



# **UPSC Prelims Exam based on Current Affairs MCQs - 20 Sept 2025**

**Question 1: With reference to 'Mission Amrit Sarovar-Urban', consider the following statements:**

1. It is a successor to the rural-focused Mission Amrit Sarovar.
2. The primary implementing agency for this mission is the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
3. The mission aims exclusively at creating new water bodies in urban areas to combat water scarcity.

***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: (a)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The news clearly states that "Mission Amrit Sarovar-Urban" is the second phase, launched building on the success of the first mission that focused on rural areas.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The implementing agency mentioned is the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in collaboration with state governments and urban local bodies, not the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The mission's objective is to "revive and rejuvenate" existing water bodies in urban and semi-urban areas, not exclusively to create new ones. The focus is on restoration.



**Question 2: The recent Biodiversity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, has been a subject of debate. The primary concerns raised by environmentalists against the bill revolve around which of the following?**

1. It simplifies compliance norms, potentially promoting over-exploitation of biological resources.
2. It could dilute the core principles of "Access and Benefit Sharing" (ABS) enshrined in the original Act.
3. It completely prohibits the cultivation of medicinal plants to protect wild species.

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The news mentions that critics argue the bill could "facilitate the commercial exploitation of biological resources" by simplifying compliance.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The debate highlights the tension between promoting the AYUSH sector and protecting the rights of local communities, which is central to the "Access and Benefit Sharing" principle of the Biodiversity Act, 2002. Critics fear this principle could be diluted.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The government's stated aim for the amendment is to promote, not prohibit, the cultivation of medicinal plants to reduce pressure on wild populations.



**Question 3: ISRO has recently announced its 'Shukrayaan' mission. Which of the following is the primary scientific objective of this mission?**

- (a) To land a rover on the surface of Venus to study its geology.
- (b) To study the atmosphere and surface of Venus from orbit.
- (c) To search for signs of past or present life in the Venusian clouds.
- (d) To establish a communication relay satellite for future interplanetary missions.

**Answer: (b)**

- The news report explicitly states that 'Shukrayaan' "will be an orbiter mission designed to study the atmosphere and surface of Venus." While studying the atmosphere might include looking for biosignatures (related to option c), its primary stated objective is a comprehensive study of the atmosphere and surface from orbit. It is not a lander or rover mission (ruling out option a).

**Question 4: Consider the following statements regarding the recently issued RBI guidelines for Digital Lending:**

1. They mandate greater transparency in lending rates and prohibit exorbitant hidden charges.
2. The guidelines apply exclusively to Fintech platforms and not to traditional Banks or NBFCs.
3. A key focus of the guidelines is to establish a framework for the protection of consumer data.

*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 news highlights that the guidelines "mandate greater transparency in lending rates, prohibit exorbitant charges."
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The report clearly states that the new rules "will apply to all digital lenders, including banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and fintech platforms."
- **Statement 3 is correct.** A crucial aspect of the guidelines is that they "lay down a framework for data protection and grievance redressal" to curb unethical practices.

**Question 5: The term '2+2 Ministerial Dialogue', often seen in the news, refers to a meeting format between which of the following officials of two countries?**

- (a) The Prime Minister and the President
- (b) The Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister
- (c) The Foreign Minister and the Defence Minister
- (d) The National Security Advisor and the Head of the External Intelligence Agency

**Answer: (c)**

- The news about the India-Japan dialogue explicitly states, "The Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and Japan held the '2+2' Ministerial Dialogue in Tokyo." This format involves the top foreign policy and defense officials from both countries to discuss strategic and security issues.