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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 23/10/2025 (THURSDAY)**

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



 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,  
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

**Q1.** Consider the following statements regarding the **Bhakti and Sufi traditions in Medieval India:**

1. Both Bhakti saints and Sufi mystics emphasized ritual worship and external symbols as essential paths to attain the Divine.
2. While Sufis accepted the existence of intermediaries between God and devotees, the Bhakti reformers largely rejected such intermediaries and focused on personal devotion.

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

The Bhakti and Sufi movements shared many common features, such as devotion to God and rejection of orthodoxy. However, they differed in certain aspects.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** because both traditions emphasized **inner devotion (bhava, ishq)** rather than ritual worship. They sought union with the divine through love and surrender, not external formalities.
- **Statement 2 is correct** as the Sufis often accepted **pirs and murshids (spiritual masters)** as intermediaries to reach God, while Bhakti reformers like Kabir, Mirabai, and Tukaram stressed **direct personal devotion**, rejecting priestly mediation.

Hence, the correct answer is **(b) 2 only**.

**Q2.** Under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974** and the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**, which of the following authorities is empowered to **lay down standards** for the quality of water and air in India?

- (a) Central Pollution Control Board
- (b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (c) National Green Tribunal
- (d) State Pollution Control Board

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, constituted under the Water Act, 1974, has the statutory responsibility to **lay down standards for the quality of air and water** and coordinate activities of State Boards.

While the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** frames national policies, and the **State Pollution Control Boards** enforce these standards at the local level, the power to **formulate standards** lies with the CPCB under both the **Water Act (Section 16)** and **Air Act (Section 16)**.

The **NGT** adjudicates cases but does not set standards.

Hence, the correct answer is **(a)**.



**Q3.** Consider the following statements with reference to the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003**:

1. The Act mandates the Central Government to eliminate the revenue deficit and reduce the fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP.
2. The FRBM Review Committee (2017) recommended replacing the fixed deficit targets with a range-based framework guided by a Debt-to-GDP ratio.
3. The FRBM Act empowers the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to monitor compliance and report deviations to Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The original FRBM Act, 2003 aimed to eliminate **revenue deficit** and limit **fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP** by 2008–09.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The **N.K. Singh Committee (2017)** suggested replacing fixed targets with a **debt-anchor framework (Central Govt. debt at 40% of GDP)** and allowing flexibility of  $\pm 0.5\%$  around the fiscal deficit target.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Monitoring is done by the **Finance Ministry** and **reports are laid before Parliament**, not by the **CAG**.

Hence, the correct answer is **(a) 1 and 2 only**.

**Q4.** With reference to **Centre–State relations in India**, consider the following statements:

1. The Union Government can give directions to the States in matters of State List if it is necessary for the maintenance of national standards.
2. During a National Emergency, Parliament becomes competent to legislate on subjects in the State List.
3. The Governor has the power to reserve certain State Bills for the consideration of the President.
4. The Inter-State Council, constituted under Article 263, is a constitutional body meant to promote coordination between the Centre and the States.

Which of the statements given above are **correct**?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Union cannot give general directions to States on State List matters except under special circumstances like national importance (Article 249) or during emergencies. “National standards” is not a ground in normal times.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Under **Article 250**, during a National Emergency, Parliament can legislate on **any subject**, including those in the State List.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Governor may reserve certain Bills for the President’s consideration under **Article 200**.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The **Inter-State Council (Article 263)** is a **constitutional body** established to facilitate coordination between the Centre and States.

Hence, the correct answer is **(a) 2, 3 and 4 only**.

**Q5. Assertion – Reason type -**

**Assertion (A):** Nucleated settlements are commonly found in regions of fertile alluvial plains and river valleys.

**Reason (R):** Such areas promote the concentration of population due to agricultural potential and water availability.

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Nucleated settlements, also known as **clustered settlements**, are formed where physical and socio-economic conditions favor **dense habitation**—for example, **Ganga–Yamuna Doab** or **Indo-Gangetic plains**.

The **fertile alluvial soil** supports intensive agriculture, and **water availability** from rivers encourages people to settle close together for cooperative farming, irrigation, and security.

Thus, both A and R are **true**, and **R correctly explains A**.

Hence, the correct answer is **(a)**.

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## **DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Q1.** Consider the following statements regarding the **International Purple Fest 2025**:

1. It is being organized in Goa in collaboration with the United Nations.
2. One of its aims is to promote accessibility and universal design for persons with disabilities.

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:** (c)

**Explanation:**

Both statements are correct. The International Purple Fest 2025 is being held in Goa in partnership with UN India to celebrate inclusivity and accessibility. It emphasizes universal design, skill development, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

**Q2. The World's First Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects**, launched by UNESCO in 2025, primarily uses which of the following technologies?

- (a) 2D digital scanning
- (b) 3D modeling and virtual reality
- (c) Blockchain-based NFT registry
- (d) Holographic projection

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

UNESCO's Virtual Museum uses advanced 3D modeling and virtual reality platforms to digitally reconstruct and exhibit stolen or missing cultural artefacts, ensuring global access and awareness against illicit trafficking.

**Q3. With reference to the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (2025–26 to 2030–31)**, consider the following statements:

1. The mission aims to achieve full self-sufficiency in key pulse crops by 2030–31.
2. It focuses mainly on arhar, urad, and masoor pulses.
3. It includes provisions for procurement and post-harvest infrastructure.

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:** (b)

**Explanation:**

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The mission targets arhar, urad, and masoor, with a focus on assured procurement and better storage facilities. Statement 1 is incorrect — the mission's goal is to reduce import dependence substantially, not to eliminate it entirely by 2030–31.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the IUCN Kenton Miller Award 2025:**

1. It recognizes innovation in managing protected areas.



2. The 2025 award was conferred on an Indian conservationist.
3. Only government officials are eligible for the award.

Which of the statements given above 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)

**Explanation:**

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Kenton Miller Award honors innovation in protected area management. In 2025, an Indian conservationist received this recognition. Statement 3 is incorrect as the award is open to professionals from all sectors, including NGOs and academia.

**Q5.** With reference to the **Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit (2025)**, consider the following statements:

1. It was co-chaired by the Presidents of Egypt and the United States.
2. The summit discussed post-war reconstruction of Gaza.
3. India participated at the ministerial level.
4. A peace treaty was signed between Israel and Hamas during the summit.

Which of the statements given above are **correct**?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. The summit focused on humanitarian aid and reconstruction in Gaza. India participated at ministerial level. Statement 4 is incorrect — no treaty was signed at the event.

**Q6.** The **Durand Line** separates which of the following countries?

- (a) India and China
- (b) Afghanistan and Pakistan
- (c) Iran and Iraq
- (d) Turkey and Syria

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

The Durand Line, drawn in 1893, demarcates the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It remains a politically sensitive and disputed frontier to this day.



## DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

### GS Paper 1 —

**Q1.** *“The Non-Aligned Movement has evolved from a Cold War balancing group to a forum redefining global multipolarity.” Discuss the relevance of NAM in the 21st-century world order.*

**Answer:**

The **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** emerged in 1961 under the leadership of Nehru, Tito, Nasser, Sukarno, and Nkrumah as a coalition of newly independent nations seeking to maintain autonomy during the Cold War bipolar rivalry between the USA and USSR.

In the **post-Cold War era**, NAM’s strategic relevance faced questions, yet its principles—sovereign equality, non-intervention, and peaceful coexistence—remain crucial amid the rise of new geopolitical blocs.

**Contemporary Relevance:**

1. **Multipolarity and Strategic Autonomy:** With shifting global power centers (e.g., China’s rise, Indo-Pacific tensions), NAM’s spirit guides middle powers like India to pursue multi-alignment instead of bloc politics.
2. **Global South Representation:** NAM continues to articulate the concerns of developing nations in forums like the UN, WTO, and climate negotiations—issues such as vaccine equity, debt distress, and digital divide.
3. **Peace and Neutrality:** Amid conflicts (Ukraine war, Israel–Gaza crisis), NAM principles encourage diplomacy, restraint, and adherence to international law.
4. **Reform of Global Institutions:** NAM advocates democratization of the UN Security Council and Bretton Woods institutions, aligning with the demand for a fairer world order.

**Challenges:**

- Lack of cohesion among members.
- Absence of strong leadership post-Cold War.
- Overlapping memberships with new alliances (BRICS, G-77).

**Conclusion:**

NAM’s essence—**strategic independence with collective solidarity**—is timeless. Though its institutional role has diminished, its philosophical foundation is indispensable for navigating contemporary multipolar politics. India, as a founding member, can rejuvenate NAM as a **“coalition of the willing and equitable”** in a fragmented global order.

### GS Paper 2 —

**Q2.** *Critically analyze the challenges and prospects of fiscal and functional devolution to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies in India.*

**Answer:**

The **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992)** institutionalized local self-governance, envisioning genuine **fiscal, functional, and administrative devolution**. Despite three decades, the dream of empowered grassroots governance remains partially realized.



## Challenges:

### 1. Fiscal Constraints:

- Local bodies depend heavily on grants-in-aid and state transfers; own tax revenue often forms less than 10%.
- Delayed release of State Finance Commission grants undermines planning autonomy.

### 2. Functional Overlap:

- State line departments often control major schemes (MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat), restricting local discretion.
- Subjects in the 11th and 12th Schedules remain only partially devolved.

### 3. Capacity and Accountability Issues:

- Lack of trained staff, technical expertise, and digital systems at the local level.
- Weak social audit and citizen oversight mechanisms.

## Prospects and Way Forward:

### 1. Strengthening Fiscal Autonomy:

- Implement recommendations of Finance Commissions for untied grants and property-tax reforms.
- Empower local bodies to levy service and user charges effectively.

### 2. Institutional Capacity Building:

- Create dedicated cadre for Panchayati Raj administration.
- Promote e-governance for transparency and planning.

### 3. Functional Clarity:

- Clearly demarcate responsibilities across levels of government (activity mapping).
- Encourage convergence of Centrally Sponsored Schemes with local plans.

## Conclusion:

For India's democracy to be truly participatory, **devolution must go beyond delegation**. Fiscal empowerment, capacity enhancement, and accountability mechanisms are essential to realize Gandhi's vision of **Gram Swaraj** and to make local governments the genuine **"third tier"** of governance.

## GS Paper 3 —

**Q3.** "India's waste management policies are progressive on paper but weak in implementation." Examine this statement with reference to plastic, e-waste, and biomedical waste management frameworks.

### Answer:

India generates over **62 million tonnes of waste annually**, of which **only about 30–35%** is scientifically processed. Despite well-framed legal frameworks, enforcement and behavioral gaps persist.

### 1. Plastic Waste:



- Governed by the **Plastic Waste Management Rules (2016, amended 2022)** introducing *Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)* and banning single-use plastics.
- **Challenges:** Informal recycling (unregistered units), poor segregation at source, and lack of monitoring mechanisms.

## 2. E-Waste:

- India is the **third-largest generator of e-waste** globally. The **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022** mandate producer responsibility and recycling targets.
- **Issues:** Only ~20% is formally recycled; informal dismantlers handle the rest in unsafe conditions; weak traceability mechanisms persist.

## 3. Biomedical Waste:

- Regulated under the **Biomedical Waste Management Rules (2016)**, applicable to hospitals, labs, and healthcare centers.
- **Gaps:** Poor segregation practices, non-functional treatment facilities, especially in rural areas. COVID-19 further stressed the system.

## Cross-cutting Challenges:

- Weak enforcement at local levels.
- Inadequate public awareness and behavioral change.
- Limited infrastructure and financial incentives for recycling industries.

## Way Forward:

- Strengthen EPR compliance through digital tracking systems.
- Promote waste-to-energy and circular-economy models.
- Integrate informal workers into the formal sector.
- Enforce “polluter pays” principle effectively.

## Conclusion:

India’s waste management architecture is **regulatory-rich but execution-poor**. Sustainable waste governance requires not just laws but **coordination, technology, and citizen participation**, turning waste into wealth within a **circular-economy framework**.

## GS Paper 4 —

**Q4.** “Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.” — Examine this statement in the context of public service.

## Answer:

This statement, attributed to **Potter Stewart**, underscores the distinction between **legal rights** and **moral responsibility**. In public service, ethical conduct goes beyond mere compliance with laws; it involves upholding fairness, empathy, and integrity.

## Understanding the Idea:

A public servant may have the *legal right* to make decisions within rules, yet those decisions may not be *morally right* if they violate the spirit of justice or public welfare.



### Examples:

- A bureaucrat can legally allocate contracts through tendering but ethically must ensure transparency and avoid favoritism.
- A tax officer may strictly impose penalties but should exercise compassion in genuine hardship cases.

### Ethical Dimensions in Public Service:

1. **Integrity:** Doing the right thing even when not monitored.
2. **Objectivity:** Making decisions based on evidence, not bias or pressure.
3. **Empathy:** Understanding the citizen's perspective.
4. **Accountability:** Accepting moral responsibility beyond procedural compliance.

### Illustration:

During COVID-19, several officers went beyond their defined duties — arranging oxygen, helping migrant workers — reflecting moral courage rather than legal compulsion.

### Conclusion:

Public service ethics rests on the principle that **“law is the floor, ethics is the ceiling.”** A morally upright bureaucracy ensures that governance is not just lawful, but also just, compassionate, and people-centric.

### GS Paper (Current Affairs) —

**Q5.** *Critically analyze the objectives and significance of “Operation Golden Sweep” launched in 2025, and discuss its implications for India’s security and regional diplomacy.*

### Answer:

**Operation Golden Sweep (2025)** was a coordinated anti-narcotics and anti-smuggling operation launched by Indian security agencies along the **Indo-Myanmar border**, targeting **gold, drug, and weapon trafficking** networks in the Northeast.

### Objectives:

- To dismantle transnational smuggling syndicates operating via Myanmar.
- To curb the inflow of narcotics, gold, and arms that fuel insurgency and organized crime.
- To enhance border surveillance through coordinated operations of the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), and Assam Rifles.**

### Significance:

1. **Internal Security:**
  - The Northeast’s porous borders enable illegal trade networks linked to insurgent groups.
  - The operation strengthens India’s counter-insurgency and anti-narcotics framework.
2. **Economic Impact:**
  - Smuggled gold and synthetic drugs undermine revenue and social stability.
  - Seizures worth hundreds of crores indicate the scale of underground economies.



### 3. Diplomatic Dimension:

- Reinforces India's cooperation with Myanmar and ASEAN nations on border management.
- Positions India as a proactive regional partner against transnational crime.

#### Challenges:

- Terrain complexity and porous borders.
- Political instability in Myanmar limits joint enforcement.
- Need for community-based vigilance and cross-agency intelligence sharing.

#### Conclusion:

Operation Golden Sweep exemplifies **India's evolving security paradigm** — blending law enforcement with regional diplomacy. Sustainable success, however, requires a **whole-of-government approach**, addressing not just smuggling but also livelihood vulnerabilities and border governance reforms.

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