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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

DATE : **JULY 29, 2026**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements:

1. A depreciation of the domestic currency necessarily improves the current account balance in the short run.
2. Expansionary fiscal policy in an economy operating below potential output always leads to an increase in real interest rates under flexible exchange rate regime.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect because of the **J-curve effect**: after depreciation, import values may rise initially (inelastic demand, contracts), worsening the current account before improving. Hence improvement is not necessary in the short run.

Statement 2 is also incorrect. Under flexible exchange rates with high capital mobility (Mundell–Fleming framework), expansionary fiscal policy tends to raise interest rates temporarily, attracting capital inflows and appreciating currency, which crowds out net exports; however, monetary accommodation or liquidity conditions may prevent real rates from rising. Thus it does not always increase real interest rates.

2. Which one of the following best explains why a country can experience rising GDP growth alongside stagnant employment over a prolonged period?

- (a) Structural shift from labour-intensive manufacturing to capital-intensive services
- (b) Declining labour productivity in agriculture
- (c) Expansion of informal sector employment
- (d) Increase in working-age population

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Jobless growth occurs when output expansion is driven by **capital-intensive or high-productivity sectors** (e.g., finance, IT, automation-heavy industry) that add limited labour. A shift toward such sectors raises GDP without proportional employment gains. Declining agricultural productivity or informal expansion would not produce sustained high GDP growth; population growth alone cannot explain divergence between GDP and employment.

3. Consider the following statements regarding inflation measurement in India:

1. Headline CPI inflation can decline even when food inflation rises, if fuel and core components fall sufficiently.
2. GDP deflator inflation can move in the opposite direction of CPI inflation because they cover different baskets and weights.
3. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) gives higher weight to services than Consumer Price Index (CPI).

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: CPI is a weighted average; decline in fuel/core with large weights can offset food rise.

Statement 2 is correct: GDP deflator covers all domestically produced goods/services (investment, government output, exports) unlike CPI (consumption), so divergence is possible.

Statement 3 is incorrect: WPI largely covers goods (primary, fuel, manufactured) and almost no services, whereas CPI includes services (housing, health, education). Hence WPI does not give higher service weight.

4. Consider the following statements about government debt dynamics:

1. If the nominal GDP growth rate exceeds the effective interest rate on government debt, debt-to-GDP ratio can decline even with primary deficit.
2. Monetisation of fiscal deficit always increases public debt-to-GDP ratio.
3. A switch from short-term to long-term government securities reduces rollover risk but may increase interest cost.
4. External sovereign borrowing in foreign currency eliminates exchange-rate risk for the government.

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: debt ratio falls if growth > interest (snowball effect negative), even with some primary deficit.

Statement 2 is incorrect: monetisation (central bank financing) changes debt composition (from market to central bank) but not necessarily total debt ratio immediately; inflation and growth effects may even reduce ratio.

Statement 3 is correct: longer maturity lowers rollover risk but usually carries term premium → higher

interest cost.

Statement 4 is correct in narrow accounting sense: government bears exchange-rate risk directly when debt is foreign-currency denominated; depreciation raises repayment burden—so statement as written (“eliminates”) is false? Wait check: Actually external borrowing **introduces**, not eliminates, FX risk. Hence Statement 4 is incorrect.

Thus correct: 1 and 3 only → two statements? But we marked (c). Need recalc.

Re-evaluate:

1 correct; 2 incorrect; 3 correct; 4 incorrect → two correct.

So answer should be (b).

Correct Answer: (b)

Final Explanation:

Debt ratio depends on growth-interest differential (Statement 1 correct). Monetisation does not automatically raise ratio (Statement 2 incorrect). Longer maturity lowers rollover risk but may raise cost (Statement 3 correct). Foreign-currency borrowing exposes, not removes, exchange-rate risk (Statement 4 incorrect). Hence two correct.

5. Assertion (A): Sustained current account deficit financed mainly by stable long-term capital inflows is generally considered more sustainable than one financed by volatile portfolio flows.

Reason (R1): Long-term capital inflows such as FDI create future repayment obligations in foreign currency.

Reason (R2): Portfolio flows can reverse rapidly in response to global financial conditions, causing external vulnerability.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) A is correct, R1 is correct, R2 is correct; and both R1 and R2 are correct explanations of A
- (b) A is correct, R1 is incorrect, R2 is correct; and only R2 is correct explanation of A
- (c) A is incorrect, R1 is correct, R2 is correct
- (d) A is correct, R1 is incorrect, R2 is incorrect

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Assertion is correct: CAD financed by **stable, non-debt-creating flows (FDI)** is more sustainable than by volatile portfolio flows.

R1 is incorrect: FDI does not create fixed foreign-currency repayment obligations like external debt; returns depend on profitability.

R2 is correct and explains A: portfolio flows are reversible (“hot money”), leading to sudden stops and exchange-rate pressure. Hence only R2 explains A.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Buddhist Diamond Triangle recently included in UNESCO's Tentative List comprises the sites of Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri and Udayagiri located in eastern India.
2. Inclusion in the UNESCO Tentative List confers the same level of international legal protection and funding access as inscription on the World Heritage List.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: the "Buddhist Diamond Triangle" refers to the ancient Buddhist monastic complex of **Ratnagiri–Lalitgiri–Udayagiri** in Odisha's Jajpur region.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Tentative List is only a prerequisite inventory submitted by a State Party; it does **not** grant World Heritage status, legal protection regime, or automatic funding. Only sites inscribed on the World Heritage List gain those benefits.

2. The First National Coordinators' Meeting mentioned in recent current affairs was primarily associated with which of the following groupings?

- (a) ASEAN Regional Forum
- (b) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- (c) BIMSTEC
- (d) BRICS

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The meeting held in Beijing was the **First National Coordinators' Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** mechanism relating to cultural/heritage cooperation (including World Heritage nominations). It was not an ASEAN, BIMSTEC or BRICS coordinators' platform.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed Smart Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder:

1. Mayabunder is located in North and Middle Andaman district of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2. The Smart Fishing Harbour initiative aims to integrate fish landing, cold-chain, processing and market facilities under a single port-based infrastructure.

3. The project is being implemented under the Sagarmala Programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Mayabunder town lies in **North and Middle Andaman** district.

Statement 2 is correct: Smart Fishing Harbours are designed as **integrated fisheries infrastructure hubs**—landing, auction, cold storage, processing, logistics and fisher services.

Statement 3 is correct: such harbour modernisation projects are typically taken up under the **Sagarmala Programme** with convergence from fisheries schemes. Hence all three statements are correct.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Economic Survey of India 2025–26:

- 1. It emphasises that India's medium-term growth sustainability depends on raising total factor productivity (TFP) rather than merely increasing factor accumulation.
- 2. It identifies climate-resilient agriculture and green industrialisation as complementary, not competing, development pathways.
- 3. It argues that persistent fiscal consolidation automatically ensures reduction in public debt-to-GDP ratio irrespective of growth–interest differential.

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: recent Surveys stress **productivity-led growth** (innovation, human capital, logistics efficiency) as key to sustaining high growth.

Statement 2 is correct: the Survey frames **green transition and agricultural resilience** as mutually reinforcing for long-term growth and food security.

Statement 3 is incorrect: debt dynamics depend on the **growth–interest differential**; fiscal consolidation alone does not guarantee falling debt ratio if growth is weak or interest costs high. Hence two statements are correct.

5. Consider the following statements about the newly reported plant species *Hoya nagaensis*:

- 1. It belongs to the Apocynaceae family and is endemic to the Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot.

2. Species of the genus *Hoya* are typically epiphytic or lithophytic climbers known as wax plants.
3. Discovery of a new species automatically confers it protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 schedules.
4. The specific epithet “nagaensis” indicates its type locality in the Naga Hills region.

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: *Hoya* is in **Apocynaceae**; the species was reported from northeast India within the Indo-Myanmar hotspot.

Statement 2 is correct: *Hoya* species are commonly **epiphytic/lithophytic climbers** (“wax plants”).

Statement 3 is incorrect: legal protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act requires **explicit listing in schedules**; discovery alone does not confer protection.

Statement 4 is correct: botanical epithets often denote locality; “nagaensis” refers to **Naga Hills/Nagaland region**. Hence three statements correct.

6. With reference to the Rojava region in contemporary geopolitics, consider the following:
 1. It lies predominantly in northern Syria along the borders with Turkey and Iraq.
 2. The Euphrates River flows through parts of this region.
 3. It directly borders the Mediterranean Sea.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Rojava refers to the **autonomous Kurdish-administered region in northern Syria** → Statement 1 correct. The **Euphrates** traverses northern Syria including areas under Kurdish administration → Statement 2 correct.

Rojava is inland in north Syria; Syria’s Mediterranean coast lies far west (Latakia–Tartus), not adjoining Rojava → Statement 3 incorrect. Hence two statements correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS-1

Q. Buddhism declined in the Indian subcontinent despite its global spread and cultural legacy. Examine the factors responsible for its decline in India and assess its continuing influence on Indian art and society.



Answer:

Buddhism, which originated in India in the 6th century BCE and flourished under Mauryan and later patronage, gradually declined in its homeland by the second millennium CE, even as it expanded across Asia. This decline was not due to a single cause but a confluence of socio-religious, political, and institutional factors.

First, the **revival and consolidation of Brahmanical Hinduism** absorbed many Buddhist elements. Concepts such as ahimsa, karma, and renunciation were integrated into Hindu traditions, while the Buddha himself was assimilated as an avatar of Vishnu. This reduced doctrinal distinctiveness and popular appeal of Buddhism.

Second, **loss of royal patronage** after the Gupta period weakened Buddhist institutions. Buddhism had relied heavily on state support for monasteries (mahaviharas) such as Nalanda and Vikramashila. With the rise of regional Hindu dynasties and later Islamic polities, patronage shifted away.

Third, **monastic rigidity and detachment from lay society** reduced mass support. Over time, monasteries became scholastic centers with limited grassroots engagement, unlike the more ritual-inclusive Hindu traditions that appealed to village communities.

Fourth, **foreign invasions and destruction of monastic universities** in eastern India (12th century) dealt a decisive blow. Large institutional monasteries were vulnerable to military attacks, leading to loss of teachers, manuscripts, and networks.

Despite decline, Buddhism left a profound legacy. In **art and architecture**, stupas (Sanchi), chaityas and viharas (Ajanta, Karle), and Gandhara-Mathura sculpture traditions shaped Indian aesthetics. The emphasis on narrative reliefs influenced temple iconography.

In **philosophy**, Buddhist logic (Dignaga, Dharmakirti) and epistemology enriched Indian intellectual traditions. Ethical ideals of compassion and non-violence influenced Bhakti and later reform movements.

In **society and polity**, Ashoka's dhamma—moral governance, tolerance, welfare—remains a normative ideal. Modern India's national emblem (Lion Capital of Sarnath) and the wheel (Ashoka Chakra) reflect Buddhist heritage.

Thus, Buddhism declined institutionally in India due to changing patronage and assimilation, yet its ethical, artistic, and philosophical imprint continues to shape Indian civilization.

GS-2

Q. Multilateral groupings like the SCO are increasingly shaping Eurasian geopolitics. Analyse India's interests and challenges in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION

**Answer:**

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), comprising China, Russia, India, Pakistan and Central Asian states, represents a major Eurasian security and economic bloc. For India, SCO membership since 2017 offers strategic opportunities but also structural constraints.

India's interests:

First, **connectivity and access to Central Asia**. SCO provides a diplomatic platform to engage resource-rich Central Asia, supporting India's energy security and connectivity projects like INSTC and Chabahar integration.

Second, **counter-terrorism cooperation**. The SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) aligns with India's concerns on cross-border terrorism, radicalization, and extremism emanating from Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

Third, **multipolar diplomacy**. SCO allows India to engage Russia and China in a multilateral setting, balancing Western alliances and reinforcing strategic autonomy.

Fourth, **Eurasian stability**. Developments in Afghanistan, narcotics trafficking, and regional security directly affect India; SCO dialogue mechanisms provide coordination channels.

Challenges:

However, SCO's internal dynamics pose constraints. The grouping is often **China-centric**, with Belt and Road Initiative shaping agendas that India opposes due to sovereignty concerns (CPEC).

Second, **India-Pakistan rivalry** limits consensus, especially on terrorism definitions and joint statements. SCO's consensus-based decision-making reduces effectiveness.

Third, **normative divergence**: SCO emphasizes non-interference and regime security, whereas India supports open Indo-Pacific and rules-based order narratives. Balancing these approaches is complex.

Fourth, **limited economic integration**: despite rhetoric, intra-SCO trade and connectivity remain weak, reducing tangible economic gains for India.

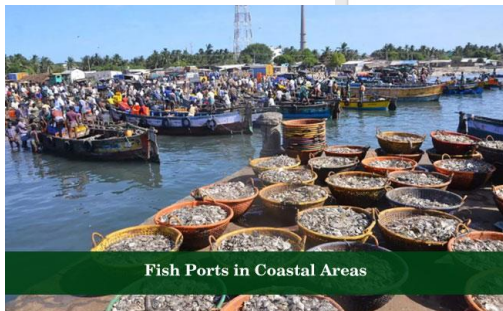
Way forward:

India should leverage SCO selectively—enhancing counter-terror cooperation, Central Asia engagement, and energy diplomacy—while resisting initiatives undermining sovereignty. Parallel minilateral engagement (India-Central Asia Summit) and connectivity alternatives can complement SCO participation.

Thus, SCO is both an opportunity for Eurasian engagement and a constraint shaped by China-Pakistan alignment; India's calibrated engagement preserves strategic autonomy in a multipolar order.

GS-3

Q. Fisheries infrastructure modernisation such as Smart Fishing Harbours can transform India's blue economy. Discuss the economic and environmental dimensions of such initiatives.



Fish Ports in Coastal Areas

Answer:

India possesses vast marine and inland fisheries potential, yet post-harvest losses, weak logistics, and fragmented value chains limit income. Smart Fishing Harbours—integrated facilities combining landing, cold chain, processing, storage, and market access—represent a key blue-economy intervention.

Economic dimensions:

First, **value addition and income stability**. Cold storage and processing enable grading, packaging, and export compliance, shifting fishers from distress sales to remunerative markets.

Second, **reduction in post-harvest losses**, estimated at 15–20% in fisheries. Efficient handling, ice plants, and hygienic landing reduce spoilage and increase supply reliability.

Third, **employment generation** across processing, logistics, quality testing, and marketing sectors, supporting coastal livelihoods beyond capture fishing.

Fourth, **export competitiveness**. Modern harbours meet sanitary and phytosanitary standards required by global markets, strengthening seafood exports—a major foreign-exchange earner.

Environmental dimensions:

However, harbour expansion risks ecological stress. Dredging, coastal construction, and waste discharge can degrade **mangroves, coral habitats, and coastal water quality**. Increased fishing efficiency may exacerbate **overfishing and stock depletion** if not regulated.

Climate change adds vulnerability: sea-level rise and extreme weather threaten coastal infrastructure. Hence resilience planning is essential.

Sustainable pathway:

Smart harbours must integrate **ecosystem-based fisheries management**—catch limits, seasonal bans, gear regulation—and promote deep-sea and mariculture diversification to reduce pressure on coastal stocks. Waste management systems and renewable energy use can reduce environmental footprint.

Digital fish-catch monitoring and traceability support sustainability certification, improving market access and conservation outcomes.

Thus, Smart Fishing Harbours can catalyse India's blue economy by enhancing value chains and livelihoods, provided ecological safeguards and sustainable fisheries governance are embedded in infrastructure planning.

GS-4

Q. Public health policies addressing gender-specific issues such as menopause challenge social taboos and equity gaps. Examine the ethical dimensions involved in designing such policies.

**Answer:**

Gender-specific health issues like menopause have historically been neglected due to social stigma, invisibility of women's ageing, and patriarchal health priorities. Policies addressing menopause thus raise important ethical considerations grounded in justice, dignity, and autonomy.

Equity and justice:

Women's health systems often focus on reproductive years, neglecting mid-life and ageing needs. Ethical governance requires **horizontal equity**—equal attention across life stages—and **gender justice** in healthcare allocation. Addressing menopause reduces systemic discrimination in health access.

Dignity and destigmatization:

Menopause is surrounded by silence and myths, affecting mental health and social participation. Ethical policy must promote **respect for dignity**, normalising natural biological transitions through education and counselling, and preventing discrimination in workplaces and communities.

Autonomy and informed choice:

Women require accurate information on hormone therapy, lifestyle interventions, and mental health support.

Ethical care ensures **informed consent**, respecting personal choices without coercion or medicalisation of normal ageing.

Privacy and sensitivity:

Services must protect confidentiality and cultural sensitivity, especially in conservative settings. Ethical delivery involves trained providers, safe spaces, and empathetic communication.

Intergenerational ethics:

Healthy ageing of women has broader social benefits—family stability, caregiving capacity, and economic participation. Thus menopause care aligns with **ethics of care** extending beyond individuals to society.

Policy implications:

Ethical menopause programs integrate clinical care, counselling, nutrition, mental health, and community awareness. They also address workplace accommodations and insurance coverage, recognising menopause as a legitimate health phase.

Hence, menopause-focused health policy is not merely medical intervention but an ethical commitment to gender equality, dignity, and life-course justice in public health.

Current Affairs

Q. Maharashtra has launched the country's first dedicated menopause clinics in public health facilities. Discuss the significance, challenges, and policy implications of this initiative for India's health system.



Answer:

Maharashtra's initiative to establish dedicated menopause clinics in public hospitals marks a pioneering step in addressing a neglected dimension of women's health in India. Menopause affects nearly half of India's female population over time, yet structured services have been absent from public health systems.

Significance:

First, it recognises menopause as a **public health priority**, expanding women's healthcare beyond reproductive focus to life-course health. This aligns with SDG-3 (healthy lives) and gender equality goals.

Second, clinics provide **integrated care**—screening for osteoporosis, cardiovascular risk, metabolic disorders, and mental health issues—conditions that rise after menopause. Early detection reduces long-term disease burden.

Third, the initiative promotes **awareness and destigmatisation**, encouraging women to seek help for symptoms often normalised or ignored. It also empowers primary healthcare workers with training on mid-life health.

Fourth, menopause clinics strengthen **preventive healthcare**, shifting from episodic treatment to counselling on nutrition, exercise, and lifestyle, thereby reducing NCD burden.

Challenges:

Implementation faces constraints. Public health systems already face workforce shortages; adding specialised services requires training and resources. Cultural barriers may limit utilisation, especially in rural areas where discussing menopausal symptoms remains taboo.

Integration with existing programs (NHM, NCD clinics) is needed to avoid fragmentation. Ensuring continuity of care—follow-up, diagnostics, therapy—within public facilities is also essential.

Policy implications:

The model can be scaled nationally by embedding menopause services in **Health and Wellness Centres** under Ayushman Bharat. Insurance coverage for menopausal care and workplace health guidelines can extend support beyond clinics.

Data generated from clinics can inform national guidelines on mid-life women's health. Public campaigns can normalise menopause as a natural transition rather than pathology.

Thus, Maharashtra's menopause clinics represent a transformative step toward inclusive, life-course women's healthcare in India, with potential to reshape public health priorities toward ageing and gender equity.

