



UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs MCQs – 14 Oct 2025

Question 1. The recently released NITI Aayog report on the devolution of powers to Panchayats recommended the creation of a 'Devolution Index'. What is the primary objective of this index?

- (a) To rank citizens based on their participation in Gram Sabhas.
- (b) To allocate central funds directly to the best-performing Panchayats.
- (c) To foster competitive federalism among states for empowering local governments.
- (d) To measure the financial autonomy of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Answer: (c)

- The hypothetical news from The Hindu specifies that the NITI Aayog report recommended a 'Devolution Index' with the explicit aim to "foster competitive federalism among states." This means the index would rank states on how well they have devolved funds, functions, and functionaries (3Fs) to PRIs, encouraging lagging states to improve. This question examines the understanding of governance reforms and competitive federalism.



Question 2. The multi-pronged strategy of the government, which has reportedly led to a decline in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), includes:

1. Intensive security operations.
2. Focus on developmental initiatives in affected areas.
3. Ensuring the rights of local communities.
4. Exclusive reliance on military solutions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (c)

- The hypothetical PIB report states that the success in curbing LWE is attributed to a "multi-pronged strategy combining security operations, development initiatives, and ensuring the rights of local communities." Therefore, **statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct** components of this strategy. **Statement 4 is incorrect** as it suggests an "exclusive reliance on military solutions," which contradicts the comprehensive, multi-pronged approach mentioned in the news. This question tests understanding of India's internal security strategy.



Question 3. The recent archaeological discovery of a Pre-Mauryan settlement in Odisha is significant because it:

- (a) Proves the existence of the Indus Valley Civilization in Eastern India.
- (b) Is the first evidence of iron usage in the Indian subcontinent.
- (c) Provides evidence of an urban civilization in the region before the rise of the Mauryan empire.
- (d) Confirms that Pataliputra was the only major city during that period.

Answer: (c)

- According to the hypothetical news from The Hindu, the discovery is significant because it "provides evidence of a sophisticated urban civilization in eastern India even before the Mauryan empire." This finding helps fill a historical gap. **Option (a) is incorrect** as it relates to the IVC, a different context. **Option (b) is incorrect** as iron usage was known before this specific finding. **Option (d) is contradicted** by the discovery of another urban center. This question tests knowledge of ancient Indian history.



Question 4. The 'Digi-Seva Portal 2.0' launched by the government aims to enhance e-governance by:

- (a) Providing a single, integrated platform for all central and state government services.
- (b) Offering free Wi-Fi services in all rural areas.
- (c) Creating a government-owned social media platform.
- (d) Exclusively managing digital payments for government services.

Answer: (a)

- The hypothetical news from PIB describes the 'Digi-Seva Portal 2.0' as an "upgraded and integrated platform for delivering all central and state government services to citizens." It uses AI and a unified interface to make access to services easier, aligning with the goal of integrated service delivery. The other options describe different, though related, aspects of digital governance, but do not capture the core purpose of this specific portal. This tests knowledge of e-governance initiatives.

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Question 5. With reference to the proposed amendments to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, consider the following statements:

1. The amendments aim to reduce the penalties for data breaches to encourage business growth.
2. A key objective is to enhance the powers of the Data Protection Board of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

- The hypothetical news from The Hindu reports that the proposed amendments are expected to introduce "stricter penalties for data breaches," making **statement 1 incorrect**. The news also explicitly mentions that the amendments aim to "enhance the powers of the Data Protection Board of India." Therefore, **statement 2 is correct**. This question tests a candidate's understanding of legislative developments and regulatory bodies.