



P2. NATIONAL



States told to deploy drones to monitor stubble burning - Drone-based surveillance can enhance the detection, monitoring and enforcement of stubble burning while supporting air quality management and environmental conservation.

P3. WORLD



U.S. fast-tracks Act for 100% tariffs on trade partners of Russia : The proposed U.S. Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026 uses tariff-based economic measures to discourage imports of Russian energy and strengthen sanctions against Russia.

P4. HEALTH



Viruses do not respect borders : Recurring zoonotic disease outbreaks highlight the need for integrated scientific, institutional and international preparedness to accelerate vaccine development and strengthen global health security.

P7. ECONOMICS



India's refusal to uphold a global gig work law - ILO Convention No. 193 creates the first binding international labour standards for platform workers, bringing renewed attention to India's regulatory framework for the gig economy.

Editor's Note

As we bring out the latest edition of the Pala Civil Times, our focus remains on helping aspirants understand how contemporary developments shape governance, public policy, science, health and international affairs. This issue examines diverse themes that reflect the evolving role of institutions and technology in addressing emerging challenges. On the national front, we analyse the proposed use of drone technology to monitor stubble burning and its implications for environmental governance. In international affairs, we examine the proposed U.S. legislation imposing tariffs on major importers of Russian energy and its potential implications for India's energy security and global trade. The economy section explores the growing role of private industry in India's research and development ecosystem, while the health pages discuss the scientific and policy dimensions of vaccine preparedness against emerging zoonotic diseases. Our decoded editorials critically examine the functioning of the Central Board of Film Certification and the National Medical Commission's revised guidelines aimed at making medical education more inclusive. Together, these topics illustrate how public policy, technological innovation and institutional reforms continue to shape India's developmental trajectory. We hope this edition enables students to build conceptual clarity, appreciate policy linkages and strengthen their examination-oriented understanding. Happy reading!

Editorials Decoded

The Indian EXPRESS

A medical education more inclusive



The NMC's revised MBBS admission guidelines adopt a functional assessment approach, prioritising capability and reasonable accommodation over disability-based exclusion.

THE HINDU

Hiding the scissors



The functioning of the CBFC highlights the intersection of statutory regulation, transparency, artistic freedom and institutional accountability in India's film certification system.

States told to deploy drones to monitor stubble burning

Stubble burning remains a significant contributor to seasonal air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining States. To improve monitoring and enforcement, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has advised the governments of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to adopt drone-based surveillance. The initiative seeks to complement existing monitoring systems through real-time detection, high-resolution imaging and precise mapping of agricultural fields, thereby strengthening efforts to prevent crop residue burning.

Drone-Based Monitoring Framework

- The CAQM has recommended the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)/drones for monitoring stubble burning incidents.
- Drone surveillance provides rapid deployment, high-resolution real-time imaging and flexible flight patterns, complementing satellite imagery and ground inspections.
- Drones can detect active fire locations, smoke plumes, affected agricultural fields and generate time-stamped evidence for enforcement.
- Survey coverage should prioritise paddy cultivation areas, particularly identified hotspot villages and fire-prone locations.
- Drone operations are to be conducted in accordance with the Drone Rules, 2021.



Operational Measures for Effective Surveillance

- State governments have been advised to prepare advance drone flight plans and determine the required number of drone sorties.
- Burning incidents should be mapped with cadastral maps to enable precise identification of affected agricultural fields.
- Drone surveys should preferably be conducted during daylight, with particular emphasis on the 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. period when attempts to avoid satellite detection are more likely.
- Images collected through UAVs can be transferred to cloud-based systems for analysis and decision-making.
- Real-time monitoring enables authorities to identify burning locations promptly and undertake timely enforcement measures.

RELEVANCE

GS III: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Environmental Significance of Paddy Residue Monitoring

- Agricultural residue burning contributes to soil erosion, affects carbon sequestration and has adverse impacts on the ecosystem.
- Proper management of paddy residue is important because of its nutrient content and its role in maintaining soil-plant-atmosphere continuity.
- Drone-based monitoring supports quicker identification of stubble burning, facilitating early intervention.
- Improved surveillance contributes to efforts aimed at reducing air pollution and controlling Air Quality Index (AQI) levels.
- The monitoring framework also has potential applications for observing other environmental parameters.

The adoption of drone-based surveillance represents a technology-driven approach to improving the monitoring and enforcement of stubble burning regulations. By combining real-time aerial monitoring with precise field identification and data-driven decision-making, the initiative can strengthen air quality management while supporting more effective environmental governance. Its success will depend on systematic implementation, coordinated state-level action and compliance with the prescribed operational framework.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. With reference to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), consider the following statements:

- All types of UAVs can do vertical landing.
- All types of UAVs can do automated hovering.
- All types of UAVs can use battery only as a source of power supply.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All the three
- None

WORLD

U.S. fast-tracks Act for 100% tariffs on trade partners of Russia

The U.S. Senate has advanced the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 through the cloture procedure, enabling faster consideration of the legislation. The proposed Act *seeks to reduce Russia's revenue from energy exports by imposing tariffs and sanctions on entities linked to Russia and on major importers of Russian energy*. The measure has important implications for countries with substantial dependence on Russian crude oil imports.

Key Features of the Proposed Act

- The Act aims to reduce revenue supporting Russia's war against Ukraine by targeting Russia's political leadership, financial institutions, energy sector and sanctions-evasion networks.
- It proposes the use of targeted tariffs to encourage major purchasers of Russian energy to reduce their dependence on Russia.
- *The original 2025 version proposed a 500% tariff on importers of Russian oil*, while the revised 2026 version provides for tariffs of up to 100%.
- The U.S. Senate invoked **cloture**, a procedure that limits debate and accelerates voting on legislation.
- The legislation received bipartisan support, with the Senate voting 86–12 to advance the Bill.



Implications for Major Importers

- The revised Act provides for tariffs of up to 100% on the top five purchasers of Russian crude oil and natural gas.
- **China accounts for approximately 47–50% of Russian crude oil exports, while India accounts for about 36–38%.**
- According to Indian government data, *Russian crude constituted slightly over 40% of India's oil imports in May 2026*, increasing to more than half in June 2026.
- Access to discounted Russian crude has contributed to India's energy security, reduced import costs and supported inflation management.
- The proposed tariffs could have significant implications for countries relying heavily on Russian energy imports.

RELEVANCE

GS II: India and its Bilateral Relations

Exemptions and Strategic Dimensions

- The revised legislation exempts **countries importing less than 15% of Russia's natural gas exports** while taking significant steps to reduce such imports.
- This exemption is expected to benefit several European countries importing Russian natural gas through pipelines or liquefied natural gas.
- The Act also authorises tariffs of up to 100% on the top five countries facilitating the evasion of sanctions on Russian oil.
- The proposed legislation reflects the increasing use of trade and economic measures by the United States to pursue broader strategic objectives.
- Measures such as tariffs, trade investigations and sanctions are presented as components of a wider economic policy toolkit.

The proposed U.S. legislation represents an expansion of the use of economic instruments to achieve strategic and geopolitical objectives. By targeting major importers of Russian energy through tariff-based measures, the Act seeks to reduce Russia's energy revenues while potentially affecting the energy security and trade interests of countries dependent on Russian oil. Its eventual impact will depend on the final legislative outcome and subsequent implementation.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. What are the challenges before the Indian economy when the world is moving away from free trade and multilateralism to protectionism and bilateralism? How can these challenges be met? (GS II – 2025)

HEALTH

Viruses do not respect borders

Zoonotic diseases are infections that spread from animals to humans and have emerged as recurring public health challenges. Recent episodes involving Ebola, hantavirus and Nipah virus demonstrate that such outbreaks are increasingly occurring at the human-animal-environment interface and can rapidly acquire international significance through travel and interconnected societies. These outbreaks expose gaps in disease surveillance, vaccine availability, healthcare preparedness and public trust, making long-term preparedness essential.

Characteristics of Major Zoonotic Viral Diseases

- **Ebola virus disease** causes severe illness with an average **case-fatality rate** of around **50%**, while conflict, displacement, unsafe burials, distrust of health workers and weak surveillance complicate outbreak control.
- **Hantaviruses**, primarily transmitted by rodents, can **cause kidney disease** or hantavirus pulmonary syndrome.
- **Nipah virus**, mainly carried by fruit bats, causes respiratory illness and encephalitis, with estimated **case-fatality rates** ranging from **40–75%**.
- Under certain conditions, all three diseases can involve human-to-human transmission, making early detection and infection control critical.
- While a licensed vaccine exists for one major Ebola virus species, no licensed human vaccines are available for Bundibugyo Ebola, Nipah virus or hantavirus infections.

Vaccine Development and Scientific Preparedness

- Vaccine development begins with understanding pathogen biology, including mechanisms of infection, disease progression, immune response and transmission.
- Academic institutions undertake foundational research, while industry provides process development, manufacturing, quality assurance, regulatory compliance and distribution capacity.
- Advances in vaccinology, including AI-assisted research, mRNA vaccines, viral vector vaccines and recombinant protein platforms, have accelerated vaccine design after identifying pathogen genetic sequences or protective antigens.
- Despite technological advances, vaccine candidates still require biological validation, safety evaluation, efficacy trials and regulatory approval before deployment.

RELEVANCE

GS II: Issues relating to development and management of the social sector; Health.

Challenges to Effective Preparedness

- Limited commercial incentives discourage investment in vaccines for diseases with uncertain market demand.
- Rapid vaccine development requires strong academia-industry partnerships combining scientific research with industry.
- Sustainable preparedness may require public funding, advance purchase commitments, technology transfer, regional manufacturing capacity and equitable global stockpiles through shared-risk models.
- Vaccine hesitancy, misinformation and lack of public trust can undermine vaccination, contact tracing and outbreak-control measures.
- Effective preparedness depends on transparent communication, community engagement and coordinated international systems capable of ensuring timely and equitable vaccine access.



Implications

The recurring emergence of zoonotic diseases demonstrates that epidemic preparedness cannot rely solely on emergency responses after outbreaks occur. Strengthening scientific research, vaccine development systems, public-private collaboration, ethical financing mechanisms and community trust is essential for reducing future risks. Long-term preparedness requires coordinated national and international efforts to ensure that effective vaccines and public health interventions are available before the next outbreak becomes a larger global crisis.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



What is the basic principle behind vaccine development? How do vaccines work? What approaches were adopted by the Indian vaccine manufacturers to produce COVID-19 vaccines? (GS III – 2022)

Hiding the scissors (The Hindu : 30-07-2026)

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is responsible for certifying films for public exhibition in India under the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**. Its decisions extend beyond cinema halls by influencing filmmaking choices and the broader creative landscape. The current issues relate to the exercise of censorship powers, transparency in decision-making and adherence to statutory obligations, raising questions about institutional accountability and artistic freedom.

Role and Influence of the CBFC

- CBFC decisions influence the creative choices of filmmakers by determining which films can be screened in cinemas.
- Although streaming platforms are not required to use the CBFC-certified version of a film, producers often align content with CBFC decisions.
- Certification patterns influence the kinds of stories that are produced by shaping perceptions of what receives approval.
- ***The CBFC's authority is primarily governed by the Cinematograph Act, 1952, and the rules framed under it.***

Issues in Certification and Statutory Compliance

- The Board is expected to examine and decide on film certification within a matter of weeks, yet delays have occurred in certain cases.
- The prolonged non-consideration of the film ***Monkey Man*** is as an example of delayed certification without a formal decision.
- Changes were directed in ***Homebound***, including the removal of references relating to governmental inaction during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Board has been criticised for not publishing certification details in the Government Gazette, despite the requirement under Section 5A(2) of the Cinematograph Act.
- Online certification records have become difficult to access due to the unavailability of the relevant portal, and archives reportedly no longer receive deleted portions of films for research purposes.

Governance Concerns

- Delays in certification may result in films being effectively prevented from public exhibition without an explicit prohibition.
- Limited public access to certification records reduces transparency in the functioning of the certification process.
- Non-publication of certification information and reduced archival access affect institutional accountability and research.
- Concerns have been expressed regarding the exercise of censorship powers and their impact on creative expression.
- The need for compliance with the statutory framework governing film certification has been emphasised.



Way Forward

The issues surrounding the CBFC extend beyond individual certification decisions to broader questions of transparency, accountability and institutional functioning. While the Board continues to exercise statutory authority over film certification, effective adherence to legal procedures and transparent decision-making remain essential for ensuring credibility, preserving artistic expression and maintaining public confidence in the certification process.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



PYQ
COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements with regard to the film 'Boong': (2026)

1. The film has recently won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award in the Children's and Family Film category.
2. The film is directed by Lakshmipriya Devi.
3. This is the first Indian film to win a BAFTA award in the Children's and Family Film category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

RELEVANCE

GS II: Government policies and interventions; Statutory bodies;

A medical education more inclusive (I.E : 30-07-2026)

The revised guidelines issued by the National Medical Commission (NMC) seek to make undergraduate medical education more inclusive for persons with disabilities. Instead of treating disability itself as a ground for disqualification, the revised framework evaluates whether an applicant can successfully complete the MBBS course through functional assessment, supported by reasonable accommodation, assistive technology and accessible infrastructure. The changes represent a shift towards assessing capability rather than disability while aiming to ensure a fairer admission process.

Key Features of the Revised Guidelines

- Eligibility for MBBS admissions will be determined through functional assessment rather than solely on the basis of a disability certificate.
- **Designated Medical Assessment Boards will classify candidates as eligible, eligible with reasonable accommodation, or ineligible.**
- Before declaring a candidate ineligible, the Board must examine whether reasonable accommodation, assistive technology, adaptive devices or infrastructural support would enable completion of the MBBS course.
- Disability certificates for admission purposes are now termed "Eligibility Certificates", intended specifically to certify eligibility for MBBS admission.
- Medical colleges under the NMC have been directed to establish Enabling Units to facilitate reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities.

Institutional Reforms and Procedural Changes

- **The number of designated assessment centres has been increased from 16 to 61,** with scope for further expansion.
- Assessment Boards must record in writing the nature and extent of disability, findings of functional competency assessment, accommodations considered, reasons for eligibility or ineligibility, and the final recommendation.
- An appellate mechanism will be established by the **Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)** to hear challenges against Board decisions through reasoned orders.
- The revised guidelines were issued while hearings were underway in the Anmol vs Union of India case before the Supreme Court.
- Similar functional assessment guidelines for postgraduate medical courses are yet to be issued.

Implementation Challenges and Outstanding Concerns

- Functional assessments must be supported by clear evaluation protocols to minimise subjectivity and ensure consistency across different Medical Assessment Boards.
- The revised guidelines do not include the recommendation that every Medical Assessment Board should have a doctor with disability, despite the court's recommendation.
- Activists questioned the timing of the guidelines, as they were issued after the announcement of NEET results and without the usual stakeholder consultation period.
- The Supreme Court has observed that systemic discrimination against persons with benchmark disabilities should be eliminated, highlighting the need for an inclusive admission process.
- The success of the revised framework will depend on whether inclusivity is implemented as a sustained institutional commitment rather than merely as compliance with judicial directions.

Way Forward

The revised NMC guidelines replace rigid disability-based exclusions with a more individualised assessment of functional capability. Their emphasis on reasonable accommodation, transparent decision-making and institutional support has the potential to make medical education more inclusive. However, consistent implementation, objective assessment standards and effective grievance redressal will be essential to ensure that the revised framework achieves its intended purpose of evaluating aspiring doctors on their abilities rather than their disabilities.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss. (GS II – 2017)

RELEVANCE

GS II: Issues relating to development and management of the social sector

India's refusal to uphold a global gig work law

The International Labour Conference adopted **ILO Convention No. 193** on Decent Work in the Platform Economy, establishing the first binding international treaty specifically addressing the rights of platform workers. The Convention seeks to provide minimum labour protections irrespective of employment classification. India's decision to abstain from the vote has highlighted the relationship between international labour standards and the country's existing regulatory framework for gig and platform workers.

Key Features of the CAFE III Framework

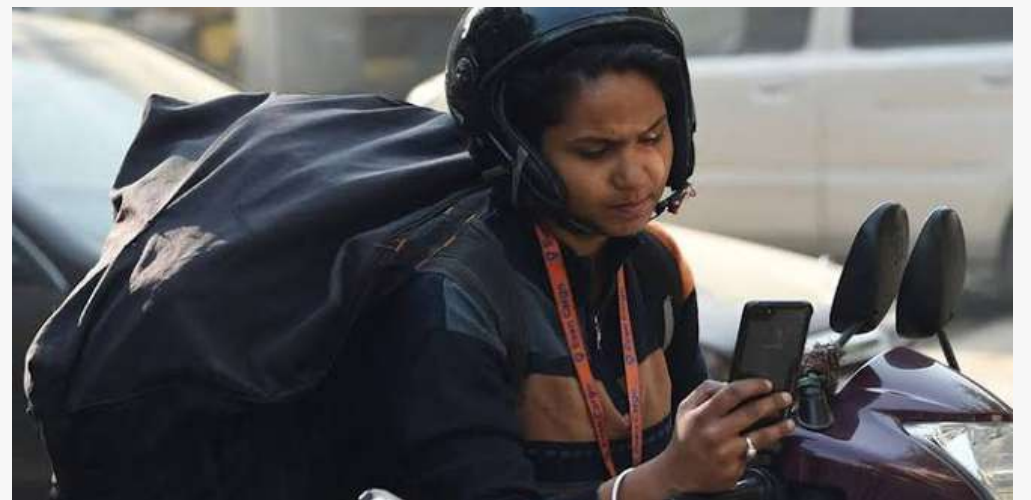
- The Convention extends minimum labour protections to platform workers irrespective of whether they are classified as employees or independent contractors.
- It provides for statutory or negotiated minimum pay, timely wage payment, occupational safety and health, and social security comparable to similar categories of workers.
- It introduces provisions on algorithmic management, requiring disclosure and written explanation of significant automated decisions and retaining human oversight in decision-making.
- It requires governments to determine worker classification primarily on the basis of the actual nature of work performed.
- The Convention establishes a common minimum standard for labour protections in the platform economy.

India's Existing Framework for Gig Workers

- India abstained during the adoption of the Convention, although its employer and worker delegates voted in favour under the ILO's tripartite voting system.
- The Code on Social Security, 2020, brought into force as part of the Labour Codes in November 2025, defines both "gig worker" and "platform worker".
- The Code requires aggregators to contribute 1–2% of their annual turnover, subject to a ceiling of 5% of worker payouts, towards a social security fund.
- The source notes that the contribution mechanism and welfare schemes remain largely unoperationalised, while States such as Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Telangana have introduced or proposed measures relating to platform worker welfare.
- India's gig workforce was estimated at 7.7 million in 2020–21 and is projected by NITI Aayog to reach **2.35 crore by 2029–30**.

Implications of the Convention and India's Abstention

- The Convention seeks to strengthen labour protections in an expanding global platform economy.
- Continuous growth of gig work increases the relevance of issues such as social security, occupational safety, worker classification, and transparency in automated decision-making.
- The source highlights that India has ratified six of the eight core ILO conventions, while certain conventions remain unratified owing to domestic legal considerations.
- The Convention raises questions regarding the relationship between international labour standards and national legislative frameworks governing gig workers.
- The expansion of platform-based employment makes labour regulation an increasingly significant public policy issue.



What lies ahead

ILO Convention No. 193 establishes an international benchmark for labour protections in the platform economy by addressing worker rights, social security, and algorithmic management. As India's platform workforce continues to expand, the interaction between international standards and domestic labour regulations is likely to remain an important area of policy development, particularly with regard to implementation, worker welfare, and regulatory clarity.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page



Q. Discuss the merits and demerits of the four 'Labour Codes' in the context of labour market reforms in India. What has been the progress so far in this regard? (GS III – 2024)

RELEVANCE

GS II : Important International Institutions

Private R&D spends cross govt.'s in FY24

Research and Development (R&D) expenditure reflects a country's investment in scientific research, technological advancement and innovation. Newly disclosed government data indicate that India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) increased significantly after the pandemic, with R&D expenditure reaching 0.83% of GDP in 2021–22. The data also reveal a major structural shift, as private industry became the largest contributor to national R&D expenditure, marking an important change in India's innovation ecosystem.

Trends in India's R&D Expenditure

- India's R&D expenditure reached 0.83% of GDP in 2021–22, crossing the 0.8% threshold for the first time since 2009–10.
- The R&D-to-GDP ratio had declined steadily over previous years, reaching 0.64% in 2020–21 before recovering.
- Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) declined from ₹1.33 lakh crore (2019–20) to ₹1.27 lakh crore (2020–21) during the COVID-19 period.
- GERD subsequently increased to ₹1.95 lakh crore in 2021–22, ₹2.13 lakh crore in 2022–23, and ₹2.45 lakh crore in 2023–24.
- The parliamentary reply represents the first official disclosure of R&D expenditure data for 2021–22 to 2023–24, while the corresponding statistical reports are yet to be published.

Increasing Role of Private Industry

- Private industry's share in GERD remained between 33.8% and 38.5% during 2017–18 to 2020–21.
- Its contribution increased sharply to 45.5% in 2021–22, 48.0% in 2022–23, and 51.8% in 2023–24.
- 2023–24 marks the first time that private industry contributed more than half of India's total R&D expenditure.
- Industry R&D spending increased from ₹46,400 crore in 2020–21 to ₹88,600 crore in 2021–22, and further to ₹1,26,800 crore in 2023–24.
- The increase in GERD coincided with this substantial rise in private sector participation.

Data Collection and Emerging Observations

- India's official R&D statistics are compiled by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) through the National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS).
- NSTMIS has conducted national science surveys since 1973, collecting expenditure data from central and state governments, universities, public sector enterprises and private industry.
- The 2022–23 edition expanded survey coverage to include multinational companies and enterprises outside the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) recognition scheme.
- There were 2,397 DSIR-recognised in-house R&D centres as of December 2022.
- Although GERD increased sharply after 2020–21, budget documents indicate that allocations to major Union science departments rose only incrementally during the period, making it unlikely that the increase was driven solely by public expenditure.

What lies ahead

The latest R&D expenditure figures indicate both a recovery in India's research investment after the pandemic and a significant shift in the composition of research funding. The growing contribution of private industry has transformed the funding pattern of India's innovation ecosystem, while the latest official data provide an updated picture of national research expenditure for the period from 2021–22 to 2023–24.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding National Innovation Foundation–India (NIF)? (2015)

1. NIF is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology under the Central Government.
2. NIF is an initiative to strengthen the highly advanced scientific research in India's premier scientific institutions in collaboration with highly advanced foreign scientific institutions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

RELEVANCE

GS III: Science and Technology – Developments and their Applications

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. With reference to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), consider the following statements:

- I. All types of UAVs can do vertical landing.
 - II. All types of UAVs can do automated hovering.
 - III. All types of UAVs can use battery only as a source of power supply.
- How many of the statements given above are correct? (2025)

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

Ans : d

Vertical Landing and Take-Off: Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), often referred to as drones, are aircraft that operate without a human pilot on board. They can be controlled remotely or autonomously, and are used for a wide variety of purposes including surveillance, delivery, and even military operations.

A type of drone known as fixed-wing drone is an aerial vehicle that utilizes rigid wings, a fuselage, tails, a propeller, and a motor to cover long distances at high speeds. Unlike other drones, they cannot hover or land at specific points, requiring a runway or a net for landing. Thus all drones (for example fixed-wing drones) cannot do vertical landing. A fixed-wing drone is an aerial vehicle that utilizes rigid wings, a fuselage, tails, a propeller, and a motor to cover long distances at high speeds. Unlike other drones, they cannot hover or land at specific points, requiring a runway or a net for landing. Thus all drones (like fixed wing drones) cannot do vertical landing. Hence statement I is not correct.

Automated Hovering: Again, unlike other drones, traditional fixed wing drones cannot hover or land at specific points, requiring a runway or a net for landing. Hence statement II is not correct.

Battery Usage: UAVs come in many configurations, including: Multirotors (e.g., quadcopters) Fixed-wing UAVs Hybrid VTOLs High-endurance military UAVs (e.g., Predator drones) Many of these cannot rely solely on batteries due to power and endurance limitations. Energy density of batteries is lower than fuel: For long range UAVs, especially fixed-wing or military UAVs, batteries cannot provide sufficient power or duration. Hence statement-III is not correct.

Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF)? (2015)

1. NIF is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology under the Central Government.
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Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Ans : a

Statement I is correct. The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) is indeed an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. It aims to promote grassroots innovations and support local inventors.

Statement II is incorrect. NIF primarily focuses on grassroots innovation and supports rural and local innovators. It is not focused on advanced scientific research in collaboration with foreign institutions.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following statements with regard to the film 'Boong': (2026)

1. The film has recently won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award in the Children's and Family Film category.
2. The film is directed by Lakshmipriya Devi.
3. This is the first Indian film to win a BAFTA award in the Children's and Family Film category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans : a

'Boong' is an Indian film that won the BAFTA Award in the Children's and Family Film category in 2025, marking a major achievement for Indian cinema. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

The film was directed by Lakshmipriya Devi, a filmmaker from Manipur, and the story reflects themes and experiences rooted in Northeast India. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

'Boong' became the first Indian film to win a BAFTA award in the Children's and Family Film category, creating a historic milestone for the Indian film industry. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF)? (2015)

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Ans : a

Statement I is correct. The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) is indeed an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. It aims to promote grassroots innovations and support local inventors.

Statement II is incorrect. NIF primarily focuses on grassroots innovation and supports rural and local innovators. It is not focused on advanced scientific research in collaboration with foreign institutions.

Practice Questions and answers

Q. With reference to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), consider the following statements:

- 1.The CBFC functions under the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- 2.The CBFC is responsible for certifying films for public exhibition in cinemas.
- 3.Section 5A(2) of the Cinematograph Act requires film certification details to be published in the Government Gazette.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Statement 1: Correct. The CBFC derives its authority from the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- Statement 2: Correct. It certifies films for public exhibition in cinemas.
- Statement 3: Correct. The content states that Section 5A(2) requires publication of certification details in the Government Gazette.

Q. With reference to the National Medical Commission's revised guidelines for MBBS admissions of persons with disabilities, consider the following statements:

- 1.Eligibility is determined through functional assessment rather than solely on the basis of a disability certificate.
- 2.Before declaring a candidate ineligible, the Medical Assessment Board must examine the possibility of reasonable accommodation.
- 3.An appellate mechanism will be established by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

- Statement 1: Correct. The revised guidelines replace disability-based assessment with functional assessment.
- Statement 2: Correct. Boards must consider reasonable accommodation, assistive technology and infrastructural support before declaring a candidate ineligible.
- Statement 3: Correct. The DGHS will establish an appellate mechanism for appeals against Board decisions.