



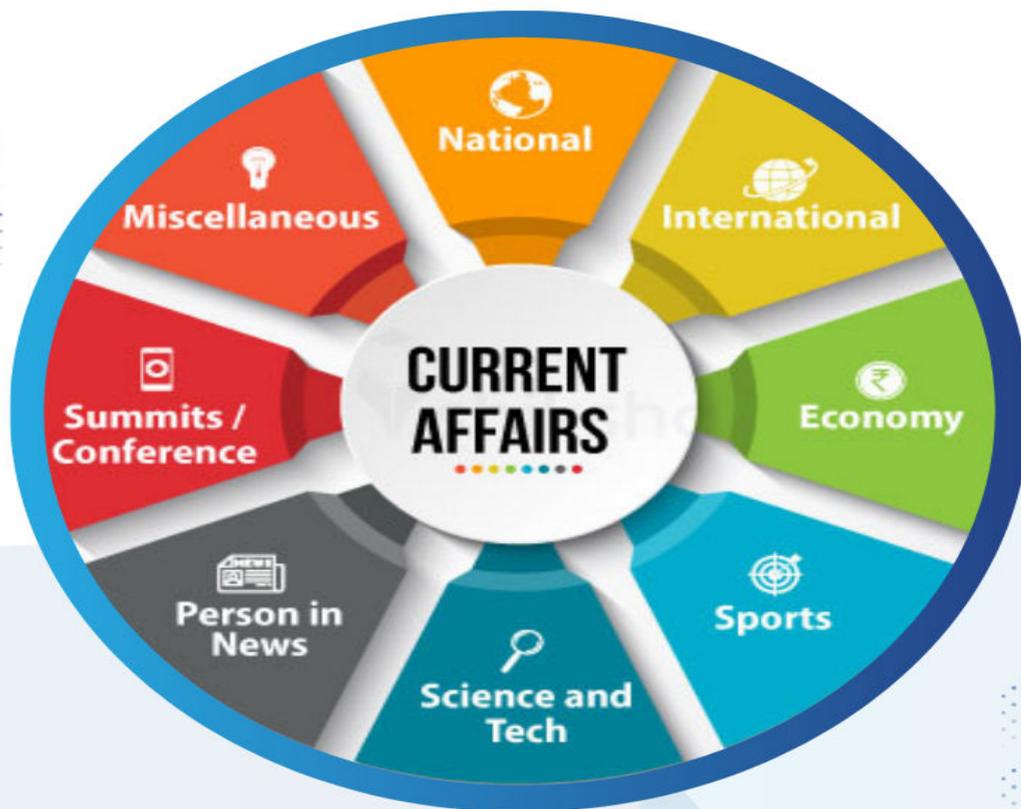
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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & **STUDY CENTRE**

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 22/12/2025 (MONDAY)



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Swaraj Party (1923):

1. The Swaraj Party aimed to obstruct the colonial government by entering legislative councils and effectively paralyzing its functioning from within.
2. The party was formed entirely by leaders who had opposed the Non-Cooperation Movement from the beginning.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Swaraj Party was founded by Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das in 1923 with the strategy of “Council Entry Programme” to obstruct British policies from within legislative councils and highlight the inadequacies of the constitutional reforms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Swarajists were mostly leaders who had initially supported the Non-Cooperation Movement but became disillusioned after its suspension following the Chauri Chaura incident. They believed in political participation as a means of struggle, unlike the “No-Changers” who advocated continued non-cooperation.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Ramsar Wetlands in India:

1. A site can be designated as a Ramsar Site only if it hosts a minimum population of globally threatened species.
2. India has declared more than 70 Ramsar sites as of 2024.
3. Wetlands International is the secretariat body for the Ramsar Convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** While the presence of threatened species is one of the criteria, it is not a mandatory requirement for Ramsar designation. Sites can also be selected based on uniqueness, biodiversity, or importance for migratory species.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** As of 2024, India has designated 80 wetlands as Ramsar sites, significantly increasing from 26 in 2014.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Ramsar Convention's secretariat is located in Gland, Switzerland, and is administered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), not Wetlands International.



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

1. The Act mandates the elimination of the revenue deficit and reduction of fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP.
2. The Act prohibits the government from borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India under all circumstances.
3. The Act requires the government to present a Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement every year.

Which of the statements given above 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.** The FRBM Act originally targeted reducing fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP and eliminating revenue deficit to ensure fiscal discipline.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Act restricts borrowing from the RBI except under exceptional circumstances such as national security or severe economic downturn, but does not absolutely prohibit it.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Act mandates the government to lay before Parliament three policy statements annually: Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement, Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement, and Macroeconomic Framework Statement.

Q4. Consider the following statements about Indian classical dance forms:

1. Kathak evolved in the temples and was primarily performed by devadasis as an offering to deities.
2. Manipuri dance has strong Vaishnavite influence and emphasizes soft, graceful movements.
3. Kuchipudi traditionally included both male and female performers, with male artists often playing female roles.
4. Bharatanatyam costumes are heavily influenced by Persian aesthetics and Mughal court fashion.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Kathak originated in North India as a storytelling tradition and evolved in Mughal courts, adopting Persian influences. It was not primarily temple-based nor performed by devadasis.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Manipuri dance is deeply linked with Vaishnavism, focusing on Radha-Krishna themes, and is known for its lyrical, soft movements.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Kuchipudi from Andhra Pradesh traditionally had male performers called Bhagavathulus who played female roles as well.



- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Bharatanatyam costumes are inspired by traditional temple sculptures and do not reflect Persian or Mughal influence.

Q5. Assertion–Reason type —

Assertion (A): Western Ghats receive higher rainfall compared to the Eastern Ghats.

Reason (R): The Western Ghats are continuous and intercept the moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds effectively.

- (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) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

- **Assertion is true.** The Western Ghats receive heavy orographic rainfall, often exceeding 250 cm annually.
- **Reason is true and correctly explains the assertion.** The Ghats' continuous and steep western face acts as an orographic barrier, forcing moist monsoon winds to rise rapidly, causing heavy precipitation. In contrast, the Eastern Ghats are discontinuous and lower in elevation, leading to less rainfall.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Consider the following statements about the C-FLOOD App recently launched in India:

1. The app has been developed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to provide real-time flood early warning and inundation mapping using satellite data.
2. It also integrates community-sourced data and drone imagery for micro-level flood forecasting at district and village levels.

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: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The **C-FLOOD (Community-level Flood Forecast and Online Decision Support System)** App is an advanced decision-support platform recently launched to improve flood preparedness.
- **Statement 1 is correct.** It has been developed under NDMA's guidance with ISRO and other agencies, integrating satellite data for real-time flood monitoring and inundation forecasts.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The app uniquely integrates community-sourced information (e.g., on-ground water levels, blocked drains) and drone-based imagery to create micro-level flood forecasting and actionable risk maps, especially at local administrative levels.



Q2. Which of the following states hosts India's first Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC), recently inaugurated to promote international horse trade?

- (a) Haryana (b) Gujarat
(c) Karnataka (d) Maharashtra

Answer: (a) Haryana

Explanation:

India's first **Equine Disease-Free Compartment** was inaugurated in **Haryana**, specifically at the National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Hisar. This is a crucial step to meet World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards, enabling India to export high-value equines by certifying them disease-free.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding India's Aluminium Vision Document 2030:

1. It aims to make India the second-largest aluminium producer globally by 2030.
2. The document focuses on achieving 100% recycling of aluminium scrap generated domestically.
3. It proposes creating exclusive green energy corridors for aluminium smelters to reduce carbon footprints.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** India is already the second-largest aluminium producer; the document emphasizes improving global competitiveness and moving up the value chain rather than further increasing rank.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The document strongly focuses on circular economy principles, including 100% domestic scrap recycling to reduce import dependence and environmental impact.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** It proposes creating **dedicated green power supply lines**, recognizing that aluminium production is highly energy-intensive and relies heavily on coal-based power, contributing to emissions.

Q4. Regarding the "3 by 35" Initiative recently discussed in global health forums, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to ensure that at least 3 new vaccines are introduced in every developing country by 2035.
2. The initiative was spearheaded by the World Health Organization to reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
3. India has pledged support to this initiative, linking it to its Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** "3 by 35" refers to a target of providing at least **3 effective antibiotics to every patient in need by 2035** to combat rising antimicrobial resistance, not about vaccines.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The World Health Organization and partners launched this initiative as part of the global AMR action plan.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** India has endorsed the initiative and plans to integrate AMR efforts into existing national health schemes like the UIP and National Health Mission.

Q5. Consider the following statements about the Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) operations conducted by the Reserve Bank of India:

1. VRRR operations are used to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system through fixed rate auctions.
2. VRRR helps in fine-tuning short-term interest rates and strengthening the monetary policy transmission mechanism.
3. VRRR was first introduced as a regular liquidity tool in India post-2016 demonetisation.
4. Banks participating in VRRR auctions receive government securities as collateral in exchange for funds lent to RBI.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** VRRR operations are conducted at variable (auction-determined) rates, not fixed rates.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** By absorbing liquidity dynamically, VRRR helps align short-term rates with the policy repo rate, thereby improving monetary policy transmission.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** VRRR gained prominence post-demonetisation (2016), as RBI needed to absorb large surplus liquidity.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** In VRRR, banks park their excess funds with RBI without receiving collateral securities; they simply earn an interest rate determined in the auction.

Q6. On the map of South America, if you move eastward from Mendoza (a major city in Argentina) and cross the Pampas region, which of the following major features will you encounter before reaching the Atlantic Ocean?

- (a) Gran Chaco lowlands
(b) Paraná River system and delta
(c) Patagonian desert plateau
(d) Amazon rainforest fringe



Answer: (b) Paraná River system and delta

Explanation:

- **Mendoza** lies in western Argentina, near the Andes. Moving eastward from Mendoza, you cross the fertile **Pampas**, a vast agricultural plain.
- Before reaching the Atlantic coast, you encounter the **Paraná River system**, which forms a wide delta near Buenos Aires. This delta region is one of the world's largest, crucial for inland water transport and agriculture.
- **Gran Chaco** lies further north; **Patagonia** is to the south; the **Amazon** does not extend into Argentina.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS Paper 1 —

Q1. Examine the role of urbanisation in intensifying regional inequalities in India. Suggest measures to promote balanced regional development.

Answer:

Urbanisation has been a major driver of economic growth in India, but it has also deepened regional inequalities. Urban areas attract investment, skilled labor, and infrastructure development, creating islands of prosperity amidst a vast rural and semi-urban hinterland.

Causes of regional inequalities intensified by urbanisation:

- **Uneven investment patterns:** Cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru receive disproportionate investments, while backward regions remain neglected.
- **Migration-induced pressures:** Migration to urban centres leads to depopulation and economic stagnation in source regions.
- **Disparities in social services:** Better healthcare and education facilities in cities increase the gap in human development indices.
- **Infrastructure focus:** Heavy investments in urban infrastructure (metros, flyovers) divert resources away from rural connectivity.

Consequences:

- Rising urban-rural income disparities.
- Marginalisation of tribal and remote areas.
- Increased informal settlements and urban poverty due to unmanaged migration.

Measures to promote balanced regional development:

1. **Strengthening rural infrastructure:** Better roads, electrification, internet connectivity to make rural areas attractive for investment.
2. **Promotion of agro-based and rural industries:** Cluster development and value-addition industries in rural belts to create jobs locally.



3. **Decentralisation of governance and finances:** Empowering local bodies for planning and execution.
4. **Special economic zones in backward areas:** Incentivising industries to set up operations in underdeveloped regions.
5. **Skill development programmes:** Tailored to regional strengths and resource endowments.

Conclusion:

Urbanisation, if not managed inclusively, risks further marginalising already backward regions. A comprehensive regional planning approach, emphasizing rural revitalisation and equitable resource allocation, is critical to bridging regional divides and achieving balanced growth.

GS Paper 2 —

Q2. Discuss the significance of social audits in enhancing accountability and transparency in governance. Also highlight the challenges in their effective implementation.

Answer:

Social audits are citizen-led processes where the implementation of government schemes is reviewed by the beneficiaries themselves. They enhance transparency and accountability by involving communities directly in oversight.

Significance:

- **Empowerment of citizens:** Encourages active participation in governance and ensures programs are need-based.
- **Detection of corruption and leakages:** Beneficiaries can point out discrepancies in records and actual work.
- **Improvement in service delivery:** Regular audits push authorities to be more responsive.
- **Strengthening democracy at the grassroots:** Reinforces decentralized decision-making and trust in public institutions.

Successful examples:

- Social audits under MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have revealed ghost workers, inflated material costs, and incomplete projects.

Challenges:

- **Lack of awareness:** Many beneficiaries do not fully understand the process or their rights.
- **Resistance from officials:** Bureaucratic inertia and vested interests often impede audits.
- **Inadequate institutional support:** Lack of trained auditors and weak follow-up mechanisms.
- **Political interference:** Local elites may influence or intimidate audit processes.

Way forward:

- **Capacity building:** Regular training for community members and local bodies.
- **Legal backing:** Strengthen provisions under laws like MGNREGA to mandate social audits across sectors.



- **Technological support:** Use of IT tools to simplify data collection and reporting.
- **Independent audit units:** Establish autonomous bodies to coordinate and monitor social audits.

Conclusion:

Social audits embody the spirit of participatory democracy. Institutionalising and strengthening them can significantly enhance governance outcomes, reduce corruption, and improve public service delivery, thereby fostering inclusive development.

GS Paper 3 —

Q3. Analyze the implications of India's focus on green hydrogen for achieving energy security and climate goals.

Answer:

India's green hydrogen mission aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and transition towards a low-carbon economy. Green hydrogen is produced using renewable energy, making it a critical component for decarbonisation.

Implications for energy security:

- **Reduced fossil fuel imports:** India imports ~85% of its oil needs. Green hydrogen can substitute imports in sectors like refining and fertilisers.
- **Diversification of energy mix:** It offers a domestic, clean energy source, enhancing resilience to global price shocks.
- **Support for electric mobility and storage:** Can complement batteries in transport and power storage, ensuring stable supply.

Implications for climate goals:

- **Decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors:** Steel, cement, and heavy transport sectors can switch to hydrogen, reducing emissions significantly.
- **Contribution to NDC targets:** Supports India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and net-zero by 2070 goal.
- **Emission reduction potential:** Helps in reducing methane and CO₂ emissions associated with conventional hydrogen (grey hydrogen).

Economic opportunities:

- Creation of green jobs and technological leadership.
- Potential to become an exporter of green hydrogen and related technologies.
- Boost to renewable energy sector, as hydrogen production demands large-scale solar and wind energy.

Challenges:

- **High production costs:** Currently, green hydrogen is 2–3 times costlier than grey hydrogen.
- **Infrastructure gaps:** Lack of storage, transport, and refuelling infrastructure.



- **Technology dependence:** Need for advancements in electrolyser technologies and efficiency improvements.

Way forward:

- Invest in R&D and incentivise private sector participation.
- Establish dedicated hydrogen corridors and hubs.
- Facilitate global partnerships to reduce costs and scale up production.

Conclusion:

Green hydrogen holds transformative potential for India's energy landscape. With appropriate policies and investments, it can drive both energy self-reliance and environmental sustainability, placing India at the forefront of the global green energy revolution.

GS Paper 4 —

Q4. "Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do." Discuss this statement in the context of public administration.

Answer:

The quote emphasizes the distinction between legality and morality. While laws provide boundaries of permissible actions, ethics guide one's conscience towards just and fair conduct.

In public administration:

- **Discretionary powers:** Civil servants often enjoy discretionary authority. Legally, they may have the right to take certain decisions, but ethically, they must consider public welfare and fairness.
- **Conflict of interest situations:** Accepting gifts may be legally permissible up to a limit, but ethically, it can compromise impartiality.
- **Transparency vs confidentiality:** Legally, information might be withheld citing "official secrecy", but ethically, public interest disclosure may be the right choice.

Case examples:

- A bureaucrat legally approving a polluting industry's license despite community opposition may be within their rights, but it may violate ethical principles of environmental justice.
- Denying benefits to eligible citizens due to technical loopholes may be legally defensible but ethically unjustifiable.

Guiding values in public service:

- **Integrity:** Acting in a manner consistent with moral principles.
- **Accountability:** Owning responsibility beyond mere compliance with rules.
- **Empathy:** Understanding and prioritising the needs of vulnerable sections.

Framework for ethical decision-making:

- **Reflective questioning:** "Is it fair and just?" rather than "Is it legal?"
- **Public interest test:** Aligning actions with larger social good.



- **Moral courage:** Choosing right action despite personal or professional risks.

Conclusion:

For public servants, legality sets minimum standards, but ethics embodies higher ideals of service, justice, and fairness. A truly ethical administrator not only respects the letter of the law but upholds its spirit by consistently choosing what is right for society.

Current Affairs —

Q5. Highlight the key findings of the *Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems Report (2024)* and suggest policy measures to enhance youth participation in agriculture in India.

Answer:

The *Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems Report (2024)*, jointly released by FAO and partners, provides an insightful overview of youth engagement globally in agriculture and allied sectors.

Key findings:

- **Underrepresentation in agriculture:** Youth constitute ~25% of the global working population but only ~13% of those employed in agrifood systems.
- **Barriers to entry:** Limited access to land, credit, technology, and markets deter youth participation.
- **High unemployment and underemployment:** Particularly acute in rural regions, contributing to rural-to-urban migration.
- **Potential for innovation:** Youth exhibit strong inclination towards climate-smart practices, digital agriculture, and value addition.

Indian context:

- Over 50% of India's population is below 25 years, yet farming remains unattractive due to low profitability, fragmented holdings, and outdated practices.
- Youth migration to urban areas exacerbates rural distress and aging farmer demographics.

Policy suggestions:

1. **Access to land and finance:** Simplify land leasing norms, provide subsidised credit, and establish venture funds for agri-startups.
2. **Skill development:** Expand vocational training on modern farming techniques, agribusiness, and food processing.
3. **Technology and innovation support:** Promote digital platforms for inputs, weather advisories, and market linkages.
4. **Market reforms:** Strengthen FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) and direct marketing channels to ensure better price realisation.
5. **Incentivising agri-entrepreneurship:** Tax rebates, incubation support, and mentorship schemes can encourage young entrepreneurs.

Conclusion:

Empowering youth in agriculture is critical for revitalising rural economies, ensuring food security, and achieving sustainability goals. By addressing systemic barriers and creating an enabling ecosystem, India can transform agriculture into a vibrant, youth-driven sector.