



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

25th October 2026



CONTEXT: The Union Agriculture Ministry had created 11 crore unique digital identity cards for farmers.

Digital Transformation of Indian Agriculture

- DIGITISATION -
- DIGITALISATION -

Integrated Digital Capabilities/ Interoperable Systems -

Why is Digital Transformation Important for Indian Agriculture?

- **Fragmented Land Holdings**
 - SMF -
 - Access to advanced tech.
- **Information Asymmetry:**
 - Timely, Location specific info -
- **Fragmented Databases**
 - Land Ownership, Insurance, Procurement, etc. -
- **Production Uncertainty**
 - Monsoon Variability, Extreme Weather, etc.
- **Market Inefficiencies**
 - Quality Assessment & Price Info
- **Administrative Transaction Costs**
- **Weak Extension Coverage**

Cabinet approval

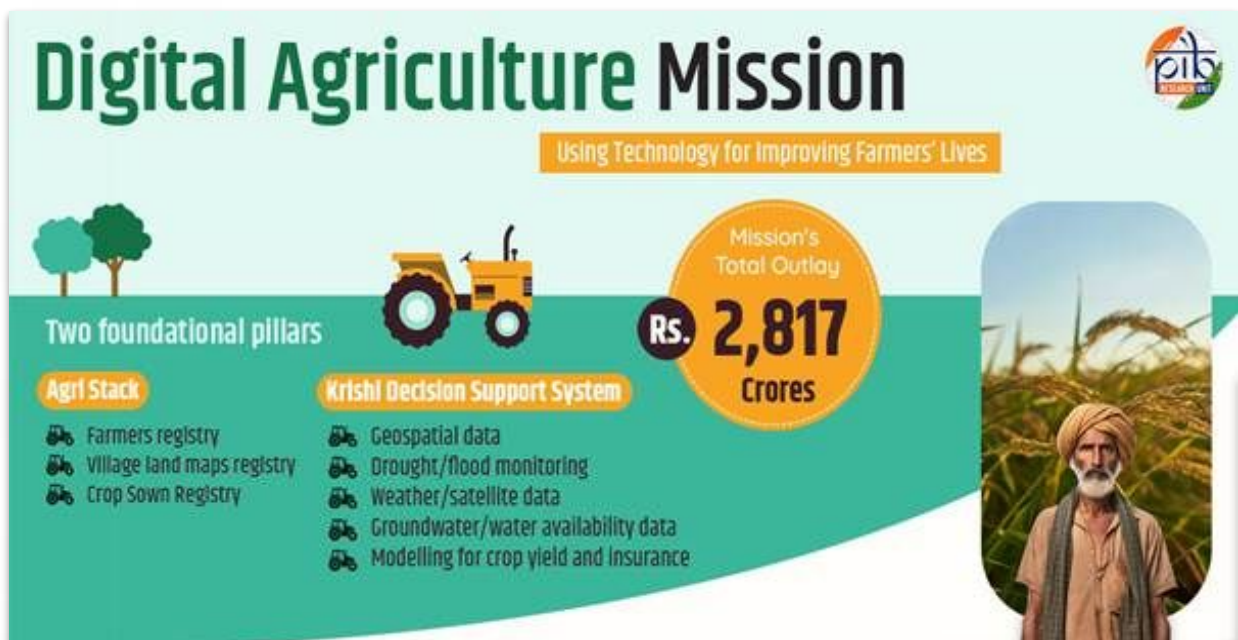
2 September 2024

Total outlay

₹2,817 crore

Original Farmer ID target

11 crore



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Krishi Decision Support System



Soil Profile Maps on a 1:10,000 scale of about 142 million hectares of the country's agricultural land

Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES) will provide yield estimates based on scientifically designed crop-cutting experiments

Employment opportunities to about 2.5 lakh trained local youth and Krishi Sakhis

The digital crop surveys, collection of ground-truthed data for remote sensing



AGRISTACK: KISAN KI PEHCHAAN



Farmers' Registry

Under AgriStack, farmers will be given a digital identity (Farmer ID) similar to Aadhaar,



Geo-referenced village maps

Farmer ID' will be linked to the State's land records, demographic details, family details, etc



Crop Sown Registry

Crops sown by farmers will be recorded through mobile-based ground surveys i.e. Digital Crop Survey to be conducted in each season

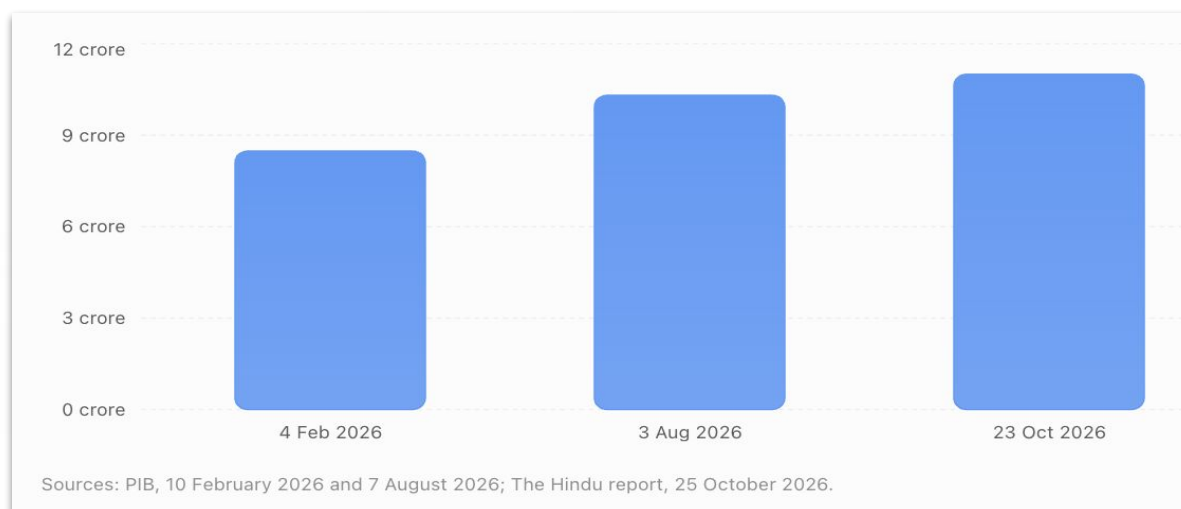


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Major Dimensions: Agricultural Digital Transformation

- **AgriStack's Farmer Registry**
 - Farmers' Registry + Geo-referenced Village Maps + Crop Sown Registry
- **Precision Agriculture and Smart Farming**
 - GPS & GIS Enabled - Mapping; Satellite & Drones Imagery, etc.
- **Digital Agricultural Advisories & Extension**
 - Kisan Call Centres; Kisan e-Mitra (93+ Lakh); National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS); etc.
- **Digital Agricultural Marketing**
 - FPOs & e-NAM (1696 Mandis)
- **Digital Credit, DBTs and Insurance**
 - PM-KISAN, KCC, PMFBY

Progress: Digital Agriculture Mission



Major Challenges & Issues

- **Exclusion of Actual Cultivators** - tenant farmers, sharecroppers, oral lessees, etc.
- **Inaccurate & Outdated Records** - disputed boundaries, inheritance issues, etc.
- **Digital Divide** - Poor connectivity, lack of smartphones, limited digital literacy -
- **Privacy & Data Security** - risks of data breaches, unauthorised sharing -
- **Federal Coordination** - Differences ~ administrative capacity, data quality & digital readiness
- **Fragmented Platforms & Interoperability** - Inconsistent data formats, repeated registrations
- **AI-related Errors and Accountability** - Incorrect pest diagnoses, unsuitable advisories, etc
- **Infrastructure & Affordability** - Sensors, drones, software and precision machines etc.



CONTEXT: The Union Agriculture Ministry had created 11 crore unique digital identity cards for farmers.

Comprehensive Way Forward

Digital Innovation + Inclusion, Institutional Reform and Accountability

- **Ensure Inclusive Farmer Registries -**
- **Improve Data Quality -** Field Inspections -
- **Strengthen Data Governance -** privacy safeguards & grievance redressal
- **Improve Interoperability -** Common data & API Stds.
- **Bridge Digital Divide -** KVKs, Panchayats, local-language voice interfaces
- **Combine AI with human expertise -** Validate AI models - agro-climatic regions
- **Integrate Digital & Physical Infra -** warehouses, cold chains
- **Measure Outcomes, NOT Just Registrations**

Mains Practise Question

Digital transformation of agriculture has the potential to improve farmers' access to services, enhance productivity and strengthen evidence-based policymaking. However, certain critical issues continue to pose challenges. Discuss and suggest a comprehensive way forward.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



CONTEXT: India doubles order book, but holds mere 0.5% of international share

Introduction: Why does shipbuilding matter?

- Economic growth
- Trade and Logistics
- Strategic Autonomy
- Employment
- Technological Development

By comparison, UNCTAD's 2025 review reported that, in 2024:

Country	Share of global shipbuilding output by gross tonnage
China	54.57%
South Korea	28.02%
Japan	12.56%

Status of India's shipbuilding industry

India's order book

1.1 million CGT

As of 1 September 2026

Global share

0.5%

India's share of global order book

Shipbuilding output

57,637 GT

2025, up 41% from 2024

Revitalisation package

₹69,725 crore

Approved in September 2025

Three Segments of India's Shipbuilding Industry -

India's Major Shipbuilding Centres

- CSL, Kochi; MDS, Mumbai; GRSE, Kolkata; etc.



CONTEXT: India doubles order book, but holds mere 0.5% of international share

Government's ₹69,725-crore Package

- Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) -
- Maritime Development Fund (MDF) -
- Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) -

Greenfield Clusters and India Ship Technology Centre -

Major Issues & Challenges

- **High Costs & Inadequate Access to Long-Term Finance**
 - DGMA - working-capital interest costs of around 10.5%
- **Weak Domestic Ancillary Industry & Import Dependence**
 - DGMA - 50-60% of equipment and material - Imports
- **Limited scale and the cost disadvantage against established competitors**
 - Absence - standardised, serial production
- **Infrastructure and project-execution constraints**
 - deep-water access, dry docks, shiplifts, fabrication areas, heavy cranes
- **Shortage of specialised skills**
 - Gaps ~ naval architects, marine engineers, certified welders, pipefitters

Way forward: How can India build a competitive Shipbuilding ecosystem?

- **Make maritime financing accessible and predictable**
 - Operationalise the Maritime Development Fund
- **Build a strong domestic marine-equipment industry**
 - supplier clusters for engines, propulsion, gearboxes, electrical systems, etc.
- **Develop integrated shipbuilding clusters**
 - shared dry docks, heavy-lift facilities, utilities, testing facilities, logistics, etc.
- **Invest in indigenous design and R&D**
 - Strengthen - India Ship Technology Centre, universities, shipyards & private technology firms
- **Capture the green-shipping opportunity**
 - Develop - commercially viable electric and hybrid vessels, energy-efficient designs

Mains Practise Question

Examine the major challenges facing India's shipbuilding industry. How can recent government initiatives help India emerge as a globally competitive shipbuilding hub?

(10 Marks, 150 words)



Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 12

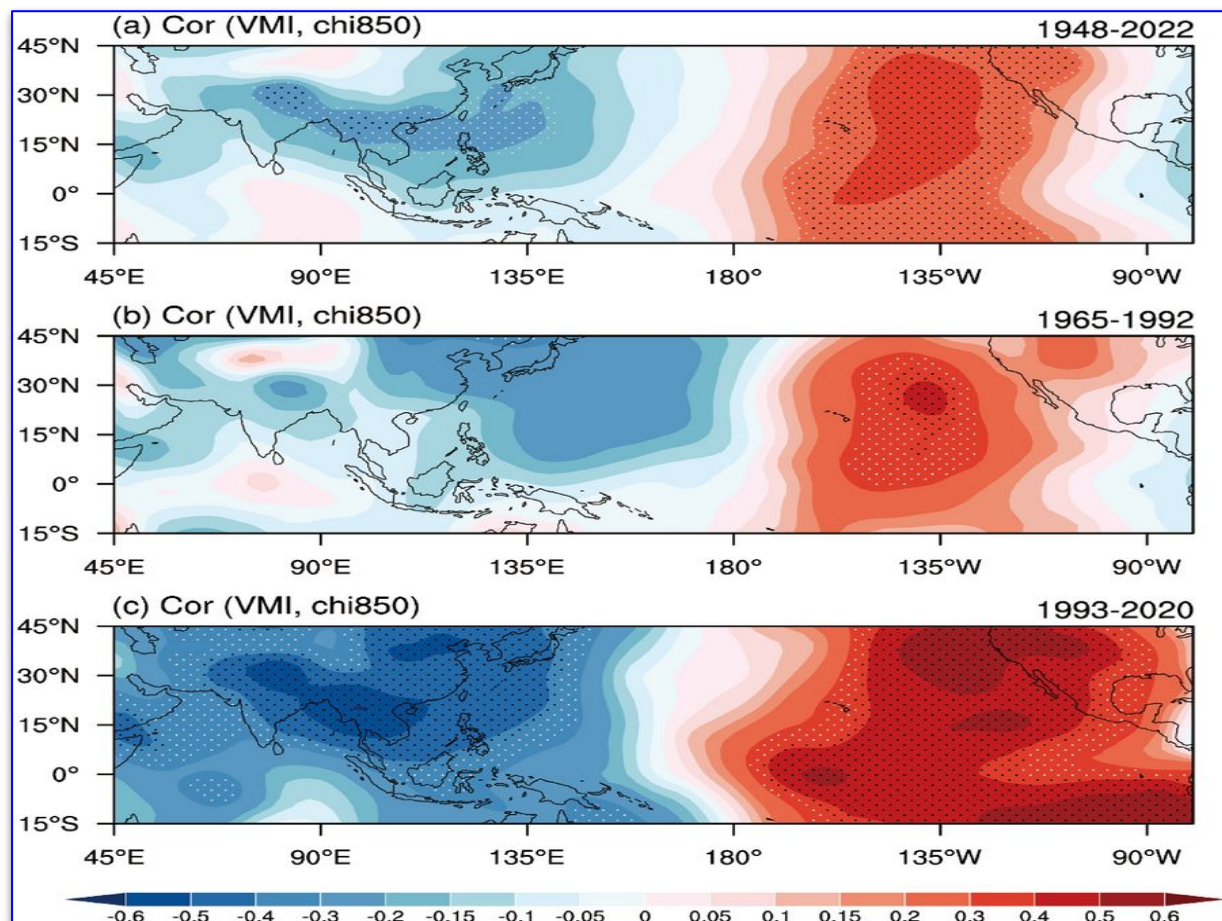
Victoria Mode and India's Changing Climate :

GS-III: Important geophysical phenomena; geographical features and their changes; climate change and its effects on agriculture and food security.

GS-I: Salient features of the world's physical geography; geographical phenomena and their effects on regional patterns.

Key Findings

- A study by scientists from the IMD and IITM, published in MAUSAM, finds that India's climate zones have shifted significantly between 1951–80 and 1991–2020.
- The study associates these shifts with the **Victoria Mode** (VM), a recurring pattern of warm and cool sea-surface temperatures in the North Pacific.
- The findings point to regional climatic changes involving rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, with implications for agriculture, water security and settlement patterns.



Newspaper : The Hindu **Page Number :** 12

Regional Shifts in Climate Zones

Region	Climate-zone change	Implication
Northwest India	Hot, semi-arid steppe increased from 25.7% to 33.1%; temperate declined from 25.8% to 18.7%	Increasing aridity and heat stress
Northeast India	Tropical savannah declined from 18.4% to 11.8%; temperate increased from 74.8% to 82.5%	Major reorganisation of regional climate zones
Peninsular India	Semi-arid steppe fell from 30.3% to 16.4%; tropical savannah rose from 61.6% to 75.7%	A different pattern from northern India
West Vidarbha and Marathwada	Shifted largely from savannah to steppe	Greater concern over water stress and agricultural vulnerability
Western Saurashtra and Kutch	Shifted from fully arid to semi-arid	Local climate shifts are not uniform across India
Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka and Kerala	Tropical monsoon zones expanded	Changes in rainfall regime and regional climatic conditions



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Polity
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page Number : 4**

State Legislative Council in India

The **State Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad)** is the upper house of the state legislature in states having a bicameral legislature. Under **Article 169**, Parliament can create or abolish a Legislative Council based on a resolution passed by the concerned State Assembly. It provides representation to diverse groups and supports detailed legislative scrutiny.

State Legislative Council Constitutional Provisions

The constitutional framework governing the State Legislative Council is primarily detailed in Articles 169, 171, and 172 of the Indian Constitution. These articles outline the establishment, composition, and duration of the Council.

- **Article 169:** It grants Parliament the authority to create or abolish a State Legislative Council by a simple majority, contingent upon a resolution passed by the state's Legislative Assembly by a special majority. However, the resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly is not binding on Parliament.
- **Article 171:** It outlines the composition of the State Legislative Council.
- **Article 172:** It addresses the duration of the Council, indicating that its members serve for six years, with one-third of them retiring every two years.

State Legislative Council Eligibility and Tenure

Tenure for members of the Legislative Council is established at six years, similar to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament. In the State Legislative Council, one-third of the members retire every two years, creating a staggered retirement system that fosters continuity within the Council. The following is the list of qualification criteria for a candidate to be a member of the State Legislative Council, as prescribed in Article 173:

- Must be a citizen of India.
- At least 30 years old.
- He should possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed on that behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.

Additionally, the Representation of the People Act, 1951, provided the following qualification criteria:

- A person must be an elector for any Assembly constituency in that State.
- To be qualified for the Governor's nomination, he must be a resident of that State.

State Legislative Council Composition

Under Article 171 of the Constitution, the Legislative Council of a state is composed of a maximum of one-third of the total strength of the State Assembly, with a minimum requirement of 40 members. The Legislative Council of every State shall choose two members of the Council to be respectively Chairman and Deputy Chairman. If the office of Chairman or Deputy Chairman becomes vacant, the Council shall choose another member to be Chairman or Deputy Chairman.



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Institutions/bodies
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page Number : 12**



राष्ट्रीय आयुर्विज्ञान आयोग
NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION
A STATUTORY BODY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

Prelims Booster

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has been constituted by an act of Parliament known as National Medical Commission Act, 2019 which came into force on 25.9.2020 by gazette notification dated 24.9.2020. The Board of Governors in supersession of Medical Council of India constituted under section 3A of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 stands dissolved thereafter.

Mission and Vision

The Aim of the National Medical Commission are to (i) improve access to quality and affordable medical education, (ii) ensure availability of adequate and high quality medical professionals in all parts of the country; (iii) promote equitable and universal healthcare that encourages community health perspective and makes services of medical professionals accessible to all the citizens; (iv) encourages medical professionals to adopt latest medical research in their work and to contribute to research; (v) objectively assess medical institutions periodically in a transparent manner; (vi) maintain a medical register for India; (vi) enforce high ethical standards in all aspects of medical services; (vii) have an effective grievance redressal mechanism.

FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION

- (a) lay down policies for maintaining a high quality and high standards in medical education and make necessary regulations in this behalf;
- (b) lay down policies for regulating medical institutions, medical researches and medical professionals and make necessary regulations in this behalf;
- (c) assess the requirements in healthcare, including human resources for health and healthcare infrastructure and develop a road map for meeting such requirements;
- (d) promote, co-ordinate and frame guidelines and lay down policies by making necessary regulations for the proper functioning of the Commission, the Autonomous Boards and the State Medical Councils;
- (e) ensure co-ordination among the Autonomous Boards;
- (f) take such measures, as may be necessary, to ensure compliance by the State Medical Councils of the guidelines framed and regulations made under this Act for their effective functioning under this Act;
- (g) exercise appellate jurisdiction with respect to the decisions of the Autonomous Boards;
- (h) lay down policies and codes to ensure observance of professional ethics in medical profession and to promote ethical conduct during the provision of care by medical practitioners;
- (i) frame guidelines for determination of fees and all other charges in respect of fifty per cent. of seats in private medical institutions and deemed to be universities which are governed under the provisions of this Act;
- (j) exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed.



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NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION-COMPOSITION

As per Section 4(1) of the NMC Act 2019, The Commission shall consist of 33 persons to be appointed by the Central Government, namely:—

- (a) A Chairperson;
- (b) Ten ex officio Members; and
- (c) Twenty-two part-time Members.

Chairperson, NMC:

The Chairperson shall be a medical professional of outstanding ability, proven administrative capacity and integrity, possessing a postgraduate degree in any discipline of medical sciences from any University and having experience of not less than twenty years in the field of medical sciences, out of which at least ten years shall be as a leader in the area of medical education

Ex-Officio Members' composition:

The following persons shall be the ex officio Members of the Commission, namely:—

- (a) the President of the Under-Graduate Medical Education Board;
- (b) the President of the Post-Graduate Medical Education Board;
- (c) the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board;
- (d) the President of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board;
- (e) the Director General of Health Services, Directorate General of Health Services, New Delhi;
- (f) the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research;
- (g) a Director of any of the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences, to be nominated by the Central Government;
- (h) two persons from amongst the Directors of Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh; Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry; Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai; North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong; and All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata; to be nominated by the Central Government; and
- (i) one person to represent the Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Health and Family Welfare, not below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to be nominated by that Ministry

Twenty Two Part-Time Members

- (a) three Members to be appointed from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing, who have special knowledge and professional experience in such areas including management, law, medical ethics, health research, consumer or patient rights advocacy, science and technology and economics;
- (b) ten Members to be appointed on rotational basis from amongst the nominees of the States and Union territories, under clauses (c) and (d) of sub-section (2) of section 11 of the NMC Act 2019, in the Medical Advisory Council for a term of two years in such manner as may be prescribed;
- (c) nine members to be appointed from amongst the nominees of the States and Union territories, under clause (e) of sub-section (2) of section 11 of the NMC Act 2019, in the Medical Advisory Council for a term of two years in such manner as may be prescribed.



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Institutions/Bodies
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About the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

- The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India**.
- Commonly known as the **Censor Board**, though it functions mainly as a **certification authority**.
- It works under:
 - Cinematograph Act, 1952
 - Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983
 - Guidelines issued by the Central Government

Role and Structure of CBFC

- It **regulates the public exhibition of films** in India. No film can be released publicly without CBFC certification.
- **Headed by a Chairperson**, with **12–25 members** appointed by the Central Government.
- It operates through **nine regional offices**: Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Cuttack, and Guwahati.
- Supported by **Advisory Panels** (nominated by the Government for two-year terms) to assist in film examination.

Categories of Certification

- **U (Universal)**: Suitable for all age groups.
- **U/A**: Universal with parental guidance (below 12).
- **A**: Adults only.
- **S**: Restricted to special classes (e.g., doctors, farmers).
- **New Sub-Categories (2023 Amendment)**: UA 7+, UA 13+, UA 16+ – aligning with global best practices.



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About Public Accounts Committee

- It is the **oldest parliamentary committee** in India which was established in 1921.
- It is **constituted every year**.
- The **Chairperson is appointed by the Speaker** from amongst its Members of Lok Sabha.
- The Speaker, for the first time, appointed a Member of the Opposition as the Chairperson of the **Committee for 1967-68**.
- **Purpose:** Audits the revenue and expenditure of the Government of India to ensure public funds are spent efficiently and legally.
- **Functions of PAC**
 - It examines the CAG audit report on government expenditure.
 - It ensures money sanctioned by Parliament is spent properly.
 - It **investigates financial irregularities**, losses, and inefficiencies in government spending.
- **Membership**
 - It consists of **22 members** (15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha).
 - **Chairperson:** A Lok Sabha MP, traditionally from the Opposition.
 - **Term:** One year.
 - Ministers cannot be members of the PAC.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

1. It is the oldest parliamentary committee in India, established in 1921.
2. Its Chairperson is appointed by the President of India.
3. It consists of 22 members, including 7 from the Rajya Sabha.
4. Union Ministers are eligible to become members of the Committee.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q2: Which of the following statements regarding the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) , is Not correct?

- a) It is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- b) The Cinematograph Act, 1952, provides its legislative framework.
- c) The CBFC grants certification, but films can be publicly released without certification.
- d) The 'S' category restricts exhibition to members of specified professions or classes.

Answer : c

Q3.Consider the following statements regarding the National Medical Commission:

1. The NMC was established under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.
2. It aims to ensure affordable medical education and adequate availability of medical professionals across India.
3. The NMC has no authority to regulate professional ethics in medical practice.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the State Legislative Council in India:

1. Parliament can create or abolish a State Legislative Council under Article 169.
2. A resolution seeking its creation must be passed by a simple majority of the State Legislative Assembly.
3. Members of the Legislative Council have a term of six years, with one-third retiring every two years.
4. The Constitution prescribes a minimum age of 25 years for membership of the Legislative Council.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding changes in India's climate zones:

1. Northwest India has witnessed an increase in hot, semi-arid steppe areas and a decline in temperate areas.
2. Peninsular India has witnessed a decline in semi-arid steppe areas and an expansion of tropical savannah areas.

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: c





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