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Q94

Consider the following statements: A digital signature is 1. an electronic record that identifies the certifying authority issuing it 2. used to serve as a proof of identity of an individual to access information or serve on Internet 3. an electronic method of signing an electronic document and ensuring that the original content is unchanged Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology
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Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 only. Statement 1 describes a digital signature certificate / the certifying authority's electronic record more than the signature itself. It is not the keyed meaning. Not the key.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3 only. Statement 2 is the function of a digital certificate as identity proof to access services, not the definition of a digital signature. Not the key.

(c) Official key

(c) 3 only. A digital signature is an electronic method of signing an electronic document and of ensuring that the original content is unchanged (integrity and authenticity via public-key cryptography). That is the official key.

(d)

(d) 1, 2 and 3. Statements 1 and 2 mix in certificate/identity functions. Not the key.

Summary

Official key is (c). A digital signature signs and seals content. Identifying the certifying authority and proving identity to access a website are jobs of the digital signature certificate and the PKI, not the signature definition in statement 3. Honour (c).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

IT Act, 2000

Legal recognition of digital signatures in India

CCA

Controller of Certifying Authorities

DSC

Digital Signature Certificate issued by a licensed CA

Hash + private key

Core of a digital signature

eSign

Aadhaar-based electronic signature as a later channel

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