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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **JULY 22, 2026**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. With reference to the ideological developments during the rise of Indian nationalism in the late nineteenth century, consider the following statements:

1. The early nationalists demanded representative institutions primarily because they believed constitutional reforms would ultimately strengthen British imperial interests in India.
2. The economic critique advanced by early nationalists linked India's growing poverty not merely to high taxation but also to the continuous external transfer of wealth without an equivalent economic return.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Early nationalists demanded representative institutions because they believed greater Indian participation would ensure responsible governance, reduce administrative excesses, and ultimately prepare India for self-government. Their objective was not to strengthen imperial interests but to secure Indian political rights.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Drain Theory, especially articulated by Dadabhai Naoroji, argued that India's poverty resulted from an unrequited transfer of wealth abroad through Home Charges, pensions, salaries, profits, and remittances. This went beyond merely criticizing heavy taxation.

Value Addition:

- Economic nationalism became one of the strongest intellectual foundations of the freedom movement.
- Constitutional agitation and economic criticism developed simultaneously during the Moderate phase.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains why ecological succession in a disturbed ecosystem generally leads to greater ecosystem stability?

- (a) Species diversity invariably declines, reducing interspecific competition.
- (b) Increasing complexity of food webs enhances resilience against environmental disturbances.
- (c) Net primary productivity continuously increases without reaching equilibrium.
- (d) Pioneer species permanently dominate the ecosystem because of rapid reproductive rates.

Answer: (b) Increasing complexity of food webs enhances resilience against environmental disturbances.

Explanation:

- Ecological succession generally results in increased biodiversity, niche specialization, and complex trophic interactions.
- Complex food webs provide alternative energy pathways, making ecosystems more resilient to species loss and environmental fluctuations.
- Species diversity usually increases rather than decreases.
- Net primary productivity does not increase indefinitely; mature ecosystems approach dynamic equilibrium.
- Pioneer species are gradually replaced by later successional communities.

Value Addition:

- Stability refers to resistance and resilience.
- Climax communities maintain dynamic rather than static equilibrium.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding public finance and fiscal management:

1. A rise in capital expenditure necessarily leads to an increase in fiscal deficit in the same financial year.
2. Revenue expenditure may contribute indirectly to long-term economic growth even though it does not create physical assets.
3. Fiscal consolidation can occur despite an increase in absolute government expenditure if revenue growth outpaces expenditure growth.

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 incorrect.** Capital expenditure need not necessarily increase fiscal deficit if financed through higher revenues, asset monetisation, or expenditure rationalisation.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Expenditure on education, healthcare, research, and skill development, although classified as revenue expenditure, enhances human capital and long-term productivity.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Fiscal consolidation depends upon improvement in fiscal indicators relative to GDP or revenue growth, not merely on reducing expenditure.

Value Addition:

- Capital expenditure creates productive assets.
- Revenue expenditure includes salaries, subsidies, interest payments, and social services.
- Quality of expenditure is often more important than its classification.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding constitutional governance in India:

1. Every constitutional authority derives both its existence and powers directly from the Constitution.
2. Parliament can regulate the service conditions of constitutional authorities where the Constitution expressly authorises it to do so.
3. All statutory bodies are subordinate to the executive and cannot exercise quasi-judicial powers.
4. Independence of constitutional authorities is secured only through fixed tenure and difficult removal procedures.

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 incorrect.** While constitutional bodies derive their existence from the Constitution, not all powers are exhaustively provided therein; Parliament may supplement powers where constitutionally permitted.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Constitution expressly authorises Parliament in several cases to prescribe service conditions and other operational details.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Many statutory bodies, such as tribunals and regulatory commissions, exercise quasi-judicial powers despite being created by statute.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Independence is ensured through multiple safeguards including financial autonomy, appointment procedures, removal safeguards, salary protection, and operational independence—not merely tenure.

Value Addition:

- Constitutional bodies are constitutionally created.
- Statutory bodies owe their existence to Acts of Parliament or State Legislatures.
- Regulatory independence is often institution-specific.

Q5. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): Relief rainfall is generally confined to the windward side of mountain barriers.

Reason I: Moist air is forced to ascend along mountain slopes, leading to adiabatic cooling and condensation.

Reason II: Descending air on the leeward side undergoes adiabatic warming, reducing its relative humidity and suppressing precipitation.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Assertion is correct, and both Reason I and Reason II are correct, and both reasons correctly explain the Assertion.
- (b) Assertion is correct, Reason I is correct but Reason II is not correct.
- (c) Assertion is correct, but both Reason I and Reason II are incorrect.
- (d) Assertion is incorrect, but both Reason I and Reason II are correct.

Answer: (a) Assertion is correct, and both Reason I and Reason II are correct, and both reasons correctly explain the Assertion.

Explanation:

- Orographic (relief) rainfall occurs when moisture-laden winds encounter mountain barriers.
- **Reason I** correctly explains the formation of rainfall on the windward side through forced uplift, adiabatic cooling, condensation, and cloud formation.
- **Reason II** correctly explains why the leeward side experiences a rain-shadow effect. As air descends, it warms adiabatically, increasing its moisture-holding capacity and reducing relative humidity, thereby inhibiting rainfall.
- Together, both reasons fully explain why rainfall is concentrated mainly on the windward slopes.

Value Addition:

- Windward slopes are typically wetter and support denser vegetation.
- Leeward slopes often experience rain-shadow conditions and comparatively arid climates.
- Classic examples include the Western Ghats in India and the Andes in South America.



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to **The Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 2026**, consider the following statements:

1. The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) is a defined contribution social security scheme in which the ultimate retirement corpus depends upon the cumulative contributions and the interest credited over time.
2. Any increase in the declared EPF interest rate automatically creates a statutory obligation on the Union Government to compensate EPFO irrespective of its investment income.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** EPF is fundamentally a **defined contribution** retirement savings scheme. The retirement corpus depends upon employee contribution, employer contribution (subject to statutory provisions), duration of service, and annual interest declared by EPFO.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** EPF interest is declared by the Central Board of Trustees and notified by the Government. The Government does **not** have an automatic statutory liability to compensate any shortfall merely because a higher interest rate has been declared. Interest declaration is linked to EPFO's financial position and investment returns.

Value Addition:

- EPFO functions under the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- EPF is governed by the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
- EPF differs from pension schemes because the accumulated corpus belongs to the subscriber.

Q2. With reference to **Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD)**, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It is caused by a flavivirus primarily transmitted through mosquitoes.
- (b) It is one of the species of Ebola virus known to cause viral haemorrhagic fever in humans.
- (c) It primarily spreads through contaminated drinking water and causes acute diarrhoeal outbreaks.
- (d) It is a bacterial zoonotic disease transmitted mainly through ticks.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Bundibugyo virus is one of the recognized **Ebolavirus** species.
- It causes **Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**, a severe viral haemorrhagic fever.
- Transmission occurs through contact with infected animals or bodily fluids of infected persons.
- It is **not mosquito-borne, not water-borne, and not bacterial**.

Value Addition:

- Ebola viruses belong to the family **Filoviridae**.
- Human-to-human transmission mainly occurs through infected body fluids.
- Early isolation and infection control remain the primary preventive measures.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding **Vikram-1, India's First Private Orbital Rocket**:

1. Vikram-1 has been developed by a private Indian space startup with the objective of placing small satellites into Low Earth Orbit.
2. The development of Vikram-1 reflects the post-space-sector reforms that expanded private sector participation in India's space ecosystem.
3. Every launch vehicle developed by a private Indian company requires ownership transfer to ISRO before being launched from Indian launch facilities.

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.** Vikram-1 is designed primarily for launching small satellites into Low Earth Orbit.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** India's space-sector reforms enabled greater participation by private companies in launch vehicle development and commercial space activities.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** There is **no requirement** that ownership of a privately developed launch vehicle must be transferred to ISRO before launch. Regulatory approvals are required, but ownership remains with the private entity.

Value Addition:

- Vikram-1 has been developed by **Skyroot Aerospace**.
- IN-SPACe facilitates private participation in India's space sector.
- Small Satellite Launch Vehicles are increasingly important for commercial launches.

Q4. With reference to the **Borjuli Wetland**, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Assam and forms part of the floodplain wetland ecosystem associated with the Brahmaputra basin.
2. Recognition of a wetland under national conservation programmes automatically confers the status of a Ramsar Site.
3. Floodplain wetlands perform important ecological functions including groundwater recharge, flood moderation and habitat support for migratory birds.

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.** Borjuli Wetland is located in Assam and represents an ecologically significant floodplain wetland.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** National recognition does **not automatically** result in Ramsar designation. Ramsar listing follows an international process under the Ramsar Convention.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Floodplain wetlands provide numerous ecosystem services including biodiversity conservation, flood buffering, groundwater recharge and carbon storage.

Value Addition:

- Assam possesses numerous floodplain wetlands locally known as **Beels**.
- Wetlands are among the world's most productive ecosystems.
- Ramsar designation is based on internationally accepted ecological criteria.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**:

1. Labour Force Participation Rate includes both employed persons and those unemployed persons who are actively seeking or available for work.
2. An increase in employment always results in a proportionate increase in Labour Force Participation Rate.
3. A decline in Labour Force Participation Rate may occur even during periods of economic growth if discouraged workers withdraw from the labour force.
4. LFPR and Worker Population Ratio necessarily remain identical whenever unemployment falls.

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.** Labour force includes both employed persons and unemployed persons available for or seeking work.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Employment may increase without a proportionate increase in LFPR because the labour force denominator may also change.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Discouraged workers leaving the labour force can reduce LFPR despite economic expansion.

- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Worker Population Ratio measures only employed persons, whereas LFPR includes both employed and unemployed persons in the labour force.

Value Addition:

- **LFPR = Labour Force ÷ Population**
- **WPR = Workers ÷ Population**
- **Unemployment Rate = Unemployed ÷ Labour Force**

These indicators should always be interpreted together.

Q6. On the outline map of the world, the **Gulf of Aden** is located between which one of the following pairs?

- (a) Yemen and Somalia
- (b) Oman and Iran
- (c) Saudi Arabia and Sudan
- (d) Djibouti and Egypt

Answer: (a) Yemen and Somalia

Explanation:

- The Gulf of Aden connects the **Arabian Sea** with the **Red Sea** through the **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**.
- It lies between **Yemen** on the Arabian Peninsula and **Somalia** (along with Djibouti) in the Horn of Africa.
- It forms one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes linking Europe and Asia via the **Suez Canal**.

Value Addition:

- Connects the Arabian Sea to the Red Sea.
- Bab-el-Mandeb Strait is its western outlet.
- A strategically significant chokepoint for global energy and commercial shipping.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1) GS-1: Modern History

Question:

Explain how the decline of the Mughal Empire created political, economic, and social conditions that enabled the rise of regional powers in 18th-century India.

Sample Answer:

The decline of the Mughal Empire was not merely the fall of a dynasty; it was a deeper transformation in the political structure of India. As Mughal authority weakened after Aurangzeb, the empire increasingly lost control over provinces, revenue systems, and military coordination. This created space for regional powers to emerge and establish their own authority. The 18th century, therefore, should be understood not simply as an age of collapse, but as an age of political reorganization.

Politically, the Mughal administrative system became strained by constant warfare, succession disputes, and weak central control. Provincial governors and local elites began acting with greater autonomy. The mansabdari and jagirdari systems, which had once supported imperial authority, became unstable. As the central state lost its ability to discipline the provinces, rulers in Bengal, Awadh, Hyderabad, Mysore, and the Maratha confederacy gained ground. These powers did not appear suddenly; they rose by filling the vacuum left by Mughal decline.

Economically, the weakening of the empire disrupted revenue collection and increased dependence on local intermediaries. Many regional rulers built power by securing land revenue, controlling trade routes, and attracting merchant groups. Urban centres and ports remained important, but they came under new political patronage. This allowed regional states to develop their own fiscal systems and armies. Economic power thus shifted away from the imperial centre to more localized structures.

Socially, the decline of Mughal authority encouraged the mobilization of community identities and local solidarities. The Marathas drew strength from peasant-warrior networks, the Sikhs organized militarily in response to persecution and opportunity, and other groups built legitimacy through regional traditions. These were not just religious movements; they were also responses to changing political conditions.

Thus, the rise of regional powers was both a result of Mughal decline and a sign of a new political order. The 18th century should be seen as a transitional phase in Indian history, where multiple centres of power replaced one imperial centre. This transition later shaped the conditions under which European powers expanded in India.

2) GS-2: Polity and Governance

Question:

“Judicial independence is essential, but accountability is equally necessary for democratic legitimacy.” Discuss in the Indian context.

Sample Answer:

Judicial independence and accountability are not contradictory; rather, they are two sides of the same democratic principle. Independence ensures that judges can decide cases without fear of political pressure, while accountability ensures that this power is exercised responsibly, transparently, and within constitutional limits. In India, both are essential for maintaining public trust in the judiciary.

Judicial independence is central to the rule of law. The Constitution protects judges through security of tenure, fixed service conditions, and separation from the executive. These safeguards allow the judiciary to

act as a check on arbitrary power. Over time, Indian courts have protected rights, reviewed executive action, and expanded constitutional interpretation. Without independence, the judiciary would lose its ability to defend democracy.

At the same time, complete insulation from scrutiny can create concerns. Delays in justice, lack of transparency in appointments, and inconsistency in administrative decisions raise questions of institutional accountability. Citizens expect the judiciary not only to be impartial, but also efficient and answerable to constitutional values. Accountability does not mean interference by the executive or legislature; it means institutional self-correction, openness, and ethical responsibility.

In India, the challenge is to balance autonomy with transparency. Judicial appointments should be fair and credible. Court administration should be more efficient. Reasons for important institutional decisions should be clearer. Case disposal must be improved through better infrastructure and use of technology. These reforms can strengthen public confidence without weakening independence.

A democracy needs a judiciary that is strong enough to protect liberty, but humble enough to remain answerable. Independence without accountability may lead to opacity, while accountability without independence may lead to political capture. The Indian constitutional system must therefore preserve both. Judicial legitimacy depends not merely on power, but on trust.

In conclusion, judicial independence is the foundation of constitutional justice, while accountability is the basis of democratic legitimacy. India must continue reforming the judiciary in ways that strengthen both values together.

3) GS-3: Economy

Question:

Analyze how inflation targeting in India has influenced monetary policy transmission, price stability, and growth trade-offs.

Sample Answer:

Inflation targeting has become a key framework of monetary policy in India. Its main purpose is to keep inflation under control while allowing enough flexibility to support growth. This framework has improved policy clarity, strengthened credibility, and made monetary decisions more transparent. However, its effectiveness depends on structural features of the Indian economy.

One major impact of inflation targeting has been the anchoring of expectations. When households, firms, and markets believe that the central bank is committed to price stability, they are less likely to expect persistent inflation. This improves confidence and reduces the chances of a wage-price spiral. It also gives monetary policy greater credibility, which is important in an economy like India where inflation has often been driven by food and fuel shocks.

Inflation targeting has also improved the logic of policy transmission. Interest rate changes now operate through a more rule-based system, affecting credit demand, borrowing costs, and financial conditions. However, transmission in India is still uneven because of structural issues such as weak bank balance sheets, informal credit markets, and supply-side bottlenecks. This means that interest rate policy alone cannot control all forms of inflation.

The framework has also highlighted the growth-inflation trade-off. In times of high inflation, the central bank may need to raise rates, but this can slow consumption and investment. In periods of weak demand,

tighter policy may hurt growth even if inflation is not demand-driven. This shows the limits of monetary policy in an economy where inflation often arises from food shortages, logistics problems, or global price shocks.

Despite these limits, inflation targeting has brought important benefits. It has reduced policy uncertainty, improved communication, and made price stability a more visible goal. It has also encouraged the government and the central bank to coordinate more carefully on macroeconomic management.

In conclusion, inflation targeting has strengthened India's monetary framework, but it is not a complete solution. Stable prices require not only sound monetary policy, but also food supply management, fiscal discipline, and structural reforms. The framework has improved the quality of policy, even though the trade-offs remain complex.

4) GS-4: Ethics

Question:

Ethical governance is not only about preventing corruption, but also about ensuring compassion, responsiveness, and dignity in public service. Examine.

Sample Answer:

Ethical governance is a broader concept than anti-corruption. While preventing bribery, misuse of office, and favoritism is essential, good governance also requires compassion, responsiveness, and dignity in public service. A public authority may be legally correct and still be ethically weak if it is indifferent, delayed, or humiliating in its treatment of citizens.

Compassion is important because the state serves people in vulnerable situations. Citizens approach the government not only for rights, but also for help during illness, poverty, disaster, or displacement. In such situations, strict mechanical application of rules may fail to reflect ethical responsibility. A compassionate administration does not mean favoritism; it means human sensitivity while applying laws and procedures.

Responsiveness is equally important. Delay in governance can itself become a form of injustice. A file kept pending, a grievance ignored, or a welfare benefit delayed can harm citizens as much as direct wrongdoing. Ethical governance therefore requires timely decision-making, active listening, grievance redressal, and a sense of duty. Public officials should understand that efficiency is not merely administrative; it is also ethical.

Dignity is the foundation of ethical public service. Every citizen should be treated with respect, regardless of caste, class, gender, or status. An official's tone, behavior, and attitude matter because the state should never humiliate the people it serves. Even when law must be enforced strictly, the method of enforcement should preserve human dignity.

Anti-corruption systems such as transparency, audits, e-governance, and vigilance mechanisms are necessary, but they are not sufficient. Ethical governance also depends on moral courage, empathy, fairness, and commitment to public welfare. The best administrators combine integrity with humanity.

In conclusion, ethical governance is not just about avoiding corruption. It is about building a public system that is fair, sensitive, prompt, and respectful. A truly ethical state not only follows rules, but also upholds human dignity in every decision and interaction.

5) Current Affairs: India-Japan Annual Summit

Question:

Discuss the strategic significance of the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit in the context of Indo-Pacific stability, economic security, and technological cooperation.

Sample Answer:

The 16th India-Japan Annual Summit is strategically significant because it reinforces one of the most stable and trusted partnerships in Asia. In a period marked by geopolitical tension, supply chain uncertainty, and rapid technological change, India and Japan are working together to shape a more secure and resilient regional order. The summit matters not only for bilateral relations but also for the broader Indo-Pacific environment.

First, the summit has importance for Indo-Pacific stability. India and Japan share an interest in a free, open, and rules-based region. Both countries support maritime security, peaceful dispute resolution, and strategic balance in the region. Their cooperation sends a clear message that democratic and responsible powers can work together to preserve stability. This is especially important in an era of great-power rivalry and uncertainty.

Second, the summit strengthens economic security. Japan is an important partner for India in infrastructure, investment, and industrial development. As global supply chains become more vulnerable, India seeks diversified and reliable partnerships. Japan can support this effort through technology, capital, and long-term collaboration in manufacturing and connectivity. Economic security today is no longer separate from national security, and this summit reflects that reality.

Third, the summit deepens technological cooperation. India and Japan have growing possibilities in digital technologies, clean energy, mobility, smart infrastructure, semiconductors, and innovation. Such cooperation helps both countries reduce dependence on unstable external sources while building future competitiveness. Technology is now a major pillar of state power, and bilateral cooperation in this area is strategically valuable.

The summit also reflects a mature diplomatic relationship based on trust, continuity, and shared vision. Unlike transactional partnerships, India-Japan relations are built on long-term convergence. That gives the relationship greater durability and strategic depth.

In conclusion, the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit is important because it brings together security, economy, and technology within a common Indo-Pacific framework. It strengthens regional stability, supports economic resilience, and prepares both countries for a more uncertain future.