

**05 July 2025**

**Question 1. With reference to the Supreme Court's judgment on the Digital India Act (DIA), 2024, consider the following statements:**

1. The Court struck down the Act, declaring it a violation of the fundamental Right to Privacy.
2. The judgment emphasized the principle of 'proportionality', stating that the Act's restrictions are justified by its legitimate aims.
3. The verdict mandated the formation of an autonomous Data Protection Board to serve as a grievance redressal mechanism.

**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

**Answer: (b)**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The news report clearly states that the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Digital India Act, 2024, and did not strike it down.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The report mentions, "The judgment emphasized the principle of 'proportionality', noting that the Act's measures are proportional to the legitimate aims they seek to achieve." This is a key legal doctrine often discussed in rights-based cases.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The report states, "The ruling also directed the government to expedite the formation of the Data Protection Board and ensure its functional autonomy to act as an effective grievance redressal mechanism."

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**Question 2. India's recent abstention from a UNSC resolution linking climate change to security was based on which of the following arguments?**

1. India believes that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the appropriate forum for climate discussions.
2. India argued that such a resolution would strengthen the principle of 'Common But Differentiated Responsibilities' (CBDR-RC).
3. India supports the "securitization" of development issues to ensure faster global action.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer: (a)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The report quotes India's representative stating that the "UNSC is not the appropriate forum" and that the UNFCCC "is the primary and most inclusive platform for climate action."
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** India's position was that the resolution would undermine the principle of CBDR-RC, not strengthen it. The concern was that it could be used by developed countries to impose obligations on developing nations, ignoring historical responsibilities.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** India's representative explicitly argued against the "securitization" of a development issue, which is the exact opposite of what this statement claims.

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**Question 3. The 'Graded Response Action Plan' (GRAP) for river pollution, as directed by the NGT, is characterized by:**

- (a) A one-time, heavy penalty on all industries located on river banks.
- (b) A series of escalating actions triggered by real-time water quality monitoring.
- (c) A plan solely focused on cleaning the Ganga river under the Namami Gange mission.
- (d) A voluntary code of conduct for state pollution control boards.

**Answer: (b)**

**The concept of a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is based on a tiered response system.**

- **Option (a) is incorrect.** GRAP is not a one-time penalty but a dynamic, multi-stage plan.
- **Option (b) is correct.** The news report states, "The proposed GRAP for rivers would mandate a series of escalating actions based on real-time water quality monitoring." This perfectly describes the mechanism.
- **Option (c) is incorrect.** While the Ganga is a concern, the NGT's directive is for a plan for "several Indian rivers" and is not limited to the Namami Gange mission.
- **Option (d) is incorrect.** The NGT has directed the CPCB to formulate and implement the plan, making it a mandatory, not voluntary, framework.

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**Question 4. The success of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is primarily attributed to:**

- (a) A common currency agreement between the two nations.
- (b) Preferential market access and tariff reduction on a majority of goods.
- (c) The establishment of a joint defence manufacturing hub in the UAE.
- (d) A visa-free travel regime for all citizens.

**Answer: (b)**

**The news report on the India-UAE CEPA highlights the economic drivers of its success.**

- **Option (b) is correct.** The article explicitly states that the CEPA "has been instrumental in this growth by providing preferential market access for over 90% of tariff lines." This reduction in trade barriers is the core reason for the surge in bilateral trade.
- **Options (a), (c), and (d)** are not mentioned in the report as reasons for the trade volume crossing \$100 billion. While they could be aspects of the broader bilateral relationship, the primary driver for the trade growth under CEPA is tariff reduction.

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**Question 5. The government's strategy for tackling Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), as highlighted in the MHA report, can be best described as:**

- (a) A purely developmental approach focusing on infrastructure creation.
- (b) A purely security-driven approach focusing on eliminating extremist cadres.
- (c) A dual-pronged strategy combining security operations with a strong focus on development.
- (d) A diplomatic approach involving talks with the top leadership of extremist groups.

**Answer: (c)**

**The news item provides a clear picture of the government's approach.**

- **Option (c) is correct.** The report attributes the success to the "government's dual-pronged strategy: relentless, intelligence-based security operations against Maoist cadres and a concerted push for development in affected areas." This combination is the essence of the strategy.
- **Options (a) and (b) are incorrect** as they represent only one half of the stated dual-pronged strategy.
- **Option (d) is incorrect** as the report mentions eliminating the top leadership through operations ('Operation Samadhan-Prahar'), not engaging in diplomatic talks.