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Q58

The terms 'WannaCry, Petya and EternalBlue' sometimes mentioned in the news recently are related to (a) Exoplanets (b) Cryptocurrency (c) Cyber attacks (d) Mini satellites Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2018 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) Exoplanets. Exoplanets are worlds around other stars, named in astronomy news, not in ransomware headlines. **WannaCry** and Petya are unrelated to that field. This option is not the key.

(b)

(b) Cryptocurrency. Some ransomware demanded bitcoin, but **EternalBlue** is an NSA-leaked **SMB** exploit and the three names together denote malware campaigns, not a currency. This option is not the key.

(c) Official key

(c) Cyber attacks. **WannaCry (2017)** and Petya/NotPetya were ransomware/wiper waves; **EternalBlue** was the leaked exploit that helped them spread across unpatched Windows **SMB**. The trio belongs to cyber-attack news. This option is the official key.

(d)

(d) Mini satellites. CubeSats and other small satellites are a space-tech topic, not these names. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (c) Cyber attacks. **WannaCry** and Petya were 2017 malware outbreaks; **EternalBlue** was the **SMB** exploit that enabled rapid worm-like spread. The set is therefore a cyber-security cluster, not exoplanets, crypto as such, or mini satellites. Bitcoin appeared only as a ransom channel in some strains. The stored letter is (c).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

EternalBlue

MS17-010 SMB exploit leaked from the Shadow Brokers dump

WannaCry

May 2017 ransomware worm; hit NHS and others

NotPetya

June 2017 wiper disguised as ransomware; began in Ukraine

SMB

Windows file-sharing protocol targeted by EternalBlue

CERT-In

India's computer emergency response team

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