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Q13

Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up in the recent past due to human activities? 1. Aral Sea 2. Black Sea 3. Lake Baikal Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 (c) 2 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. **(a) Official key:** The **Aral Sea** in Central Asia has shrunk catastrophically after Soviet diversion of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya for irrigation. The **Black Sea** and **Lake Baikal** have pollution and level issues but have not 'dried up' or shrunk on the Aral scale. Only statement 1 fits the stem.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3. Neither the **Black Sea** nor Baikal has collapsed like the Aral. This pairing is not the key.

(c)

(c) 2 only. The **Black Sea** remains a large inland sea; it is not the dried basin in the question. This is not the key.

(d)

(d) 1 and 3. Aral is correct, but Baikal has not shrunk immensely from human diversion in the same way. Adding Baikal keeps this code off the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1 only. Diversion of **feeder rivers** shrank the **Aral Sea** to a fraction of its former area. The **Black Sea** and **Lake Baikal** are not comparable dried-up cases. Honour the stored letter (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Aral Sea

Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan; Soviet irrigation diversion

Feeder rivers

Amu Darya and Syr Darya

Lake Baikal

World's deepest freshwater lake, Russia

Black Sea

Inland sea; anoxic deep waters, not a dried lake

Other shrinking lakes

Chad, Urmia, and some Andean/Tibetan lakes in news

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