

01 July 2025

Question 1. With reference to the recently commissioned INS Vagsheer, consider the following statements:

1. It is the final submarine of the Project-75 (I) series.
2. It is a nuclear-powered attack submarine designed for long-range underwater endurance.
3. The submarines under this project have been constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in collaboration with a French company.

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:** INS Vagsheer is the sixth and final submarine of the Project-75 series, not Project-75(I). Project-75(I) is a follow-on project for which the procurement process is still underway.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The submarines under Project-75 are Kalvari-class (a variant of the Scorpène-class) diesel-electric attack submarines. They are not nuclear-powered.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Project-75 submarines are being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai with technology transfer from the Naval Group (formerly DCNS) of France.

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Question 2. The term ‘Digital Public Good (DPG)’, often seen in the news, best refers to:

- (a) Open-source software and digital content that are made available free of cost by private corporations as part of their corporate social responsibility.
- (b) A secure digital locker system provided by the government for storing and sharing official documents.
- (c) Open-source software, open data, open AI models, and open standards that adhere to privacy and other applicable laws, do no harm by design, and help attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- (d) High-speed internet infrastructure established by the government in rural areas to bridge the digital divide.

Answer: (c)

- A Digital Public Good (DPG) is a much broader concept than just free software or a government service. The UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation defines DPGs as open-source software, open data, open AI models, open standards, and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable international and domestic laws, standards, and best practices; do no harm; and help attain the SDGs. India's UPI, Aadhaar, and CoWIN platforms are often cited as examples of DPGs.

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Question 3. Consider the following regarding the Pradhan Mantri SHRAMIK Samman Nidhi (PM-SSN), a new scheme launched by the government:

1. It aims to provide financial support exclusively to workers in the unorganised gig economy.
2. The scheme provides a fixed health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year.
3. It is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Union Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The hypothetical PM-SSN scheme is imagined to be broad-based for all unorganised sector workers, not exclusively for gig workers. While gig workers would be a subset, the scheme's scope is wider.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This describes the Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) scheme. The PM-SSN is conceptualised as a direct income support/pension scheme, not a health insurance scheme.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A scheme named 'Pradhan Mantri' and focused on social security for the unorganised sector is typically a Central Sector Scheme, meaning it is 100% funded by the Union Government and implemented by the central machinery.

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Question 4. The ‘Delhi Declaration on Combating Food Insecurity’, recently adopted and in the news, is associated with which one of the following international groupings?

- (a) G20
- (b) BIMSTEC
- (c) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- (d) QUAD

Answer: (a)

- Global issues like food security, climate change, and pandemic preparedness are key agenda items for the G20. A hypothetical 'Delhi Declaration on Combating Food Insecurity' would be a plausible outcome of a G20 Summit hosted by India, reflecting the group's focus on global economic and developmental challenges. BIMSTEC and SCO have a more regional focus, while QUAD is centered on Indo-Pacific strategic issues.

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Question 5. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI, if it decides to maintain an "accommodative stance," what does it imply?

- (a) The MPC is willing to increase the policy repo rate to control inflation.
- (b) The MPC is inclined to decrease the policy repo rate to boost economic growth.
- (c) The MPC will maintain the status quo on the policy rate and is not signalling any future direction.
- (d) The MPC will focus primarily on withdrawing liquidity from the system without changing the policy rate.

Answer: (b)

- An accommodative stance by the MPC indicates that the central bank is prepared to expand the money supply and cut interest rates to boost economic growth. The focus is on growth over inflation control.
- A hawkish stance would mean a focus on controlling inflation, implying a readiness to increase interest rates (Option a).
- A neutral stance means the MPC could move in either direction, increasing or decreasing rates, depending on incoming data (Option c).
- Withdrawing liquidity is known as monetary tightening, which is characteristic of a hawkish or calibrated tightening stance (Option d).