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Q85

Consider the following statements: 1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian territory. 2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar. 3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 (c) 3 only (d) 1 and 3
Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2018 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

(a) 1 only. **Barren Island** in the Andaman Sea is India's only confirmed active volcano, so statement 1 is true. It lies east of Middle Andaman / Port Blair, not about 140 km east of **Great Nicobar**, so statement 2 is false. It has erupted several times after 1991 (including the 2017 episode), so statement 3 is false. Only 1 stands. This option is the official key.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3. Both the Nicobar distance and the "inactive since 1991" claim are wrong. This option is not the key.

(c)

(c) 3 only. Post-1991 eruptions disprove inactivity. This option is not the key.

(d)

(d) 1 and 3. Statement 1 is true, statement 3 is not. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1 only. **Barren Island** is an active volcano in Indian territory in the Andaman arc. It is far from **Great Nicobar**; the usual locator is ~140 km from Port Blair, not from **Great Nicobar**. Eruptions continued after 1991. Statements 2 and 3 therefore fail, leaving statement 1 and option (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Barren Island

Only confirmed active volcano in India; Andaman Sea

Narcondam

Dormant/volcanic island north-east of Barren

1991 eruption

Major modern episode; not the last

2017 activity

Ash and lava reported again

Great Nicobar

Southernmost large island of the Nicobar group, far from Barren

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