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Q42

Consider the following activities: 1. Spraying pesticides on a crop field 2. Inspecting the craters of active volcanoes 3. Collecting breath samples from spouting whales for DNA analysis. At the present level of technology, which of the above activities can be successfully carried out by using drones? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2020 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology
Science, technology, space, defence, IT - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

1 and 2 only. Whale breath sampling by drone was already demonstrated.

(b)

2 and 3 only. Crop spraying by UAV is routine.

(c)

1 and 3 only. Volcano crater inspection is also a drone job.

(d) Official key

All three. Pesticide UAV, volcanic crater flights, and cetacean blow sampling - all done at the then tech level.

Summary

Official key is (d) 1, 2 and 3. Drones already sprayed fields, inspected active craters, and collected whale breath for DNA. None of the three was science fiction in 2020.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Agricultural UAV

India's later Kisan drone push.

SnotBot

Whale blow sampling - the news hook.