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Q45

The term 'Goldilocks Zone' is often seen in the news in the context of (a) the limits of habitable zone above the surface of the Earth (b) regions inside the Earth where shale gas is available (c) search for the Earth-like planets in outer space (d) search for meteorites containing precious metals Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology

Science, technology, space, defence, IT - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) the limits of **habitable zone** above the surface of the Earth. Goldilocks is not an Earth-atmosphere altitude band. Wrong scale.

(b)

(b) regions inside the Earth where shale gas is available. Shale basins are geology, not Goldilocks Zone.

(c) Official key

(c) search for the Earth-like planets in outer space. The Goldilocks (habitable) zone is the orbital band around a star where **liquid water** could exist-central to hunting exoplanets. That is the official key.

(d)

(d) search for meteorites containing precious metals. Unrelated to the term.

Summary

Official key is (c) search for the Earth-like planets in outer space. Goldilocks Zone means the **circumstellar habitable zone**. It is not a layer of Earth's air, a shale-gas belt, or a meteorite hunt. Only the exoplanet-search meaning is keyed.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Habitable zone

Distance range allowing liquid water on a planet's surface

Kepler mission

NASA exoplanet survey often discussed with this term

Proxima Centauri b

Example planet discussed in a habitable zone

Circumstellar

Around a star, not around Earth

Liquid water

The usual Goldilocks criterion

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