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Q66

With reference to 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct? 1. IOD phenomenon is characterised by a difference in sea surface temperature between tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean. 2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino's impact on the monsoon. Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
Official key: B.

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Physical, Indian and world geography - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

Option (a) is 1 only. Indian Ocean Dipole is the SST contrast between the tropical western Indian Ocean and the tropical eastern Indian Ocean (near Indonesia), not the eastern Pacific. The Pacific pairing describes ENSO. Statement 1 is false. This option is not the key.

(b) Official key

- **Statement 2 is correct:** a positive IOD can offset or weaken an El Niño's drought impact on the Indian monsoon, as in several documented years. Statement 1 misplaces the eastern pole into the Pacific. Hence 2 only is the official key.

(c)

Option (c) is both. The wrong ocean in statement 1 bars this choice. This option is not the key.

(d)

Option (d) is neither. IOD-El Niño interaction with the monsoon is a standard forecast point, so statement 2 stands. This option is therefore wrong.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 only. IOD is an Indian Ocean east-west SST dipole, not an Indian-Pacific pairing. El Niño often suppresses Indian monsoon rainfall; a concurrent positive IOD can partly compensate. Statement 1 confuses IOD with ENSO geography. Only statement 2 is correct.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Positive IOD

Warmer western Indian Ocean, cooler eastern Indian Ocean; often better Indian monsoon

Negative IOD

Opposite SST pattern; often poorer monsoon

ENSO

El Niño-Southern Oscillation in the equatorial Pacific

Walker circulation

Zonal tropical circulation linking ocean basins and monsoon

IMD / IITM

Use IOD as a secondary predictor alongside ENSO

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