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Q49

"Biorock technology" is talked about in which one of the following situations? (a) Restoration of damaged coral reefs (b) Development of building materials using plant residues (c) Identification of areas for exploration/extraction of shale gas (d) Providing salt licks for wild animals in forest/protected areas
Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2022 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology
Science, technology, space, defence, IT - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Restoration of damaged coral reefs. **Biorock** / mineral accretion grows limestone on steel under low voltage.

(b)

Plant-residue building materials. Different tech.

(c)

Shale-gas exploration. Unrelated.

(d)

Salt licks. Unrelated.

Summary

Official key is (a). **Biorock** (mineral accretion) uses a small current on a conducting frame so calcium carbonate precipitates - a coral-reef restoration method (Goreau / Hilbertz).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Biorock

Low-voltage electrolysis in seawater; limestone accretion.

Coral restoration

Also fragmentation and nurseries - neighbouring methods.