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Q79

Consider the following statements: 1. Coal ash contains arsenic, lead and mercury. 2. Coal-fired power plants release sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen into the environment. 3. High ash content is observed in Indian coal. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2020 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

1 only. SO₂/NO_x and high Indian ash are also true.

(b)

2 and 3 only. Trace metals in ash also hold.

(c)

3 only. Under-counts.

(d) Official key

All three. Fly ash carries As, Pb, Hg; stacks emit SO₂ and NO_x; Indian coal is high-ash.

Summary

Official key is (d) 1, 2 and 3. Coal ash holds toxic metals, coal plants emit sulphur and nitrogen oxides, and Indian thermal coal is high in ash compared with many traded coals.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Indian coal ash

Often 30-45% in thermal grades.

FGD / ESP

SO₂ and particulate controls.