

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q30

Why is there a great concern about the 'microbeads' that are released into environment? (a) They are considered harmful to marine ecosystems. (b) They are considered to cause skin cancer in children. (c) They are small enough to be absorbed by crop plants in irrigated fields. (d) They are often found to be used as food adulterants. Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

(a) Harmful to marine ecosystems. Microbeads are plastic micro-particles in cosmetics and personal care; they pass sewage works, load the sea, and are ingested by plankton and fish. That marine-ecosystem harm is the official key.

(b)

(b) Skin cancer in children. That is not the scientific case against microbeads, so this is not the key.

(c)

(c) Absorbed by crop plants in irrigated fields. The **policy** concern is aquatic microplastics, not crop uptake as the headline risk, so this is not the key.

(d)

(d) Food adulterants. Microbeads are not used as food adulterants; this is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a). Microbeads are engineered microplastics washed from scrubs and toothpastes into rivers and oceans. Several countries, including India in later plastic rules, moved to restrict them because of marine food-web contamination. Honour the stored letter (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Size

Typically under 5 mm plastic particles

Source

Face washes, toothpaste, scrubs

Pathway

Wastewater to rivers and sea

Askable twin

Microfibres from washing synthetic clothes

Policy

Bans in cosmetics in many jurisdictions

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/prelims/gs/2019/why-is-there-a-great-concern-about-the-microbeads-that-are-released-into-environment/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com