

UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current affairs MCQs -17th Sept 2025

Question 1. With reference to the recently launched fourth phase of 'Mission Shakti', consider the following statements:

1. The primary focus of this phase is on providing financial subsidies to women-led startups in metropolitan cities.
2. A key component of this phase includes the establishment of one-stop centers in every district for women in distress.
3. The scheme aims to enhance the digital literacy of women, particularly in rural areas.

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 states that the fourth phase of 'Mission Shakti' focuses on the digital literacy of women in rural areas, not financial subsidies for startups in metropolitan cities.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The report explicitly mentions that this phase includes the establishment of one-stop centers in every district to provide comprehensive support for women in distress.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The focus on digital literacy for rural women is highlighted as a new and significant component of this phase, aiming for their economic and social empowerment.



Question 2. The recent successful test-firing of the Agni-VI missile is a significant development for India's defense capabilities. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Agni-VI is a surface-to-air missile designed for anti-aircraft roles.
2. With a strike range of over 8,000 km, it is classified as an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM).
3. The successful test strengthens India's 'nuclear triad' and its strategic deterrence policy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Agni-VI is a surface-to-surface ballistic missile, not a surface-to-air missile. It is designed for long-range strategic targets.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Missiles with a range exceeding 5,500 km are generally classified as ICBMs. With a reported range of over 8,000 km, Agni-VI falls into this category.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The news report highlights that Agni-VI significantly enhances India's strategic deterrence capabilities and its nuclear triad (the ability to launch nuclear weapons from land, air, and sea).



Question 3. In the context of the India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, which of the following best describes its structure and primary focus?

- (a) It involves the Finance and Commerce Ministers of both countries to primarily discuss trade and economic policies.
- (b) It is a summit-level meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States.
- (c) It is a dialogue between the National Security Advisors of both countries, focusing exclusively on counter-terrorism.
- (d) It involves the Foreign and Defence Ministers of both nations to enhance strategic and security cooperation.

Answer: (d)

- The "2+2" format specifically refers to the participation of two key ministers from each side. For India and the US, this involves the Minister of External Affairs (Foreign Minister) and the Defence Minister meeting with their US counterparts, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense. The dialogue's main agenda, as reported, is to strengthen the strategic partnership, with a focus on defense, security, and the Indo-Pacific region.

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Question 4. The recent directives by the Supreme Court on prison reforms specifically mandate the establishment of a high-powered committee in each state. What is the most likely purpose of these committees?

- (a)** To prosecute corrupt prison officials.
- (b)** To oversee the implementation of reforms related to overcrowding and prison conditions.
- (c)** To introduce new vocational training programs for all inmates.
- (d)** To review the parole applications of long-serving convicts.

Answer: (b)

- The news report clearly links the establishment of the high-powered committees to the broader goal of implementing prison reforms. The court's primary concerns mentioned are "overcrowding and poor conditions." Therefore, the most logical and direct purpose of these committees is to monitor and ensure the implementation of directives aimed at solving these specific problems. While other options might be part of broader reforms, the core mandate of the committee, as per the report, is oversight.



Question 5. The recent discovery of a new frog species in the Western Ghats highlights its ecological significance. The Western Ghats are recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot. Which of the following conditions are essential for a region to be classified as such?

1. It must be located in a tropical or subtropical region.
2. It must have lost at least 70% of its original natural vegetation.
3. It must contain at least 1,500 species of vascular plants that are endemic to the region.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

This question connects a current event to a static concept in the Environment syllabus. According to Conservation International, the organization that defined the concept, a region must meet two strict criteria to qualify as a biodiversity hotspot:

- **Statement 3 is correct:** It must have a high percentage of plant life found nowhere else on the planet, i.e., it must have at least 1,500 species of endemic vascular plants.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It must be a region under high threat, defined as having lost at least 70% of its primary, native vegetation.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While many hotspots are in tropical regions, it is not a defining criterion. Hotspots exist in various climates.