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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **JUNE 9, 2026**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. With reference to the early phase of British territorial expansion in India during the second half of the eighteenth century, consider the following statements:

1. The grant of the *Diwani* enabled the East India Company to collect revenue while the responsibility for civil administration formally continued with the Nawab.
2. The system of Dual Government strengthened the administrative accountability of the East India Company by making it directly responsible for both revenue collection and public administration.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Neither statement
- (d) Both statements

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** After the grant of the *Diwani* in 1765, the East India Company obtained the right to collect revenue in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. However, the Nawab continued to remain the nominal head of administration under the *Nizamat*.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Under the Dual Government introduced by Robert Clive, the Company enjoyed financial benefits without assuming direct administrative responsibility. Rather than increasing accountability, it created administrative confusion and contributed to widespread misgovernance, culminating in severe distress before its abolition by Warren Hastings.

2. Which one of the following best explains why tropical rainforests generally exhibit exceptionally high biodiversity?

- (a) Because they experience frequent natural fires that continuously create new ecological niches.
- (b) Because they have remained climatically stable over long geological periods, allowing gradual specialization and coexistence of species.
- (c) Because nutrient-rich soils support unrestricted plant growth throughout the year.
- (d) Because seasonal drought prevents competitive exclusion among dominant plant species.

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- Tropical rainforests have experienced relative climatic stability over millions of years. Such long-term stability has promoted speciation, niche specialization and complex ecological interactions.
- Their soils are generally nutrient-poor due to intense leaching; therefore, option (c) is incorrect.
- Frequent fires are characteristic of savannas rather than rainforests.
- Seasonal drought is absent in true tropical rainforests.

3. Consider the following statements regarding inflation and monetary policy:

1. Headline inflation may decline even when core inflation remains persistently high.
2. An increase in the policy repo rate necessarily reduces inflation immediately by lowering food prices.
3. Inflation expectations influence wage negotiations as well as future price-setting behaviour.

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.** Food and fuel prices can fall sharply, reducing headline inflation, while underlying core inflation remains elevated.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Monetary policy primarily influences aggregate demand through interest rates. Food inflation is often driven by supply-side factors, weather conditions or logistics, which may not respond immediately to repo rate changes.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Inflation expectations are a major determinant of wage bargaining, production costs and firms' future pricing decisions. This is why central banks place significant emphasis on anchoring inflation expectations.

4. Consider the following statements regarding constitutional governance in India:

1. Every Money Bill is necessarily a Financial Bill.
2. The Speaker's certification of a Money Bill is final within the parliamentary process.
3. The Rajya Sabha may recommend amendments to a Money Bill but cannot reject or amend it.
4. A Money Bill can be introduced only after the recommendation of the President.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** A Money Bill is a specific category within the broader class of Financial Bills.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** Under Article 110(3), the Speaker's decision on whether a Bill is a Money Bill is final for parliamentary purposes.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations within fourteen days; the Lok Sabha may accept or reject them.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Under Article 117 read with Article 110, a Money Bill can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President and only in the Lok Sabha.

5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Regions situated on the leeward side of major mountain ranges often receive significantly lower rainfall than nearby windward regions.

Reason I: Moist air loses much of its moisture while ascending the windward slope, causing descending air on the leeward side to become relatively warm and dry.

Reason II: Descending air undergoes adiabatic compression, reducing its relative humidity and suppressing cloud formation.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct, Reason I is correct but Reason II is incorrect.
- (b) A is correct, Reason II is correct but Reason I is incorrect.
- (c) A, Reason I and Reason II are all correct, and both Reasons correctly explain the Assertion.
- (d) A is incorrect, but both Reasons are correct.

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- The **Assertion is correct.** The phenomenon described is known as the **rain shadow effect**.
- **Reason I is correct.** Orographic uplift causes moisture-laden winds to cool, condense and precipitate on the windward side. By the time the air descends the leeward slope, much of its moisture has already been lost.
- **Reason II is also correct.** As the air descends, it is compressed and warms adiabatically, reducing relative humidity and inhibiting further condensation and rainfall.
- Together, both reasons comprehensively explain why leeward regions are comparatively dry.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

1. The declaration of an Ecologically Sensitive Area automatically converts the notified region into a Protected Area under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The Central Government may prescribe different regulatory regimes for different activities within an Ecologically Sensitive Area, including prohibition, restriction or conditional permission, depending upon ecological significance.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Neither statement
- (d) Both statements

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** An Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) is notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, and **does not become a National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Conservation Reserve** under the Wildlife (Protection) Act merely by such notification.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** ESA notifications generally classify activities into **Prohibited, Regulated and Permissible** categories. The Central Government enjoys flexibility to prescribe varying degrees of regulation based on ecological vulnerability.

2. Which one of the following developments enabled India to emerge as the world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025, surpassing its global competitors?

- (a) Mandatory prohibition on dismantling foreign-flagged vessels outside India under international maritime law.
- (b) Expansion of modern recycling infrastructure, compliance with international environmental standards and diversion of ageing global fleets towards Indian yards.
- (c) Complete replacement of manual dismantling with fully automated robotic ship-breaking facilities.
- (d) Establishment of a single government-owned ship recycling corporation enjoying exclusive legal monopoly.

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation

- India became the world's largest ship recycling nation largely because of:
 - Modernisation of **Alang** yards.
 - Greater compliance with the **Hong Kong International Convention** principles.
 - Better environmental safeguards.
 - Increased inflow of ageing vessels due to favourable market conditions.

- There is **no international law** compelling all ships to be dismantled only in India.
- Ship recycling continues to involve significant manual operations.
- The sector remains largely privately operated.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Rakhigarhi, one of the largest Harappan settlements:

1. Excavations indicate that Rakhigarhi belonged to the Mature Harappan phase while also preserving evidence of earlier developmental phases.
2. Ancient DNA studies conducted on excavated remains have strengthened the understanding that the Harappan population evolved through complex local processes rather than being solely explained by large-scale migrations during the Mature Harappan period.
3. Rakhigarhi has yielded evidence suggesting that iron metallurgy had already become widespread during the Mature Harappan phase.

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.** Rakhigarhi contains evidence from Early as well as Mature Harappan phases.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Recent archaeogenetic studies have significantly contributed to debates regarding population continuity and indigenous development of Harappan civilisation.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Harappan civilisation belonged to the **Bronze Age**. Iron technology became widespread much later.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the recent judicial recognition that "Right to Walk is a Fundamental Right":

1. The right has been interpreted as an integral component of Article 21 of the Constitution.
2. The judicial interpretation casts a corresponding obligation upon public authorities to ensure reasonably safe and accessible pedestrian infrastructure.
3. The judgment creates an absolute constitutional prohibition against restricting pedestrian movement for reasons of public order or security.

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.** Courts have linked pedestrian mobility with the constitutional guarantee of life and personal liberty under Article 21.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The judgment emphasises pedestrian-centric urban planning and safe public infrastructure.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Fundamental rights under Article 21 remain subject to constitutionally valid restrictions in exceptional circumstances such as public safety and security.

5. Consider the following statements regarding The Ras Laffan Gas Facility:

1. Ras Laffan is located on the eastern coast of Qatar and is among the world's largest integrated LNG export and processing hubs.
2. The facility derives its primary gas supply from the North Field, which forms a continuous geological reservoir with Iran's South Pars field.
3. Expansion of the Ras Laffan facilities is expected to strengthen Qatar's position in the global LNG market and influence long-term energy security for major LNG-importing countries, including India.
4. Ras Laffan primarily processes crude oil exported through the Strait of Hormuz and has only marginal significance in the liquefied natural gas trade.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Ras Laffan Industrial City is among the world's largest LNG complexes.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Qatar's **North Field** and Iran's **South Pars** constitute the world's largest known non-associated natural gas reservoir.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Ongoing expansion projects significantly enhance Qatar's LNG export capacity, benefiting energy-importing nations such as India.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Ras Laffan is primarily an **LNG processing and export hub**, not a crude oil processing centre.

6. With reference to the Chapekar Brothers, consider the following statements:

1. They assassinated W.C. Rand, the Chairman of the Pune Plague Committee, in protest against oppressive plague administration.
2. Their revolutionary action preceded the formation of organised revolutionary groups such as Abhinav Bharat.
3. Their activities directly led to the enactment of the Defence of India Act, 1915.

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.** Damodar, Balkrishna and Vasudev Chapekar assassinated **W.C. Rand** in 1897.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Their act inspired later revolutionary organisations including Abhinav Bharat founded by V.D. Savarkar.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The **Defence of India Act, 1915** was enacted during World War I mainly to deal with revolutionary activities such as those associated with the Ghadar Movement, not specifically because of the Chapekar incident.

7. With reference to Kuno National Park, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in the Chambal River basin of central India.
2. The Kuno River flows through the National Park.
3. It was originally identified as a potential site for the reintroduction of the Asiatic Lion before becoming the destination for the African Cheetah reintroduction programme.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Kuno National Park lies in **Madhya Pradesh** within the **Chambal basin**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The **Kuno River**, a tributary of the Chambal, flows through the protected area.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** Kuno was originally prepared for the **Asiatic Lion relocation project**. Subsequently, it became the site of India's landmark **African Cheetah reintroduction programme**.

UPSC Trap: Aspirants often confuse **Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh)** with **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)**, another site selected for cheetah translocation, or incorrectly associate Kuno with the Narmada basin instead of the Chambal basin.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS-I)

Source: NCERT Class XII – Themes in Indian History Part III (Chapter 5: Mahatma Gandhi and the National Movement)



Q1. "The strength of the Indian National Movement lay not merely in political mobilization but in its ability to transform social consciousness." Examine this statement with special reference to Gandhian movements. (15 Marks)

Sample Answer

The Indian National Movement under Mahatma Gandhi represented a profound transformation in the nature of anti-colonial struggle. Prior to Gandhi's arrival, the movement was largely confined to educated elites. Gandhi expanded it into a mass movement by integrating political objectives with social reform, thereby transforming public consciousness across regions, classes, castes and communities.

One of Gandhi's greatest contributions was the democratization of nationalism. Through movements such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement, ordinary peasants, women, workers and students became active participants in the freedom struggle. This widened the social base of Indian nationalism.

Gandhi also linked political freedom with ethical regeneration. Campaigns against untouchability, promotion of khadi, village industries, communal harmony and women's participation were not merely social reforms

but instruments of nation-building. His concept of *Swaraj* extended beyond political independence to include self-reliance, moral responsibility and participatory democracy.

Constructive programmes such as sanitation, rural education and promotion of local crafts created social awareness alongside political mobilization. Gandhi emphasized non-violence and truth as instruments of both resistance and character building, thereby introducing moral legitimacy into mass politics.

However, certain limitations remained. Caste discrimination persisted despite anti-untouchability campaigns, communal divisions intensified in later years, and many socio-economic inequalities remained unresolved.

Overall, Gandhi transformed nationalism into a broad social movement that reshaped Indian society. His legacy lies not merely in achieving independence but in creating a politically conscious citizenry committed to democratic participation and ethical public life.

(GS-II)

Source: NCERT Class XII – *Politics in India Since Independence* (Chapter 8: *Recent Developments in Indian Politics*)



Q2. *Judicial activism has emerged as an important pillar of constitutional governance in India. Critically examine its contribution and limitations. (15 Marks)*

Sample Answer

Judicial activism refers to the proactive interpretation of the Constitution by the judiciary to safeguard constitutional values and fundamental rights. In India, it has significantly influenced governance, especially where executive or legislative action has been inadequate.

The judiciary has expanded the scope of Article 21 to include rights relating to dignity, education, environment, legal aid, privacy and clean surroundings. Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has enabled marginalized communities to access justice. Landmark interventions have strengthened environmental protection, electoral transparency, prison reforms and gender justice.

Judicial activism has also reinforced constitutional morality through the evolution of doctrines such as the Basic Structure Doctrine, ensuring that constitutional amendments do not undermine the Constitution's essential features.

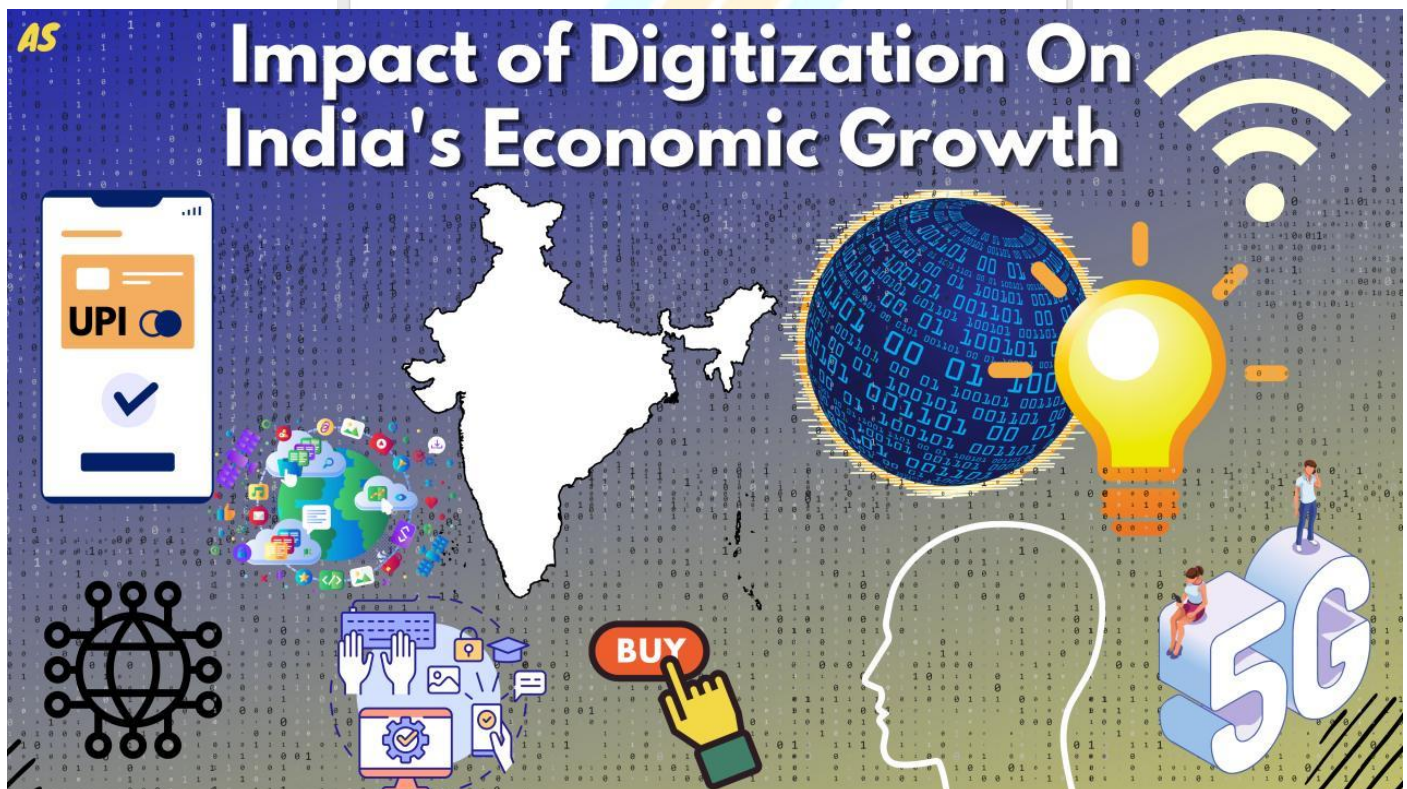
However, excessive judicial intervention sometimes raises concerns regarding separation of powers. Courts have occasionally entered domains involving policy formulation, administrative decisions and budgetary priorities traditionally assigned to elected governments. Frequent judicial monitoring of executive functions may blur institutional boundaries.

Another concern relates to inconsistent standards in admitting PILs and delays in disposal of ordinary cases. Judicial overreach can also reduce accountability by allowing elected institutions to avoid difficult policy decisions.

Despite these concerns, judicial activism has generally strengthened constitutional governance by protecting rights and promoting accountability. The challenge lies in maintaining institutional balance where the judiciary remains an active constitutional guardian without replacing the legitimate roles of the executive and legislature.

(GS-III)

Source: NCERT Class XII – Indian Economic Development (Chapter 4: Human Capital Formation in India)



Q3. India's aspiration to become a developed economy depends as much on human capital as on physical infrastructure. Discuss. (15 Marks)

Sample Answer

Economic development increasingly depends upon knowledge, innovation and skilled human resources. While infrastructure such as roads, ports and power enhances productivity, human capital determines the efficiency with which these assets are utilized.

Investment in education improves labour productivity, technological adoption and innovation. Healthier populations contribute to higher workforce participation and reduced productivity losses. Skill development enables industries to adapt to rapidly changing technologies, including artificial intelligence, robotics and green manufacturing.

India possesses one of the world's youngest populations. This demographic dividend can become a major economic advantage if supported by quality education, vocational training and employment generation. Initiatives such as Skill India, Digital India and the National Education Policy seek to bridge skill gaps.

Physical infrastructure remains equally essential. Efficient logistics, reliable electricity, digital connectivity and urban infrastructure reduce production costs and improve competitiveness. Modern infrastructure also attracts foreign investment and strengthens manufacturing under initiatives like Make in India.

However, infrastructure without skilled workers often results in underutilization, while skilled workers without adequate infrastructure face limited productive opportunities. Therefore, balanced investment in both sectors is necessary.

Persistent challenges include learning outcomes, regional disparities, unemployment among educated youth, healthcare gaps and unequal digital access.

A developed India requires simultaneous progress in education, healthcare, research, innovation, industrial infrastructure and governance. Human capital converts infrastructure into productive assets, making both complementary pillars of long-term economic growth.

(GS-IV)

Source: *Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude (Standard UPSC GS-IV Reference)*

Q4. *Integrity is tested not during ordinary situations but when personal interest conflicts with public duty. Explain with suitable examples. (10 Marks)*

Sample Answer

Integrity represents consistency between values, decisions and actions. It requires individuals to uphold ethical principles even when doing so involves personal sacrifice. Public administration particularly demands integrity because public trust depends upon impartial and honest decision-making.

Conflicts between personal interest and public duty arise in situations involving political pressure, financial inducements, favouritism or conflicts of interest. An officer who refuses illegal instructions despite career risks demonstrates integrity. Similarly, exposing corruption within one's own department reflects commitment to constitutional values rather than personal convenience.

Integrity strengthens institutional credibility, promotes fairness and discourages misuse of public resources. It complements accountability and transparency by ensuring that official decisions are guided by law and ethics rather than personal gain.

Ethical decision-making often requires courage. Honest officers may face transfers, criticism or professional isolation. Nevertheless, integrity contributes to long-term institutional strength by reinforcing citizens' confidence in governance.

Historical examples include civil servants who resisted unlawful orders during emergencies or exposed procurement irregularities despite adverse consequences. Everyday examples include teachers evaluating students fairly, doctors refusing unnecessary medical procedures and public officials declining gifts that may influence decisions.

Integrity must be supported by ethical leadership, transparent systems, whistle-blower protection and strong institutional mechanisms. Training alone cannot create integrity unless organizations reward ethical behaviour.

Ultimately, integrity is the foundation of good governance because it aligns public authority with constitutional morality and public welfare. It transforms ethical principles into practical administrative conduct.

(Current Affairs)

Topic: *Beyond Ranks and Results: Addressing the Ethical Crisis of Student Mental Health in India*

Q5. *Student mental health has emerged as an ethical, educational and governance challenge rather than merely a medical issue. Critically examine. Suggest a multi-dimensional strategy for addressing this crisis in India. (15 Marks)*

Sample Answer

Student mental health has become a major public policy concern in India due to increasing academic pressure, intense competition, digital exposure, social expectations and uncertainty regarding careers. Rising cases of anxiety, depression and student suicides indicate that the issue extends beyond healthcare and requires ethical, educational and institutional responses.

Ethically, every student possesses the right to dignity, emotional well-being and equal educational opportunity. An education system that values examination scores over holistic development may unintentionally undermine these principles. Excessive parental expectations, social comparison and stigma surrounding mental illness further aggravate psychological distress.

Educational institutions often lack trained counsellors, structured emotional learning programmes and early intervention mechanisms. Teachers remain primarily focused on academic outcomes, while emotional development receives comparatively limited attention.

From a governance perspective, improving student well-being requires coordinated action among schools, universities, families, healthcare professionals and governments. Policies should strengthen school counselling services, establish confidential mental health support systems, integrate life skills and emotional intelligence into curricula, promote peer-support programmes and ensure timely referrals for professional care.

Technology can support anonymous counselling, tele-mental health services and early identification of vulnerable students, while safeguards against cyberbullying and harmful digital content should be strengthened.

Parents also require awareness programmes emphasizing supportive communication rather than performance-based expectations. Media and educational institutions should celebrate diverse career pathways instead of equating success solely with examination ranks.

Ultimately, India's demographic dividend can be realized only when education promotes intellectual excellence alongside emotional resilience, empathy and ethical development. Protecting student mental health is therefore not merely a healthcare obligation but an essential investment in the nation's human capital and constitutional commitment to human dignity.

