

**21 June 2025**

## UPSC Prelims Exam Based Current Affairs MCQS - 21 June 2025

**Question 1.** The proposed draft Digital India Act (DIA) 2.0 introduces a 'risk-based' approach to the regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This approach most closely implies:

- (a) All AI systems will be subject to the same level of stringent regulation and government approval.
- (b) AI systems will be taxed based on the economic risk they pose to traditional industries.
- (c) The level of regulatory scrutiny and compliance requirements for an AI system will depend on its potential to cause harm.
- (d) Only AI systems developed by foreign entities will be considered 'high-risk' and regulated.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (c)**

A 'risk-based' approach, as described in the article, involves classifying AI applications into different categories ('high-risk,' 'moderate-risk,' 'low-risk') based on their potential impact.

- **Option (a) is the opposite of a risk-based approach;** it describes a uniform approach.
- **Option (b) is incorrect;** the risk refers to societal harm, not economic competition.
- **Option (c) accurately defines the principle.** High-risk systems (like in medical diagnostics) will face stringent rules, while low-risk ones will have minimal oversight.
- **Option (d) is incorrect;** the classification is based on application and potential harm, not the origin of the developer.

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**Question 2. According to the recent UNEP report "The Himalayas: A Climate Crisis Hotspot", a major short-term consequence of accelerated glacial melt in the region is:**

- (a) A significant and immediate decline in the annual flow of Himalayan rivers.
- (b) An increase in the frequency and intensity of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).
- (c) The formation of fertile new valleys suitable for agriculture.
- (d) A stabilisation of the local climate due to increased atmospheric moisture.

**Answer: (b)**

**The question asks for a short-term consequence.**

- **Option (a)** is incorrect for the short term. The article states that in the short term, accelerated melt leads to increased flow, but the long-term consequence is a decline.
- **Option (b) is correct.** The news report explicitly highlights that in the short term, "the accelerated melt is causing an increase in the frequency and intensity of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), posing an immediate threat."
- **Option (c)** is a speculative and unlikely outcome not mentioned in the report.
- **Option (d) is incorrect;** the phenomena described are symptoms of destabilisation, not stabilisation.

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**Question 3. The 'JANJATIYA-DIGI Connect' initiative has a multi-pronged strategy. Which of the following is NOT a core component of this initiative as described in the news?**

- (a)** Providing last-mile internet connectivity to tribal hamlets.
- (b)** Establishing digital literacy and training centres in Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- (c)** Promoting the sale of tribal handicrafts through e-commerce platforms.
- (d)** Providing direct financial subsidies for purchasing smartphones and laptops to all tribal families.

**Answer: (d)**

The question uses the negative framing "NOT a core component," a common UPSC technique.

- **Option (a)** corresponds to the 'Connect' component.
- **Option (b)** corresponds to the 'Empower' component.
- **Option (c)** corresponds to the 'Sustain' component.
- **Option (d)** is not mentioned in the report. While the scheme aims to bridge the digital divide, the article does not mention a universal subsidy for personal devices. It focuses on providing connectivity, training, and a platform for entrepreneurship.

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**Question 4. With regard to the newly operationalised Defence Cyber Command (DCC), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a tri-services command headed by a permanent four-star officer from the Indian Army.
2. Its mandate is strictly limited to defensive cyber operations to protect military networks.
3. It will coordinate with civilian agencies like CERT-In.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a)**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The report states the command will be headed by a three-star officer (not four-star) on a rotational basis between the Army, Navy, and Air Force, not permanently by an Army officer.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The article clearly states its mandate includes developing offensive cyber capabilities, not just defensive ones.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The news report explicitly mentions that the DCC's mandate includes coordinating with national civilian agencies like CERT-In and NCIIPC.

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**Question 5. Consider the following statements about the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor:**

1. The entire 508-km corridor became operational in June 2025.
2. It is being developed exclusively with indigenous Indian technology and funding.
3. The trains deployed are a version of the Japanese Shinkansen technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a)**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The news clearly states that only the first 50 km stretch between Surat and Bilimora has become operational, not the entire corridor.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The report explicitly mentions that the project is being executed with technical and financial assistance from Japan.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The article identifies the train as a modified E5 Series Shinkansen, which is the Japanese high-speed train technology.