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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 05/02/2026 (THURSDAY)

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



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Statements regarding the Swadeshi Movement (1905–1911):

1. The Swadeshi Movement promoted the development of indigenous industries and also laid the foundation for a system of national education independent of British control.
2. The Indian National Congress first adopted a formal Swadeshi resolution during the Banaras Session under Dadabhai Naoroji.

Which statement(s) 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 accurate: The movement went beyond boycotting foreign goods; it encouraged local manufacturing, self-reliance, and institutions like Bengal National College to promote indigenous education.
- Statement 2 is inaccurate: The Swadeshi resolution was formally passed during the Calcutta Session of 1906, not the Banaras Session. The Banaras Session of 1905 was presided over by Gopal Krishna Gokhale, while Dadabhai Naoroji led the 1906 Calcutta Session.

Q2. Statements on ecological succession:

1. In a xerosere, lichens usually initiate succession on bare rocks.
2. Secondary succession progresses faster than primary succession because soil and remnants of previous life forms are already present.
3. Climax communities are always dominated by species with short lifespans and low biomass.

How many statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: In dry, barren areas like rocks, lichens act as pioneer species, facilitating soil formation.
- Statement 2 is correct: Secondary succession is quicker due to pre-existing soil and surviving organisms (seeds, roots, microbes).
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Climax communities typically consist of long-lived species with stable biomass and well-developed food webs.



Q3. Statements regarding Government Securities (G-Secs):

1. G-Secs are considered risk-free since the government is unlikely to default.
2. Treasury Bills are short-term G-Secs sold at a discount and redeemed at face value.
3. Only institutional investors can purchase G-Secs; retail investors cannot access them.

How many 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 carry negligible credit risk as sovereign default is rare, though they have interest rate risk.
- Statement 2 is correct: Treasury Bills (91-day, 182-day, etc.) are issued at a discounted price and redeemed at par on maturity.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Retail investors can now directly invest in G-Secs under the RBI Retail Direct Scheme.

Q4. Statements regarding Money Bills under the Indian Constitution:

1. A Money Bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and requires the President's prior recommendation.
2. The Lok Sabha Speaker certifies a Money Bill, and this decision is final and non-justiciable.
3. The Rajya Sabha can amend a Money Bill within 14 days of receiving it.
4. Article 110 defines Money Bills and lists their contents.

Which 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: Money Bills require introduction in Lok Sabha with the President's prior approval.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Speaker's certification of a Bill as a Money Bill is final.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Rajya Sabha cannot amend a Money Bill; it can only suggest changes, which Lok Sabha may accept or reject, within 14 days.
- Statement 4 is correct: Article 110 defines a Money Bill and specifies subjects like taxation, government borrowing, and the Consolidated Fund.



Q5. Assertion–Reason:

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 southwest monsoon winds.

Which is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R explains A
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R does not explain A
- (c) A is correct, R is incorrect
- (d) A is incorrect, R is correct

Answer: (a) Both A and R are correct, and R explains A

Explanation:

- Assertion is correct: Western slopes get heavy rainfall due to direct monsoon exposure.
- Reason is correct: Moist monsoon winds are forced to rise over the Western Ghats, causing condensation and heavy orographic rainfall.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS PART

Q1. Statements about Asiatic Lions in India:

1. The Asiatic Lion has greater genetic diversity than African lions due to isolation and conservation breeding efforts.
2. Project Lion aims to establish additional lion populations outside the Gir forest to reduce ecological risks and disease outbreaks.

Which statement(s) 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: Asiatic lions have lower genetic diversity than African lions due to historical population bottlenecks and long-term confinement in the Gir forest, which has increased inbreeding and susceptibility to diseases.
- Statement 2 is correct: Project Lion (launched under the Ministry of Environment in 2020) focuses on establishing new lion populations outside Gir, improving habitats, monitoring diseases, and translocating individuals to create a safer meta-population.



Q2. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC):

Which statement correctly describes NCDC's legal status and role?

- (a) Constitutional body under Article 243ZI regulating cooperative banks
- (b) Statutory body under Ministry of Finance refinancing cooperative credit institutions
- (c) Statutory corporation under Ministry of Cooperation promoting programs for production, storage, and marketing of agricultural produce
- (d) Executive body under NITI Aayog overseeing grassroots cooperative reforms

Answer: (c) Statutory corporation under Ministry of Cooperation promoting programs for production, storage, and marketing of agricultural produce

Explanation:

- NCDC was established in 1963 by an Act of Parliament.
- It is a statutory body (not constitutional) under the Ministry of Cooperation since 2021 (previously under Agriculture).
- Its mandate is to fund and support agricultural and rural cooperative projects, particularly in production, storage, and marketing.

Q3. UAE's HOPE Mission (Emirates Mars Mission):

1. Launched on a Japanese rocket, it is the first Arab interplanetary mission to reach Mars.
2. Its main goal is mapping Martian mineral resources for future colonization.
3. Designed to study Mars' weather and climate on a global scale.

How many 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 and became the first Arab mission to reach Mars orbit in February 2021.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The mission focuses on atmospheric and climate studies, not resource mapping or colonization.
- Statement 3 is correct: HOPE provides continuous, planet-wide data on Martian weather, temperature variations, and dust storms.

Q4. Ramsar Convention CoP15 (2024):

1. India proposed a global wetland restoration funding facility under the Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. The conference adopted the "Kigali Resolution" to integrate climate and indigenous knowledge into wetland management.
3. Emphasis was placed on using AI and participatory GIS tools for wetland inventory and monitoring.



How many statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: India proposed a wetland restoration fund aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The resolution passed was the “Marshlands Accord,” not the Kigali Resolution.
- Statement 3 is correct: CoP15 encouraged the use of AI, remote sensing, and community GIS tools for wetland mapping and management, especially in data-deficient areas.

Q5. India's Fiscal Deficit and Measurement:

1. Fiscal deficit = total expenditure – (revenue receipts + non-debt capital receipts).
2. High fiscal deficit indicates the government is spending more than its revenue, mainly financed through borrowing or asset monetization.
3. The FRBM Act sets the combined fiscal deficit of Centre and States at 9% of GDP.
4. A revenue deficit along with fiscal deficit is more concerning than a capital-heavy fiscal deficit.

Which 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 is calculated as total expenditure minus receipts excluding borrowings.
- Statement 2 is correct in context: A high fiscal deficit indicates more spending than revenue; financing occurs mainly through borrowing.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: FRBM targets a combined deficit of 6% of GDP, not 9%.
- Statement 4 is correct: Revenue deficits indicate borrowing to cover routine expenses, which is more worrying than borrowing for capital formation.

Q6. City closest to the Mediterranean Sea in the Gaza Strip:

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



Answer: (c) Rafah

Explanation:

- Rafah is located in the southern Gaza Strip, near the Egyptian border and very close to the Mediterranean.
- Ramallah, Nablus, and Jenin are inland cities in the West Bank.
- Map-based understanding is important: Gaza Strip is along the southwestern Mediterranean coast, and Rafah is a key crossing point into Egypt.

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR DAILY PRACTICE

GS-1 (History/Society)

Q1. Examine the role of women in 19th-century socio-religious reform movements in India. How effective were these movements in improving women's status?

Answer:

The socio-religious reform movements of 19th-century India sought to challenge entrenched orthodox practices and introduce progressive changes, particularly in the status of women. Reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Jyotirao Phule actively campaigned against social evils like sati, child marriage, and widow ostracism while promoting women's education and legal rights.

Although women were largely constrained by patriarchal norms, several emerged as key agents of reform. Savitribai Phule pioneered female education and championed literacy for girls. Pandita Ramabai, a Sanskrit scholar, advocated for widow rehabilitation and critiqued caste-based and gender oppression. In Bengal, Begum Rokeya worked for the empowerment and education of Muslim women, emphasizing the importance of access to knowledge for social upliftment.

Legislative reforms were significant outcomes of these movements:

- Abolition of Sati (1829)
- Widow Remarriage Act (1856)
- Age of Consent Act (1891)
- Expansion of female education

However, these reforms largely benefited urban, upper-caste Hindu women. Deep-rooted patriarchy, orthodox opposition, and limited grassroots mobilization slowed progress in rural and marginalized communities, including Dalits and Muslims.

Despite these limitations, the reform movements established intellectual and moral foundations for 20th-century women's movements. They facilitated women's entry into public life, education, and later, political activism.

Conclusion: The 19th-century reform movements initiated important legal and educational changes for women, but their influence was selective and incomplete. Sustained efforts through the 20th century were necessary to extend these benefits more broadly.



GS-2 (Polity)

Q2. Critically evaluate the role of the Finance Commission in promoting fiscal federalism in India. How has its role changed over time?

Answer:

The Finance Commission (FC), established under Article 280 of the Constitution, is a constitutional body responsible for recommending tax revenue sharing between the Union and the states and among states themselves. It plays a central role in maintaining fiscal federalism, a key feature of India's federal system.

Initially, the FC focused primarily on revenue sharing and grants-in-aid. Over time, its responsibilities have expanded:

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

Key contributions of the Finance Commission include:

- **Horizontal Equity:** Using criteria such as population, area, income disparity, and forest cover to ensure fair distribution among states.
- **Vertical Balance:** Addressing the fiscal imbalance between the Union and the states, though cesses and surcharges outside divisible pools weaken this effect.

Challenges:

- Non-divisible cesses and surcharges reduce the impact of FC recommendations.
- Political pressures and overlapping bodies like NITI Aayog may undermine its authority.
- Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 15th FC were criticized for perceived regional bias.

Conclusion: The Finance Commission remains crucial for fiscal federalism. Its effectiveness depends on adherence to its recommendations and rationalization of non-transparent fiscal tools. Strengthening cooperative federalism requires institutional reforms and political commitment.

GS-3 (Environment)

Q3. Discuss the role of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in environmental governance. Has it been effective?

Answer:

The National Green Tribunal (NGT), created in 2010 under the NGT Act, is a specialized judicial body tasked with fast-tracking environmental cases and reducing the burden on conventional courts.

Mandate:

- Provide relief and compensation for environmental damage.
- Enforce "polluter pays" and precautionary principles.



- Address matters under laws like the Environment Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, and Air and Water Acts.

Achievements:

- Landmark rulings on illegal sand mining, construction in eco-sensitive zones, and Delhi's air pollution.
- Penalties for violators create deterrence.
- Fast-tracking cases has reduced pendency, with statutory timelines of six months.
- Encourages public participation in environmental decision-making.

Limitations:

- Enforcement relies on government agencies; NGT has no independent powers to implement orders.
- Vacancies and understaffing affect efficiency and quality of judgments.
- Jurisdictional ambiguities, especially regarding forest and biodiversity cases.
- States sometimes delay or ignore compliance.

Recent Issues:

- Criticism of judicial overreach in policy matters.
- Yet, such interventions often fill gaps left by weak executive enforcement.

Conclusion: NGT has strengthened environmental jurisprudence in India but remains constrained by institutional and political challenges. Empowerment requires better enforcement mechanisms, increased resources, and clearer coordination 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." Discuss ethical dilemmas faced by civil servants in policy implementation.

Answer (≈340 words):

This statement highlights that ethical decision-making goes beyond legality to include morality and conscience. Civil servants often encounter situations where legal obligations conflict with ethical considerations.

Common dilemmas:

1. **Rule vs Compassion:** Denying entitlements due to lack of documentation vs. discretionary help.
2. **Political Pressure vs Public Interest:** Favoring politically connected contractors vs. ensuring fairness.
3. **Secrecy vs Accountability:** Confidentiality in sensitive projects vs. RTI and transparency demands.
4. **Efficiency vs Equity:** Allocating limited resources to productive areas vs. needy regions.

Causes:

- Conflict between professional duties and personal values.
- Lack of clear ethical guidance.



- Systemic corruption and bureaucratic inertia.

Tools for resolution:

- Codes of conduct and ethics frameworks.
- Ethical reasoning training and consulting superiors or precedents.
- Decision-making models like Kidder's Four Paradigms and Nash's 12 Questions.

Examples:

- E. Sreedharan maintaining integrity during Delhi Metro execution.
- Bureaucrats refusing illegal land allotments despite political pressure.

Conclusion: Ethical dilemmas are inherent in public service. Navigating them requires a strong moral compass, institutional support, and ethical leadership. Balancing legality and morality defines the character of a civil servant.

Current Affairs (Culture)

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

Answer:

Tamil Palm Leaf Manuscripts are a repository of ancient knowledge, covering medicine (Siddha), astronomy, philosophy, literature, and religious rituals. Written on dried palm leaves using stylus, many of these manuscripts are over a thousand years old.

Significance:

- Preserve indigenous knowledge systems like Siddha medicine.
- Provide insights into Dravidian culture, language, and script evolution.
- Reflect India's syncretic traditions, with intermingling of Tamil, Sanskrit, and Prakrit.
- Serve as primary sources for reconstructing regional history, social practices, and temple management.

Challenges:

- Vulnerable to humidity, fungal attacks, and insect damage.
- Poor storage and private ownership limit access.
- Scarcity of trained conservators and technology for fragile script deciphering.
- Ancient Tamil scripts require expertise to interpret.
- Many manuscripts remain undocumented or un-digitized.

Conservation Efforts:

- Institutions like the French Institute of Pondicherry and Saraswathi Mahal Library are digitizing and cataloging manuscripts.
- The National Mission for Manuscripts promotes conservation training and documentation.



- UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme has recognized selected manuscripts.
- Tamil Nadu government initiatives include dedicated centers and AI-based restoration projects.

Conclusion: Tamil palm leaf manuscripts are living cultural treasures. Their preservation is critical for Tamil heritage and India's broader civilizational legacy. Community participation, digitization, and public support are essential to safeguard these irreplaceable resources.

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