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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. With reference to the administrative system under the Gupta Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The office of **Kumaramatya** was exclusively reserved for members of the royal family and could not be held by hereditary officials.
2. Gupta inscriptions indicate that certain high-ranking officials could simultaneously hold civil as well as military offices.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) Neither
- (d) Cannot be determined from the available evidence

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Kumaramatyas were among the highest-ranking officers of the Gupta administration, but the office was **not exclusively confined to princes or members of the royal family**. Evidence also suggests that some offices gradually assumed a hereditary character during the later Gupta period.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Gupta inscriptions such as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription indicate that certain officials discharged **multiple administrative and military responsibilities**, reflecting the flexible nature of Gupta bureaucracy.

Hence, **only one statement is correct.**

2. Under the provisions of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, which one of the following protected area categories **may legally include private land without compulsory transfer of ownership to the State**, subject to statutory restrictions?

- (a) National Park
- (b) Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Conservation Reserve
- (d) Community Reserve

Answer: (d) Community Reserve

Explanation:

- **Community Reserves** are declared on private or community-owned lands where local communities voluntarily participate in conservation.
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries** may include private rights initially, but they are regulated differently and are not specifically designed around voluntary private ownership.
- **National Parks** have the strictest legal regime, with rights generally settled before final notification.

- **Conservation Reserves** are generally declared on government-owned land adjoining protected areas.

Therefore, **Community Reserve** best satisfies the condition.

3. With reference to **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) bank accounts**, consider the following statements:

1. Interest earned on an NRE account is generally exempt from income tax in India as long as the account holder qualifies as a person resident outside India under FEMA.
2. Funds lying in an NRO account are freely repatriable outside India without any monetary ceiling or documentary compliance.
3. An FCNR(B) account protects the depositor from exchange rate fluctuations between the designated foreign currency and the Indian Rupee.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Interest on **NRE accounts** is generally exempt from Indian income tax for eligible non-residents.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Repatriation from **NRO accounts** is subject to prescribed limits, FEMA regulations, and documentary requirements.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** **FCNR(B)** deposits are maintained in designated foreign currencies; therefore, the depositor is insulated from INR depreciation/appreciation during the deposit period.

Thus, **Statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

4. With reference to the impeachment and removal mechanisms under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The President can be impeached only for violation of the Constitution.
2. A nominated member of the Rajya Sabha is entitled to participate in the impeachment process of the President.
3. The elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies participate in the impeachment process of the President.
4. The Constitution expressly defines the expression "violation of the Constitution" for the purpose of impeachment.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Article 61 provides that the President may be impeached **only for violation of the Constitution**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** All members of both Houses, including **nominated members**, participate in impeachment proceedings.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** State Legislatures have **no role** in impeachment.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The Constitution **does not define** the phrase "violation of the Constitution."

Hence, **two statements are correct.**

5. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): Black cotton soils develop deep cracks during the dry season, which naturally improve soil aeration and facilitate self-ploughing.

Reason 1 (R1): These soils contain a high proportion of expanding clay minerals, particularly montmorillonite, which exhibit marked shrink-swell behaviour.

Reason 2 (R2): Black cotton soils are predominantly found in regions underlain by Deccan Trap basalt, whose weathering contributes significantly to their mineral composition.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct, and both R1 and R2 correctly explain A.
(b) A is correct, R1 is correct and explains A, but R2, though correct, does not directly explain A.
(c) A is correct, but both R1 and R2 are incorrect.
(d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct.** Black cotton (Regur) soils develop **deep seasonal cracks**, resulting in natural aeration and a self-ploughing effect.
- **Reason 1 is correct and directly explains the assertion.** The shrink-swell behaviour is caused by the abundance of **montmorillonitic clay**, which expands when wet and contracts when dry.
- **Reason 2 is also correct.** Most black soils originate from the weathering of **Deccan Trap basalt**; however, this explains their origin and distribution rather than the mechanism responsible for seasonal cracking.

Therefore, **R1 explains the assertion, whereas R2 is merely an associated fact and not the direct explanation.**

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. With reference to the Centralised IT-Enabled System (CITES) Project, consider the following statements:

1. The CITES Project seeks to establish a unified digital ecosystem for effective management and monitoring of litigation involving the Union Government.
2. The platform is intended to facilitate real-time sharing of litigation records among Ministries and Departments.
3. The project proposes to vest adjudicatory powers in the Department of Legal Affairs for deciding inter-ministerial legal disputes.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** CITES is aimed at creating an integrated litigation management platform for the Government of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It promotes real-time digital sharing and monitoring of litigation data.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The project is an IT-enabled litigation management platform and **does not confer adjudicatory powers** on any ministry.

2. With reference to the e-OCI Card, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It is a digitally verifiable version of the OCI document designed to improve authentication and service delivery without altering the legal status of OCI holders.
- (b) It grants Overseas Citizens of India the right to vote in Parliamentary elections through digital verification.
- (c) It replaces the Passport Act by creating a new category of digital citizenship.
- (d) It is issued only to OCI cardholders residing in countries having visa-free arrangements with India.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The e-OCI Card is a **digital version** of the OCI document with enhanced verification features. It neither grants voting rights nor creates dual citizenship.

3. With reference to the **Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)**, consider the following statements:

1. ICJS enables digital interoperability among Police, Courts, Prisons, Prosecution and Forensic Science Laboratories.
2. Under ICJS, each participating institution continues to function under its respective statutory framework.
3. ICJS mandates that all criminal trials shall be conducted entirely through virtual courts.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** ICJS promotes digital information exchange; it **does not mandate virtual trials**.

4. With reference to the **RBI Scam Compensation Framework**, consider the following statements:

1. Customer liability in unauthorized electronic transactions depends, among other factors, upon the timeline within which the incident is reported.
2. Compensation under the framework is available irrespective of whether the customer acted with gross negligence.
3. The framework seeks to strengthen consumer confidence in digital payment systems through a structured mechanism for determining liability.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Gross negligence may make the customer liable.

- **Statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, **Statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

5. With reference to **General Dhiraj Seth taking over as the Chief of the Army Staff**, consider the following statements:

1. The Chief of the Army Staff is appointed by the President of India.
2. The office of the Chief of the Army Staff has been expressly created under the Constitution of India.
3. The Chief of the Army Staff functions under the civilian control of the Union Government.
4. The Chief of the Army Staff is an ex-officio member of the National Security Council established under the Constitution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Constitution does not specifically create the office of the COAS.
- **Statement 3 is correct.**
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The National Security Council is an executive body, and the COAS is not its ex-officio constitutional member.

6. Which one of the following Greek islands lies in the **Aegean Sea** and is situated closest to the southwestern coast of Türkiye?

- (a) Corfu
- (b) Crete
- (c) Rhodes
- (d) Kefalonia

Answer: (c) Rhodes

Explanation:

- **Rhodes** is located in the southeastern Aegean Sea, close to the Turkish coast.
- **Corfu** and **Kefalonia** are in the Ionian Sea.
- **Crete** lies south of the Aegean Sea and is farther from the Turkish mainland than Rhodes.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

(GS Paper I – Indian Society)

Question 1. How have the processes of globalization, urbanization and technological advancement transformed the nature of social stratification in India? Discuss with suitable examples. (15 Marks | 250 Words)

Sample Answer

India's social stratification has historically been shaped by caste, class, gender and regional disparities. In the contemporary period, globalization, rapid urbanization and technological advancement have significantly altered these traditional structures, creating both new opportunities and fresh inequalities.

Globalization has expanded employment opportunities, particularly in the IT, finance and service sectors. Occupational mobility has increased, allowing many individuals to move beyond hereditary occupations. Simultaneously, globalization has widened income inequalities between skilled and unskilled workers and between metropolitan and rural regions.

Urbanization has weakened certain traditional social barriers. Large cities provide greater anonymity and encourage interactions among diverse communities, contributing to inter-caste marriages and occupational diversification. However, urban growth has also generated new forms of exclusion through slums, informal employment and unequal access to housing, education and healthcare.

Technological advancement has revolutionized education, governance and financial inclusion. Digital platforms have empowered entrepreneurs, facilitated e-governance and improved service delivery. Nevertheless, unequal access to digital infrastructure has created a significant digital divide, particularly affecting rural populations, women and economically weaker sections.

Social stratification has therefore evolved from being predominantly caste-based to becoming increasingly multidimensional, where education, income, technological literacy and access to networks determine opportunities. Yet caste continues to influence political mobilization, social capital and marriage patterns.

Government initiatives such as Digital India, Skill India, PM SVANidhi and various social welfare schemes seek to bridge these disparities by expanding access to opportunities.

In conclusion, modernization has not eliminated traditional inequalities but has transformed them into more complex socio-economic hierarchies. Inclusive growth requires strengthening education, digital infrastructure, urban planning and social justice mechanisms so that the benefits of development reach all sections of society.

(GS Paper II – Governance & Constitution)

Question 2. "The Constitution is a living document because constitutional morality evolves through democratic practice." Examine. **(15 Marks | 250 Words)**

Sample Answer

The Constitution of India was designed as a dynamic framework capable of responding to changing political, social and economic realities. Constitutional morality refers to adherence to constitutional values such as liberty, equality, justice, fraternity, accountability and rule of law rather than merely following legal procedures.

The Constitution has demonstrated remarkable adaptability through amendments, judicial interpretation and democratic institutions. The Supreme Court has expanded the scope of Fundamental Rights through landmark judgments concerning privacy, environmental protection, gender justice and electoral transparency. These developments illustrate that constitutional principles evolve with societal expectations.

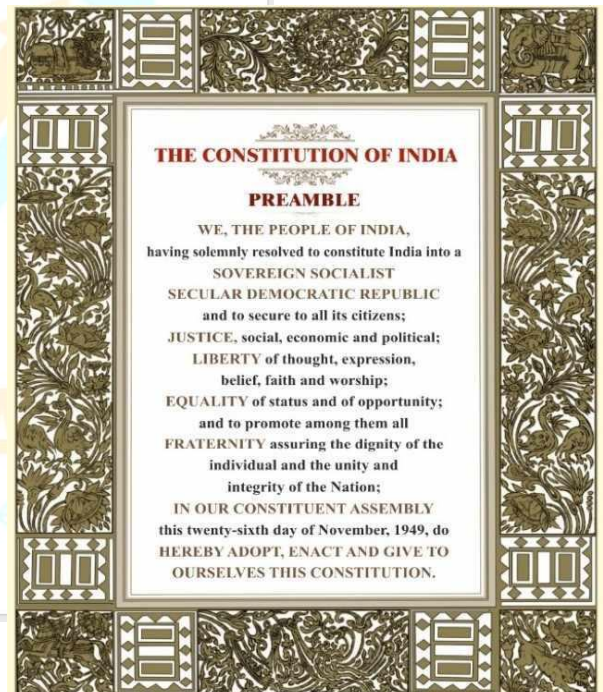
Parliament also contributes through constitutional amendments addressing emerging challenges while remaining within the framework of the basic structure doctrine. Institutions such as the Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General and independent judiciary reinforce constitutional morality by ensuring accountability and transparency.

Democratic participation further strengthens constitutional morality. Public interest litigation, civil society engagement, decentralization through Panchayati Raj Institutions and increased participation of marginalized communities reflect expanding constitutional values.

However, constitutional morality faces challenges including political polarization, misuse of institutions, criminalization of politics, hate speech, weakening deliberative practices and conflicts between majoritarian preferences and constitutional principles.

The judiciary has repeatedly emphasized that constitutional morality requires public authorities to act in accordance with constitutional values even when political pressures suggest otherwise. This approach safeguards minority rights, federal balance and separation of powers.

Ultimately, constitutional morality is sustained not merely by legal provisions but by constitutional culture among citizens, political leaders and institutions. Continuous civic education, institutional independence and democratic accountability are essential for preserving the Constitution as a living document.

**(GS Paper III – Indian Economy)**

Question 3. Discuss the significance of the Balance of Payments as an indicator of macroeconomic stability. What policy measures can help address persistent external sector imbalances? **(15 Marks | 250 Words)**

Sample Answer

The Balance of Payments (BoP) records all economic transactions between residents of a country and the rest of the world during a specified period. It consists primarily of the current account, capital account and changes in foreign exchange reserves.

A healthy BoP reflects macroeconomic stability, investor confidence and sustainable external sector performance. Persistent current account deficits financed by volatile capital flows may expose the economy to exchange rate volatility and external shocks.

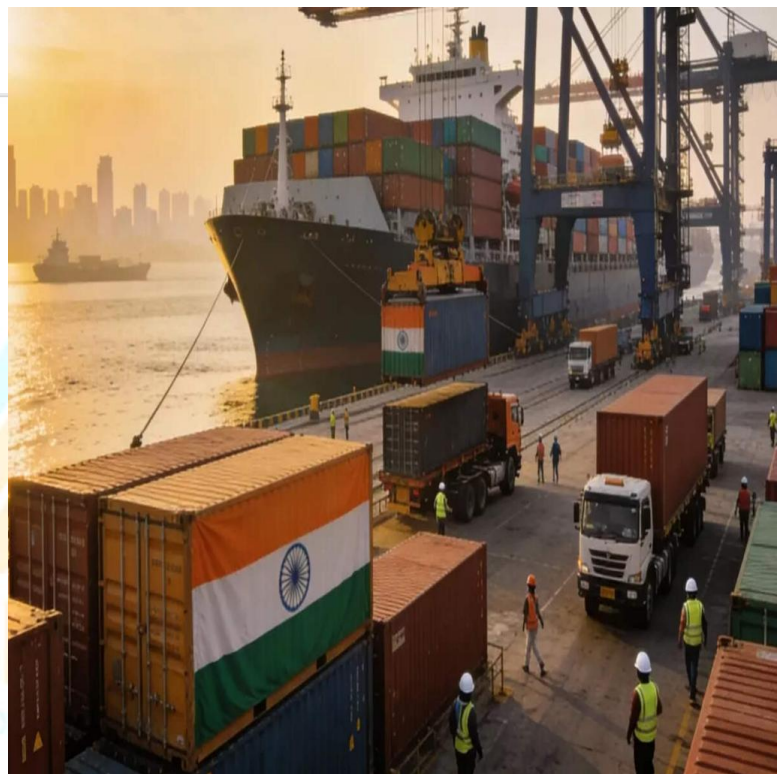
India's BoP benefits significantly from software exports, remittances, foreign direct investment and diversified service exports. However, dependence on imported crude oil, gold and capital goods often widens the trade deficit.

Policy measures to strengthen external stability include promoting export competitiveness through infrastructure improvement, logistics reforms and manufacturing expansion. Diversification of export destinations and products reduces dependence on limited markets.

Encouraging stable FDI over speculative portfolio investments enhances long-term capital formation. Maintaining adequate foreign exchange reserves improves resilience against global financial volatility.

Fiscal prudence and inflation control also contribute to external stability by reducing import dependence and preserving exchange rate confidence. Renewable energy expansion and domestic manufacturing under initiatives like Make in India and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes can gradually reduce structural trade deficits.

Technological innovation, trade facilitation, digital services exports and stronger global value chain integration further strengthen India's external sector.



Therefore, the BoP serves as an essential macroeconomic indicator guiding monetary, fiscal and trade policy. Sustainable external sector management requires balancing growth objectives with prudent macroeconomic policies and diversified international economic engagement.

(GS Paper IV – Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Question 4. "Integrity is tested not during routine administration but when personal interest conflicts with public duty." Discuss with suitable examples. **(10 Marks | 150 Words)**

Sample Answer

Integrity represents consistency between values, decisions and actions. In public administration, ethical dilemmas frequently arise when private interests conflict with official responsibilities.

A civil servant may encounter situations involving political pressure, nepotism, financial inducements or conflicts of interest. Upholding integrity requires prioritizing constitutional values, public welfare and legal obligations over personal gain.

Examples include refusing illegal orders, ensuring transparent procurement, preventing misuse of public funds and reporting corruption despite institutional pressure. Officers who resist unethical practices strengthen public trust and institutional credibility.

Integrity is closely linked with accountability, impartiality, objectivity and courage. It enables administrators to make evidence-based decisions while protecting the rights of vulnerable sections.

Institutional mechanisms such as conduct rules, vigilance systems, social audits, whistleblower protection, e-governance and transparency laws reinforce ethical behaviour. However, lasting integrity depends upon individual moral conviction rather than external enforcement alone.



Public servants should cultivate empathy, professional competence and commitment to constitutional morality. Ethical leadership creates a culture where honesty becomes organizational practice rather than individual exception.

Thus, integrity remains the cornerstone of good governance because it transforms public authority into public trust and ensures that democratic institutions function in accordance with constitutional values.

(Current Affairs)

Question 5. Discuss the nature of India's federal fiscal mismatch. Examine the role of constitutional institutions and policy reforms in addressing vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances. **(15 Marks | 250 Words)**

Sample Answer

Fiscal federalism seeks to balance revenue-raising powers and expenditure responsibilities between the Union and the States. India's constitutional framework creates both **vertical fiscal imbalance**, where the Union possesses relatively greater taxation powers while States undertake substantial expenditure responsibilities, and **horizontal fiscal imbalance**, arising from differing fiscal capacities among States.

The Finance Commission addresses these imbalances through tax devolution and grants-in-aid based on objective criteria such as income distance, demographic factors, forest and ecology, tax effort and fiscal discipline. This promotes equity while preserving cooperative federalism.

The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) fundamentally altered India's fiscal architecture by creating a harmonized indirect tax regime. The GST Council represents an important institutional innovation where the Union and States jointly determine indirect tax policy. However, concerns have emerged regarding compensation, revenue certainty and fiscal autonomy.



Federal fiscal mismatch also arises because States bear significant expenditure responsibilities in health, education, agriculture, policing and local governance, while many buoyant taxation sources remain with the Union. This dependence on transfers may constrain policy flexibility and long-term fiscal planning.

Addressing these challenges requires predictable tax devolution, strengthening State tax administration, greater fiscal transparency, enhanced borrowing discipline and empowering local governments through effective implementation of State Finance Commission recommendations.

Performance-linked grants, improved data-driven fiscal management and rationalization of centrally sponsored schemes can further improve fiscal efficiency. Strengthening cooperative decision-making within institutions such as the GST Council remains essential for sustaining fiscal federalism.

In conclusion, India's federal fiscal architecture must continuously evolve to balance national economic stability with meaningful fiscal autonomy for States. A transparent, rule-based and cooperative framework is indispensable for achieving inclusive development and strengthening the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism.

