

UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs MCQs-8th September 2025

Question 1. Consider the following statements about the ‘Angikaar 2025’ campaign:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development to promote sanitation.
2. It is a last-mile outreach campaign to accelerate the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).
3. It focuses on community mobilization and convergence with other central government schemes.

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 campaign was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, not the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** 'Angikaar 2025' is specifically designed as an outreach and awareness campaign to boost PMAY-U 2.0 implementation.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** A key feature of the campaign is community mobilization and ensuring convergence with other schemes to provide holistic benefits to beneficiaries.



Question 2. The "Drain of Wealth" theory, a powerful critique of British economic policies in India, is most famously associated with:

- (a) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (b) Mahatma Gandhi
- (c) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Answer (c)

- **Option (c) is correct.** Dadabhai Naoroji, the 'Grand Old Man of India', was the proponent of the 'Drain of Wealth' theory. He argued that Britain was systematically draining India's resources, which was a cornerstone of his critique of colonial economic exploitation. The news context is the celebration of his 200th birth anniversary.

Question 3. With reference to the Great Nicobar Mega-Infrastructure Project, consider the following statements:

1. The project is planned in an area that is a designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
2. Concerns have been raised about the project's impact on the indigenous Shompen tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
3. The project plans have received unanimous support from all environmental groups due to its strategic importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The news explicitly states that the project is located on Great Nicobar Island, which is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** A major concern highlighted is the potential adverse impact on the rights and survival of the indigenous Shompen tribe, which is a PVTG.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The project has faced significant opposition and criticism from environmentalists and tribal rights groups, not unanimous support.

Question 4. The term 'Blood Moon', recently observed in India, refers to:

- (a) A rare alignment of Mars, Earth, and the Moon.
- (b) A solar eclipse where the sun appears reddish.
- (c) A total lunar eclipse where the Moon takes on a reddish hue.
- (d) An atmospheric phenomenon caused by volcanic dust.

Answer (c)

- **Option (c) is correct.** A 'Blood Moon' is the term used for a total lunar eclipse. During this event, the Earth passes directly between the Sun and the Moon, and the Earth's atmosphere scatters the sunlight, allowing reddish wavelengths to pass through and illuminate the Moon, giving it a coppery-red appearance.

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Question 5. At the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, India, along with other members, voiced concerns against "coercive, unilateral" economic measures. This stance primarily reflects:

- (a)** A move to exit the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- (b)** A commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system.
- (c)** A decision to form a new trading bloc exclusive of Western countries.
- (d)** An agreement to adopt a common currency for intra-SCO trade.

Answer (b)

- **Option (b) is correct.** By opposing unilateral measures that contravene the UN Charter and WTO principles, India reaffirmed its commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading order. The statement is a critique of sanctions imposed outside the UN framework, not a move to abandon the multilateral system itself. The other options represent more extreme actions that are not supported by the context provided.