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Q71

In which of the following activities are Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites used? 1. Assessment of crop productivity 2. Locating groundwater resources 3. Mineral exploration 4. Telecommunications 5. Traffic studies Select the correct answer using the code given below (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 4 and 5 only (c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography
Physical, Indian and world geography - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

IRS satellites are Earth-observation craft used for crop assessment, **groundwater** prospecting and mineral exploration, among other resource applications. Telecommunications are the job of communication satellites (**INSAT/GSAT** class), and traffic studies as a dedicated IRS use are not in the same operational set. Hence 1, 2 and 3 only is the official key.

(b)

Telecommunications and traffic studies are not the defining IRS uses in this question; IRS is a remote-sensing series. This option is therefore wrong.

(c)

Crop and **groundwater** uses are real, but mineral exploration is also an IRS application, so 1 and 2 only is incomplete. This option is not the key.

(d)

All five would include telecom and traffic as IRS roles. Those are not IRS mandates in the sense of the question. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1, 2 and 3 only. Indian Remote Sensing satellites supply imagery for agriculture, water and minerals. Voice and data telecom ride communication satellites, not IRS. Traffic studies are not a listed IRS mission in this scheme. Statements 4 and 5 therefore drop out. Only the resource-mapping trio remains.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

IRS programme

ISRO Earth-observation series (e.g. RESOURCESAT, CARTOSAT)

INSAT/GSAT

Indian communication satellites for telecom and broadcasting

NRSC

National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad; IRS data applications

Bhuvan

ISRO geoportal using remote-sensing data

Groundwater

Hydrogeomorphological mapping from satellite data aids prospecting

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