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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **APRIL 29, 2026**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to the development of mural traditions in India:

1. The paintings of Ajanta Caves predominantly depict themes from Mahayana Buddhism and employ tempera technique on dry plaster.
2. The murals of Ellora Caves show a greater thematic diversity than Ajanta, including Shaiva, Vaishnava, and Jain subjects, and exhibit a decline in narrative continuity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is partially incorrect. Ajanta paintings are indeed largely based on Mahayana Buddhism, but they are executed using the **fresco-secco technique (on dry plaster)**, not true tempera in the strict sense. Statement 2 is correct. Ellora murals are more diverse religiously and show less narrative coherence compared to Ajanta.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the ecological significance of “keystone species” in an ecosystem?

- (a) They are always the most abundant species in a trophic level.
- (b) Their removal leads to a disproportionate change in ecosystem structure and functioning.
- (c) They are restricted only to apex predators in terrestrial ecosystems.
- (d) They primarily regulate abiotic components like soil and water.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Keystone species have a **disproportionately large impact** relative to their abundance. Their removal can trigger cascading effects altering ecosystem balance. They are not necessarily abundant, nor restricted to apex predators, and they primarily influence biotic interactions rather than abiotic factors.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding capital formation in an economy:

1. An increase in gross domestic savings always leads to a proportional increase in capital formation in the same period.
2. Capital formation necessarily involves a reduction in current consumption levels in the economy.
3. Public investment can crowd out private investment only when the economy is operating at full capacity.

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: Savings may not translate fully into investment due to leakages (e.g., hoarding, financial inefficiencies).

Statement 2 is generally correct: Capital formation implies diverting resources from consumption to investment.

Statement 3 is correct in classical terms: Crowding out is significant when resources are fully utilized.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the powers and functioning of the Parliament of India:

1. The Rajya Sabha can initiate a resolution for the removal of the Vice-President, but cannot participate in his impeachment.
2. A Money Bill can be amended by the Rajya Sabha but only with the consent of the Lok Sabha.
3. The Parliament can legislate on State List subjects if a resolution is passed by the Rajya Sabha under Article 249.
4. Joint sittings of Parliament are presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or, in his absence, the Deputy Speaker.

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 incorrect: There is no impeachment of the Vice-President; removal is done by Rajya Sabha and agreed by Lok Sabha.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Rajya Sabha can only recommend amendments, not amend a Money Bill.

Statement 3 is correct: Under Article 249, Parliament can legislate on State List.

Statement 4 is correct: Joint sittings are presided over by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker.

Q5. Assertion – Reason type

Assertion (A): Regions experiencing temperature inversion often record severe air pollution episodes.

Reason (R1): Temperature inversion prevents vertical mixing of air, trapping pollutants near the surface.

Reason (R2): During inversion, wind speeds at the surface increase significantly, dispersing pollutants horizontally.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Assertion is correct: Temperature inversion leads to pollution build-up.

R1 is correct: It suppresses vertical air movement, trapping pollutants.

R2 is incorrect: Inversion conditions are usually associated with **calm or low wind speeds**, not high winds.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana:

- Under PMMY, loans up to ₹10 lakh are classified into Shishu, Kishor and Tarun categories, with Tarun covering the highest loan bracket.
- The scheme mandates collateral-free lending and provides a credit guarantee through a dedicated fund managed by the Government of India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Both
- Neither
- Cannot be determined

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: PMMY loans are categorized as **Shishu (up to ₹50,000), Kishor (₹50,000–₹5 lakh), Tarun (₹5–₹10 lakh)**.

Statement 2 is correct: Loans are **collateral-free**, backed by the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU).

Q2. With reference to Direct-to-Device (D2D) communication technology, consider the following:

Which one of the following best describes its core functional advantage?

- It enables direct satellite-to-smartphone communication without requiring terrestrial cellular infrastructure.
- It eliminates the need for spectrum allocation by using unlicensed frequency bands.
- It is restricted to emergency communication services only.
- It requires specialized hardware modifications in all consumer smartphones.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

D2D technology allows **satellites to communicate directly with standard devices (like smartphones)**, bypassing ground towers. It still requires licensed spectrum, is not limited only to emergencies, and aims to work with minimal hardware changes.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Elephanta Island:

1. The island is known primarily for rock-cut cave temples dedicated to Shaivism, including the iconic Trimurti sculpture.
2. It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its association with early Buddhist monastic settlements.
3. The caves exhibit a syncretic architectural style combining both Gupta and later Chalukyan influences.

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: Elephanta is famous for **Shaivite caves**, especially the Trimurti.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is a UNESCO site for **Hindu cave art**, not Buddhist associations.

Statement 3 is correct: The art reflects stylistic influences from **Gupta and post-Gupta traditions**, sometimes linked to Deccan styles.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the National Quantum Mission:

1. The mission aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50–1000 physical qubits.
2. It focuses exclusively on quantum computing and excludes areas like quantum communication and sensing.
3. The mission includes the development of satellite-based secure quantum communication between ground stations.

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: NQM targets **quantum computers in the 50–1000 qubit range**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It covers **multiple domains—computing, communication, sensing, materials**.

Statement 3 is correct: It includes **satellite-based quantum communication initiatives**.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the recent decision of Argentina to withdraw from the World Health Organization:

1. Withdrawal from WHO automatically absolves a country from all obligations under the International Health Regulations (IHR).

2. A country withdrawing from WHO loses access to global disease surveillance data coordinated by the organization.
3. WHO membership is mandatory for participation in all UN-led global health initiatives.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: IHR obligations are **binding under international law and not automatically voided**.

Statement 2 is correct: Withdrawal can limit access to **coordinated surveillance systems**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Participation in global initiatives is **not strictly dependent on WHO membership**.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional and functional aspects of multilateral organizations:

1. Membership withdrawal from a specialized UN agency necessarily implies withdrawal from the United Nations itself.
2. Specialized agencies like WHO operate under independent constitutions separate from the UN Charter.
3. Financial contributions to specialized agencies are legally binding even after formal withdrawal unless explicitly renegotiated.
4. Voting rights in such organizations are proportionate to financial contributions made by member states.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Withdrawal from WHO \neq withdrawal from UN.

Statement 2 is correct: Specialized agencies have **independent constitutions**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Financial obligations generally cease after withdrawal.

Statement 4 is incorrect: WHO follows **one country–one vote principle**, not weighted voting.

Q7. With reference to the map of West Asia, consider the following statements about Lebanon:

1. It shares land borders with both Syria and Israel.
2. The Litani River flows entirely within its territory and drains into the Mediterranean Sea.
3. It is located to the east of the Jordan River and forms part of the Arabian Peninsula.

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: Lebanon borders **Syria (north & east) and Israel (south)**.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Litani River** flows entirely within Lebanon into the Mediterranean.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Lebanon lies **west of the Jordan River** and is not part of the Arabian Peninsula.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS Paper I)

Q1. Discuss the role of geographical factors in shaping regional cultural identities in India. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples.

Answer:

Geographical factors have played a foundational role in shaping India's diverse cultural identities. The interaction between physical environment and human adaptation has resulted in distinct cultural regions across the subcontinent.

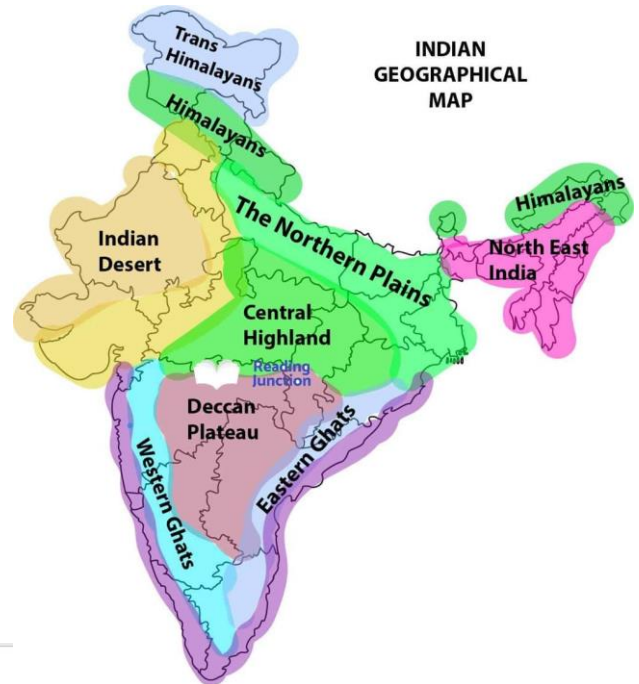
Firstly, **topography** significantly influences lifestyle and traditions. The Himalayan region, characterized by rugged terrain and harsh climate, has led to the development of insulated housing, wool-based clothing, and a strong monastic tradition, as seen in Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. In contrast, the fertile Indo-Gangetic plains have supported dense populations and agrarian cultures, giving rise to festivals linked with agriculture such as Baisakhi and Pongal.

Secondly, **climate** determines food habits, architecture, and occupation. In arid regions like Rajasthan's Thar Desert, scarcity of water has shaped conservation practices, dietary patterns (millets, dried foods), and architectural forms such as thick-walled houses. Coastal regions like Kerala exhibit a maritime culture with coconut-based cuisine, fishing occupations, and trade-oriented traditions influenced by historical contact with foreign civilizations.

Thirdly, **natural resources** influence economic activities and cultural expressions. Mineral-rich plateau regions of central India have supported tribal communities whose culture is closely linked with forests, reflected in their festivals, dances, and animistic beliefs.

Moreover, **geographical isolation or connectivity** has determined cultural diffusion. While mountain barriers preserved unique traditions, river valleys and coastal routes facilitated cultural exchange, leading to syncretic traditions.

Thus, geography not only shapes material culture but also influences social institutions, belief systems, and identities. India's cultural diversity is, therefore, deeply rooted in its geographical diversity.



(GS Paper II)

Q2. Examine the role of pressure groups in strengthening democratic governance in India. Also highlight the challenges associated with their functioning.

Answer:

Pressure groups are non-governmental organizations that seek to influence public policy without directly contesting elections. In a democracy like India, they act as vital intermediaries between citizens and the state.

Their primary role lies in **articulating and aggregating interests**. Groups such as trade unions, किसान संगठनों, and industry associations represent diverse societal concerns, ensuring that governance is responsive to varied needs. For instance, farmer protests have influenced agricultural policy debates in recent years.

Secondly, pressure groups enhance **participatory democracy**. By mobilizing public opinion through campaigns, protests, and advocacy, they ensure that citizens remain engaged beyond periodic elections. Civil society organizations also contribute to policy formulation through expert inputs.

Thirdly, they act as **watchdogs**, promoting transparency and accountability. NGOs working on environmental protection or human rights often expose policy lapses and administrative inefficiencies.

However, their functioning is not without challenges. One major issue is the **lack of transparency and accountability**, especially regarding funding sources. This raises concerns about foreign influence or corporate lobbying.

Another challenge is the **unequal representation of interests**. Well-funded groups often have disproportionate influence compared to marginalized communities, leading to policy bias.

Additionally, excessive or disruptive protests can sometimes hinder governance and economic activity, raising questions about balancing rights with responsibilities.

In conclusion, while pressure groups are indispensable for a vibrant democracy, there is a need for regulatory frameworks to ensure transparency, inclusiveness, and constructive engagement with the state.

(GS Paper III)

Q3. Discuss the significance of technological missions in India's development trajectory. Evaluate with reference to emerging technologies.

Answer:

Technological missions have played a transformative role in India's development by addressing critical challenges through focused innovation and policy support.

Historically, missions such as the Green Revolution and White Revolution demonstrated how technology-driven interventions could ensure food security and rural prosperity. In recent decades, initiatives like Digital India and Make in India have leveraged technology to enhance governance, economic growth, and global competitiveness.

The significance of technological missions lies in their **mission-mode approach**, which integrates policy, funding, research, and implementation. This ensures time-bound outcomes and efficient resource utilization.

For instance, India's space missions under ISRO have established the country as a global leader in cost-effective satellite launches.

Emerging technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and Biotechnology** are now central to India's development strategy. Missions focusing on these areas aim to enhance capabilities in sectors like healthcare, cybersecurity, and climate resilience.

Technological missions also contribute to **inclusive development** by bridging digital divides and improving service delivery through e-governance platforms. For example, digital payment systems have revolutionized financial inclusion.

However, challenges remain, including inadequate research infrastructure, skill gaps, and ethical concerns related to emerging technologies. There is also a need for stronger industry-academia collaboration.

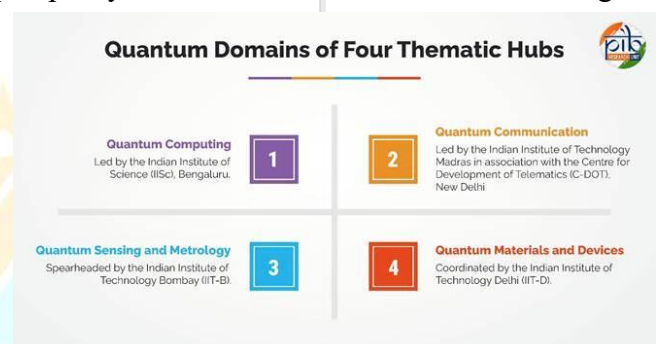
In conclusion, technological missions are critical for India's transition to a knowledge-based economy. Their success will depend on sustained investment, regulatory frameworks, and global cooperation.

(GS Paper IV)

Q4. "Ethics in public administration is not merely about compliance with rules but about commitment to public welfare." Discuss.

Answer:

Ethics in public administration goes beyond adherence to rules and regulations; it embodies a deeper commitment to public welfare, integrity, and accountability.



Rule-based compliance ensures minimum standards of conduct, preventing misuse of authority. However, ethical governance requires **value-based decision-making**, where public servants act in the best interest of society, even in situations where rules may be ambiguous or inadequate.

For instance, a bureaucrat strictly following procedures may deny benefits due to minor technicalities, whereas an ethical approach would seek to ensure justice and fairness within the framework of law. This highlights the distinction between **legal correctness and moral righteousness**.

Ethical public administration is characterized by values such as **integrity, empathy, impartiality, and transparency**. Empathy enables officials to understand the needs of marginalized sections, while transparency builds trust in governance.

Moreover, ethical conduct strengthens **public trust and legitimacy** of institutions. In a diverse and democratic society like India, trust is essential for effective policy implementation and citizen cooperation.

However, challenges such as political interference, corruption, and systemic inefficiencies often hinder ethical governance. Addressing these requires institutional reforms, ethical training, and strong accountability mechanisms.

In conclusion, while rules provide a necessary framework, true public service lies in a commitment to ethical principles and public welfare. Ethical administration ensures not only efficient governance but also just and humane outcomes.

(Current Affairs)

Q5. Discuss the significance of global institutions in addressing transnational challenges in the context of Argentina formally withdrawing from the World Health Organization.

Answer:

Global institutions like the World Health Organization (WHO) play a crucial role in addressing transnational challenges such as pandemics, climate change, and health emergencies. Argentina's withdrawal raises important questions about the relevance and effectiveness of such institutions.

Firstly, global institutions provide a platform for **collective action**. Health crises like COVID-19 demonstrated that diseases do not respect national boundaries, necessitating coordinated responses in surveillance, research, and vaccine distribution. WHO facilitates data sharing, standard-setting, and capacity building among nations.

Secondly, they ensure **global public goods**, such as disease surveillance systems and early warning mechanisms. Without such coordination, fragmented responses could lead to delayed interventions and higher human and economic costs.

Ethical Leadership Traits



- **Integrity:** Demonstrates honesty and consistency between words and actions, fostering credibility and trust in public institutions.
- **Empathy:** Understands and responds to the needs of diverse stakeholders, especially marginalized communities, with compassion and fairness.
- **Transparency:** Ensures openness in decision-making, enabling public scrutiny and reducing corruption.
- **Accountability:** Accepts responsibility for actions and outcomes, promoting a culture of answerability and ethical reflection.
- **Courage:** Upholds ethical principles even under pressure, resisting populist or politically expedient choices that compromise public interest.
- **Vision:** Aligns governance goals with societal values, inspiring ethical conduct across institutions.
- These traits empower leaders to navigate complex moral dilemmas and institutional challenges with clarity and conscience.



Thirdly, these institutions promote **equity and inclusiveness**, especially for developing countries that rely on technical and financial support. WHO's role in vaccination drives and health infrastructure development is particularly significant.

However, criticisms exist regarding bureaucratic inefficiencies, political influence, and funding constraints. Argentina's withdrawal may reflect concerns over sovereignty, financial commitments, or perceived inefficiencies.

Despite these challenges, unilateral withdrawal can weaken global cooperation and create gaps in collective security frameworks. It may also limit access to critical data, expertise, and support systems.

In conclusion, while reforms are necessary to enhance efficiency and accountability, global institutions remain indispensable for tackling transnational challenges. Strengthening, rather than weakening, multilateral cooperation is essential in an increasingly interconnected world.

