

NDANA

National Defence Academy & Naval Academy

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- ✓ Geography
- ✓ History
- ✓ Economics
- ✓ Political Science
- ✓ General Awareness

- ✓ Precise Chapterwise Theory
- ✓ Solved Examples
- ✓ Practice Exercises with Solutions
- ✓ Handpicked PYQs Covered Till Date
- ✓ Chapter-Wise Weightage Analysis of Past 5 Years Papers

As Per Latest
UPSC Exam Pattern



NDA Past 5 Year Paper Analysis

	2021-I	2021-II	2022-I	2022-II	2023-I	2023-II	2024-I	2024-II	2025-I	2025-II
HISTORY	13	10	13	18	15	13	16	10	13	13
1. Ancient India	1	2	1	7	7	5	6	1	4	02
2. Medieval India	2	1	3	3	1	3	3	2	3	03
3. Modern India	7	4	6	8	6	2	5	6	6	07
4. World History	3	3	3	0	1	3	2	1	0	01
	2021-I	2021-II	2022-I	2022-II	2023-I	2023-II	2024-I	2024-II	2025-I	2025-II
GEOGRAPHY	19	20	12	17	22	20	20	20	16	20
1. World & Physical Geography	12	9	5	13	20	9	17	12	11	13
2. Geography of India	7	11	7	4	2	11	3	8	5	07
	2021-I	2021-II	2022-I	2022-II	2023-I	2023-II	2024-I	2024-II	2025-I	2025-II
POLITICAL SCIENCE & ECONOMICS	4	9	17	6	2	4	3	10	6	05
1. Indian Polity	3	6	9	2	1	2	2	6	5	03
2. Indian Economy	1	3	8	4	1	2	1	4	1	02
	2021-I	2021-II	2022-I	2022-II	2023-I	2023-II	2024-I	2024-II	2025-I	2025-II
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE	14	11	12	11	12	12	11	11	17	12
1. General Knowledge	5	8	4	11	2	7	3	3	7	2
2. Current Affairs	9	3	8	0	10	5	8	8	10	10

SYLLABUS

History, Freedom Movement etc.

A broad survey of Indian History, with emphasis on Culture and Civilisation.

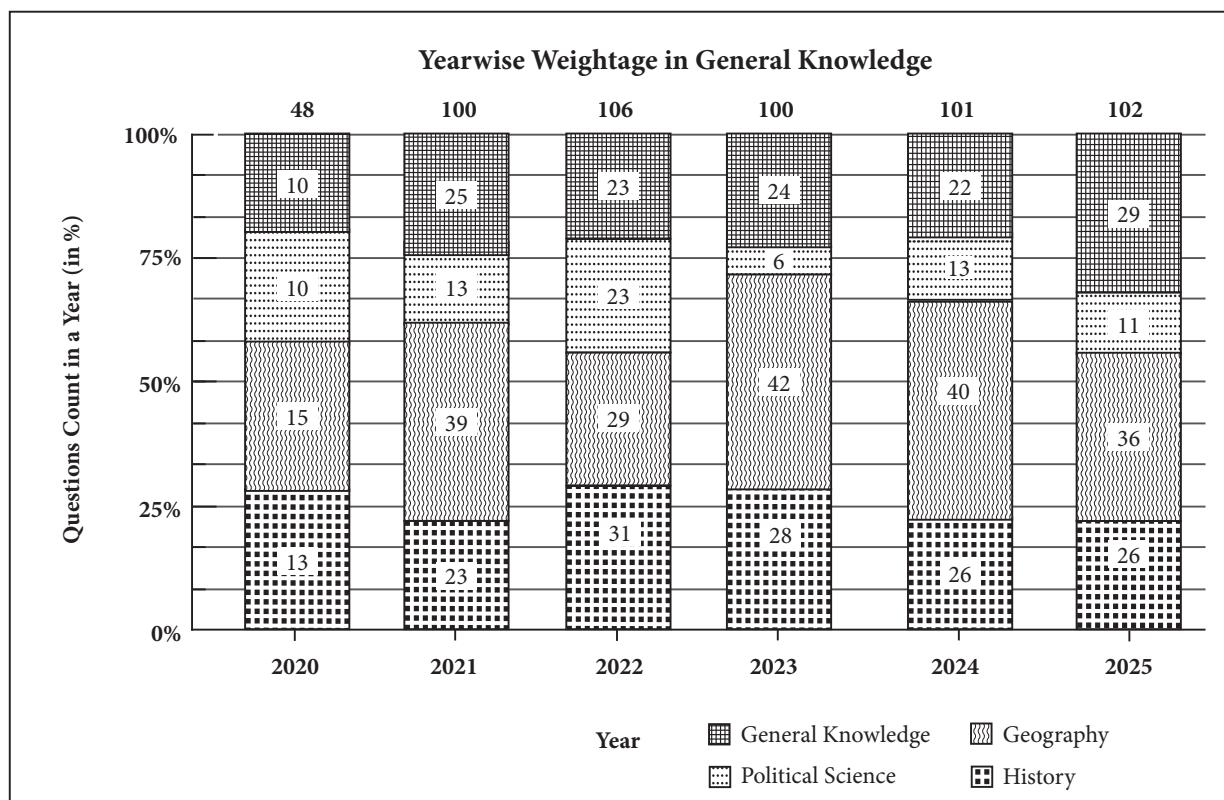
Freedom Movement in India.

Elementary study of Indian Constitution and Administration. Elementary knowledge of Five Year Plans of India. Panchayati Raj, Co-operatives and Community Development. Bhoojan, Sarvodaya, National Integration and Welfare State, Basic Teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

Forces shaping the modern world; Renaissance, Exploration and Discovery; War of American Independence. French Revolution, Industrial Revolution and Russian Revolution. Impact of Science and Technology on Society. Concept of one World, United Nations, Panchsheel, Democracy, Socialism and Communism. Role of India in the present world.

The Earth, its shape and size. Latitudes and Longitudes, Concept of time. International Date Line. Movements of Earth and their effects. Origin of Earth. Rocks and their classification; Weathering—Mechanical and Chemical, Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Ocean Currents and Tides Atmosphere and its composition; Temperature and Atmospheric Pressure, Planetary Winds, Cyclones and Anti-cyclones; Humidity; Condensation and Precipitation; Types of Climate, Major Natural regions of the World. Regional Geography of India—Climate, Natural vegetation. Mineral and Power resources; location and distribution of agricultural and Industrial activities. Important Sea ports and main sea, land and air routes of India. Main items of Imports and Exports of India.

Current Events—Knowledge of Important events that have happened in India in the recent years. Current important world events.



NDA TOPPER AIR-1 INTERVIEW WITH PW



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CHAPTER

1

Indus Valley Civilizations

INTRODUCTION

- The Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) is also known as the Harappan Civilization.
- The Early Harappan phase began from 3300 to 2600 BCE, the Mature Harappan phase began from 2600 to 1900 BCE, and the Late Harappan phase began from 1900 to 1300 BCE.
- Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) covers the geographical extent from Sutkagendor (Balochistan) in the west to Alamgirpur (Western UP) in the east and from Manda (Jammu Kashmir) in the north to Daimabad (Maharashtra) in the south.

- The Indus Valley Civilization was one of the earliest urban civilizations, contemporary with Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China.
- It is also known by the name of “**Harappan Civilization**” because one of the largest sites called Harappa was excavated first in 1921 by Daya Ram Sahni. It is also called the ‘Bronze Age Civilization’ because it flourished during the Bronze Age (around 3000 BCE – 1000 BCE).
- John Marshall, the first director-general of Archaeological Survey of India, announced the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization in 1924.

Important Sites of IVC

Site	Excavated by	Location	Important Findings
Amri	N.G Majumdar in 1935	On the bank of Indus river	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antelope evidence
Banawali	R.S Bisht in 1974	Hisar district of Haryana	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beads• Barley• Evidence of both pre-Harappan and Harappan culture
Chanhudaro	N.G Majumdar in 1931	Sindh on the Indus river	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bead makers shop• Inkpot• Foot print of a dog chasing a cat
Dholavira	R.S Bisht in 1985	Gujarat in Rann of Kachchh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water harnessing system• Water reservoir
Harappa	Daya Ram Sahini in 1921	Situated on the bank of river Ravi in Montgomery district of Punjab (Pakistan).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two rows of six granaries.• Workmen quarters,• 2 sandstone statues depicting human anatomy,• Dog attacking deer,• Little bullock carts (ekkas)• Only sites which yield the evidence of coffin burial• Rigveda Mention it as a Hariyupia
Kalibangan	Ghose in 1953	Rajasthan on the bank of Ghaggar river	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire altar• Camel bones• Wooden plough

Site	Excavated by	Location	Important Findings
Lothal	R.Rao in 1953	Gujarat on Bhogva river near Gulf of Cambay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First manmade port • Dockyard • Rice husk • Fire altars
Mohenjodaro (Mound of Dead)	R.D Banerjee in 1922	Situated on the Bank of river Indus in Larkana district of Punjab (Pakistan).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The great Bath, • A large granary, • A piece of woven cotton, • Bronze dancing girl, • Seal of Pashupati Mahadeva, • Steatite statue of a bearded man, believed to represent a priest. • Evidence of horse for superficial level, • Bronze buffalo • Probable the city decline due to flooding • Granary • Bronze dancing girl • Seal of Pasupathi Mahadeva • Steatite statue of beard man • A piece of woven cotton
Surkotada	J.P Joshi in 1964	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bones of horses and beads.
Sutkagendor	Stein in 1929	In southwestern Balochistan province, Pakistan on Dast river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A trade point between Harappa and Babylon

Town Planning and Structures

- One of the most striking features of this civilization is that it was an urban civilization.
- The town was divided into two parts:
 - Citadel:** It was the area where the ruling class and the priests lived. Chanhudaro (Sindh) was the only urban town that did not have a citadel. Dholavira was the only town divided into three parts and had a Middletown
 - Lower Town:** Comprised commoners including merchants, traders, artisans, etc.
- Houses made of burnt bricks and paved streets reflect their advancement.
- Outstanding knowledge of drainage systems and rectangular grid planning with perfect alignment at 90 degrees proves that they mastered civil engineering.
- Great granary of Mohenjodaro, Great Bath of Mohenjodaro, assembly halls, the Lothal Dockyard and the creation of artificial lakes to store rainwater are some of the examples.

Agriculture

- It was an agricultural economy.
- They grew pulses, wheat, barley, cereals, dates, peas, melons, Sesame and mustard.
- Animals like buffalos, sheep, goats, pigs, elephants, dogs, and cats were domesticated. Humpless bulls or unicorns were also considered important.

- Sites like Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Lothal had great granaries for storing grains to be secured against disasters or rats.

Trade and Economy

- The Indus valley people relied upon the traditional system of Barter.
- They had their own developed weighing system based upon the multiple of 16. The weights were made up of Chert stone. They followed both binary and decimal systems. Cubical weights and ivory scales recovered from various sites like Lothal, Harappa, Mohenjodaro, and Chanhudaro give us evidence of the measurement system.
- Precious stones like lapis lazuli, jade and turquoise, minerals like lead, copper, silver, gold, metals, seashells, pearls and beads were brought down from the lands of Afghanistan, Iran, China, Mesopotamia and Egyptian civilization.

Arts, Crafts and Writing

- Harappans knew the art of bronze casting and wax technique.
- The site of Daimabad yields the best examples of metal casting techniques.
- Various terracotta sculptures are found from the sites in Gujarat and Kalibangan.
- Seals made of steatite, agate, chert, copper, faience and terracotta with images of bulls, rhinoceros, tigers, unicorns, bison, buffalo, etc., have been excavated.

- These seals were used for commercial purposes, and every seal has a pictographic script.
- This pictographic script is the Harappan script which is still not deciphered.
- High degree of standardization in seals, pottery, bricks (1:2:4 ratio), and weights indicates a strong central authority or state-level control.

Religion and Belief Practices

- A famous seal depicts Pashupati in which various animals are depicted like rhino, buffalo, tiger and an elephant, and two deers. God is represented with three heads and horns and is believed to be the image of Pashupati. The Pashupati seal reflects the religion of the Harappan people.

- Worship of nature, phallic and yonic worship, belief in ghosts and spirits and belief in life after death were a part of beliefs and practices of the Indus people. We find various evidence that proves these practices. Evidence is in the form of seals, sculptures, tools and pottery.

Decline of the Indus Valley Civilization

- The civilization started declining around 1800 B.C. The civilization ended slowly and mixed up with other cultures.
- Various historians have given different theories to reason the decline of this great civilization.
- Theories, like that of climate change, Aryan invasion (which is no longer valid), drying up of river Saraswati and natural calamities like earthquakes, disturbed rainfall patterns and a shift in river courses, have been given.

SOLVED EXAMPLES

1. What was the primary occupation of the Harappan people?
 - (a) Agriculture
 - (b) Nomadism
 - (c) Fishing
 - (d) Hunting
- Ans. (a) The primary occupation of the Harappan people was agriculture. Major crops grown are wheat, barley, rice, mustard and cotton.
2. Where do we find the evidence of a ploughed field?
 - (a) Sutkagendor
 - (b) Amri
 - (c) Kalibangan
 - (d) None of the above
- Ans. (c) The evidence of a ploughed field was gathered from Kalibangan.
3. Which Harappan site does not have a citadel?
 - (a) Kalibangan
 - (b) Lothal
 - (c) Chanhudaro
 - (d) Indian Statistical Institute
- Ans. (c) Chanhudaro is located in the Sindh province of Pakistan near the banks of the Indus river. This is the only Harappan city that does not have a citadel. An inkpot was also discovered from the site.
4. Which Harappan site is not located in the state of Gujarat?
 - (a) Banawali
 - (b) Dholavira
 - (c) Surkotada
 - (d) Lothal
- Ans. (a) Banawali is one of the most important archaeological sites located in Haryana. It is said that the site was situated on the banks of the mythical river, Saraswati.
5. Which of the following sites is not situated in India?
 - (a) Dholavira
 - (b) Rakhigarhi
 - (c) Harappa
 - (d) Banawali
- Ans. (c) Harappa is one of the sites not situated in India. It is situated in Punjab, Pakistan, on the banks of the river Ravi.
6. In which year was the Indus valley civilization discovered?
 - (a) 1918
 - (b) 1919
 - (c) 1920
 - (d) 1921

- Ans. (d) Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni excavated Harappa in 1921.
7. Which of the sites was also known as the "Mound of the Dead"?
 - (a) Harappa
 - (b) Mohenjodaro
 - (c) Chanhudaro
 - (d) Lothal
- Ans. (b) Mohenjodaro is also known as the mound of the dead. Mohenjodaro was announced as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the year 1980.
8. Who first excavated the site of Mohenjodaro?
 - (a) Rakhdadas Bandopadhyay
 - (b) R.C. Joshi
 - (c) R.N. Dikshit
 - (d) S.R. Rao
- Ans. (a) The site of Mohenjodaro was first excavated by Rakhdadas Bandopadhyay or famously known as R.D. Banerji in 1922.
9. Which of the following Harappan sites lie on the Tropic of Cancer?
 - (a) Lothal
 - (b) Dholavira
 - (c) Rakhigarhi
 - (d) Alamgirpur
- Ans. (b) Dholavira lies on the Tropic of Cancer. It is located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, the Great Rann of Kutch.
10. Which of the following sites is located on the banks of Dasht River?
 - (a) Sutkagendor
 - (b) Banawali
 - (c) Surkotada
 - (d) Mohenjodaro
- Ans. (a) Sutkagendor is the site located on the banks of the Dasht River. The site is situated on the Makran coast near Gwadar in Balochistan, Pakistan. Sir Marc Aurel Stein excavated it in 1929.

EXERCISE

1. Indus Valley Civilisation is also known as Harappan culture because:
 - (a) The Harappa site is six times larger than the Mohenjodaro site.
 - (b) The Indus Valley Civilisation is considered the elementary/initial stage of Vedic culture and Harappa is believed to be the same as Harappa mentioned in the Vedas.
 - (c) Harappa was the first site excavated in the Indus Valley.
 - (d) The most important evidence of the achievements of this civilisation have been excavated from Harappa.
2. The Indus Valley Civilisation is known as Pre-Aryan Civilisation because of the evidence of:
 - (a) Script
 - (b) Copper
 - (c) Pottery
 - (d) Art
3. Rice cultivation is associated with Harappan site of:
 - (a) Kalibangan
 - (b) Ropar
 - (c) Harappa
 - (d) Lothal
4. The Indus Valley people knew the use of:
 - (a) Gold, silver, copper, bronze but not iron
 - (b) Copper, iron, gold but not bronze
 - (c) Silver, lead, iron but not gold
 - (d) Gold, tin, bronze but not copper
5. Traces of which of the following have not been found in the Indus Civilisation?
 - (a) Mustard
 - (b) Sesamum
 - (c) Barley Mustard
 - (d) Sugarcane
6. Mohenjodaro is also known as:
 - (a) Mound of the Living
 - (b) Mound of the Survivors
 - (c) Mound of the Great
 - (d) Mound of the Dead
7. With reference to Indus Valley Civilisation, consider the following animal(s):
 1. Bull
 2. Elephant
 3. Rhinoceros

The figure/figures of which of the above animals is/are found on the Indus seals?

 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) 2 and 3
 - (d) All of these
8. Consider the following persons:
 1. John Marshall
 2. SR Rao
 3. RD Banerji
 4. Dayaram Sahni

Among these were associated with the first excavations at Harappa and Mohenjodaro?

 - (a) 1, 2 and 3
 - (b) 2, 3 and 4
 - (c) 1, 3 and 4
 - (d) 1, 2 and 4
9. The God with three heads and horns, surrounded by animals, represented on a seal from Mohenjodaro is said to be:
 - (a) Indra
 - (b) Varuna
 - (c) Vishnu
 - (d) Pashupati
10. During the Indus Valley Civilisation period, the dominant number used for weights and measures was:
 - (a) 12
 - (b) 8
 - (c) 6
 - (d) 16
11. Which of the following can be said to be the beliefs and practices of the Indus people?
 1. Belief in life after death
 2. Belief in ghosts and spirits
 3. Phallic and Yonic worship
 4. Worship of nature

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

 - (a) 1, 2 and 4
 - (b) 1, 3 and 4
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4
 - (d) All of these
12. In which of the following Harappan sites was “The Great Bath” discovered?
 - (a) Mohenjodaro
 - (b) Harappa
 - (c) Sutkagendor
 - (d) Ropar
13. What is the name of the Harappan script?
 - (a) Kharosthi
 - (b) Sanskrit
 - (c) Boustrophedon/pictographic
 - (d) Brahmi
14. What material was used to construct houses during Harappan time?
 - (a) Brick
 - (b) Clay
 - (c) Cement
 - (d) Marble
15. A seal depicting “Mother Goddess” with a plant growing from the womb has been discovered from the following Harappan sites?
 - (a) Dholavira
 - (b) Mohenjodaro
 - (c) Harappa
 - (d) Rakhigarhi
16. Which Harappan site yields the practice of bead making?
 - (a) Mohenjodaro
 - (b) Harappa
 - (c) Chanhudaro
 - (d) Dimapur
17. Which of the following Harappan structures was the largest?
 - (a) The Great Bath
 - (b) The Great Granary
 - (c) The Assembly Hall
 - (d) The Great Market
18. The earliest evidence of agriculture in the Indian subcontinent has been obtained from the following sites?
 - (a) Mehrgarh
 - (b) Harappa
 - (c) Chanhudaro
 - (d) Lothal

19. Which of the following civilisations was contemporary to Harappan civilization?
 (a) Persian civilization (b) Maya civilization
 (c) Mesopotamian civilization (d) Inca civilization

20. The evidence of Lapis Lazuli has been found from which of the following sites?
 (a) Bhirrana (b) Dholavira
 (c) Lothal (d) Rangpur

21. The famous figure of the Dancing girl was made up of-
 (a) Wood (b) Bronze
 (c) Copper (d) Terracotta

22. One of the recently excavated Harappan sites yielded various plant remains. Name the site.
 (a) Lurewala (b) Balu
 (c) Ganweriwala (d) Rakhigarhi

23. The evidence of black bangles has been found from which of the following Harappan sites?
 (a) Kalibangan (b) Dholavira
 (c) Lothal (d) Rakhigarhi

24. What was the red quartz used by the Harappan people known as?
 (a) Lapis lazuli (b) Carnelian
 (c) Feldspar (d) Agate

25. Terracotta toy carts discovered from various Harappan sites represented which of the following animals?
 (a) Domesticated dogs (b) Cows
 (c) Rhinoceros (d) Domesticated bulls

26. Where was the terracotta plough found?
 (a) Rakhigarhi (b) Lothal
 (c) Banawali (d) Dholavira

27. R.D. Banerji discovered which of the following sites?
 (a) Rakhigarhi (b) Harappa
 (c) Mohenjodaro (d) Lothal

28. What were the seals discovered from various Harappan sites used for?
 (a) Ritualistic purposes (b) Religious purposes
 (c) Commercial purpose (d) All of the above

29. The Alamgirpur site is located on the banks of which of the following rivers?
 (a) Hindon (b) Son
 (c) Ravi (d) Saraswati

30. Which of the following Harappan sites yielded horse remains?
 (a) Alamgirpur (b) Surkotada
 (c) Banawali (d) Ropar

31. Ivory scale was discovered from which of the following sites?
 (a) Dholavira (b) Lothal
 (c) Rangpur (d) Alamgirpur

32. Which of the following deities were not worshipped by the Harappan people?
 (a) Shiva (b) Mother goddess
 (c) Vishnu (d) Peepal tree

33. Which type of burial is not found at Mohenjodaro?
 (a) Post-cremation burial (b) Fractional burial
 (c) Double burial (d) Complete burial

34. Which of the following sites provides the earliest evidence of an earthquake?
 (a) Lothal (b) Kalibangan
 (c) Dholavira (d) Mohenjodaro

35. Where do we find the best drainage system in Harappan civilization?
 (a) Lothal (b) Dholavira
 (c) Kalibangan (d) Mohenjodaro

PAST YEAR QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements about Harappan Culture:
 [2014-II]
 1. The Harappan Culture matured in Sind and Punjab.
 2. It spread from there to Southwards and Eastwards
 3. The area, where it spread, was bigger than Egypt and Mesopotamia.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. In the Mesopotamian records, which one of the following terms was used for the Indus Valley (Harappans)? [2017-II]
 (a) Dilmun (b) Meluha
 (c) Magan (d) Failaka

3. Harappan crafts display an amazing degree of standardization. According to Kenoyer, what was the possible reason for such an achievement? [2018-II]
 (a) Availability of raw materials at local level
 (b) Centralized markets for crafts
 (c) Specialized training centres for craftsmen
 (d) State control

4. Which one of the following Harappan sites was a specialised centre for making shell objects? [2021-I]
 (a) Lothal (b) Balakot
 (c) Amri (d) Kot Diji

5. At which among the following Harappan sites are fire altars found? [2022-II]
 (a) Kalibangan (b) Harappa
 (c) Mohenjo-daro (d) Rakhi Garhi

6. Consider the following statements:

[2023-II]

1. Terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali (Haryana).
2. There is evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan associated with the mature phase of the Harappan civilization.

3. The ploughed field at Kalibangan had two sets of furrows crossing at right angles to each other suggesting two different crops were grown together in it.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

(a) 1, 2 and 3	(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only	(d) None of the above

ANSWER KEY

Exercise

1. (c)	2. (b)	3. (d)	4. (a)	5. (d)	6. (d)	7. (d)	8. (c)	9. (d)	10. (d)
11. (d)	12. (a)	13. (c)	14. (a)	15. (b)	16. (c)	17. (b)	18. (a)	19. (c)	20. (a)
21. (b)	22. (b)	23. (a)	24. (b)	25. (d)	26. (c)	27. (c)	28. (d)	29. (a)	30. (b)
31. (b)	32. (c)	33. (c)	34. (b)	35. (a)					

Past Year Questions

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (a)



EXPLANATION



Exercise

1. (c) The Indus Valley civilization is also known as the Harappan culture because Harappa was the first site excavated in 1921 by the then excavator Dayaram Sahni.
2. (b) The Indus Valley Civilisation is known as Pre-Aryan Civilisation because of the evidence of copper.
3. (d) Rice cultivation is associated with the Harappan site of Lothal.
4. (a) The Indus Valley people knew the use of gold, silver, copper, bronze but not iron.
5. (d) Traces of barley, sesamum and mustard can be found in the Indus Valley Civilisation.
6. (d) Mohenjodaro means “the dead mound”. Mohenjodaro is also known as the mound of the dead.
7. (d) Various figures of animals like bulls, elephants and rhinoceros are found on the Indus seals.
8. (c) John Marshall, RD Banerji and Dayaram Sahni are all associated with the first excavations at Harappa and Mohenjodaro.
9. (d) A famous seal of Pashupati is famous in which various animals are depicted like rhino, buffalo, tiger, an elephant, and two deers. God is represented with three heads and horns and is believed to be the image of Pashupati.

10. (d) During the Indus Valley Civilisation period, the dominant number used for weights and measures was 16.
11. (d) Worship of nature, phallic and yonic worship, belief in ghosts and spirits and belief in life after death were a part of the beliefs and practices of the Indus people. We find various evidence that proves these practices. Evidence is in the form of seals, sculptures, tools and pottery.
12. (a) Mohenjodaro is one of the Harappan sites where “The Great Bath” was discovered in 1920.
13. (c) The Harappan script is a Boustrophedon/pictographic script.
14. (a) The Indus Valley civilization housing structure was an advanced one and involved the usage of pucca bricks, covered with a flat roof.
15. (b) The seal of “Mother Goddess” was discovered from the Mohenjodaro site of the Harappan Civilization.
16. (c) Chanhudaro has been the major manufacturing site of carnelian beads, shell bangles, steatite seals and metal works. Bead making factory was found on this site.
17. (b) The largest Harappan structure was the Great Granary.

18. (a) Mehrgarh is a neolithic archaeological site situated in the Balochistan area of Pakistan.

19. (c) Mesopotamian civilization was contemporary to Harappan civilization.

20. (a) A great deal of lapis lazuli artefacts dating to 7570 BC have been discovered from the site of Bhirrana.

21. (b) The famous figure of the Dancing girl was made of bronze which was modelled using the lost-wax casting method.

22. (b) Balu is a small archaeological site belonging to the Indus valley period, located in Haryana. The site has yielded various plant remains like barley, wheat, horse gram, etc.

23. (a) Kalibangan is known for its unique fire altars and its earliest ploughed field. The name “Kalibangan” translates to “black bangles”.

24. (b) Carnelian was the red coloured quartz used by the Harappan people.

25. (d) Terracotta toy carts discovered from various Harappan sites represent the domesticated bulls.

26. (c) The terracotta plough was discovered from Banawali.

27. (c) R.D. Banerji discovered the Indus valley site of Mohenjodaro in 1922.

28. (d) The Harappan seals discovered from almost every Harappan site served ritualistic, religious and commercial purposes. Some say that these seals were used as record keeping for trade and business.

29. (a) Alamgirpur is located in the Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh. It is situated on the banks of Hindon river, one of the tributaries of Yamuna river.

30. (b) Surkotada is a small archaeological site belonging to the Indus valley period located in the state of Gujarat. The site has yielded horse remains.

31. (b) Lothal is one of the most important archaeological sites belonging to the Harappan period. The site has yielded a dockyard along with an ivory scale.

32. (c) Lord Vishnu was not known to the Harappan people. They worshipped shiva, mother goddess and the peepal tree.

33. (c) Double burial is not found at Mohenjodaro.

34. (b) Kalibangan, located in Rajasthan, provides evidence of an earthquake around 2600 BC, which led to an end in the early Harappan phase in the region.

35. (a) Lothal is the most important archaeological site, giving us evidence of the best drainage system.

Past Year Questions

1. (d) The Harappan culture evolved into a major urban civilization that first emerged in Sindh and Punjab. From these regions, it expanded southward and eastward, covering an area of 1,299,600 square kilometers, which was larger than both Pakistan and the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

2. (b) In Mesopotamian records, the term Meluha was used to refer to the Indus Valley (Harappan) civilization. This ancient name is mentioned in various Sumerian and Akkadian texts and is associated with a region known for its trade with Mesopotamia.

3. (d) Kenoyer suggested that state control might have played a role in the high level of standardization in crafts that were important for maintaining the socio-economic or ritual order. These crafts involved the use of non-local raw materials and advanced technologies.

4. (b) Among the given options, Harappan sites specialised centre for making shell object is Balakot. The other site was Nageshwar.

5. (a) Fire altars were found inside some of houses in Kalibangan and Lothal. Fire altars are narrow and raised structures made of bricks mainly for ritualistic purposes.

6. (a) All of the statements are correct.



Solved NDA Paper 2025

1. What is the nickname of the National Men's Hockey Team of Australia ?
 - (a) The Kangaroos
 - (b) The Boomers
 - (c) The Dolphins
 - (d) The Kookaburras
2. Which one of the following organisations has completed 150 years of service to the nation in the year 2025 ?
 - (a) Botanical Survey of India
 - (b) Survey of India
 - (c) India Meteorological Department
 - (d) Press Trust of India
3. Which of the following statements about 'Jalvahak' is/are correct?
 1. It is a newly commissioned naval ship inducted into Indian Navy
 2. It is a major policy for cargo Promotion unveiled by the Government of India

Select the answer using the code given below:

 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. How many rural districts does Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act cover as on 2024-25?
 - (a) 600
 - (b) 740
 - (c) 700
 - (d) 680
5. Under which one of the following initiatives does the NITI Aayog support interested States to establish a State Institution for Transformation (SIT)?
 - (a) NITI for States Platform
 - (b) Bharat Ke Badhte Kadam
 - (c) State Support Mission
 - (d) Aspirational Block Programme
6. Which one of the following Indian States account for the maximum deposits of Bauxite and Chromite?
 - (a) Andhra Pradesh
 - (b) Madhya Pradesh
 - (c) Jharkhand
 - (d) Odisha
7. Consider the following statements with regard to National Technology Day:
 1. It commemorates the momentous events of 11th May 1998, when India conducted successful nuclear tests under Operation Shakti
 2. The official theme for National Technology Day 2025 is 'School to Star'

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
8. Which of the following were added in India as Ramsar Site in the year 2025?
 1. Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary
 2. Udhwa Lake
 3. Rudrasagar Lake
 4. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary

Select the answer using the code given below:

 - (a) 1 and 4
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
9. Consider the following statements about Cricket player Virat Kohli :
 1. He is the only captain to have scored seven double centuries in Test Cricket
 2. He is the only Indian cricketer with most centuries as a captain
 3. He is the first Indian captain to achieve twin centuries on captaincy debut
 4. He holds the record for the most double centuries by an Indian in Test Cricket

Which of the statements given above are correct?

 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
10. Ethereum, Tether, Solana and Cardano are all forms of
 - (a) Crypto currency
 - (b) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Startups
 - (c) Humanoid Robots
 - (d) Medical apps
11. The book 'The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection' was authored by
 - (a) Charles Darwin
 - (b) Carolus Linnaeus
 - (c) Barbara McClintock
 - (d) Copernicus
12. The headquarters of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is located at
 - (a) Switzerland
 - (b) Scotland
 - (c) South Africa
 - (d) Italy

28. Laterite soil in India is rich in which of the following?

- Calcium
- Nitrogen
- Phosphate
- Potash

Select the answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2
- 3 and 4
- 4 only

29. Which of the following statements with reference to crops cultivated in India is/are correct?

- Bajra grows well in sandy and shallow black soils, whereas red and shallow black soil is suited for Ragi
- Bajra is predominantly grown in states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, while Ragi is mainly cultivated in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh

Select the answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

30. Match List-I with List-II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List-I (City)		List-II (Mineral)	
A. Bewar		1. Manganese	
B. Balaghat		2. Mica	
C. Bilaspur		3. Iron-ore	
D. Ballary		4. Bauxite	

Code:

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

31. Which one among the following is NOT a beneficiary state from the Vindhya Power Plant of the NTPC?

- Gujarat
- Goa
- Maharashtra
- Uttar Pradesh

32. Which one among the following is NOT a beneficiary state from the Vindhya Power Plant of the NTPC?

- Gujarat
- Goa
- Maharashtra
- Uttar Pradesh

33. Consider the following pairs with reference to Thermal Power Plants and their location in respective states in India:

Thermal Power Plant	Located in State
1. Panki	— Uttar Pradesh
2. Parli	— Karnataka
3. Vijayawada	— Telangana
4. Vanakbari	— Gujarat

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

34. Who among the following presided over the first session of All India Kisan Sabha in Lucknow in April 1936?

- Sahajananda Saraswati
- R. G. Ranga
- Ram Manohar Lohia
- Jayaprakash Narayan

35. Who among the following founded the 'Self-Respect Movement'?

- Jyotiba Phule
- Swami Vivekananda
- E. V. Ramaswami Naicker
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

36. Chola inscriptions mention several categories of lands. Which one of the following was meant for the maintenance of school?

- Tirunamattukkani
- Shalabhoga
- Vellanvagai
- Pallichandam

37. Which of the following statements about the Home Rule League are correct?

- Lokamanya Tilak set up the Home Rule League at the Bombay Provincial Conference held at Belgaum in April 1916
- Annie Besant announced the formation of Home Rule League in September 1916
- To avoid friction, Tilak's League was to work in Maharashtra (excluding Bombay city), Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar and Besant's League was given charge of the rest of India

Select the answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

38. Which one of the following statements about Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar is NOT correct?

- He was the Principal of Sanskrit College, Calcutta
- He was a Government Inspector of Schools
- He was a Secretary to the Bethune School
- He was the founder of Widow Remarriage Association

39. Match List-I with List-II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List-I (Reformer)		List-II (Social Work/Text)	
A. Vishnu Shastri Pundit		1. Vedic Physics: Scientific Origin of Hinduism	
B. Karsondas Mulji		2. Widow Remarriage Association	
C. Debendranath Tagore		3. Satya Prakash	
D. Raja Ram Mohan Roy		4. Tattvabodhini Sabha	

Code:

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

40. In the Harappan Civilization, traces of canals have been found at

- Banawali
- Lothal
- Shortughai
- Dholavira

41. Arrange the following foreign travellers to India in chronological order, beginning with the earliest:

- Peter Mundy
- Antonio Monserrate
- Afanasi Nikitich Nikitin
- Ibn Battuta

Select the answer using the code given below:

- 2-1-4-3
- 2-3-4-1
- 4-3-2-1
- 3-4-1-2

42. With which of the following was the Bretton Woods System NOT associated

- International Monetary Fund
- Economic recovery after the Second World War
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Establishment of a monetary system based on floating exchange rate

ANSWER KEY

1. (d)	2. (c)	3. (b)	4. (b)	5. (c)	6. (d)	7. (a)	8. (c)	9. (d)	10. (a)
11. (a)	12. (a)	13. (c)	14. (b)	15. (a)	16. (c)	17. (d)	18. (c)	19. (d)	20. (c)
21. (d)	22. (d)	23. (c)	24. (d)	25. (b)	26. (b)	27. (c)	28. (d)	29. (c)	30. (c)
31. (d)	32. (a)	33. (b)	34. (a)	35. (c)	36. (b)	37. (d)	38. (d)	39. (c)	40. (c)
41. (c)	42. (d)	43. (b)	44. (b)	45. (b)	46. (d)	47. (b)	48. (b)	49. (b)	50. (d)

EXPLANATION



1. (d) The National Men's Hockey Team of Australia is nicknamed "**The Kookaburras**." Named after the native Australian bird, the kookaburra, known for its loud, distinctive call.

Symbolizes resilience, agility, and teamwork, reflecting the team's playing style.

The Kookaburras are consistently ranked among the top teams globally by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

They won their first **Olympic medal** in 1968 (silver) and their first **Olympic gold** in Tokyo 2020. Multiple FIH Hockey World Cup and Commonwealth Games titles highlight their dominance. The nickname strengthens national identity and complements the women's team, the Hockeyroos.

2. (c) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) was established in 1875.

It completed 150 years of service to the nation on 15 January 2025.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the principal government agency in India responsible for weather forecasting, meteorological observations, and seismology.

It is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and is headquartered in New Delhi. The Botanical Survey of India was founded in 1890, so it completes 135 years in 2025. Survey of India was founded in 1767, so far more than 150 years.

Press Trust of India was established in 1947, so much younger than 150 years.

3. (b) The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways has introduced the 'Jalvahak' scheme to boost inland waterway transport and cargo movement.

The initiative seeks to unlock the trade potential of inland waterways, lower logistics costs, and ease the burden on road and rail networks.

It offers incentives for long-distance cargo transport along National Waterways (NW) 1 – Ganga, NW 2 – Brahmaputra, and NW 16 – Barak.

Under the scheme, operators can receive reimbursements of up to 35% of operating expenses for cargo movement on these routes via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.

Additionally, it encourages the hiring of vessels from private operators, fostering competition and operational efficiency.

4. (b) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) covered 740 rural districts in the financial year 2024–25; this figure is used in official reviews and scheme-statistics for FY 2024–25.

The scheme now extends to nearly all districts except those with 100% urban population, so district counts change only with administrative re-organisation.

FY 2024–25 performance reports reference targets and monitoring (e.g., ombudsperson placement) across these 740 districts, confirming the operational coverage.

5. (c) The State Support Mission (SSM) of NITI Aayog explicitly aims to assist interested States/UTs to establish State Institutions for Transformation (SITs) or reimagine existing state planning bodies. SITs are conceived as multidisciplinary, state-level resource units — staffed by officials and domain experts — to drive strategy, monitoring, capacity building and evidence-based policymaking.

SSM launched with a central outlay and governance structures (Mission Steering & Implementation Committees) to institutionalise NITI–State engagement up to 2047.

6. (d) Odisha is recognized as the leading Indian state for deposits and production of both Bauxite and Chromite.

Odisha accounts for the largest bauxite resources in India (about 41–52% of national resources in various IBM reports), with major belts in Kalahandi–Koraput and the east coast.

Odisha also holds the vast majority of chromite reserves (around 90–96%), concentrated in the Sukinda valley (Jajpur, Keonjhar), making it the principal chromite producer.

7. (a) Statement 1 is correct: National Technology Day, observed annually on May 11, commemorates India's successful nuclear tests carried out under Operation Shakti on May 11 and 13, 1998, in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Statement 2 is incorrect: the official theme for National Technology Day 2025 is "YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration".

The theme "School to Startups – Igniting Young Minds to Innovate" was used for National Technology Day 2023.

8. (c) Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary is located in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. In 2025, it was designated as a Ramsar Site, highlighting its ecological significance in conserving avian diversity.

Udhwa Lake is situated in Sahibganj district, Jharkhand; it is the only bird sanctuary of the state. It comprises two connected lakes – Pataura and Berhale. Added as a Ramsar Site in 2025, strengthening wetland protection in eastern India.

Rudrasagar Lake is located near Melaghar town in Tripura. A man-made lake, formed by impounding a small river. It was recognized as a Ramsar Site in 2005.

Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Sant Kabir Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh. It is the largest natural floodplain wetland in the state. It was declared a Ramsar Site in 2021.

9. (d) Virat Kohli holds the record for 7 Test double centuries as captain, the most by any captain in cricket history.

Kohli has scored 41 international centuries as captain, the highest by an Indian skipper, surpassing MS Dhoni and Sourav Ganguly.

In 2014, during his first Test as captain vs Australia in Adelaide, he scored 115 & 141, becoming the first Indian captain with twin tons on debut.

Kohli's 7 double centuries is the highest by any Indian player in Test history.

10. (a) Ethereum, Tether, Solana, and Cardano are all forms of crypto currencies, which are digital or virtual currencies secured by cryptography.

Ethereum (ETH) is a blockchain platform with smart contract functionality, widely used for decentralized applications (dApps).

Tether (USDT) is a stablecoin pegged to the US dollar, designed to minimize volatility in crypto transactions.

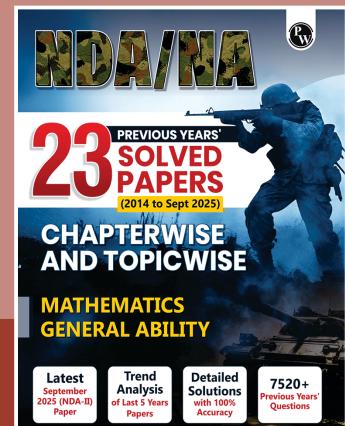
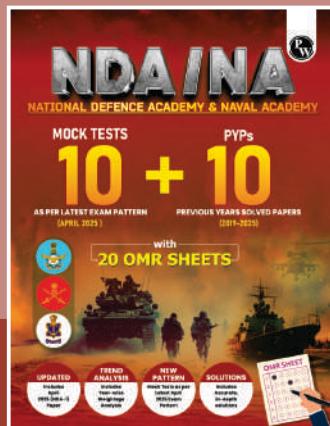
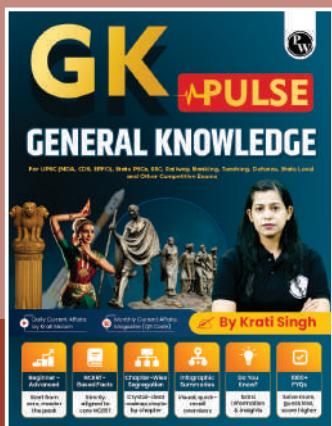
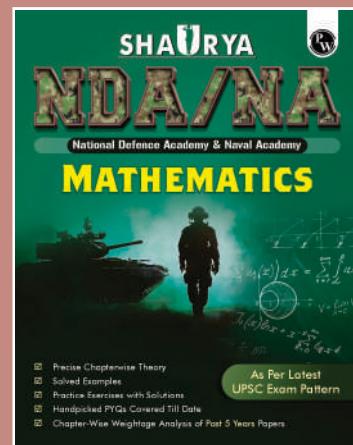
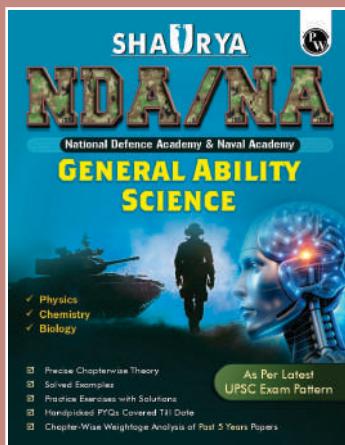
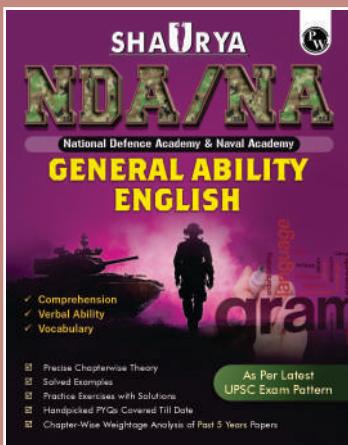
Solana (SOL) is a high-speed blockchain network known for scalability and low transaction fees, supporting decentralized finance (DeFi) and NFTs.

Cardano (ADA) is a blockchain platform focusing on sustainability, scalability, and academic research-driven development.

ABOUT THE BOOK

This book is strictly structured to facilitate the students preparing for the UPSC NDA/NA exam. It covers each and every topic that could be asked in the exams and gives an edge considering the latest exam trend. The book is segregated into several chapters for effective planning and ease of your preparation. This comprehensive book consists of required theory, solved examples, practice exercises with solutions, and past-year questions.

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