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


# DAILY MCQ'S

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**DATE: 23/05/2025 (FRIDAY)**

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



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## **STATIC PART OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS**

**Q1.** Match the Harappan sites with the corresponding significant findings:

- | A. Kalibangan | 1. Evidence of dockyard  
| B. Lothal | 2. Fire altars  
| C. Mohenjodaro | 3. Great Bath  
| D. Dholavira | 4. Water reservoir

Options:

- a) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4  
b) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4  
c) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1  
d) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3

**Answer: a) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4**

**Explanation:**

- **Kalibangan:** Known for fire altars suggesting ritualistic use.
- **Lothal:** Site of a dockyard, indicating maritime trade.
- **Mohenjodaro:** Notable for the Great Bath, likely used for ritual bathing.
- **Dholavira:** Had an advanced water management system, including large reservoirs.

**Q2.** Which of the following best describes 'Winterkill'?

- a) Death of aquatic life due to low temperature and oxygen depletion under ice  
b) A technique of pest control using cold waves  
c) Sudden death of hibernating mammals due to extreme frost  
d) A disease affecting winter crops caused by fungal spores

**Answer: a) Death of aquatic life due to low temperature and oxygen depletion under ice**

**Explanation:**

Winterkill refers to the mass death of fish and aquatic organisms in shallow water bodies during prolonged winter due to oxygen depletion beneath ice cover. It commonly occurs in eutrophic lakes.

**Q3.** Consider the following statements regarding NRI (Non-Resident Indian) accounts:

1. **Non-Resident External(NRE)** accounts are maintained in Indian Rupees and are fully repatriable.
2. **Non-Resident Ordinary(NRO)** accounts are meant for income earned in India and have restricted repatriability.
3. **Foreign Currency Non-Resident(FCNR)** accounts can be maintained in foreign currency and offer protection from exchange rate risk.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:**

- **NRE (Non-Resident External)** accounts: Repatriable, maintained in INR, for income earned abroad.
- **NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary)** accounts: For income earned in India, with limited repatriability.



- **FCNR (Foreign Currency Non-Resident)** accounts: Maintained in foreign currency, shielded from forex risks.

**Q4.** Consider the following statements regarding the veto powers of the President of India:

1. The President has the power of absolute veto.
2. The President can exercise suspensive veto except on Money Bills.
3. The President of India has pocket veto power.
4. The President can return a Money Bill for reconsideration.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

**Explanation:**

- **Absolute Veto:** Withholding assent to bills (usually private member bills or state bills reserved by the Governor).
- **Suspensive Veto:** Can be applied to ordinary bills but not Money Bills.
- **Pocket Veto:** President can withhold the bill indefinitely without any time limit.
- **Money Bills:** Cannot be returned for reconsideration (Statement 4 is incorrect).

**Q5. Assertion-Reason Type**

**Assertion (A):** The Pandya dynasty had active maritime trade with the Roman Empire during the Sangam age.

**Reason (R):** The port of Korkai was a prominent centre of pearl fishing and trade under the Pandyas.

- 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 **Pandya dynasty** thrived during the **Sangam period** and engaged in maritime trade, especially with **Rome**. **Korkai**, the early capital of the Pandyas, was well-known for its **pearl fisheries**, which played a crucial role in their overseas trade. Thus, R explains A accurately.



## **CURRENT AFFAIRS PART**

**Q1.** Consider the following statements:

1. **CemHack for Green Infra** is a global coalition led by UNEP to decarbonize the cement and concrete sector through AI-powered emissions monitoring.
2. India is among the top five global contributors to the CemHack initiative and has committed to net-zero cement production by 2040.

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: a) 1 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **CemHack initiative**, launched in association with UNEP and other partners, aims to support the cement and concrete sectors to adopt low-carbon innovations, including digital and AI-based tools for emission reduction.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While India is a participant, the claim of it being in the top five contributors or committing to net-zero cement production by 2040 is not officially affirmed. India's cement industry is exploring decarbonization but has not committed to such a timeline under CemHack.

**Q2. Which of the following best describes the objective of the Amrit Bharat Railway Stations scheme?**

- a) To modernize selected railway stations by focusing on green certification, carbon pricing, and PPP investment
- b) To develop stations as city-centre hubs with long-term master plans integrating multimodal transport and green initiatives
- c) To privatize railway stations under the National Monetization Pipeline
- d) To outsource station management to private contractors for revenue maximization

**Answer: b) To develop stations as city-centre hubs with long-term master plans integrating multimodal transport and green initiatives**

**Explanation:**

The **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme** aims at transforming 1300+ railway stations across India into modern city-centre hubs, with a **long-term master plan**, prioritizing **multimodal connectivity**, green building norms, accessibility, and sustainability. It does **not involve privatization or monetization directly**, but rather public-driven infrastructure enhancement.

**Q3.** Consider the following statements:

1. "Sagar Bhavan" will serve as the permanent headquarters of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
2. "Polar Bhavan" is intended to coordinate India's Arctic and Antarctic research efforts under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
3. Both facilities aim to strengthen India's maritime and polar research under the "Blue Economy" framework of the Deep Ocean Mission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only



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

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

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** **Sagar Bhavan** is associated with maritime diplomacy and will act as a maritime hub under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **not INCOIS**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Polar Bhavan** is proposed to coordinate polar activities, including those of the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Both facilities align with India's growing emphasis on **Blue Economy** and **polar research** capacities under missions like **Deep Ocean Mission**.

**Q4.** Consider the following statements about the 'Ideas4LiFE' initiative:

1. It was launched by NITI Aayog as part of the Mission LiFE framework proposed by India at COP26.
2. The initiative invites citizens to contribute behavioral nudges and sustainable lifestyle solutions at the local level.
3. Ideas4LiFE exclusively targets urban youth to reduce their personal carbon footprints.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** **Ideas4LiFE** is part of India's global campaign for **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, which was proposed at **COP26** by India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It aims to **crowdsource ideas** from the public to promote **climate-conscious behaviors**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The initiative is **not limited to urban youth**; it targets **all citizens**, including rural and older populations, to instill behavioral change toward sustainability.

**Q5.** Consider the following statements regarding the **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)**:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization under the ASEAN Charter to promote productivity growth in Asia-Pacific.
2. India is a founding member of the APO and hosts the Centre of Excellence on IT for Productivity.
3. APO conducts the Productivity Databook annually in collaboration with the Japan Productivity Center.
4. The recent APO Ministerial Meeting adopted the "New Productivity Paradigm" focusing on inclusivity, innovation, and sustainability.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: b) 2, 3 and 4 only**

**Explanation:**



- **Statement 1 is incorrect: APO is NOT under ASEAN.** It is an **independent intergovernmental organization** founded in **1961** to promote productivity in the Asia-Pacific, but it is **not linked to ASEAN structurally**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India is a founding member and hosts **APO Centre of Excellence on IT for Productivity**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Productivity Databook** is an annual flagship publication by APO and **Japan Productivity Center**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The **latest ministerial meeting adopted a "New Productivity Paradigm"** that shifts focus from purely economic metrics to include **well-being, inclusivity, and sustainability**.



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

**GS-1:**

**Q1.** Discuss the challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities in accessing affordable and inclusive housing in urban India. Suggest policy measures to address these challenges in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. (15 Marks)

**Sample Answer:**

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) constitute about 2.21% of India's population (Census 2011), yet their access to inclusive and affordable housing remains inadequate, especially in urban areas.

**Challenges:**

1. **Physical Inaccessibility:** Most urban housing lacks ramps, tactile paving, Braille signage, or elevators compliant with accessibility norms.
2. **Policy Gaps:** Despite the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mandating "universal design," enforcement in urban planning remains weak.
3. **Affordability Issues:** PwDs often face economic marginalization due to limited employment opportunities, making it difficult to afford housing in urban areas.
4. **Discriminatory Practices:** Private landlords and housing societies may refuse tenancy to persons with disabilities, either due to stigma or perceived inconvenience.
5. **Lack of Institutional Support:** There is minimal provision of assisted-living or community-based housing models catering to severe or multiple disabilities.

**Policy Measures:**

- **Enforcement of Universal Design:** Ensure strict implementation of the Harmonised Guidelines for Barrier-Free Built Environment (CPWD, 2021).
- **Dedicated Housing Quota:** Enforce and expand reservation under schemes like PMAY-Urban for PwDs, including retrofitting grants.
- **Incentives to Developers:** Provide tax breaks or FAR bonuses to private builders integrating inclusive design in housing.
- **Rental Vouchers:** Introduce rental subsidy schemes tailored for low-income PwDs in metro cities.
- **Community Housing Models:** Encourage NGOs and cooperatives to develop assisted living facilities with government support.

**Conclusion:**

To uphold the dignity and rights of PwDs, urban housing policy must transition from token inclusivity to systemic integration. Implementing accessible infrastructure with an inclusive mindset is vital to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11—"Housing for all."

**GS-2:**

**Q2.** Discuss the significance of leveraging technology such as AI-based CCTV analysis for improving law enforcement. What ethical and operational concerns arise in this context, and how can they be addressed? (15 Marks)

**Sample Answer:**

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)'s National Hackathon on CCTV Solutions is a step toward integrating technology with policing. With over 100 million CCTV cameras deployed in India, real-time data processing can greatly enhance law enforcement efficiency.





**Significance:**

1. **Enhanced Surveillance:** AI-driven analysis of CCTV footage helps in real-time threat detection, facial recognition, crowd monitoring, and crime pattern analysis.
2. **Investigation Support:** Footage analysis aids in reconstructing crime scenes, tracing suspects, and identifying repeat offenders.
3. **Resource Optimization:** Automating surveillance reduces manpower burdens and response time.

**Ethical and Operational Concerns:**

- **Privacy Invasion:** Blanket surveillance may infringe on the right to privacy (K.S. Puttaswamy judgment, 2017).
- **Bias in Algorithms:** AI systems may reflect societal biases, leading to over-policing of marginalized communities.
- **Data Security:** Breaches of CCTV data can endanger sensitive public and private information.
- **Lack of Regulation:** Absence of a data protection law compounds misuse risks.

**Mitigation Measures:**

- **Legal Framework:** Enact a data protection law governing storage, usage, and oversight of surveillance data.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Maintain audit trails and oversight mechanisms involving independent bodies.
- **Algorithmic Audits:** Regularly test AI systems for fairness, accuracy, and transparency.
- **Public Awareness:** Citizens should be informed of surveillance coverage and recourse mechanisms.

**Conclusion:**

While AI-based CCTV systems can revolutionize policing, their deployment must be guided by constitutional values. Balancing security with civil liberties is essential to uphold democratic integrity.

**GS-3:**

**Q3.** *Examine the role of misinformation during times of conflict. What mechanisms can be institutionalized in India to ensure factual integrity in conflict narratives, especially in the digital era?* (15 Marks)

**Sample Answer:**

In the age of instant communication, misinformation becomes a strategic weapon during conflicts. During incidents like **Operation Sindoor** or Pulwama-Balakot strikes, false narratives flooded media spaces, shaping public opinion and state responses.

**Role of Misinformation:**

- **Propaganda Tool:** States and non-state actors manipulate facts to build nationalistic fervor and delegitimize the adversary.
- **Collapse of Objective Journalism:** Media outlets, under pressure or alignment with state narratives, may abandon verification protocols.
- **Digital Amplification:** Social media accelerates the spread of doctored visuals, deepfakes, and unverified claims.

**Implications:**

- Undermines democratic accountability
- Hampers informed public debate
- Exacerbates international tensions and domestic unrest

**Institutional Mechanisms Needed:**





1. **Conflict-Time Media Protocols:** Mandate real-time fact-checking units in PIB and Defence Ministry during military escalations.
2. **Legal Safeguards:** Introduce fast-track penalties for platforms that propagate misinformation with mala fide intent.
3. **Digital Literacy Campaigns:** Educate citizens on verifying sources and resisting clickbait propaganda.
4. **International Collaboration:** Coordinate with tech giants and global fact-checkers to remove cross-border disinformation quickly.
5. **Ombudsman for Media Ethics:** Create an independent statutory body to oversee wartime reporting and issue directives.

**Conclusion:**

Truth is often the first casualty in war. Institutionalizing transparency, media responsibility, and digital resilience is essential for safeguarding public trust and democratic discourse during conflict.

**GS-4:**

**Q4.** *You are a District Magistrate in a flood-affected area where persons with disabilities (PwDs) are unable to access relief camps due to lack of transportation and infrastructure. The local contractor refuses to modify ramps citing additional costs. Your political superior suggests ignoring this issue to meet deadlines. How would you address this ethical dilemma? Justify your response with ethical principles. (15 Marks)*

**Sample Answer:**

**Ethical Dilemma:**

Conflict between administrative expediency (meeting deadlines) and ethical obligation to ensure equity and dignity for PwDs.

**Stakeholders:**

- PwDs in distress
- Local administration
- Contractor
- Political leadership
- Broader public

**Core Ethical Issues:**

- **Justice and Equity:** Ensuring equal access to disaster relief
- **Integrity:** Upholding constitutional and legal mandates (Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016)
- **Empathy and Compassion:** Addressing the specific vulnerabilities of PwDs
- **Accountability:** Balancing administrative deadlines with moral obligations

**Actions I Would Take:**

1. **Invoke Emergency Powers:** Direct the contractor to make immediate temporary accessibility arrangements under Disaster Management Act, 2005.
2. **Use Local Resources:** Engage local volunteers and NGOs to assist in transportation.
3. **Ensure Legal Compliance:** Remind political superiors and contractor of legal obligations under the RPwD Act.
4. **Transparent Communication:** Document all decisions and communicate publicly to maintain accountability.
5. **Long-Term Institutional Memory:** Recommend inclusion of PwD-resilient infrastructure in future disaster plans.

**Ethical Justification:**

Gandhian principle of "Antyodaya"—upliftment of the weakest—demands prioritizing



PwDs. As per **civil service values** (Second ARC), integrity, empathy, and commitment to public service must override pressures of hierarchy or haste.

**Current Affairs:**

**Q5.** *Recently discovered Guttala Sculptural Inscription offers new insights into medieval temple architecture and patronage in South India. Discuss the archaeological significance of such inscriptions in reconstructing regional histories. (15 Marks)*

**Sample Answer:**

The recent discovery of the **Guttala Sculptural Inscription** in Andhra Pradesh is a significant addition to South India's epigraphical heritage. Believed to date back to the 13th–14th century CE, the inscription includes depictions of donors and a sculptural panel, offering valuable historical data.

**Archaeological Significance:**

1. **Socio-Economic Insights:** The inscription names donors, shedding light on local elite participation in temple construction—indicative of **community-funded architecture**.
2. **Architectural Continuity:** Iconography and stylistic elements help track transitions from **Chalukyan to Vijayanagara** styles.
3. **Language and Script Evolution:** Written in Telugu-Kannada script, it helps linguists and historians understand regional script transformation and vernacular use.
4. **Religious Syncretism:** Inscriptions may reveal shifts in patronage between Shaivism, Vaishnavism, or Jainism in local societies.
5. **Political Narratives:** Names of rulers or feudatories involved in temple endowments help reconstruct **micro-histories** that supplement broader dynastic chronicles.

**Conclusion:**

Such inscriptions bridge the gap between textual history and lived experience. In a country where oral histories often dominate, sculptural inscriptions like Guttala's offer rare, durable records of cultural, religious, and social evolution, making them invaluable to archaeological and historical scholarship.