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Q6

**Consider the following statements: I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member. II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified. III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite license for certain critical minerals. Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III Official key: C.**

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2025 · General Studies · 2 marks · Economy

Indian economy, budget, schemes - Prelims GS Paper I.

**Explanation**

**(a)**

• **I and II only. II fails:** several of the 30 critical minerals are import-heavy (lithium, cobalt, nickel, etc.).

**(b)**

II and III only. Drops MSP membership, which holds.

**(c) Official key**

I and III only. India is an MSP member. The MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 empowers the Centre to auction mining leases and composite licences for specified critical minerals. II is false.

**(d)**

All three. II is the over-claim.

**Summary**

Official key is (c) I and III only. India joined the Minerals Security Partnership, and the 2023 MMDR amendment lets the Centre auction specified critical minerals. India is not resource-rich in all 30 identified critical minerals - II is the trap. (a) keeps II; (b) drops I; (d) all three.

**Related possible facts**

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)**

US-led grouping on critical-mineral supply chains. India joined in 2023.

**MMDR Amendment Act, 2023**

Centre can auction 24 specified critical and strategic minerals; exploration licence added.

**30 critical minerals (India)**

MoM list, 2023: lithium, cobalt, REE, graphite, etc. Many are import-dependent.

**Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)**

JV to buy overseas lithium and other critical mineral assets.

**Composite licence**

Prospecting-plus-mining licence in MMDR - the phrase in Statement III.

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