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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

1. Consider the following statements regarding the nature of early nationalist politics in India:

1. The Moderates believed that constitutional agitation and dialogue with the British would gradually lead to self-government.
2. The Extremists rejected all forms of constitutional methods and exclusively advocated violent revolution against British rule.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) None
- (d) Both

2. Which one of the following best explains the concept of “ecological succession” in a disturbed ecosystem?

- (a) Immediate establishment of climax species after disturbance
- (b) Gradual and sequential replacement of species over time
- (c) Permanent loss of biodiversity due to disturbance
- (d) Artificial introduction of species to restore balance

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

1. Cost-push inflation arises due to an increase in aggregate demand in the economy.
2. Core inflation excludes volatile components such as food and fuel.
3. Tight monetary policy typically involves increasing interest rates to control inflation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding constitutional provisions related to federalism:

1. The Constitution of India provides for a dual polity with a clear division of powers between the Union and the States.
2. The residuary powers under the Indian Constitution lie with the States.
3. The Inter-State Council is a constitutional body established to resolve disputes between states.
4. Parliament can legislate on State List subjects under certain circumstances such as during a National Emergency.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

5. Assertion (A): Regions located on the western margins of continents in subtropical latitudes often experience Mediterranean climate.

Reason (R1): These regions are influenced by subtropical high-pressure belts in summer, leading to dry conditions.

Reason (R2): In winter, the shift of westerlies brings cyclonic rainfall to these regions.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) Both R1 and R2 are correct and both explain A
- (b) Both R1 and R2 are correct, but only one explains A
- (c) Only one of the reasons is correct
- (d) Neither R1 nor R2 is correct

Answers

- 1. (b)
- 2. (b)
- 3. (b)
- 4. (c)
- 5. (a)

Explanations

1. Statement 1 is correct — Moderates (like Dadabhai Naoroji, Gokhale) believed in gradual reform through constitutional means.
Statement 2 is incorrect — Extremists (Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal) did not *exclusively* advocate violence; they emphasized passive resistance, boycott, and swadeshi. Violence was not their sole method.
2. Ecological succession refers to the gradual and orderly process of change in species composition in an ecosystem over time. It begins with pioneer species and culminates in a climax community. Hence, (b) is correct.
3. Statement 1 is incorrect — Cost-push inflation arises due to rising costs of production (e.g., wages, raw materials), not demand.
Statement 2 is correct — Core inflation excludes food and fuel.
Statement 3 is correct — Tight monetary policy (rate hikes, liquidity tightening) is used to control inflation.
Therefore, two statements are correct.
4. Statement 1 is correct — India follows a federal structure with division of powers.
Statement 2 is incorrect — Residuary powers lie with the Union, not States.
Statement 3 is incorrect — Inter-State Council is not a permanent constitutional body; it is established under Article 263 but not mandatory/automatic.
Statement 4 is correct — Parliament can legislate on State List during emergencies, or under Articles like 249, 250.
Hence, three statements are correct.
5. Assertion is correct — Mediterranean climate is found on western margins (e.g., California, Southern Europe).

R1 is correct — Subtropical highs dominate in summer → dry conditions.
R2 is correct — Westerlies shift in winter → cyclonic rainfall.
Both reasons correctly explain the seasonal pattern described in the assertion.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. With reference to the concept of *Force Majeure* in international trade and contracts, consider the following statements:

1. It is a doctrine recognized uniformly under all legal systems as a statutory right enforceable irrespective of contractual clauses.
2. It may include events such as geopolitical conflicts, pandemics, or government-imposed restrictions, provided they are explicitly or implicitly covered under contractual terms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Which of the following best describes the primary consequence of atomic clock failure in the *NavIC* system?

- (a) Complete shutdown of satellite communication services
- (b) Loss of precise timing affecting navigation accuracy
- (c) Inability to detect missile launches
- (d) Failure of ground-based augmentation systems

Q3. With reference to the *Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) System*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenously developed artillery system designed to replace the Russian-origin Grad BM-21 systems.
2. It is capable of firing guided rockets with enhanced accuracy in its upgraded versions.
3. It is developed and manufactured exclusively by private sector entities without involvement of government DRDO laboratories.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q4. With reference to *Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974* of the United States, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the U.S. President to impose trade sanctions without investigation by any authority.
2. It has been used to address issues related to intellectual property rights violations and unfair trade practices.
3. It allows unilateral action by the United States even if such measures are inconsistent with WTO dispute settlement mechanisms.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q5. With reference to *Sujal Gaon ID*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a digital identification system aimed at monitoring rural drinking water supply infrastructure.
2. It integrates geospatial mapping of water assets with real-time water quality monitoring.
3. It is implemented under the Jal Jeevan Mission with focus on village-level water governance.
4. It assigns unique identifiers only to households receiving piped water supply.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding *Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary*:

1. It is located in the Western Ghats region of Tamil Nadu.
2. It serves as an important corridor connecting Periyar Tiger Reserve with Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.
3. It is characterized predominantly by dry deciduous forests and thorn scrub vegetation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWERS

1. (b)
2. (b)
3. (b)
4. (b)
5. (c)
6. (a)

DETAILED EXPLANATIONS

Q1 Explanation (Force Majeure)

- Statement 1 is **incorrect** → Force majeure is **not automatically statutory**; it depends on contractual clauses or may fall under *Doctrine of Frustration* (Indian Contract Act).



- Statement 2 is **correct** → Events like pandemics, wars, lockdowns qualify **only if covered in contract**.

Hence, (b)

Q2 Explanation (NavIC Atomic Clock Failure)

- Atomic clocks are the **core timing devices** in navigation satellites.
- Failure leads to **loss of precise timing** → **degraded positional accuracy**, not complete shutdown.

Hence, (b)

Q3 Explanation (Pinaka System)

- Statement 1 → **Correct** (replacement for Grad BM-21)
- Statement 2 → **Correct** (guided Pinaka rockets developed)
- Statement 3 → **Incorrect** (DRDO + private sector both involved)

Correct count = 2 → (b)

Q4 Explanation (Section 301)

- Statement 1 → **Incorrect** (requires investigation by USTR)
- Statement 2 → **Correct** (used against IP violations, China cases)
- Statement 3 → **Correct** (can act unilaterally even bypassing WTO norms)

Correct count = 2 → (b)

Q5 Explanation (Sujal Gaon ID)

- Statement 1 → **Correct**
- Statement 2 → **Correct**
- Statement 3 → **Correct** (under Jal Jeevan Mission)
- Statement 4 → **Incorrect** (IDs assigned to **water infrastructure/assets**, not just households)

Correct count = 3 → (c)

Q6 Explanation (Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary)

- Statement 1 → **Correct** (Tamil Nadu, Western Ghats)
- Statement 2 → **Correct** (important ecological corridor)
- Statement 3 → **Incorrect** (dominantly **evergreen & montane forests**, not dry scrub)

Correct answer = (a)

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. GS Paper 1 (Class 12th – Chapter 4: Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings)

Discuss the role of Buddhism in shaping art and architecture in ancient India. How did regional variations influence its evolution?

Answer:

Buddhism played a transformative role in shaping Indian art and architecture, particularly between the 3rd century BCE and 6th century CE. Its emphasis on simplicity, symbolism, and accessibility led to the emergence of distinct architectural forms such as stupas, chaityas, and viharas.

The **stupa**, exemplified by Sanchi, served as a reliquary mound symbolizing the Buddha's presence. Over time, elaborations like **toranas (gateways)** and intricate carvings depicted Jataka tales, reflecting the didactic purpose of Buddhist art. Similarly, **rock-cut chaityas and viharas** at Ajanta and Karle demonstrate advancements in engineering and artistic sophistication.

Buddhist art evolved through phases—initially **aniconic** (symbolic representation like footprints, Bodhi tree) and later **iconic**, depicting Buddha in human form. This shift was significantly influenced by regional interactions.

Regional variations are particularly evident in:

- **Gandhara School (North-West):** Strong Greco-Roman influence, realistic human forms, draped robes.
- **Mathura School (North India):** Indigenous style, spiritual expression, robust figures.
- **Amaravati School (South India):** Dynamic compositions, narrative reliefs.

These variations reflect cultural exchanges, trade routes, and patronage patterns. Buddhism's spread along trade networks also facilitated artistic diffusion across Asia.

Thus, Buddhist art was not static but adaptive, integrating regional aesthetics while maintaining core spiritual themes. It laid the foundation for later temple architecture and influenced pan-Asian artistic traditions.

Q2. GS Paper 2 (Class 12th – Chapter 4: Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings / Political & Social Thought Linkage)

Evaluate how religious philosophies influenced socio-political structures in ancient India. Illustrate with examples.

Answer:

Religious philosophies in ancient India significantly shaped socio-political institutions by providing ethical frameworks and legitimizing authority.

Brahmanical traditions reinforced the **varna system**, structuring society hierarchically and linking political authority with ritual supremacy. Kings derived legitimacy through rituals like **Rajasuya** and **Ashvamedha**, emphasizing divine sanction.

In contrast, heterodox traditions like **Buddhism and Jainism** introduced more egalitarian ideas. The **Buddhist Sangha** functioned as a quasi-democratic institution, with collective decision-making and codified rules (Vinaya Pitaka). This influenced governance models emphasizing consultation and moral authority.

A prominent example is **Ashoka**, who, after embracing Buddhism, propagated **Dhamma**—a moral code focusing on welfare, non-violence, and tolerance. His edicts reflect early forms of ethical statecraft, prioritizing public welfare over conquest.

Educational institutions like **Gurukuls** and monastic universities (Nalanda) further reinforced social values and administrative training.

Thus, religious philosophies were not confined to spirituality but deeply intertwined with governance, law, and social order. They shaped India's early political thought, balancing authority with ethical responsibility.

Q3. GS Paper 3 (Class 12th – Chapter 4: Environmental/Economic Linkage)

Examine the role of trade routes and cultural exchange in economic development during ancient India. How did they influence technological and urban growth?

Answer:

Trade routes were central to economic development in ancient India, acting as conduits for goods, ideas, and technologies. Both **land routes (Silk Road)** and **maritime routes (Indian Ocean trade)** facilitated extensive commercial networks.

Urban centers such as **Taxila, Ujjain, and Pataliputra** emerged along these routes, benefiting from trade revenues and cultural exchange. Ports like **Lothal** highlight advanced dockyard engineering and maritime capabilities.

Trade with the Roman Empire led to inflow of gold coins, stimulating monetization and craft specialization. Archaeological findings of Roman coins in South India indicate robust overseas trade.

Technological diffusion occurred through these interactions:

- Introduction of new metallurgical techniques
- Advancements in shipbuilding
- Spread of agricultural practices

Cultural exchange also influenced art (e.g., Gandhara style) and religion (spread of Buddhism to Central Asia).

Thus, trade routes were not merely economic channels but engines of urbanization, technological innovation, and cultural synthesis, contributing significantly to early economic globalization.

Q4. GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

“Moral leadership is more effective than coercive authority in governance.” Discuss with examples from Indian history and contemporary administration.

Answer:

Moral leadership, grounded in ethical values and public trust, often proves more sustainable than coercive authority, which relies on force and compliance.

Historically, **Ashoka’s transformation** after the Kalinga War exemplifies moral leadership. By adopting Dhamma, he shifted from conquest to welfare, ensuring long-term stability and legitimacy.

Similarly, **Mahatma Gandhi's** non-violent approach mobilized masses without coercion, demonstrating the power of ethical persuasion in achieving political goals.

In contemporary governance, civil servants who prioritize transparency, empathy, and accountability foster trust and cooperation. For instance, administrators implementing welfare schemes through community participation achieve better outcomes than those relying solely on enforcement.

Coercive authority may yield short-term results but often breeds resentment and resistance. In contrast, moral leadership encourages voluntary compliance, civic responsibility, and institutional credibility.

However, a balance is necessary. Ethical leadership should be complemented by lawful authority to ensure order.

Thus, moral leadership enhances governance effectiveness by aligning authority with legitimacy, making it indispensable in democratic systems.

Q5. Current Affairs (Evolution of Anti-Maoist Strategy)

Critically analyze the evolution of India's anti-Maoist strategy from a security-centric approach to a development-oriented framework.

Answer:

India's anti-Maoist strategy has evolved significantly from a purely security-driven model to a more holistic approach integrating development and governance.

Initially, the focus was on **law-and-order measures**, with deployment of paramilitary forces like CRPF and specialized units such as CoBRA. While necessary to contain violence, this approach had limited success due to underlying socio-economic grievances.

Recognizing this, the government adopted a **multi-pronged strategy**:

- **Security:** Intelligence-based operations, modernization of forces
- **Development:** Initiatives like road connectivity, electrification, and digital access in LWE areas
- **Governance:** Strengthening local administration and delivery of welfare schemes
- **Rights-based approach:** Implementation of Forest Rights Act and tribal welfare programs

Programs targeting **skill development and employment** for tribal youth aim to reduce recruitment into Maoist ranks.

The decline in affected districts and incidents indicates partial success. However, challenges persist, including governance deficits, displacement issues, and lack of trust.

Thus, the shift reflects an understanding that extremism cannot be addressed solely through force; sustainable peace requires inclusive development and responsive governance.

