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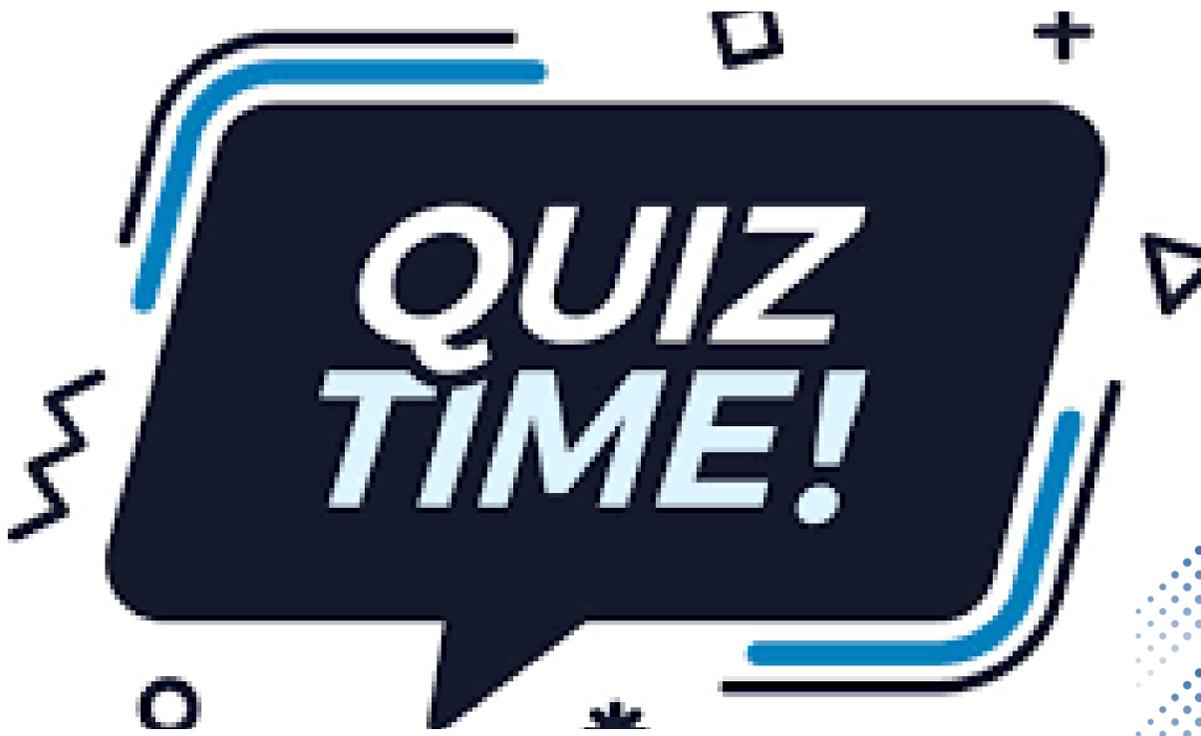
**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY  
&  
STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 10 July 2025 (THURSDAY)**

- **Static mcq's**
- **Current Affairs mcq's**
- **Mains Practice Questions**



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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

**Question 1: With reference to the administrative structure during the Mauryan period, consider the following statements:**

1. The **Amatyas**, as mentioned in the Arthashastra, were responsible only for village-level administration and had no role in revenue collection.
2. The **Gopa and Sthanika** functioned as intermediate-level officials responsible for urban governance and revenue accounting.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The *Amatyas* were high-level ministers or officers, equivalent to today's civil servants, and they performed various administrative duties including revenue, espionage, and justice—not limited to village administration. They were crucial members of the King's inner council.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** *Gopa* and *Sthanika* were subordinate officers. *Gopa* was in charge of five to ten villages and maintained land records, while *Sthanika* was higher in the hierarchy and supervised several *Gopas*. Both played roles in urban administration and tax collection.

**Question 2: Consider the following statements regarding the concept of 'Ecological Footprint':**

1. It measures the amount of **biocapacity** an individual or community requires to produce the resources they consume and absorb their waste.
2. If a country's ecological footprint exceeds its biocapacity, it results in an **ecological surplus**.
3. The concept was developed by the **Global Footprint Network** and is used to calculate the **Earth Overshoot Day** annually.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ecological footprint calculates how much biologically productive land and sea area is required to regenerate the resources consumed and absorb waste, especially carbon emissions.



- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** When the ecological footprint **exceeds** biocapacity, it leads to an **ecological deficit**, not a surplus. A surplus occurs when biocapacity is greater.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The concept was promoted by the Global Footprint Network, which also calculates **Earth Overshoot Day** – the day when humanity exhausts nature’s budget for the year.

**Question 3: Consider the following statements about the ‘Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)’:**

1. The ITCZ shifts northward during the Northern Hemisphere summer due to differential heating of land and ocean.
2. It is characterized by low pressure and strong descending air, causing dry and arid conditions.
3. The ITCZ plays a crucial role in the onset of the **Indian monsoon**.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** During summer, land heats up faster than the ocean, pulling the ITCZ northward, influencing monsoonal wind patterns.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** ITCZ is a **low-pressure belt** with **ascending moist air**, leading to **cloud formation and precipitation**, not descending dry air.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The northward movement of the ITCZ is one of the key factors that trigger the **Southwest Monsoon** in India.

**Question 4: With reference to Indian music traditions, consider the following statements:**

1. **Dhrupad** is the oldest surviving form of Hindustani classical music and emphasizes spiritual themes.
2. The **Veena** is primarily associated with Carnatic music, but also features in Dhrupad performances.
3. **Sopana Sangeetham**, a traditional temple music form, belongs to the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu.
4. The **Samaveda** is considered the earliest textual source for Indian music traditions.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only**



**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *Dhrupad* is indeed the oldest form of Hindustani classical music, having origins in the Samaveda, and is deeply spiritual.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** While Veena is central to Carnatic music, it is also used in *Dhrupad* as an accompaniment instrument (Rudra Veena).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** *Sopana Sangeetham* is from **Kerala**, not Tamil Nadu. It is performed near temple steps (*sopanam*) especially in Krishna temples.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** *Samaveda* laid the foundation of Indian classical music with notated chants forming the earliest musical traditions.

**Question 5: Assertion-Reason Type**

**Assertion (A):** The successful launch of **GSLV-F15** with the **INSAT-3DS satellite** demonstrates India's capacity to place heavier payloads into geosynchronous transfer orbits.

**Reason (R):** GSLV-F15 uses a cryogenic upper stage which significantly enhances payload capacity in low Earth orbit missions.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect
- (d) A is incorrect, but R is correct

**Answer: (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect**

**Explanation:**

- **Assertion is correct:** The **GSLV-F15** successfully launched the **INSAT-3DS**, a heavy meteorological satellite (~2275 kg), into a **geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO)**, showing ISRO's ability to handle heavier payloads.
- **Reason is incorrect:** While the cryogenic upper stage **does** enhance payload capacity, it is **specifically effective for GTO orbits, not low Earth orbit (LEO)**. LEO missions often use PSLV; cryogenic stages are crucial for **GTO/geo-stationary** missions like INSAT.

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## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

**Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched UN80 Initiative:**

1. The UN80 Initiative aims to commemorate 80 years of the United Nations by reforming the global financial architecture through a legally binding General Assembly resolution.
2. India has officially endorsed the UN80 platform as part of its vision for Global South leadership and Security Council permanent membership.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The *UN80 Initiative* is a **civil society and academic-led campaign**, not a UNGA-endorsed legal resolution. It focuses on **reforming multilateral institutions, decolonizing global governance**, and promoting equity. It is **not legally binding**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India has **not officially endorsed** the UN80 Initiative, though its broader diplomatic goals align with parts of the campaign such as **Security Council reform and equitable global governance**. The UN80 Initiative operates independently of official nation-state endorsements.

**Question 2: What change has the RBI made recently regarding the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets for Small Finance Banks (SFBs)?**

- (a) Raised the PSL target from 75% to 85% of ANBC
- (b) Reduced the PSL target from 85% to 75% of ANBC
- (c) Lowered the PSL target from 75% to 60% of ANBC for SFBs operating in urban areas
- (d) Brought the PSL target for SFBs in line with Scheduled Commercial Banks at 40% of ANBC

**Answer: (b) Reduced the PSL target from 85% to 75% of ANBC**

**Explanation:**

- The **RBI**, in April 2024, **reduced the PSL target for Small Finance Banks** from **85% to 75%** of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC).
- This was done to **harmonize** the SFBs' requirements with regulatory ease and align with market realities, especially since earlier 85% was creating compliance pressure.
- For Scheduled Commercial Banks, the PSL norm remains **40%** of ANBC.

**Question 3: Consider the following statements regarding the Banakacherla Project in Andhra Pradesh:**



1. The Banakacherla cross regulator is part of the Srisailem Right Branch Canal system and supports irrigation in the drought-prone Rayalaseema region.
2. It interlinks Krishna and Penna rivers through a canal diversion mechanism.
3. The project is jointly managed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana under the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal's revised allocations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Banakacherla regulator lies on the **Srisailem Right Main Canal (SRMC)** and irrigates parts of Rayalaseema, particularly in **Kadapa and Anantapur**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It **connects Krishna River waters to Penna basin** via canal interlinking, crucial in the state's **intra-basin water transfer schemes**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Though Krishna water is under dispute, **Banakacherla is within Andhra Pradesh's jurisdiction**, and the management is **not joint** with Telangana for this specific structure.

**Question 4: Consider the following statements regarding recent digital and social innovation initiatives in India:**

1. The **Bhuvan Panchayat portal** offers real-time satellite data for rural planning, with integration of MNREGA and Gram Panchayat Development Plans.
2. The **NAVYA initiative**, launched by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, focuses on empowering adolescent girls through AI-based mental health counselling.
3. Bhuvan uses data only from Indian satellites and excludes any commercial foreign remote sensing data to maintain data sovereignty.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Bhuvan Panchayat portal**, under **ISRO**, provides GIS and remote-sensing tools for **decentralized planning**, linked to schemes like **MNREGA, PMGSY** etc.



- **Statement 2 is correct:** The NAVYA Initiative was launched to support adolescent girls, particularly under **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**, and includes **AI-enabled mental health outreach**, gender sensitization, and life skills.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Bhuvan primarily uses **Indian satellites**, but it **does not restrict itself only to Indian data**; certain applications integrate **open-source foreign datasets** for better coverage and validation.

**Question 5: Consider the following statements about recent governance and infrastructure developments in India:**

1. The NAVYA initiative also supports transgender adolescents under the wider framework of gender inclusivity.
2. RBI's revision in PSL norms allows SFBs to count investments in NABARD Rural Infrastructure Bonds towards their PSL targets.
3. The Banakacherla regulator is part of the Godavari-Cauvery River interlinking proposal approved by NWDA.
4. The UN80 Initiative calls for mandatory global taxation on Big Tech to support the Global South.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

**Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 4 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NAVYA is a gender-inclusive initiative and has expanded its outreach to **transgender adolescents**, especially under state-level pilot schemes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** RBI permits **investments in specified RIDF bonds (NABARD)** to count towards PSL compliance, including for **Small Finance Banks**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Banakacherla is not related to the **Godavari-Cauvery** link; it's involved in **Krishna-Penna** linkage only.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The **UN80** platform advocates for **Big Tech taxation**, debt cancellation, and new global rules to empower the **Global South**, though it has no legal enforcement.

**Question 6: The Tawi River, recently in news due to environmental and religious conservation debates, flows through which of the following city/region before joining the Chenab?**

- (a) Udhampur
- (b) Jammu
- (c) Doda
- (d) Kathua



Answer: (b) Jammu

Explanation:

- The **Tawi River** originates in the **Bhaderwah region** of Doda district and flows through **Jammu city**, where it holds significant **religious and cultural importance**.
- It is often called the **Surya Putri Tawi**, and has been in focus due to **urban pollution and religious ritual zones**.
- It ultimately joins the **Chenab River** near the Indo–Pak border.

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## SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1:

**Q1. Examine the impact of globalization on traditional Indian cultural practices. How has it transformed social values and institutions?**

**Answer:**

Globalization has significantly influenced Indian society by integrating it with global economic, cultural, and technological trends. While it has accelerated economic growth and cross-cultural exchange, its impact on traditional Indian cultural practices is nuanced and multidimensional.

One major transformation is in the realm of **family and kinship structures**. The traditional joint family system is increasingly being replaced by nuclear families, especially in urban areas, driven by labor mobility and individualism promoted by global work culture. Rituals, festivals, and community-based customs are witnessing dilution or commodification due to commercialization and western lifestyle influences.

Globalization has also influenced **language and attire**. Western attire, English language dominance, and popular culture from the West (films, music, entertainment) have reshaped urban youth preferences, often at the expense of regional languages and indigenous art forms. **Yoga**, which is Indian in origin, has paradoxically gained more prominence globally than domestically before global validation revived local interest.

Religious practices have also been influenced. There is a rise in **spiritual consumerism**, where traditional practices are marketed in modern formats (e.g., online pooja services, yoga retreats). Yet, resistance to globalization has also led to a **revivalist movement** defending cultural roots, seen in increasing emphasis on traditional food, Ayurveda, and vernacular literature.

**Social values** such as individualism, meritocracy, and gender equality are gaining ground. Women's participation in the workforce and awareness about rights have improved due to global discourses on equality, although patriarchy persists.

Thus, globalization has led to **hybridization** — a fusion of global and local. While certain traditions have eroded, others have adapted or reasserted themselves in new forms. The challenge lies in maintaining cultural integrity while engaging with the global world meaningfully.

### GS Paper 2:

**Q2. Discuss the constitutional and legal challenges in ensuring cooperative federalism in India, especially in the context of centrally sponsored schemes.**

**Answer:**

Cooperative federalism in India emphasizes collaboration between the Union and the States in policymaking and implementation. However, constitutional and legal tensions persist in realizing this ideal.

The **constitutional framework**, though federal in structure, has a **unitary tilt**. Article 246 and the Seventh Schedule give the Union dominance over important policy areas. The **Finance Commission and Planning mechanisms** have traditionally vested more financial power in the Centre, restricting States' autonomy.



One major area of contention is **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**. These are schemes designed by the Centre but implemented by States, often without adequate consultation. This leads to a mismatch between national priorities and regional needs. The States have limited say in design, fund allocation, or flexibility, which violates the spirit of cooperative federalism.

The issue became more evident post-14th and 15th Finance Commission recommendations. Although tax devolution increased, many CSS continued to operate with **conditionalities**, thus undermining State discretion. Additionally, **unfunded mandates** force States to bear the financial burden of implementing centrally decided schemes, creating fiscal strain.

Legal challenges also emerge in areas like **agriculture and health**, which are State subjects but often see Central intervention (e.g., Farm Laws 2020). The **Supreme Court**, in multiple rulings (S.R. Bommai case, 1994), has emphasized the need for federal balance, but enforcement remains weak.

Recent steps such as **NITI Aayog's cooperative approach**, use of **inter-state councils**, and **GST Council** decisions indicate movement toward consensus-driven federalism. However, the reality often reflects competitive rather than cooperative federalism, especially in politically polarized environments.

To strengthen cooperative federalism, the Centre must ensure **greater fiscal decentralization**, institutionalize consultations, and respect the diversity of State needs. Only then can constitutional ideals align with administrative realities.

### GS Paper 3:

#### **Q3. Evaluate the role of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in promoting sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in India.**

##### **Answer:**

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) refers to the cumulative wisdom and practices developed by indigenous and local communities through generations of close interaction with their environment. In the Indian context, TEK is deeply rooted in tribal and rural practices related to agriculture, water management, forestry, and biodiversity.

TEK plays a crucial role in **sustainable development**, as it often emphasizes **resource conservation**, **minimal exploitation**, and **community well-being**. For instance, the **Zabo system of water conservation** in Nagaland and the **Apatanis' paddy-cum-fish farming** in Arunachal Pradesh reflect intricate ecological understanding without disrupting biodiversity.

TEK has been vital in **biodiversity conservation**. Sacred groves in the Western Ghats, Khasi Hills, and Odisha have preserved endemic flora and fauna due to religious and cultural taboos on deforestation. Similarly, seed-saving practices, use of indigenous crop varieties, and organic pest control in traditional agriculture help preserve **agrobiodiversity**.

In the face of climate change, TEK offers **adaptive strategies** that are often more locally relevant than modern top-down models. For example, shifting cultivation (jhum) is often criticized, but when practiced cyclically with fallow periods, it maintains soil fertility and forest regeneration.

However, TEK is under threat due to **modernization**, loss of indigenous languages, and **policy neglect**. The push for uniform solutions, industrial agriculture, and urban expansion have marginalized TEK holders.



Additionally, **intellectual property rights (IPR)** mechanisms often exclude traditional communities from the benefits derived from their knowledge.

To integrate TEK into sustainable development, India needs to:

- Recognize and document it under **People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)**.
- Encourage **community participation** in environmental policy-making.
- Protect IPRs of tribal communities under acts like the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.

Thus, TEK is not a relic of the past but a living repository of sustainable wisdom vital for future ecological resilience.

#### GS Paper 4:

**Q4. "Ethical dilemmas are not about right versus wrong but about right versus right." Discuss this statement with suitable examples.**

#### Answer:

The quote reflects the nuanced nature of ethical decision-making. Ethical dilemmas often do not involve a clear good versus evil scenario but rather require choosing between two equally valid moral obligations, each grounded in a different set of values.

One classic example is the **public servant's dilemma** between **transparency and confidentiality**. A civil servant may discover an irregularity in a government scheme. While transparency requires whistleblowing, confidentiality of the institution or due process may require internal resolution. Both values are ethical — public accountability and organizational trust — yet the choice depends on the context.

Another scenario could be **freedom of expression versus social harmony**. Allowing a controversial book to be published supports constitutional rights. Yet, it may provoke communal tension. Here, both values — liberty and public order — are ethically sound, but the administrator must balance them judiciously.

In disaster relief, an officer may face a dilemma between **equity and efficiency**. Providing aid to the most vulnerable first may delay total coverage. Yet, rushing for universal coverage may miss the urgent needs of some. Both approaches are right in principle.

Ethical dilemmas thus demand:

- **Moral reasoning** based on context.
- Application of **ethical frameworks** like Kantian duty ethics (rule-based) or Utilitarianism (consequence-based).
- Adherence to **code of ethics/conduct**.
- Use of **stakeholder analysis** to minimize harm.

Training in **ethical competence, emotional intelligence, and value prioritization** is critical for administrators to handle such dilemmas. As Aristotle said, "Virtue lies in finding the mean." In real-life governance, often the right decision involves trade-offs between competing rights, not merely rejecting the wrong.



**Current Affairs:**

**Q5. The UNEP's 2025 NDC Cooling Guidelines highlight the significance of sustainable cooling in climate action. Critically analyze how India can align its development priorities with these guidelines.**

**Answer:**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through the 2025 NDC Cooling Guidelines, emphasizes integrating sustainable cooling strategies within countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This is critical as cooling, especially air conditioning, contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions through energy use and refrigerants like HFCs.

**India**, being a tropical nation with a growing middle class, is poised for an exponential rise in cooling demand. According to IEA, cooling could account for 45% of electricity demand in Indian buildings by 2050. Thus, aligning with UNEP's guidelines is not just a climate imperative but also an energy security priority.

India has already taken steps:

- The **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** (2019) was among the world's first comprehensive national cooling strategies.
- The country is a signatory to the **Kigali Amendment** to phase down HFCs.
- The **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** promotes super-efficient air conditioners.

However, challenges persist:

- Most cooling equipment in India remains energy inefficient.
- Urban planning lacks passive cooling strategies (like ventilation, insulation).
- There's limited awareness or incentives for alternative cooling technologies.

UNEP's guidelines advocate:

- **Passive cooling** through design (e.g., green roofs, shading).
- Integration of cooling in **NDCs** as a priority.
- Policies for **minimum energy performance standards (MEPS)**.
- Investment in **district cooling systems** and nature-based solutions.

India can align by:

- Making **cooling a formal part of updated NDCs**.
- Encouraging **thermal comfort codes** for buildings.
- Promoting **R&D in low-GWP refrigerants**.
- Leveraging **carbon markets** to fund sustainable cooling.

In sum, sustainable cooling offers India a triple win — mitigating climate change, improving health outcomes, and generating green jobs. The UNEP guidelines provide a roadmap, but success will require regulatory reform, public awareness, and financial innovation.