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Q56

Consider the following statements: 1. The Global Ocean Commission grants licences for seabed exploration and mining in international waters. 2. India has received licences for seabed mineral exploration in international waters. 3. 'Rare earth minerals' are present on seafloor in international waters. Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

1 and 2 only. The International Seabed Authority, not the **Global Ocean Commission**, issues Area licences.

(b) Official key

2 and 3 only. India holds **ISA** exploration contracts; seafloor polymetallic crusts hold rare earths. Wrong licensor in 1.

(c)

1 and 3 only. Statement 1 fails.

(d)

All three. **Global Ocean Commission** is a think-tank, not the miner's registrar.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 and 3 only. Licences in 'the Area' come from the International Seabed Authority. India has nodule/sulphide contracts. Rare earths occur in seafloor crusts. The **Global Ocean Commission** does not grant those licences.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

ISA

Kingston; UNCLOS Part XI.

CIOB

Central Indian Ocean Basin - India's nodule contract.

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