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Q63

Consider the following statements : Statement-I : The soil in tropical rain forests is rich in nutrients. Statement-II : The high temperature and moisture of tropical rain forests cause dead organic matter in the soil to decompose quickly. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements? (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement- II is the correct explanation for Statement-I (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement- II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement- II is incorrect (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

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

Explanation

(a)

Both correct and II explains I. Rainforest soils are typically nutrient-poor; nutrients sit in biomass.

(b)

Both correct but II does not explain I. I is false.

(c)

I correct, II incorrect. Fast decomposition is real.

(d) Official key

I incorrect, II correct. Heat and moisture decompose litter quickly; the soil itself is leached and poor.

Summary

Official key is (d). Tropical rainforest soils are usually infertile (oxisols/ultisols) because nutrients are locked in living matter and heavy rain leaches the rest. High heat and moisture do speed decomposition - Statement-II is true and does not make I true.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Oxisol

Highly weathered tropical soil; low native fertility.

Nutrient cycling

In rainforests, a tight litter-to-root loop rather than a rich A-horizon.

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