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Q17

Why is there a concern about copper smelting plants? 1. They may release lethal quantities of carbon monoxide into environment. 2. The copper slag can cause the leaching of some heavy metals into environment. 3. They may release sulphur dioxide as a pollutant. Select the correct answer using the code given below (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

1 and 2 only. Lethal CO is not the distinctive smelter scare as keyed; SO₂ and slag metals are.

(b) Official key

2 and 3 only. Copper slag can leach metals; smelters emit SO₂. Statement 1 over-claims carbon monoxide.

(c)

1 and 3 only. Slag leaching is also true.

(d)

All three. Statement 1 is the miss.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 and 3 only. **Copper smelting** is a sulphur-dioxide and slag/heavy-metal story. Lethal carbon monoxide is not the keyed plant risk here.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Copper smelting

Chalcopyrite roast; SO₂ to acid plants.

Sterlite / Thoothukudi

The Indian news neighbour of this PYQ.

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