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Q26

Consider the following statements: Statement I: The amount of dust particles in the atmosphere is more in subtropical and temperate areas than in equatorial and polar regions. Statement II: Subtropical and temperate areas have less dry winds. 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 explains Statement I (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct Official key: C.

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

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

Explanation

(a)

• **Both correct and II explains I. II is false:** subtropical and temperate zones have more dry, dusty winds (including trades and westerly storms), not less.

(b)

Both correct but II does not explain I. II still has to be true. It is not.

(c) Official key

I is correct, II is not. Dust loading is typically higher in the dry subtropics and mid-latitudes than in the washed equatorial belt or the polar ice. II's 'less dry winds' is the inverted cause.

(d)

I not, II correct. Dust is not lower in those belts.

Summary

• **Official key is (c):** Statement I is correct and II is not. Dust is higher in subtropical and temperate belts than at the equatorial and polar extremes. Those belts do not have 'less dry winds' - they have more, which is why I is true. (a)(b) keep II; (d) flips the pair.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Sahara-Sahel dust

Subtropical source. Atlantic transport to the Amazon is a neighbour PYQ.

ITC / equatorial rains

Washout of aerosols. Why equatorial air is relatively cleaner of dust.

Polar atmosphere

Little local dust source; ice and distance. Low dust except long-range pollution.

Aerosols and albedo

Dust as a climate forcing. The physical neighbour of I.

Loess

Wind-blown silt in temperate belts - a landform proof of dusty westerlies.

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