

04 Aug 2025

Question 1. With reference to the Delimitation Commission in India, consider the following statements:

- 1.The Delimitation Commission is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
- 2.The redrawing of constituency boundaries by the Commission is based solely on the population data from the most recent census.
- 3.The completion of the delimitation exercise is a constitutional prerequisite for the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act (Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** As per Article 329(a) of the Constitution, the orders of the Delimitation Commission are final and cannot be challenged in any court. This is done to ensure that elections are not indefinitely postponed due to litigation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** While population is the primary criterion for delimitation (to ensure the principle of 'one person, one vote'), the Commission also considers other factors such as geographical compactness, physical features, existing administrative boundaries, and facilities of communication. The news analysis highlights the demand to include even more metrics, but the current practice is not based solely on population.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, which reserves one-third of seats for women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies, explicitly states that the reservation will come into effect after the delimitation exercise is completed based on the first census taken after its commencement.

04 Aug 2025

Question 2. The "Right to Repair" framework, recently proposed in the draft National E-waste Policy 2.0, primarily aims to:

- (a) Nationalize all electronic repair services to ensure quality control.
- (b) Provide subsidies to consumers for repairing their electronic devices.
- (c) Counter the practice of planned obsolescence and promote a circular economy.
- (d) Force manufacturers to provide free lifetime repairs for all their products.

Answer: (c)

- The core objective of the "Right to Repair" movement and the proposed framework is to empower consumers to get their devices repaired at a reasonable cost, either by themselves or through an independent technician. This is achieved by mandating manufacturers to provide access to spare parts, tools, and information. This directly counters planned obsolescence (designing products to have a limited lifespan) and promotes a circular economy by extending the life of products, reducing waste, and conserving resources. The other options are incorrect interpretations of the framework's goals.

04 Aug 2025

Question 3. With respect to the Digital Rupee (₹) and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Both UPI and ₹ represent a direct liability of the Reserve Bank of India.
- (b) ₹ is a form of digital token or currency itself, whereas UPI is a payments system that facilitates fund transfers between bank accounts.
- (c) Transactions made using ₹ are slower and less secure than those made through UPI.
- (d) UPI can function in an offline mode, while ₹ is strictly dependent on internet connectivity.

Answer: (b)

- **Statement (a) is incorrect.** Only the ₹ (CBDC) is a direct liability of the RBI, just like physical currency notes. A UPI transaction represents a transfer of commercial bank money (money held in your bank account), which is a liability of the commercial bank, not the RBI.
- **Statement (b) is correct.** This statement accurately captures the fundamental difference. The ₹ is the digital money. UPI is a layer or a system on top of the conventional banking system that allows for the easy transfer of bank money.
- **Statement (c) is incorrect.** ₹ transactions are designed to be instantaneous and secure, similar to other digital payment methods.
- **Statement (d) is incorrect.** The news analysis mentions that developing offline capabilities for ₹ is a key future goal. Currently, UPI has some offline functionality (like UPI Lite and NUUP *99#), while the mainstream ₹ is primarily online. So the statement is factually flawed in its generalization.

04 Aug 2025

Question 4. The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, which is currently under legal scrutiny, provides for:

- (a) The maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on 26th January 1950.
- (b) A freeze on the religious character of all places of worship as they existed on 15th August 1947, with the Ram Janmabhoomi site as a specific exception.
- (c) The transfer of all religious place disputes from civil courts to specially constituted tribunals.
- (d) The government acquisition and protection of all places of worship more than 500 years old.

Answer: (b)

- The core provision of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, as mentioned in the news item, is to lock the religious character of all places of worship as they were on the date of India's independence, 15th August 1947. Section 3 of the Act bars the conversion of any place of worship. The Act specifically exempted the disputed site at Ayodhya (Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid) from its purview. The other dates and provisions mentioned in the options are incorrect.

04 Aug 2025

Question 5. The induction of the Tejas Mk2 fighter aircraft is a significant milestone for the Indian Air Force (IAF). According to the news, it is primarily intended to:

- (a) Serve as a basic trainer aircraft for rookie pilots.
- (b) Replace the ageing fleets of Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft.
- (c) Function as a dedicated stealth bomber for deep penetration missions.
- (d) Form the core of the Navy's carrier-based fighter fleet.

Answer: (b)

- The news report explicitly states that the "Tejas Mk2 is a more potent, heavier, and longer-range version... designed to replace ageing fleets of Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft." It is a medium-weight, 4.5-generation fighter, not a basic trainer (like the HTT-40), a stealth bomber (the role envisioned for the future AMCA), or a naval fighter (though a naval variant is under development, the primary induction mentioned is for the IAF).