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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

BEST FOR UPSC | UP PCS EXAM

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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. In the Mughal administrative system, **jagir** assignments were hereditary and permanently attached to the mansabdar.
2. The system of **zabt** revenue assessment relied on measurement of land and classification of crops to fix state demand.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. Jagirs were **not hereditary**; they were transferable assignments given to mansabdars, and frequent transfers were a key feature to prevent local entrenchment.

Statement 2 is correct. The zabt system, especially under Akbar, involved **systematic land measurement and classification**, with average produce and prices used to determine revenue demand.

Q2. Which one of the following best explains the concept of “ecological succession” in the context of ecosystem development?

- (a) Replacement of species in an ecosystem due to seasonal migration
- (b) Gradual and orderly change in species composition over time in a given area
- (c) Sudden change in ecosystem due to catastrophic disturbances
- (d) Artificial introduction of new species to restore ecological balance

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Ecological succession refers to the **gradual and predictable change** in species composition in an ecosystem over time, leading from pioneer stages to climax community.

- (a) refers to migration, not succession.
- (c) refers to disturbance, not orderly progression.
- (d) refers to human intervention, not natural succession.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. An increase in the repo rate by the central bank generally aims to reduce liquidity in the economy.
2. Fiscal deficit necessarily leads to inflation in all economic conditions.
3. Open Market Operations (OMOs) involve the buying and selling of government securities to regulate money supply.

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. Higher repo rate increases borrowing cost, thereby **reducing liquidity**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Fiscal deficit does **not always lead to inflation**; its impact depends on economic conditions like output gap and demand.

Statement 3 is correct. OMOs are used by the central bank to **control money supply** through purchase/sale of government securities.

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. The **Basic Structure Doctrine** of the Constitution was first propounded in the Kesavananda Bharati case.
2. Parliament can amend Fundamental Rights without any limitation under Article 368.
3. Judicial Review is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.
4. The Preamble is enforceable in a court of law.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The doctrine was established in the **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)** case.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Parliament's amending power is **limited by the Basic Structure Doctrine**.

Statement 3 is correct. Judicial review is derived from provisions like Articles 13, 32, and 226.

Statement 4 is incorrect. The Preamble is **not enforceable**, though it guides interpretation.

Q5. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Tropical cyclones weaken significantly after making landfall over the Indian subcontinent.

Reason (R1): They lose their primary source of energy supplied by warm ocean waters.

Reason (R2): Increased surface friction over land disrupts their organized circulation.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) A is correct, and both R1 and R2 are correct and explain A
- (b) A is correct, but only one of R1 or R2 explains A
- (c) A is correct, but neither R1 nor R2 explains A
- (d) A is incorrect, but both R1 and R2 are correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The assertion is correct. Tropical cyclones **weaken after landfall**.

- R1 is correct: Cyclones derive energy from **latent heat of warm ocean waters**; land cuts off this supply.
 - R2 is correct: Land causes **higher friction**, disrupting the cyclone's structure.
- Both reasons correctly explain the assertion, making option (a) correct.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions are conducted by the Reserve Bank of India to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system.
2. In VRR auctions, the interest rate is pre-determined by the central bank and banks only decide the quantity of funds.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. VRR auctions are liquidity absorption tools used by RBI to **mop up surplus liquidity**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In VRR, the **interest rate is market-determined (auction-based)**, not fixed by RBI; banks bid both rate and amount.

Q2. With reference to Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) LPG is primarily methane, whereas LNG consists mainly of propane and butane
- (b) LNG is stored at a much lower temperature than LPG due to its composition
- (c) LPG cannot be liquefied under pressure, while LNG can
- (d) LNG is heavier than air, whereas LPG is lighter than air

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

LNG (mainly methane) requires **extremely low temperatures** ($\sim -162^{\circ}\text{C}$) for liquefaction, whereas LPG (propane/butane) liquefies under moderate pressure.

- (a) is reversed.
- (c) is incorrect; LPG is easily liquefied under pressure.
- (d) is incorrect; LPG is heavier than air, LNG is lighter.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Space Reactor 1 (SR-1) Freedom spacecraft is designed to utilize nuclear fission for deep-space propulsion and power generation.
2. Such space nuclear reactors primarily rely on solar panels as backup due to inefficiency of nuclear systems in space.
3. Nuclear-powered spacecraft can significantly reduce travel time for missions beyond Mars compared to conventional chemical propulsion.

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. Projects like SR-1 aim at **nuclear fission-based propulsion/power systems**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Nuclear systems are **more efficient for deep space**, and solar panels are less effective far from the Sun.

Statement 3 is correct. Nuclear propulsion offers **higher efficiency and faster travel times** than chemical rockets.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Reform Express Initiative:

1. It is aimed at accelerating governance reforms through inter-state best practice sharing.
2. It mandates constitutional amendments for implementation across all states.
3. It focuses on sectors such as ease of doing business, logistics, and digital governance.

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. Reform Express promotes **cooperative federalism and best practice exchange**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It does **not mandate constitutional amendments**; it is a policy initiative.

Statement 3 is correct. It targets **key reform sectors like logistics, governance, and business climate**.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Vayu Baan Project:

1. It is associated with the development of hypersonic air-breathing propulsion systems.
2. It is primarily a civilian aviation initiative to improve commercial aircraft efficiency.
3. The project involves collaboration between defence research agencies and academic institutions.

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. Vayu Baan relates to **advanced propulsion (hypersonic/air-breathing systems)**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is **defence-oriented**, not a civilian aviation project.

Statement 3 is correct. Such projects typically involve **DRDO-like agencies and academia collaboration**.

Q6. Consider the following statements:

1. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has a higher energy density per unit volume than its gaseous state, making it suitable for long-distance transport.
2. LPG cylinders are generally stored at cryogenic temperatures similar to LNG storage.
3. LNG infrastructure requires specialized regasification terminals before distribution.
4. LPG is mainly used as an industrial feedstock and not as a domestic fuel.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. LNG is **highly compact**, enabling transport.

Statement 2 is incorrect. LPG is stored under **moderate pressure, not cryogenic temperatures**.

Statement 3 is correct. LNG must be **regasified before use**.

Statement 4 is incorrect. LPG is widely used as a **domestic cooking fuel**.

Q7. With reference to Lviv's Historic Architectural Ensemble, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in eastern Ukraine near the Black Sea coast.
2. The city reflects a blend of Central European architectural influences including Gothic, Baroque, and Renaissance styles.
3. It is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its well-preserved urban fabric.

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 incorrect. Lviv is located in **western Ukraine**, not near the Black Sea.

Statement 2 is correct. Lviv exhibits **diverse European architectural styles**.

Statement 3 is correct. It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** for its historic urban landscape.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. “Urbanisation in India is not merely a demographic shift but a complex socio-economic transformation.”

Discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with urbanisation in India.

Answer:

Urbanisation in India represents a structural shift from agrarian to industrial and service-based economies. It is not just population movement but a transformation in livelihoods, social relations, and economic patterns. With cities contributing over 60% of GDP, urbanisation is central to India's growth trajectory.

Opportunities:

Urban areas act as engines of economic growth by fostering innovation, industrialisation, and service sector expansion. Agglomeration economies reduce costs and improve productivity. Initiatives like Smart Cities Mission aim to enhance infrastructure and governance. Urbanisation also improves access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

Challenges:

However, rapid and unplanned urbanisation has led to severe issues. Housing shortages result in proliferation of slums. Infrastructure such as water supply, sanitation, and transportation remains inadequate. Environmental degradation, including air pollution and waste mismanagement, is rising. Social inequality is evident in stark urban contrasts.

Urban governance is another major concern. Fragmented institutional frameworks and lack of coordination between agencies hinder effective planning. Financial constraints of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) further exacerbate the problem.

Way Forward:

A balanced approach is required. Strengthening urban governance through decentralisation, enhancing financial autonomy of ULBs, and promoting sustainable urban planning are essential. Transit-oriented development and affordable housing schemes must be prioritised.

Thus, urbanisation is both an opportunity and a challenge. Its success depends on inclusive, sustainable, and well-planned urban development strategies.

Q2. Examine the role of civil society in strengthening democratic governance in India.**Answer:**

Civil society comprises voluntary organisations, NGOs, community groups, and citizens acting collectively outside the state. In a democracy like India, civil society plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between the government and the people.

Role in Governance:

Civil society enhances transparency and accountability. Movements like the Right to Information (RTI) campaign empowered citizens to demand accountability. Social audits in schemes like MGNREGA ensure proper implementation.

It also facilitates participatory governance by mobilising public opinion and encouraging citizen engagement. NGOs work at grassroots levels to address issues such as health, education, and gender equality.

Civil society also acts as a watchdog, exposing corruption and policy failures. It contributes to policy formulation by providing expertise and feedback.

Challenges:

Despite its importance, civil society faces challenges such as regulatory restrictions, funding constraints, and issues of credibility. There is also concern over politicisation of NGOs.

Way Forward:

A collaborative approach between the state and civil society is necessary. Ensuring transparency in NGO functioning and easing regulatory frameworks can enhance effectiveness.

Thus, civil society is indispensable for deepening democracy and ensuring inclusive governance.

Q3. Discuss the significance of sustainable development in the context of India's economic growth.**Answer:**

Sustainable development refers to meeting present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet theirs. For a developing country like India, balancing economic growth with environmental protection is crucial.

Significance:

India's rapid industrialisation and urbanisation have led to environmental degradation. Issues like air pollution, water scarcity, and climate change threaten long-term growth. Sustainable development ensures resource conservation and ecological balance.



Renewable energy expansion, such as solar and wind power, reduces dependence on fossil fuels. Sustainable agriculture promotes soil health and food security. Green infrastructure enhances resilience to climate risks.

Economic Perspective:

Sustainability is not a constraint but an opportunity. Green technologies create jobs and attract investment. India's commitment under global agreements strengthens its international standing.

Challenges:

High initial costs, technological gaps, and policy implementation issues hinder progress. There is also a trade-off between short-term growth and long-term sustainability.

Way Forward:

Policy integration, public awareness, and technological innovation are key. Encouraging private sector participation and strengthening regulatory frameworks can accelerate sustainable development.

Thus, sustainability is essential for ensuring inclusive and resilient economic growth in India.

Q4. "Ethics in public administration is not merely about compliance but about commitment to public service values."

Discuss.

Answer:

Ethical Leadership and Governance



Ethics in public administration goes beyond adherence to rules and regulations. It involves a deeper commitment to values such as integrity, accountability, transparency, and public welfare.

Beyond Compliance:

Compliance ensures that officials follow laws, but it may not guarantee ethical outcomes. Ethical commitment requires internalising values and making decisions in the public interest, even in ambiguous situations.

For instance, a civil servant may comply with rules but still act unfairly. Ethical governance demands fairness, empathy, and responsibility.

Importance:

Ethics builds public trust and legitimacy of governance. It prevents corruption and enhances efficiency. Ethical leadership inspires subordinates and promotes a culture of integrity.

Challenges:

Political pressure, bureaucratic inertia, and lack of accountability mechanisms can undermine ethical conduct. Ethical dilemmas often arise where rules are unclear.

Way Forward:

Ethics training, strong institutional frameworks, and leadership by example are essential. Mechanisms like whistleblower protection and transparency laws strengthen ethical governance.

Thus, ethics in public administration is about commitment to values that ensure good governance and public trust.

Q5. Discuss the role of Artificial Intelligence in disaster management in India. Highlight its benefits and limitations.

Answer:



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming disaster management by enhancing prediction, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Role of AI:

AI enables early warning systems by analysing vast datasets from satellites, sensors, and historical records. For instance, AI models can predict cyclones, floods, and earthquakes with greater accuracy.

During disasters, AI-powered drones assist in search and rescue operations. Machine learning algorithms help in damage assessment and resource allocation. Chatbots and communication tools improve coordination.

Benefits:

AI improves efficiency and speed in disaster response. It reduces human risk and enhances decision-making. Predictive analytics helps in proactive planning, minimising loss of life and property.

Limitations:

Challenges include data quality issues, high costs, and technological barriers. Over-reliance on AI may lead to neglect of traditional knowledge systems. Ethical concerns such as privacy and data security also arise.

Way Forward:

Integrating AI with traditional methods, investing in infrastructure, and ensuring data governance are crucial. Capacity building and public awareness can enhance effectiveness.

Thus, AI has immense potential to revolutionise disaster management, but its success depends on balanced and inclusive implementation.

