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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 01/08/2025 (FRIDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Swadeshi Movement (1905–1911):

1. The Swadeshi movement not only promoted indigenous industries but also initiated the idea of national education independent of colonial control.
2. The Indian National Congress officially adopted the Swadeshi resolution for the first time during the Banaras Session under the presidency of Dadabhai Naoroji.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only 1

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Swadeshi Movement was not limited to boycotting British goods but led to a comprehensive effort in creating indigenous alternatives — **Swadeshi industries, national education (like Bengal National College), and self-help institutions.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While Dadabhai Naoroji presided over the **Calcutta Session in 1906**, not Banaras, and this session saw a more explicit adoption of **Swaraj as a goal**, the Swadeshi resolution was first formally passed in the **Calcutta Session of 1906**, not Banaras. The **Banaras Session (1905)** was presided over by **Gopal Krishna Gokhale**.

Q2. Consider the following statements about ecological succession:

1. In a xerosere, lichen is usually the pioneer species initiating succession on bare rocks.
2. Secondary succession occurs faster than primary succession due to the availability of soil and some existing organisms.
3. Climax communities are always composed of species with short life cycles and low biomass.

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:** In **xerosere succession**, which starts on dry, barren rocks, **lichens** are typically the first organisms (pioneer species), helping in rock weathering and soil formation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Secondary succession** is faster because **soil is already present** and often remnants of previous communities (seeds, roots, microbes) survive disturbances like fire or floods.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Climax communities are characterized by **long-lived species with stable biomass and complex food webs**, not short life cycles or low biomass.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Government Securities (G-Secs):

1. G-Secs are considered risk-free instruments because the government cannot default on repayment.
2. Treasury Bills are short-term G-Secs and are issued at a discount but redeemed at face value.
3. G-Secs can be held only by institutional investors and cannot be accessed by retail investors in India.

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:** G-Secs are **risk-free in terms of credit risk**, as sovereigns rarely default. Though they may have **interest rate risk**, they are considered safe assets.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Treasury Bills (T-Bills)** are issued for less than one year (91-day, 182-day, etc.) and are issued at a **discounted price**, redeemed at **face value** on maturity.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** As per RBI's **Retail Direct Scheme**, **retail investors can now invest directly in G-Secs**, including both T-Bills and longer-duration bonds.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding 'Money Bill' under the Indian Constitution:

1. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha, with the prior recommendation of the President.
2. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha certifies a Bill as a Money Bill, and the decision is final and cannot be challenged in any court.
3. The Rajya Sabha can amend a Money Bill within 14 days of receipt.
4. Article 110 of the Constitution defines a Money Bill and provides the list of matters it includes.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A **Money Bill can only be introduced in Lok Sabha**, and only with the **President's recommendation**.



- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Speaker's decision** on whether a Bill is a Money Bill is **final** (Article 110(3)) — although there have been **judicial debates** (e.g. Aadhaar case), the Constitution gives Speaker the final authority.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **Rajya Sabha cannot amend a Money Bill**; it can only make **recommendations**, which the Lok Sabha **may or may not accept**, and this must be done within **14 days**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** **Article 110** defines a Money Bill and specifies content like taxation, government borrowing, Consolidated Fund, etc.

Q5. Assertion–Reason Type –

Assertion (A): The western slopes of the Western Ghats receive more rainfall than the eastern slopes.

Reason (R): The Western Ghats act as an orographic barrier to the southwest monsoon winds.

In the context of the above statements, which one is correct?

- (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: (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct:** The western slopes of the Western Ghats receive very heavy rainfall (over 200 cm) due to direct exposure to **southwest monsoon**.
- **Reason is correct:** The **Western Ghats act as an orographic barrier**, forcing moist-laden winds to rise, cool, and condense, leading to **orographic rainfall**.
- Hence, R **correctly explains A**.



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Asiatic Lions in India:

1. The Asiatic Lion population is genetically more diverse than African lions due to strict isolation and targeted conservation breeding.
2. The "Project Lion" includes the establishment of new lion populations outside the Gir landscape for reducing the risk of disease outbreaks and ecological bottlenecks.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Asiatic lion population is genetically less diverse than African lions due to a historical **population bottleneck**. Their confinement to the Gir forest has caused **inbreeding**, making them vulnerable to disease.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Project Lion** (under Ministry of Environment, 2020) aims to **establish a meta-population** of lions **outside Gir**, focusing on **habitat improvement, disease surveillance, and translocation efforts** to reduce ecological risks.

Q2. Which of the following correctly describes the statutory status and function of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)?

- (a) It is a constitutional body established under Article 243ZI to regulate cooperative banks.
- (b) It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, responsible for refinancing cooperative credit institutions.
- (c) It is a statutory corporation under the Ministry of Cooperation, established to plan and promote programmes for production, processing, storage, and marketing of agricultural produce.
- (d) It is an executive body under NITI Aayog, overseeing cooperative reforms at the grassroots level.

Answer: (c) It is a statutory corporation under the Ministry of Cooperation, established to plan and promote programmes for production, processing, storage, and marketing of agricultural produce.

Explanation:

- **NCDC was established in 1963** under an Act of Parliament.
- It is a **statutory body** (not constitutional), and it works under the **Ministry of Cooperation** since 2021 (earlier under Agriculture).
- Its mandate includes **funding and promoting agriculture and rural-based cooperative enterprises**, especially in production, storage, and marketing.



Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the UAE's HOPE mission (Emirates Mars Mission):

1. It was launched aboard a Japanese rocket and is the first Arab interplanetary mission to reach Mars.
2. The mission primarily focuses on mapping Martian mineral resources for future human colonization.
3. The spacecraft is designed to study Martian weather and climate on a planetary scale.

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:** HOPE was launched in July 2020 on a **Japanese H-IIA rocket from Tanegashima**, and became the **first Arab mission to enter Mars' orbit** in February 2021.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** HOPE is **not aimed at resource mapping or colonization**; its primary goal is **scientific research on Martian atmosphere and weather**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** HOPE is the **first mission to provide full-day coverage of Martian atmosphere**, focusing on **weather patterns, dust storms, and temperature variation** across the planet.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Ramsar Convention CoP15 (2024):

1. India proposed the creation of a global wetland restoration funding facility under the Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. The Conference adopted the "Kigali Resolution" to integrate climate resilience and indigenous knowledge into wetland governance.
3. Ramsar CoP15 emphasized Wetland Inventory and Mapping using Artificial Intelligence and community participatory GIS tools.

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:** India did propose a **wetland restoration fund** aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework under CBD and Ramsar.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While climate and indigenous knowledge were emphasized, the **resolution passed was the "Marshlands Accord"**, not "Kigali Resolution" (which pertains to ozone issues).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ramsar CoP15 focused on integrating **AI tools, remote sensing, and community-based GIS for wetland inventory and monitoring**, especially for **data-deficient regions**.



Q5. Consider the following statements regarding India's Fiscal Deficit and its measurement:

1. Fiscal deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and total receipts excluding borrowings.
2. A high fiscal deficit implies that the government is spending more than it earns and is financing the gap primarily through asset monetization.
3. The FRBM Act sets the combined fiscal deficit limit of Centre and States at 9% of GDP.
4. A revenue deficit occurring alongside a fiscal deficit is considered fiscally more worrying than a capital-heavy fiscal deficit.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Fiscal deficit = Total Expenditure – (Revenue Receipts + Non-Debt Capital Receipts). Borrowings are excluded from receipts.
- **Statement 2 is partially correct but considered correct here:** A high fiscal deficit does imply greater expenditure than revenue, though financing is mainly through borrowing, not only asset monetization. UPSC expects best-fit answer.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The FRBM Act (as amended) targets a combined (Centre + States) fiscal deficit of 6% and Centre's deficit to reduce to 3%, but 9% is not a legal limit.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** A revenue deficit means the government is borrowing to meet daily expenses, which is more worrying than borrowing for capital formation.

Q6. Which of the following cities is geographically closest to the Mediterranean Sea and falls under the Gaza Strip region?

- (a) Ramallah
(b) Nablus
(c) Rafah
(d) Jenin

Answer: (c) Rafah

Explanation:

- **Rafah** lies in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, bordering Egypt and very close to the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Ramallah, Jenin, and Nablus** are in the West Bank, more inland.
- Map-based clarity is critical: Gaza Strip lies on the southwestern Mediterranean coast, and Rafah is a known crossing point to Egypt.



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SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS-1 (History/Society):

Q1. *Examine the role of women in the socio-religious reform movements of the 19th century in India. How far were these movements successful in transforming the status of women in society?*

Sample Answer (approx. 340 words):

The 19th-century socio-religious reform movements in India were marked by efforts to challenge orthodox traditions and initiate progressive changes, particularly concerning the status of women. Reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Jyotirao Phule, and others played pivotal roles in initiating debates on issues such as **sati**, **child marriage**, **widow remarriage**, **female education**, and **women's rights**.

Women, though largely in the background due to patriarchal constraints, began emerging as **contributors and symbols of reform**. For instance, **Savitribai Phule** became one of the earliest female teachers and actively championed women's education. **Pandita Ramabai**, a Sanskrit scholar, worked for widow upliftment and criticized caste and gender oppression. **Begum Rokeya** in Bengal advocated for Muslim women's rights and education.

The reform movements led to **key legislative outcomes**:

- **Abolition of Sati (1829)**
- **Widow Remarriage Act (1856)**
- **Age of Consent Act (1891)**
- **Increased access to female education**



However, the **success was partial** and often limited to urban, upper-caste Hindu society. Deep-seated patriarchy, resistance from orthodox groups, and lack of grassroots mobilization restricted widespread impact. Moreover, in some regions and communities (especially among Dalits and Muslims), the pace of change was slower or absent.

The significance lies in the fact that these movements **laid the intellectual foundation** for 20th-century women's movements and **paved the way for legal equality in independent India**. Women's entry into public discourse, education, and political activism can be traced back to these reformist impulses.

Conclusion: While the socio-religious reform movements of the 19th century made crucial interventions for women's emancipation, their impact remained **selective and incomplete**, needing continued struggle well into the 20th century.

GS-2 (Polity):

Q2. *Critically evaluate the role of the Finance Commission in ensuring fiscal federalism in India. How has its role evolved over time?*

Sample Answer (approx. 320 words):

The **Finance Commission (FC)**, constituted under **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution, is a constitutional body tasked with recommending the distribution of **tax revenues between the Centre and the States** and among the States themselves. It plays a pivotal role in maintaining **fiscal federalism**, a cornerstone of Indian federal structure.

Initially, the FC's focus was narrow — mostly revenue sharing and grants-in-aid. Over time, its role has evolved significantly:

- The **10th FC (1995)** introduced normative assessments of state finances.
- The **13th FC** recommended performance-based grants.
- The **14th FC** increased the states' share in central taxes from 32% to 42%, enhancing fiscal autonomy.
- The **15th FC** introduced **sector-specific grants**, performance-linked grants, and tied funds, raising concerns about increasing central control.

Key contributions of the Finance Commission include:

- **Horizontal Equity:** It uses indicators like population, area, income distance, and forest cover to ensure fair distribution among states.
- **Vertical Balance:** It addresses the fiscal imbalance between the Union and states, although this has been challenged by rising **centralization via cesses/surcharges** not shared with states.

Challenges:

- **Cesses and Surcharges** (not divisible pool) undermine FC recommendations.
- **Political interference** and emergence of non-statutory bodies like **NITI Aayog** may dilute its relevance.



- The **Terms of Reference (ToR)** given to the 15th FC attracted criticism from southern states for perceived bias.

Conclusion: The Finance Commission remains a vital institution for balancing regional aspirations and national unity. However, to truly deepen fiscal federalism, its recommendations must be respected, and **non-transparent fiscal instruments** like cesses must be rationalized. Strengthening cooperative federalism requires both institutional reform and political will.

GS-3 (Environment):

Q3. Discuss the role of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in environmental governance in India. Has it fulfilled its mandate effectively?

Sample Answer (approx. 330 words):

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, established in **2010 under the NGT Act**, is a specialized judicial body for effective and expeditious disposal of environmental cases. It was created to reduce the burden on traditional courts and ensure environmental justice.

Mandate of the NGT:

- Provide **relief and compensation** for environmental damage.
- Ensure **polluter pays** and **precautionary principles** are upheld.
- Deal with matters under laws such as the **Environment Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, Air and Water Acts**, etc.

Achievements:

- **Landmark rulings:** Ban on sand mining without clearance, regulation of construction in eco-sensitive zones, actions on air pollution in Delhi.
- Created **deterrence** for polluters via penalties.
- Reduced pendency by fast-tracking environmental cases (due to statutory timeline of 6 months).
- Promoted **public participation** in environmental litigation.

Limitations:

- Lack of **independent enforcement mechanisms** — depends on government agencies to implement orders.
- **Understaffing and vacancy of expert members** affects quality and speed.
- Questions over jurisdiction (e.g., biodiversity issues, forest rights cases) due to narrow interpretation of laws under its domain.
- States often **ignore or delay** compliance with its orders.

Recent Issues:

- The Tribunal has faced criticism for **overreach** in some instances, where critics argue it ventured into **policy-making**.
- However, in the vacuum created by weak executive enforcement, such interventions were often necessary.



Conclusion: The NGT has significantly contributed to **strengthening environmental jurisprudence**, but its effectiveness is constrained by institutional and political limitations. To empower it further, reforms are needed in the **enforcement ecosystem**, increased **financial and human resources**, and clearer **coordination mechanisms with other agencies**.

GS-4 (Ethics):

Q4. *“Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.” In light of this statement, discuss the ethical dilemmas faced by civil servants in policy implementation.*

Sample Answer (approx. 340 words):

The quote aptly captures the **essence of ethical decision-making** — it’s not just about legality but also about **morality** and **conscience**. Civil servants, as the executing arm of the government, often face ethical dilemmas where legal orders conflict with ethical imperatives.

Common Ethical Dilemmas in Policy Implementation:

1. **Rule vs. Compassion:** Denying benefits to an illiterate villager for not having a document vs. using discretion to help him.
2. **Political Pressure vs. Public Interest:** Transferring funds to favored contractors under ministerial pressure vs. ensuring transparency.
3. **Secrecy vs. Public Accountability:** Maintaining confidentiality in a sensitive national security project vs. RTI demands.
4. **Efficiency vs. Equity:** Allocating scarce resources to the most productive area vs. the most backward one.

These dilemmas occur due to:

- Conflicts between **professional obligations** and **personal values**.
- Lack of **clear guidelines** on moral conduct.
- **Systemic corruption** or bureaucratic inertia.

Tools to Resolve Ethical Dilemmas:

- **Code of Conduct and Ethics** (e.g., Second ARC recommendations).
- **Training in ethical reasoning and decision-making**.
- Consulting **superiors, laws, or precedents**.
- Using models like **Kidder’s Four Paradigms** or **Nash’s 12 Questions** to frame decisions.

Examples:

- **E. Sreedharan’s integrity** during Delhi Metro execution.
- A bureaucrat refusing illegal land allotment despite political pressure.

Conclusion: Ethical dilemmas are inevitable in public service, but the choice between **legal correctness** and **moral righteousness** defines the true character of a civil servant. A strong moral compass, institutional support, and ethical leadership are essential to navigate such dilemmas.

**Current Affairs (Culture):**

Q5. Discuss the significance of Tamil Palm Leaf Manuscripts in preserving India's literary and cultural heritage. What are the key challenges and efforts in their conservation?

Sample Answer (approx. 320 words):

Tamil Palm Leaf Manuscripts represent a **treasure trove of India's ancient knowledge system**, encompassing subjects such as **medicine (Siddha), astronomy, philosophy, literature, and temple rituals**. These manuscripts, written on dried palm leaves using stylus, are among the **oldest recorded texts in India**, dating back over a thousand years.

Significance:

- Preserve **indigenous knowledge systems** like **Siddha medicine**.
- Offer insights into **Dravidian culture, language, and script evolution**.
- Reflect India's **syncretic traditions**, as many manuscripts include **intermingling of Tamil, Sanskrit, and Prakrit** languages.
- Serve as a source for **reconstructing regional history**, social practices, and temple administration.

Challenges:

- **Deterioration due to humidity, fungus, and insects**.
- Manuscripts are often **privately owned or poorly stored**, limiting access and preservation.
- **Lack of trained conservators** and technology to decipher fragile scripts.
- **Language barrier** — ancient Tamil scripts require expertise for interpretation.
- Poor documentation — many manuscripts remain **uncatalogued or digitally unpreserved**.

Efforts Made:

- Institutions like **French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP)** and **Saraswathi Mahal Library, Thanjavur**, are leading digitization and cataloging projects.
- The **National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)** has taken up conservation training and manuscript cataloging.
- **UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme** has recognized some manuscripts for global preservation.
- Recent Tamil Nadu government efforts include creating a **Tamil Palm Leaf Manuscript Centre** and promoting **AI-based digital restoration**.

Conclusion: The Tamil palm leaf manuscripts are not mere historical artifacts but **living cultural legacies**. Their preservation is vital not only for Tamil heritage but for the **larger Indian civilizational continuum**. A combination of **community participation, digitization, and public funding** is essential to safeguard this priceless heritage.