

23 June 2025

UPSC Prelims Exam Based Current Affairs MCQs -23 June 2025

Question 1. With reference to the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners (ECs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, replaced the Chief Justice of India (CJI) in the selection committee with a Union Cabinet Minister.
2. In a recent judgment, the Supreme Court declared that the independence of the Election Commission of India is a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
3. The Supreme Court has restored a selection committee for the ECI comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, and the Union Home Minister.

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: (b)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The news report explicitly states that the 2023 Act had replaced the CJI with a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister in the selection panel.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The report mentions that the five-judge Constitution Bench held that "the independence of the ECI is a fundamental pillar of democracy and is integral to the Basic Structure of the Constitution."
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Supreme Court restored the selection committee proposed in its Anoop Baranwal ruling, which comprises the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India (CJI), not the Union Home Minister.

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Question 2. Consider the following statements regarding the Shukrayaan-1 mission:

Question 1. With reference to the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners (ECs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's maiden interplanetary mission to the planet Venus.
2. One of its key scientific payloads is a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) to map the Venusian surface, which is obscured by dense clouds.
3. With the success of this mission, India has become the second country in the world, after the USA, to place a spacecraft in orbit around Venus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Shukrayaan-1 is India's first mission to Venus, making it a maiden interplanetary mission to that specific planet for ISRO.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The news report clearly states that the orbiter is equipped with a high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) to map the surface beneath the dense clouds of Venus. This technology is essential for studying planets with opaque atmospheres.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The report specifies that India became the fourth space agency to achieve this feat, following the Soviet Union, the USA, and the European Space Agency (ESA).

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Question 3. In the context of the Indian economy, what does the term 'Core Inflation' refer to, as highlighted by the RBI Governor's recent statement?

1. It is the measure of inflation that includes only the prices of food and energy products.
2. It is the long-term trend of inflation calculated over a period of 10 years.
3. It is a measure of inflation that removes the volatile components of food and fuel prices from the headline inflation.
4. It is the inflation rate specifically within the manufacturing sector of the economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

- **Option (c) is correct.** The news report on the RBI Governor's statement clearly distinguishes between headline inflation and core inflation. It states, "while headline inflation has been moderated by seasonal food price corrections, core inflation (which excludes food and fuel) has surged". This is the standard definition of core inflation; it represents the underlying, more persistent inflation trend by removing volatile items like food and energy.
- **Option (a) is incorrect;** it describes the opposite of core inflation.
- **Option (b) is incorrect;** core inflation is a current measure, not a long-term average.
- **Option (d) is too narrow;** while core inflation is influenced by manufacturing, it also includes services and is not limited to one sector.

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Question 4. With reference to the 'PM GatiShakti National Master Plan', consider the following statements

1. It is a digital platform that aims to bring various ministries together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
2. The Network Planning Group (NPG), constituted under the plan, is responsible for providing financial approval for all infrastructure projects.
3. Its primary goal is to reduce logistics costs and improve multimodal connectivity in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The NITI Aayog report, as per the news, lauds the platform for "breaking down departmental silos" and promoting an "integrated 'whole-of-government' approach to infrastructure planning" using a digital platform.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The news states that the Network Planning Group (NPG) has "appraised" over 150 projects. The role of the NPG is to ensure that projects are planned with an integrated and holistic view, checking them for GatiShakti principles. It does not provide the final financial approval; that remains with the respective ministries and financial bodies like the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The NPG's role is primarily planning and appraisal.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The report's headline finding is the potential for massive "logistics cost savings" and the appraisal of projects to ensure "multimodal connectivity and last-mile linkage."

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Question 5. The proposal for a 'BRICS Framework for Digital Public Goods (DPGs)' was recently put forward by India. In this context, what is the primary objective of this initiative?

- (a) To create a common digital currency for all BRICS nations to rival the US dollar.
- (b) To establish a unified e-commerce platform for promoting trade exclusively among member states.
- (c) To mandate the use of India's UPI system in all BRICS countries for cross-border payments.
- (d) To foster technological sovereignty by creating a shared repository of open-source digital solutions and setting common standards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

- **Option (d) is correct.** The news report clearly outlines that India's proposal aims to create an "open-source repository of DPGs," facilitate "technology transfer," and establish "common standards." The stated goal is to "foster inclusive growth and technological sovereignty" and "counter the dominance of proprietary technologies," which directly aligns with this option.
- **Option (a) is incorrect.** The proposal is about digital public goods like identity and payment systems, not a common digital currency.
- **Option (b) is incorrect.** While it may boost digital trade, the core idea is not an e-commerce platform but a framework for foundational digital infrastructure.
- **Option (c) is incorrect.** The proposal uses UPI as a successful model or example, but it does not mandate its adoption. It suggests a framework for sharing such DPGs from all member states, not just India's.