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Q98

Consider the following statements: 1. 36% of India's districts are classified as "overexploited" or "critical" by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA). 2. CGWA was formed under the Environment (Protection) Act. 3. India has the largest area under groundwater irrigation in the world. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 2 only (d) 1 and 3 only Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2020 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

1 only. 36% over-exploited/critical is too high a share as keyed.

(b) Official key

2 and 3 only. **CGWA** is under the Environment (Protection) Act; India has the world's largest groundwater-irrigated area. The 36% district figure fails.

(c)

2 only. Under-counts the irrigation-area fact.

(d)

1 and 3 only. Keeps the inflated 36%.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 and 3 only. Central Ground Water Authority was constituted under the EPA, 1986. India leads the world in area under groundwater irrigation. A 36% 'over-exploited or critical districts' line is not the keyed statistic.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

CGWA

1997; EPA s.3(3).

Assessment units

Blocks/taluks; 'over-exploited' is a subset, not 36% of all districts as stated.

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