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Q57

**With reference to 'Agenda 21', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements: 1. It is a global action plan for sustainable development. 2. It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. 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 Official key: A.**

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology  
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

**Explanation****(a) Official key**

Agenda 21 is the non-binding global action plan for sustainable development adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not, so 1 only is the official key.

**(b)**

Statement 2 places its origin in the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg in 2002. Johannesburg reviewed Rio and adopted the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; it did not originate Agenda 21. 2 only is therefore wrong.

**(c)**

Both would require the Johannesburg origin to be true. Agenda 21 is a Rio 1992 document, so both is not the key.

**(d)**

Neither would deny that Agenda 21 is a global sustainable-development action plan, which it is. This option is therefore incorrect.

**Summary**

Official key is (a) 1 only. Agenda 21 is the Rio Earth Summit's blueprint for sustainable development in the 21st century, covering social, economic and environmental chapters. Local Agenda 21 asked cities and local bodies to prepare their own plans. The 2002 Johannesburg summit and the 2012 Rio+20 conference are later milestones, not the birth of Agenda 21. Statement 2 confuses those later meetings with the 1992 origin.

**Related possible facts**

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**UNCED**

Rio de Janeiro, 1992 - Earth Summit

**Rio package**

Agenda 21, Rio Declaration, Forest Principles, UNFCCC and CBD opened

**Johannesburg 2002**

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

**Agenda 2030**

Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015

**Commission on Sustainable Development**

Created to follow up Agenda 21; later replaced by the High-level Political Forum

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