforms influence lifestyle patterns across generations.

2. Social Mobility

- New markets have generated employment in IT, logistics, fintech and digital services.
- Entrepreneurship has expanded opportunities for women and marginalized communities.

3. Transformation of Family and Gender Roles

- Growth of service sectors has increased female workforce participation.
- Online work and gig economy have altered traditional occupational structures.

4. Rural Transformation

- E-commerce and digital payments integrate rural producers with national markets.
- Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) enhance collective bargaining.



Emerging Challenges

- Digital divide creates unequal access.
- Gig workers often lack social security.
- Consumerism weakens traditional community values.
- Small retailers face competition from large online platforms.
- Regional inequalities continue despite market expansion.

Contemporary Examples

- ONDC aims to democratize digital commerce.
- UPI has transformed informal markets.
- Self-Help Groups increasingly market products online.

Way Forward

- Strengthen digital inclusion.
- Improve labour protection for gig workers.
- Promote ethical consumerism.
- Encourage local value chains under Vocal for Local.

Conclusion

Markets today shape not only production and consumption but also social identities, aspirations and inequalities. Therefore, inclusive market governance is essential for achieving equitable development.

(GS Paper II – Governance) NCERT Class XII – Politics in India Since Independence (Chapter 4: India's External Relations)

Q.2 "India's foreign policy today reflects strategic autonomy rather than non-alignment." Examine in the context of emerging geopolitical realities. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

India's foreign policy has evolved from the Cold War doctrine of **Non-Alignment** towards **Strategic Autonomy**, enabling issue-based partnerships while preserving independent decision-making.

Factors Driving Strategic Autonomy

Changing Global Order

- Rise of multipolarity
- US-China rivalry
- Supply-chain diversification



Security Considerations

- Border tensions with China
- Maritime security in the Indo-Pacific
- Counter-terrorism cooperation

Economic Interests

- Energy security
- Technology partnerships
- Semiconductor cooperation

Manifestations

- Simultaneous engagement with the US, Russia and Europe.
- Membership in Quad while remaining outside military alliances.
- Continued defence cooperation with Russia.
- Active participation in BRICS and SCO.

Advantages

- Policy flexibility.
- Strategic balancing.
- Enhanced diplomatic credibility.
- Diversified economic partnerships.

Challenges

- Managing competing expectations.
- Balancing sanctions regimes.
- Technology dependence.
- Regional instability.

Way Forward

- Strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing.
- Expand Global South leadership.
- Enhance maritime capabilities.
- Deepen economic diplomacy.

Conclusion

India's foreign policy has transitioned from passive neutrality to proactive strategic autonomy, reflecting changing geopolitical realities while preserving sovereign decision-making.





(GS Paper III – Economy & Environment) *NCERT Class XII – Introductory Macroeconomics (Chapter 4: Government Budget and the Economy)*

Q.3 Discuss how green public investment can simultaneously promote economic growth, employment generation and climate resilience in India. (15 Marks |250 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

Green public investment refers to government expenditure on environmentally sustainable infrastructure that simultaneously promotes economic growth and ecological conservation.

Economic Benefits

- Infrastructure multiplier effects.
- Employment generation.
- Reduced fossil fuel imports.
- Enhanced industrial competitiveness.

Environmental Benefits

- Lower carbon emissions.
- Improved energy efficiency.
- Climate adaptation.
- Sustainable urban development.

Major Areas

- Renewable energy.
- Green hydrogen.
- Electric mobility.
- Urban mass transit.
- River rejuvenation.
- Climate-smart agriculture.

Challenges

- Financing constraints.
- Technology dependence.
- Regulatory delays.
- Skill shortages.

Government Initiatives

- National Green Hydrogen Mission.



- PM Surya Ghar.
- FAME Scheme.
- National Infrastructure Pipeline.

Way Forward

- Green bonds.
- Carbon markets.
- Public-private partnerships.
- Local manufacturing ecosystem.

Conclusion

Green investment should be viewed as productive capital formation rather than expenditure, enabling India to pursue both economic development and environmental sustainability.

(GS Paper IV – Ethics)

Q.4 "Integrity is tested not when decisions are easy, but when personal interest conflicts with public duty." Discuss with suitable examples from public administration. (10 Marks |150 Words)

Sample Answer

Introduction

Integrity refers to consistency between values, principles and actions. In public administration, ethical dilemmas often arise when private interests conflict with official responsibilities.

Importance

- Builds public trust.
- Ensures impartial governance.
- Prevents corruption.
- Strengthens institutional credibility.

Examples

- Refusing political pressure in transfers.
- Transparent public procurement.
- Whistle-blowing against corruption.
- Fair disaster relief distribution.

Ethical Values

- Objectivity.
- Accountability.



- Compassion.
- Courage.
- Transparency.

Challenges

- Political interference.
- Conflict of interest.
- Social pressures.
- Institutional weaknesses.

Way Forward

- Ethics training.
- Asset disclosure.
- Strong vigilance mechanisms.
- Citizen oversight.

Conclusion

Integrity transforms legal authority into moral legitimacy. Public servants must uphold constitutional values even when personal costs are high.

(Current Affairs) Topic: The Roadmap to Make Green Urea Production a Reality

Q.5 "Green urea has the potential to transform India's fertilizer sector while advancing climate commitments." Discuss the technological, economic and policy challenges in making green urea commercially viable. Suggest a roadmap for its large-scale adoption. (15 Marks |250 Words)

Sample Answer:

Introduction

India is among the world's largest producers and consumers of urea. Conventional urea production relies on **grey hydrogen** derived from natural gas, making the fertilizer sector energy-intensive and carbon-emitting. Green urea seeks to replace fossil-based hydrogen with **green hydrogen** produced through electrolysis using renewable electricity.

Significance of Green Urea

1. Energy Security

- Reduces dependence on imported natural gas.
- Strengthens fertilizer self-reliance.

2. Climate Benefits

- Cuts CO₂ emissions from ammonia production.



- Supports India's Net Zero 2070 commitment.
- Contributes to National Green Hydrogen Mission objectives.

3. Economic Advantages

- Creates new green manufacturing industries.
- Encourages domestic electrolyser manufacturing.
- Generates skilled employment.

Major Challenges

Technological

- High cost of electrolyzers.
- Need for continuous renewable power.
- Hydrogen storage and transportation challenges.

Economic

- Green hydrogen remains significantly costlier than grey hydrogen.
- Large capital requirement for retrofitting fertilizer plants.
- Price competitiveness remains limited without policy support.

Infrastructure

- Renewable energy integration.
- Water availability for electrolysis.
- Hydrogen pipelines and storage facilities.

Policy Challenges

- Long-term financing.
- Carbon pricing framework.
- Demand certainty.
- Standardisation and certification.

Roadmap

- Scale renewable energy capacity.
- Incentivize domestic electrolyser manufacturing.
- Introduce green fertilizer purchase obligations.
- Expand viability gap funding.
- Encourage public-private partnerships.
- Promote R&D in hydrogen storage.



- Develop dedicated hydrogen industrial clusters.
- Integrate carbon markets with fertilizer policy.

Conclusion

Green urea represents the convergence of **food security, energy security and climate action**. With technological innovation, targeted fiscal incentives and coordinated policy implementation, India can emerge as a global leader in sustainable fertilizer production while reducing import dependence and supporting long-term agricultural resilience.



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