



UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs MCQs – 9 Oct 2025

Question 1. The 'Sustainable Cities Index 2025' launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs primarily aims to:

- (a) Rank cities solely on the basis of their economic growth and investment inflows.
- (b) Foster competitive federalism among cities by assessing them on holistic environmental, social, and economic parameters.
- (c) Provide direct financial grants to the top-ranking cities for infrastructure projects.
- (d) Mandate a uniform urban development model for all cities under the Smart Cities Mission.

Answer: (b)

- The primary aim of such an index is to encourage healthy competition among cities to improve. The news item specifies that the index is based on a "comprehensive framework of environmental, social, and economic parameters," making **option (b)** the most accurate description of its holistic purpose. It is a tool for assessment, not direct funding (c) or imposing a uniform model (d).



Question 2. The recent recognition of the Dholavira site by UNESCO is noteworthy. With reference to Dholavira, consider the following statements:

1. It is an archaeological site belonging to the post-Mauryan period.
2. It is located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
3. The site is particularly known for its unique and advanced water management system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect;** Dholavira is one of the most prominent archaeological sites of the Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilization, which is a Bronze Age civilization, much older than the post-Mauryan period.
- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct.** The site is located in the Rann of Kutch and is globally acclaimed for its sophisticated city planning and remarkable water conservation system.



Question 3. The decision of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to keep the repo rate unchanged despite inflationary concerns suggests that:

- (a) The RBI is prioritizing short-term economic growth over price stability.
- (b) The RBI has exhausted all its tools to control inflation.
- (c) The primary objective of the RBI is to increase the profits of commercial banks.
- (d) The RBI is prioritizing inflation control as a necessary condition for sustainable long-term growth.

Answer: (d)

- The Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends to commercial banks. Increasing it makes credit more expensive, thus curbing demand and inflation. By not cutting the rate even when there are calls to boost growth, the RBI signals that its immediate priority is to tackle inflation. This is based on the economic principle that price stability is essential for healthy long-term economic growth.



Question 4. The launch of clinical trials for an indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy is a major milestone for Indian biotechnology. What is the primary function of CRISPR-Cas9 technology in this context?

- (a) It is a type of vaccine that boosts immunity against genetic disorders.
- (b) It is a tool used for precisely editing or correcting defects in the DNA sequence.
- (c) It is a method for creating artificial organs in a laboratory.
- (d) It is a diagnostic tool that uses radio-imaging to detect genetic diseases.

Answer: (b)

- CRISPR-Cas9 is often described as 'genetic scissors'. Its revolutionary capability lies in its ability to find a specific part of a DNA sequence and then cut it, allowing scientists to either remove, add, or alter sections of the DNA. The news about using it for Sickle Cell Anemia is based on this principle of correcting the genetic defect that causes the disease.

Question 5. With reference to the functions of the Finance Commission in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body set up by an Act of Parliament every five years.
2. Its primary role is to recommend the distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States.
3. The recommendations of the Finance Commission are binding on the Government of India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect;** the Finance Commission is a constitutional body established under Article 280 of the Constitution, not a statutory body.
- **Statement 2 is correct;** this is its primary constitutional mandate.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect;** its recommendations are only advisory in nature and not legally binding on the government, although they are generally accepted in the spirit of fiscal federalism. Therefore, only one statement is correct.