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


## **DAILY MCQ'S**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 22/05/2025 (THURSDAY)**

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



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## **STATIC PART OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS**

### **1. Consider the following statements regarding the Moplah Revolt of 1921:**

1. The Moplah Rebellion was primarily a movement against British land revenue policies.
2. It later acquired communal overtones due to violence against Hindu landlords.

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) Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:**

- The **Moplah (or Mappila) Rebellion** in Malabar (Kerala) in 1921 began as an **agrarian uprising** against oppressive landlords and British colonial policies, especially related to **land tenure and revenue collection**. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- However, as the revolt progressed, it took a **communal turn**, with targeted violence reported against **Hindu landlords (Jenmis)**, leading to a complex mix of agrarian and religious grievances. Hence, Statement 2 is also correct.

### **2. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Hangul (Kashmir Stag) is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
2. The Great Indian Bustard is found only in India and is a Schedule I species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
3. The Lion-tailed Macaque is endemic to the Eastern Ghats of India.

Which of the above statements 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:**

- The **Hangul** is listed as **Critically Endangered** under India's Wildlife Act but is "**Critically Endangered**" by Indian authorities, not IUCN; **IUCN lists it as Endangered**, not Critically Endangered. Statement 1 is incorrect.
- The **Great Indian Bustard** is indeed a **Schedule I** species and is found **only in India**, making Statement 2 correct.
- The **Lion-tailed Macaque** is **endemic to the Western Ghats**, **not** the Eastern Ghats. So Statement 3 is incorrect.

### **3. Consider the following statements about Zonal Councils in India:**

1. They are constitutional bodies established under Article 263 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The Home Minister of India acts as the common chairman of all Zonal Councils.
3. The North-Eastern Council is not one of the Zonal Councils constituted under the States Reorganization Act, 1956.

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) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: **Zonal Councils are not constitutional bodies**; they are **statutory bodies** created by the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, not under Article 263.
- Statement 2 is correct: The **Union Home Minister** is indeed the **ex-officio chairman** of all Zonal Councils.
- Statement 3 is correct: The **North-Eastern Council (NEC)** is **not one of the five Zonal Councils**. It is a **separate statutory body** under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1971**.

#### 4. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Type of Inflation	Description
1. Creeping Inflation	Slow and steady rise in price levels
2. Galloping Inflation	Price rise in double digits annually
3. Hyperinflation	Extremely rapid inflation, often exceeding 50% per month
4. Core Inflation	Inflation including food and fuel prices



Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: b) 1, 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct: **Creeping inflation** involves a **gradual and predictable** increase in prices, usually less than 3% per annum.
- Statement 2 is correct: **Galloping inflation** involves price rises in the **range of 10% or more annually**.
- Statement 3 is correct: **Hyperinflation** refers to extremely high and typically **uncontrolled inflation**, often above **50% per month**.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: **Core inflation** excludes food and fuel prices, as these are considered volatile.

#### 5. Assertion-Reason Type Question:

**Assertion (A):** The Nagara style of temple architecture is predominant in northern India.

**Reason (R):** The Nagara temples are characterized by curvilinear towers (shikharas) and absence of elaborate boundary walls.

- 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:**

- The **Nagara style** is indeed the dominant style in **northern India** (Assertion is true).



- Nagara temples are **distinguished by curvilinear shikharas**, and they typically **lack elaborate boundary walls**, which differentiates them from Dravidian temples (Reason is also true).
- The Reason **accurately explains** the Assertion, making option (a) the correct choice.



## **CURRENT AFFAIRS PART**

### **1. Consider the following statements:**

1. Mizoram achieved the status of India's first fully literate state by attaining 100% adult literacy through the Saakshar Bharat Abhiyan.
2. The Mizoram State Literacy Mission Authority (MSLMA) played a central role in achieving this feat through targeted tribal literacy initiatives.

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:** Although Mizoram has recently declared itself **India's first fully literate state**, the achievement was **not solely through the Saakshar Bharat Abhiyan**. The Abhiyan ended in 2018. Mizoram's literacy drive was **sustained by state-led initiatives**, including work by MSLMA and local bodies post-2018.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Mizoram State Literacy Mission Authority (MSLMA)** was the **key executing body**, working closely with civil society and tribal community leaders to ensure **tribal and rural literacy coverage**.

### **2. 'Blue Talks' initiative recently seen in the news refers to:**

- a) A UN framework for promoting peace in maritime boundary disputes
- b) A global campaign for ocean and water-related climate action
- c) India's diplomatic channel for Indo-Pacific maritime negotiations
- d) A trilateral naval dialogue between India, France, and Australia

**Answer: b) A global campaign for ocean and water-related climate action**

**Explanation:**

- **Blue Talks** is a **UN-supported global initiative** aimed at **raising awareness and encouraging dialogue** on the role of oceans and freshwater ecosystems in achieving sustainable development goals (SDG 14 – Life Below Water).
- India recently hosted a Blue Talks event in collaboration with **UNDP** and other partners to contribute to **UN Ocean Conference dialogues**.
- It is **not about maritime disputes or strategic trilateral dialogues**.

### **3. With reference to the 'Golden Dome' recently unveiled in India, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a solar-powered geodesic structure developed for high-altitude defense posts.
2. It was inaugurated by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
3. It serves the dual purpose of troop shelter and solar energy generation in forward areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: b) 1 and 3 only**



**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Golden Dome** is a **solar-powered geodesic structure**, especially designed for **high-altitude military installations**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was **not developed or unveiled by DRDO**, but by the **Indian Army's engineering corps** in collaboration with private innovators.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **dual-purpose design** of the dome allows **thermal insulation for troops** and **sustainable solar power generation**, reducing fuel dependency in extreme terrains.

**4. Consider the following statements about INSV Kaundinya:**

1. INSV Kaundinya is India's first stitched sail ship constructed using traditional Indian maritime techniques.
2. It is inspired by the Chola-period naval designs and built using indigenous timber and coir ropes.
3. The ship is part of an Indian Navy cultural expedition project under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

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: d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:**

- All three statements are **correct**.
- **INSV Kaundinya** is a **stitched sail ship**, meaning **no metal fasteners** like nails or bolts were used—**coir ropes and wooden pegs** hold the ship together, in line with ancient Indian shipbuilding methods.
- Inspired by **Chola maritime architecture**, it reflects **India's naval heritage**.
- The ship is part of the **Indian Navy's cultural diplomacy and heritage revival project**, under **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebrations.

**5. Consider the following statements about the BrahMos-NG (Next Generation) missile:**

1. It is significantly smaller and lighter than the original BrahMos, enabling deployment on submarines and fighter aircraft.
2. BrahMos-NG can achieve speeds of over Mach 4 and is designed for hypersonic cruise.
3. It is a joint development between DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia.
4. The missile is expected to be deployed on Tejas Mk-1A and Rafale fighter jets.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: b) 1, 3 and 4 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** BrahMos-NG is a **miniaturized version** of the original BrahMos. It weighs around **1.5 tons**, compared to 3 tons, making it **suitable for air and submarine platforms**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The missile is a **supersonic cruise missile (Mach 2.8–3)**, not **hypersonic**. Hypersonic implies speeds **above Mach 5**.



- **Statement 3 is correct:** It continues to be a **joint development** between **India's DRDO** and **Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The NG version is being configured to be compatible with **Rafale** and **Tejas Mk-1A**, which cannot carry the heavier original BrahMos.





## **SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER** **WRITING PRACTICE**

**GS-1:**

**1. Despite decades of implementation, India's centrally funded social assistance programmes continue to face issues of coverage, adequacy, and leakage. Critically examine the design and implementation challenges of such programmes. Suggest robust measures for reform. (15M)**

**Answer:**

India's Centrally Funded Social Assistance Programmes (CFSAPs), such as the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)**, were envisioned to provide a safety net for the poor, elderly, and destitute. Despite their noble intent, these schemes have struggled to deliver effectively.

**Challenges in Design and Implementation:**

1. **Inadequate Coverage:** Many deserving beneficiaries, especially among urban poor and migrants, remain excluded due to outdated **BPL data (2002)** and weak targeting mechanisms.
2. **Insufficient Financial Assistance:** The pension under schemes like **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)** is ₹200–₹500/month — grossly inadequate in today's context.
3. **Implementation Gaps:** Delays in fund release, non-updation of beneficiary lists, and **bureaucratic bottlenecks** impede timely delivery.
4. **Leakages and Corruption:** Middlemen and weak accountability mechanisms have led to **diversion of funds and ghost beneficiaries**.
5. **Lack of Convergence:** Social assistance operates in silos, with **no integration** with healthcare, nutrition, or housing schemes.

**Reform Measures:**

- **Targeting through SECC 2011 and Aadhaar integration** for real-time beneficiary identification and de-duplication.
- **Inflation-linked and region-sensitive pension amounts** with regular revision.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** mechanisms with grievance redressal systems to enhance transparency.
- Establishing **State-specific Social Protection Boards** to adapt schemes to local contexts.
- Greater involvement of **gram sabhas, SHGs, and civil society** in beneficiary identification and social audit.

In conclusion, while CFSAPs remain vital to India's welfare state framework, addressing structural and governance deficits through **technological integration and decentralized planning** is essential for inclusive social security.

**GS-2:**

**2. The functioning of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has been increasingly questioned for its relevance in the contemporary multipolar world. Critically analyse the structural limitations of the UNSC and India's case for permanent membership. (15M)**

**Answer:**





The UNSC, established in 1945, was designed to maintain international peace and security. However, the **post-World War II structure** of the Council no longer reflects current geopolitical realities.

**Structural Limitations:**

1. **Outdated Composition:** The **P5 (US, UK, France, Russia, China)** composition reflects **mid-20th century power structures**, ignoring emerging powers like India, Brazil, and South Africa.
2. **Veto Power Misuse:** The **veto mechanism** undermines consensus-building. It has been **frequently misused**, especially by Russia and the US, leading to **paralysis on conflicts** like Syria and Gaza.
3. **Lack of Regional Representation:** No permanent members from **Africa or Latin America**, despite growing roles in global governance.
4. **Opaque Decision-Making:** Limited transparency and lack of binding accountability mechanisms.

**India's Case for Permanent Membership:**

- **Demographic and Economic Weight:** India is the **world's most populous country** and among the top five economies.
- **Peacekeeping Contribution:** India has been one of the **largest contributors to UN Peacekeeping** operations.
- **Responsible Global Actor:** India has shown leadership on issues like **climate change, development, and counter-terrorism**.
- **Widespread Support:** India's candidature is supported by **G4 countries** and many from the Global South.

**Conclusion:**

The UNSC must reform to maintain legitimacy. India's inclusion would **democratize the council**, enhance its effectiveness, and ensure **equitable global governance**. Structural reforms must balance **realpolitik with representational justice**, or risk irrelevance in the evolving multipolar world.

**GS-3:**

**3. India's neighborhood policy is increasingly challenged by traditional and non-traditional security threats. Analyse how neighbors are becoming a source of strategic and security concern for India. Suggest a balanced approach to ensure regional stability. (15M)**

**Answer:**

India's neighborhood, shaped by **porous borders, historical conflicts, and emerging geopolitical alignments**, has become a theatre for both **traditional and non-traditional threats**.

**Traditional Threats:**

1. **Military Conflict & Proxy War:** India faces constant military pressure from **China (LAC) and Pakistan (LoC)**. Cross-border **terrorism from Pakistan** remains a persistent threat.
2. **Maritime Security:** China's increasing **maritime footprint in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** — including bases in Gwadar and Hambantota — challenges India's strategic dominance.

**Non-Traditional Threats:**

1. **Illegal Migration & Demographic Change:** From **Bangladesh and Myanmar**, leading to social unrest in North-East India.
2. **Cybersecurity Threats:** State-sponsored cyber intrusions, particularly from **China and North Korea**, target Indian critical infrastructure.



3. **Narcotics and Human Trafficking:** Border areas with **Nepal and Myanmar** have become conduits for drug and arms trafficking.

**Balanced Strategy for Regional Stability:**

- **Neighborhood First with Vigilance:** Strengthen regional ties through economic, health, and infrastructure cooperation while maintaining strategic autonomy.
- **Border Infrastructure & Surveillance:** Fast-track projects like **CCPMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System)** and expand **border road networks**.
- **Maritime Diplomacy:** Enhance **Quad cooperation**, develop the **Sagarmala** initiative, and increase presence in **IOR island nations**.
- **Act East Policy with Security Lens:** Deepen ties with ASEAN and BIMSTEC for collective security mechanisms.
- **People-Centric Diplomacy:** Emphasize cultural diplomacy, scholarships, and soft power tools to counterbalance Chinese influence.

In conclusion, India must pursue **strategic pragmatism**, combining hard security with regional cooperation to maintain peace and counterbalance adversarial moves.

**GS-4:**

4. "Ethical governance requires not just rules, but also the right intent and institutional culture." Discuss this statement in light of recent governance failures in public institutions. (15M)

**Answer:**

**Ethical governance** entails **fairness, transparency, accountability, and responsiveness** in the functioning of public institutions. While rules and laws form the **scaffolding**, their effectiveness depends on **intent and institutional culture**.

**Rules Alone Are Insufficient:**

- **Rule-based systems** can be **manipulated or bypassed** through loopholes.
- Excessive rule dependence often leads to **compliance without conscience** — following the letter but violating the spirit.

**Importance of Right Intent:**

- An officer may **technically comply** with procurement rules but still favour a particular vendor, undermining integrity.
- **Intent anchors decision-making** in the **public interest**, not self-interest.

**Role of Institutional Culture:**

- Institutions like **CAG or EC** are respected not just because of law, but due to **norms of impartiality and ethical precedent**.
- **Toxic institutional cultures** (e.g., shielding corruption or tolerating inefficiency) breed **cynicism and moral disengagement**.

**Examples of Governance Failures:**

- **COVID-19 procurement scams** in some states revealed how rules were flouted due to lack of ethical commitment.
- **Banking frauds** (e.g., PMC Bank) demonstrated regulatory failure despite guidelines being in place.

**Way Forward:**

- Promote **values-based training** in civil services and public institutions.
- Institute **ethical leadership**, whistle-blower protections, and **culture of internal accountability**.
- Institutionalize **code of ethics and conduct**, not just conduct rules.



In essence, **ethical governance is a composite of norms, values, and rules**. Without the moral compass of intent and culture, governance mechanisms become **mechanistic and vulnerable** to misuse.

**Current Affairs (2024–2025):**

**5. In light of increasing deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance and private sector, critically analyse India's regulatory readiness. How can India balance innovation and ethical safeguards? (15M)**

**Answer:**

AI is transforming domains such as **healthcare, education, finance, and governance**. However, its rapid expansion raises **ethical, legal, and socio-economic concerns**.

**India's Current Regulatory Readiness:**

- **No comprehensive AI regulation** exists; governance is fragmented across IT Act, Data Protection laws, and sectoral guidelines.
- The **National Strategy on AI (NITI Aayog, 2018)** is non-binding and lacks enforceable standards.
- Concerns include **bias in algorithms, surveillance misuse, data privacy violations, and job displacement**.

**Challenges in Balancing Innovation and Regulation:**

- **Overregulation** could stifle startups and deter global AI investments.
- **Underregulation** risks unchecked deployment, discrimination, and cyber threats.
- India lacks adequate **testing frameworks, AI sandboxing policies, and ethical oversight bodies**.

**Way Forward:**

- Establish a **National AI Regulatory Authority** for setting ethical benchmarks, testing algorithms, and certifying applications.
- Enact an **AI Bill** with principles of **transparency, accountability, data privacy, and non-discrimination**.
- Promote **AI research in public interest** — especially in agriculture, healthcare, and disaster management.
- Encourage **collaboration with international frameworks** like UNESCO's AI ethics recommendations.

In conclusion, India must build a **regulatory ecosystem that is agile, inclusive, and future-proof**, ensuring AI is an instrument for equity and progress, not exclusion and harm.