



UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs MCQs – 13 Oct 2025

Question 1: India's recent participation in the Gaza Peace Summit in Sharm el Sheikh highlights its foreign policy approach, which can be best described as:

- (a) Aligning strictly with the Western bloc's position on the Middle East conflict.
- (b) Maintaining a policy of non-interference and abstention from Middle Eastern affairs.
- (c) Acting as a balancing power by maintaining good relations with both Israel and Palestine.
- (d) Providing military support to the Palestinian authorities as part of its historical commitment.

Answer: (c)

- The news report states that "India's participation in the Gaza Peace Summit underscores its growing role as a balancing power in the Middle East." It further clarifies that "India has maintained good relations with both Israel and Palestine," and its presence is seen as a constructive contribution. This rules out strict alignment with any single bloc or a policy of non-interference. There is no mention of providing military support.



Question 2: The UN Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave hosted by India primarily aims to address:

- (a) The reduction of the UN peacekeeping budget and financial contributions from member states.
- (b) The political settlement of disputes in regions where peacekeepers are deployed.
- (c) The evolving operational challenges, emerging threats, and the future of UN peacekeeping missions.
- (d) The establishment of a permanent UN standing army under India's command.

Answer: (c)

- The article on the UNTCC Chiefs Conclave specifies that the deliberation will be on "the evolving challenges and the future of UN peacekeeping missions." It lists topics like operational challenges, emerging threats (like non-state actors and hybrid warfare), and the role of technology. It is a conclave for military leaders to discuss operational aspects, not primarily political settlements or budget contributions.

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Question 3: The term 'Blue Economy', as mentioned in the context of the Indian government's strategy, refers to:

- (a) The economic activities are exclusively related to the exploration of seabed minerals and crude oil.
- (b) A government initiative focused solely on the conservation of marine biodiversity without economic exploitation.
- (c) The sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth and improved livelihoods while preserving the ocean ecosystem's health.
- (d) The development of coastal tourism is the primary driver of India's economic growth.

Answer: (c)

- The news report provides a precise definition: "The 'Blue Economy' refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem." This is a comprehensive definition that goes beyond just mineral exploration or tourism and emphasizes sustainability, which is a key aspect.



Question 4: With reference to the NITI Aayog's 'Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy', consider the following statements:

1. It predicts that AI will lead to a net loss of jobs in the Indian economy by 2031.
2. The roadmap recommends the launch of a National AI Talent Mission to re-skill the workforce.
3. The report was developed solely by NITI Aayog without collaboration from any industry body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The report projects that while some jobs may be lost, AI could generate up to 4 million new jobs, suggesting a potential for net job creation, not a net loss.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The news explicitly mentions that the roadmap "recommends the launch of a National AI Talent Mission to prepare the workforce for the jobs of the future."
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The report was developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with NASSCOM and Boston Consulting Group, as stated in the news.



Question 5: The recent decriminalization of minor offenses by the government is primarily aimed at:

- (a) Increasing the revenue of the state exchequer through higher penalties.
- (b) Improving the 'Ease of Doing Business' and reducing the compliance burden.
- (c) Granting more discretionary powers to law enforcement agencies.
- (d) Implementing a stricter penal code for all economic offenses.

Answer: (b)

- The news report clearly states that the move to decriminalize minor violations and repeal obsolete laws is "to improve the ease of doing business and reduce the compliance burden on citizens and businesses." The rationale is to reduce "regulatory cholesterol" and the fear of prosecution for small mistakes, thus fostering a more business-friendly environment.