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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **JULY 8, 2026**



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CONTACT INFO:

+91 92896 33341 | +91 96679 33341



EMAIL ID:

info@sixsigmaias.com



WEB PAGE:

www.sixsigmaias.com



ADDRESS:

C-6, GROUND FLOOR, SECTOR 2,
NEAR SECTOR 15 METRO STATION, NOIDA – 201301, UTTAR PRADESH

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the early phase of Indian nationalism, consider the following statements:

1. The constitutional methods adopted by the early nationalists were based on the assumption that British public opinion could influence imperial policy in India.
2. The economic critique advanced by the early nationalists merely highlighted high land revenue without questioning the larger colonial economic structure.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Early nationalist leaders believed that reasoned petitions, legislative reforms, public meetings, and appeals to liberal opinion in Britain could gradually secure constitutional reforms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Their economic criticism was much broader than land revenue. Through the **Drain Theory**, criticism of free trade policies, military expenditure, and discriminatory administration, they challenged the very structure of colonial exploitation.
- UPSC often tests whether candidates distinguish between **specific grievances** and **structural critiques** of colonialism.

Q2. Which one of the following ecological processes primarily enables a forest ecosystem to maintain long-term nutrient availability despite continuous biomass production?

- (a) Biological magnification
- (b) Nutrient cycling through decomposers
- (c) Thermal stratification
- (d) Competitive exclusion

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Forest ecosystems remain productive because decomposers continuously convert dead organic matter into mineral nutrients that are reused by plants.
- **Biological magnification** refers to increasing concentration of toxins along food chains.
- **Thermal stratification** is mainly associated with lakes.
- **Competitive exclusion** concerns species competition rather than nutrient replenishment.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the measurement of national income:

1. Intermediate goods are excluded from GDP estimation primarily to avoid double counting of value already included in final goods.
2. Transfer payments made by the government increase national income because they raise household purchasing power.
3. The value-added method and the final expenditure method should theoretically yield the same GDP, provided statistical discrepancies are absent.

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.** Intermediate goods are excluded because their value is already embodied in final goods.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Transfer payments (such as pensions or scholarships) do not represent payment for current production and therefore are **not included** in national income.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** In theory, expenditure, income, and value-added methods should produce identical GDP estimates if measurement errors are absent.
- UPSC frequently tests conceptual understanding rather than numerical computation in national income accounting.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the working of the Indian constitutional system:

1. Constitutional supremacy implies that every organ of the State derives its authority from the Constitution.
2. Judicial review permits courts to invalidate laws inconsistent with constitutional provisions.
3. Parliamentary sovereignty in India is identical to that prevailing in the United Kingdom.
4. The Constitution envisages a system in which powers of different organs are functionally separated, though not absolutely divided.

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.** The Constitution is the supreme legal authority.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Judicial review enables constitutional courts to strike down unconstitutional laws and executive actions.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** India follows **constitutional supremacy**, not absolute parliamentary sovereignty as in the U.K.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** India follows a **functional separation of powers** with checks and balances rather than a rigid separation.
- UPSC often frames questions distinguishing the Indian constitutional model from the British model.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Large-scale atmospheric circulation plays a decisive role in determining the global distribution of rainfall.

Reason I: Differential heating of the Earth's surface generates pressure belts and planetary wind systems that transport moisture across latitudes.

Reason II: Ocean currents alone determine the spatial distribution of global precipitation irrespective of prevailing wind systems.

- (a) Assertion is correct, Reason I is correct, Reason II is incorrect.
- (b) Assertion is correct, Reason I is incorrect, Reason II is correct.
- (c) Assertion is incorrect, Reason I is correct, Reason II is incorrect.
- (d) Assertion, Reason I and Reason II are all correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct.** Global rainfall patterns are fundamentally linked with atmospheric circulation, pressure belts, and prevailing winds.
- **Reason I is correct.** Unequal solar heating establishes pressure gradients that generate trade winds, westerlies, and other circulation systems responsible for moisture transport.
- **Reason II is incorrect.** Ocean currents influence temperature and humidity but **cannot independently determine** global rainfall patterns. Their effects operate in conjunction with atmospheric circulation, topography, and moisture-bearing winds.
- The question tests the UPSC-favoured distinction between **primary climatic controls** and **secondary modifying factors**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to **Project Nimbus**, consider the following statements:

1. Project Nimbus is a cloud computing programme under which critical government workloads are hosted exclusively on sovereign data centres physically located within the participating country.

2. Concerns raised over Project Nimbus include the possibility that advanced cloud infrastructure may indirectly enhance military or surveillance capabilities through dual-use artificial intelligence technologies.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Project Nimbus is a cloud services contract involving advanced cloud computing and AI infrastructure. It is **not designed exclusively around sovereign data centres**, nor is such exclusivity an essential feature of the project.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** One of the major debates surrounding Project Nimbus concerns the **dual-use nature of cloud computing and AI**, where civilian infrastructure could potentially support defence, intelligence, or surveillance applications.
- UPSC often tests the distinction between **technical features** of a project and **policy debates** surrounding it.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains why **biochar** is increasingly regarded as an important climate mitigation tool?

- (a) It directly converts atmospheric nitrogen into plant nutrients.
- (b) It stores relatively stable carbon in soils while improving certain soil properties.
- (c) It accelerates decomposition of organic matter, thereby increasing nutrient turnover.
- (d) It replaces all chemical fertilizers without affecting agricultural productivity.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Biochar is produced through **pyrolysis** of biomass under limited oxygen conditions.
- It contains highly stable carbon that can remain in soil for decades or centuries, thereby acting as a **carbon sequestration** mechanism.
- It may improve soil structure, moisture retention and microbial activity.
- It **does not fix atmospheric nitrogen** nor completely replace fertilizers.

Q3. With reference to the **Tri-Commissioning of INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray**, consider the following statements:

- 1. The event reflects India's increasing emphasis on simultaneous induction of combat as well as specialist support platforms into the Navy.

2. INS Sanshodhak is designed primarily for hydrographic surveys and collection of oceanographic data.
3. INS Agray belongs to the class of anti-submarine warfare stealth frigates.

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.** The tri-commissioning highlighted India's effort to strengthen **both combat capability and maritime support infrastructure** simultaneously.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** INS Sanshodhak is a **Survey Vessel (Large)** meant for hydrographic surveys, nautical charting and oceanographic studies.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** INS Agray is **not** an anti-submarine warfare stealth frigate. It belongs to the **Yard 3025-class Diving Support Vessel (DSV)** category, intended to support deep-sea diving and submarine rescue operations.
- UPSC frequently tests whether candidates can distinguish **combat platforms** from **auxiliary naval vessels**.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding **APEDA**:

1. APEDA is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament.
2. APEDA functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. APEDA regulates the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural commodities exported from India.
4. APEDA promotes export of scheduled agricultural and processed food products by facilitating quality certification, infrastructure and market development.

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.** APEDA was established under the **APEDA Act, 1985**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** MSP is determined by the Government based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP); APEDA has **no role** in fixing MSP.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** APEDA promotes exports through quality standards, traceability, certification, branding, market access and export infrastructure.
- UPSC commonly differentiates **promotion agencies** from **price-regulating agencies**.

Q5. With reference to **Ammonia Gas** and **Fibre-Optic Drones**, consider the following statements:

1. Anhydrous ammonia is widely used as an industrial refrigerant because of its high latent heat of vaporization.
2. Ammonia is lighter than air and therefore rapidly settles close to the ground after leakage under all atmospheric conditions.
3. Fibre-optic drones are resistant to conventional radio-frequency jamming because communication occurs through a physical fibre-optic cable.

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.** Ammonia is extensively used as an industrial refrigerant owing to its excellent thermodynamic properties.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Although ammonia is initially lighter than air, during large leaks it may behave differently depending on temperature, humidity and aerosol formation. It **does not invariably settle or disperse in one fixed manner under all conditions**.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Fibre-optic drones communicate through a **physical optical fibre**, making them largely immune to conventional electronic jamming and many electronic warfare measures.
- UPSC often introduces absolute expressions such as "**under all atmospheric conditions**", making such statements incorrect.

Q6. Consider the following pairs regarding the **Western Ghats**:

Protected Area	State
1. Silent Valley National Park	Kerala
2. Kudremukh National Park	Karnataka
3. Anamalai Tiger Reserve	Tamil Nadu

Protected Area	State
4. Mollem National Park	Maharashtra

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 – Correct.** Silent Valley National Park is in **Kerala**.
- **Pair 2 – Correct.** Kudremukh National Park is located in **Karnataka**.
- **Pair 3 – Correct.** Anamalai Tiger Reserve (formerly Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary) is situated in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Pair 4 – Incorrect.** Mollem National Park is located in **Goa**, not Maharashtra.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1 (History)

Q1. Discuss the role of the Bhakti movement in transforming the socio-religious fabric of medieval India. To what extent did it challenge the existing social order?

Sample Answer

The Bhakti movement emerged between the 7th and 17th centuries as one of the most significant socio-religious reform movements in Indian history. Originating in South India and later spreading across the subcontinent, it emphasized devotion (bhakti) to a personal deity rather than ritualistic worship. Saints such as Kabir, Guru Nanak, Mirabai, Tulsidas, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Basavanna, and Namdev contributed significantly to this movement. While religious in nature, its influence extended to society, culture, literature and politics.

The Bhakti movement challenged the prevailing social order in several ways. It questioned rigid caste hierarchies by asserting that devotion was open to everyone irrespective of birth. Saints like Kabir openly criticized caste discrimination, ritualism and priestly dominance, arguing that spiritual realization depended upon personal devotion rather than social status. Similarly, Guru Nanak emphasized equality, honest living and universal brotherhood, laying the foundation for a community based on collective worship and service.

The movement also promoted religious harmony. Many Bhakti saints rejected sectarian divisions and emphasized the essential unity of God. Their teachings created a bridge between Hindu and Islamic spiritual traditions, particularly through the influence of Sufi ideas. This reduced social tensions in several regions and promoted cultural synthesis.

Women found greater spiritual expression through the movement. Saints like Mirabai challenged patriarchal norms by pursuing independent devotional lives and composing vernacular poetry. This indirectly questioned the gender restrictions prevalent in medieval society.

Another important contribution was the use of regional languages instead of Sanskrit. The composition of devotional literature in Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, Tamil, Bengali and other vernacular languages expanded literacy and strengthened regional literary traditions. These works continue to shape Indian cultural identity today.

However, the movement had limitations. Although it questioned caste discrimination, it did not uniformly abolish caste-based social practices. In many regions, social inequalities continued despite devotional egalitarianism. Several Bhakti traditions were eventually institutionalized, reducing their original reformist character.

Overall, the Bhakti movement represented a significant moral and social challenge to orthodox traditions. By emphasizing equality, devotion, vernacular culture and spiritual democracy, it laid the foundations for later social reform movements and contributed to India's composite cultural heritage.



GS-2 (Polity & Governance)

Q2. Examine the constitutional position of the Executive in India. Discuss how the principle of collective responsibility ensures democratic accountability.

Sample Answer

The Constitution establishes a parliamentary executive in which the President is the constitutional head while the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister exercises real executive authority. This arrangement ensures that executive power remains accountable to the elected representatives of the people.

The President exercises powers on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, except in a few limited situations where constitutional discretion exists. The Prime Minister occupies the central position in the executive by selecting ministers, coordinating policy and maintaining harmony within the government.

A defining feature of the parliamentary executive is the doctrine of collective responsibility. Under Article 75(3), the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. This implies that all ministers publicly support cabinet decisions irrespective of personal opinions. If the government loses the confidence of the Lok Sabha, the entire Council of Ministers must resign.

Collective responsibility promotes democratic accountability in several ways. First, it ensures that the executive remains answerable to Parliament through debates, Question Hour, motions and committee scrutiny. Second, it prevents fragmentation within the executive by encouraging unified decision-making. Third, it strengthens political responsibility because the electorate can hold the ruling government collectively accountable during elections.

However, practical challenges have emerged. Increasing centralization of decision-making in the Prime Minister's Office, anti-defection provisions limiting legislative independence, coalition politics and disruptions in Parliament sometimes weaken effective accountability. Frequent use of ordinances and delegated legislation has also generated debates regarding executive dominance.

Institutional mechanisms such as judicial review, parliamentary committees, the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Election Commission, the Right to Information framework and an active media continue to reinforce executive accountability beyond parliamentary control.

In conclusion, India's parliamentary executive combines political stability with democratic responsibility. The doctrine of collective responsibility remains one of the Constitution's most effective safeguards against arbitrary executive action. Strengthening parliamentary functioning, committee oversight and transparency will further deepen democratic governance.

GS-3 (Economy)

Q3. "The Government Budget is not merely an accounting statement but an instrument of economic management." Discuss.

Sample Answer

A government budget is an annual financial statement showing estimated receipts and expenditures. Beyond accounting, it functions as a powerful macroeconomic policy instrument influencing growth, inflation, employment, income distribution and fiscal stability.

The budget promotes economic growth by allocating resources to infrastructure, education, healthcare and digital connectivity. Public investment often crowds in private investment, particularly during periods of economic slowdown.

It also plays a stabilization role. During recessions, expansionary fiscal policy involving higher public expenditure and lower taxes stimulates aggregate demand. Conversely, during inflationary periods, fiscal consolidation can moderate excess demand.

The budget advances social justice through redistribution. Progressive taxation, targeted subsidies, social security schemes, rural employment programmes and food security initiatives reduce inequality and improve human development outcomes.

Capital expenditure has gained increasing importance because investment in roads, railways, ports, renewable energy and logistics creates long-term productive capacity while generating employment. Simultaneously, prudent management of fiscal deficit ensures macroeconomic stability and investor confidence.

However, budget effectiveness depends upon implementation. Challenges include revenue shortfalls, subsidy burdens, rising public debt, off-budget borrowings, delays in project execution and fiscal pressures arising from external shocks.

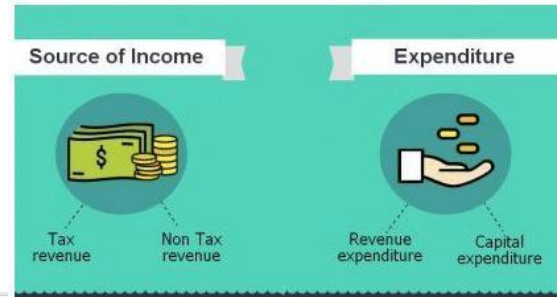
Recent trends emphasize fiscal consolidation alongside growth-oriented expenditure. Digital public finance systems, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), improved tax compliance and outcome-based budgeting have enhanced expenditure efficiency.

The budget must therefore balance competing objectives—growth, equity, sustainability and fiscal prudence. Excessive deficits may trigger inflation and debt stress, whereas excessive austerity may suppress growth and employment.

Hence, the government budget is far more than a statement of accounts. It represents the government's economic philosophy and policy priorities. Effective fiscal management can accelerate inclusive growth while maintaining macroeconomic stability and long-term development.



Government spending plays a key role to boost economic growth in response to the financial slowdown in the economy.



GS-4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude)

Q4. Explain the relationship between integrity, accountability and transparency in public administration. Why are these values indispensable for good governance?

Sample Answer

Integrity, accountability and transparency are the foundational ethical values of democratic governance. Together they build public trust, strengthen institutions and ensure that public power is exercised solely for the common good.

Integrity refers to consistency between moral values and official conduct. A public servant possessing integrity performs duties honestly, resists corruption and remains impartial even under political or personal pressure.

Accountability implies answerability for decisions and actions. Public officials must justify their conduct before constitutional institutions, legislatures, audit bodies, courts and citizens. Accountability discourages arbitrary exercise of authority and encourages responsible governance.

Transparency ensures openness in decision-making, access to information and clarity in governmental processes. Mechanisms such as proactive disclosure, digital governance, e-procurement and the Right to Information Act reduce secrecy and opportunities for corruption.

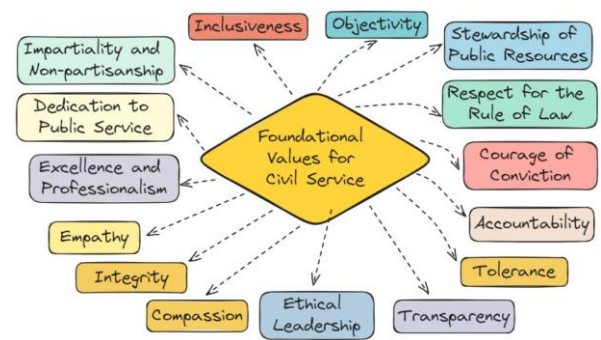
These values reinforce one another. Transparency enables citizens to examine governmental actions. Accountability ensures corrective action when wrongdoing occurs. Integrity motivates ethical behaviour even where external monitoring is weak.

In practice, ethical governance improves service delivery, enhances policy legitimacy, strengthens citizen participation and increases investor confidence. It also reduces leakages in welfare programmes and improves administrative efficiency.

Nevertheless, several challenges persist, including political interference, conflict of interest, bureaucratic opacity, misuse of discretionary powers, weak whistle-blower protection and corruption networks.

Strengthening ethical governance requires regular ethics training, institutional independence, protection of honest officers, technology-enabled monitoring, citizen charters, social audits and strong vigilance mechanisms.

Ultimately, integrity provides the moral foundation, transparency provides visibility and accountability provides enforceability. Together they create a governance framework capable of delivering justice, efficiency and public confidence in democratic institutions.



Current Affairs

Q5. Discuss the significance of the **Ashtalakshmi Growth Model** in promoting balanced regional development in Northeast India. Highlight its opportunities and implementation challenges.

Sample Answer

The Ashtalakshmi Growth Model is a development-oriented framework that seeks to unlock the economic potential of India's eight Northeastern states by promoting integrated infrastructure, connectivity, entrepreneurship, tourism, agriculture and regional cooperation. The name symbolizes the eight forms of prosperity and reflects the vision of transforming the Northeast into a major growth engine of the Indian economy.

The model emphasizes multimodal connectivity through highways, railways, inland waterways and air transport. Improved infrastructure is expected to reduce logistics costs, enhance market access and integrate remote regions with national and international value chains under the Act East Policy.

Agriculture and allied sectors form another major pillar. Promotion of organic farming, horticulture, bamboo, spices, tea and food processing can substantially enhance farmers' incomes while creating export opportunities. Tourism based on biodiversity, culture and adventure activities offers considerable employment potential.

The model also seeks to encourage innovation, digital infrastructure, MSMEs and skill development to harness the region's youthful demographic profile. Enhanced connectivity with neighbouring countries can position the Northeast as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.

Key infrastructural projects in the northeast region of India



Despite these opportunities, implementation faces multiple challenges. Difficult terrain increases infrastructure costs and project delays. Ecological sensitivity requires environmentally sustainable development. Land ownership patterns, connectivity gaps, natural disasters and capacity constraints in local institutions also affect project execution. Coordination among the Union Government, State Governments and local communities remains essential.

For long-term success, development must remain inclusive, environmentally sustainable and community-driven. Greater participation of local entrepreneurs, women, tribal communities

and civil society can improve ownership and ensure equitable benefits.

In conclusion, the Ashtalakshmi Growth Model represents a strategic vision for balanced regional development. If implemented effectively with adequate investment, ecological safeguards and institutional coordination, it can transform the Northeast into a vibrant hub of connectivity, trade, tourism and sustainable economic growth while strengthening national integration.

Development of North-East – The Heart of India's Act East Policy



India's North-East, Our Pivot To Act East Policy, Is Becoming a Connectivity Hub

Strengthening connectivity between the North-East and ASEAN via trade, culture, people-to-people contacts and infrastructure

Access to sea via Bangladesh and Myanmar:
Transforms landlocked North-East's economy and living standards
Reduces road and rail transport time, and reduces fuel costs

India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway
From Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand via Mandalay in Myanmar

Inland waterways for transport of goods to important ports in ASEAN

19 additional waterways declared National waterways