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Q28

With reference to India, consider the following statements: 1. Monazite is a source of rare earths. 2. Monazite contains thorium. 3. Monazite occurs naturally in the entire Indian coastal sands in India. 4. In India, Government bodies only can process or export monazite. Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1, 2 and 4 only (c) 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2022 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

Physical, Indian and world geography - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

1, 2 and 3 only. **Monazite** is not in the entire Indian beach-sand belt.

(b) Official key

1, 2 and 4 only. **Monazite** is a rare-earth and thorium ore. Processing/export is a government monopoly. It is not uniformly present on every Indian coast.

(c)

3 and 4 only. Statement 3 fails.

(d)

All four. Statement 3 over-claims the map.

Summary

Official key is (b) 1, 2 and 4 only. Indian **monazite** sands are a source of rare earths and of thorium. **IREL** / designated government bodies handle processing and export. Occurrence is in pockets (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra), not the entire coastline.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Monazite

Phosphate mineral; Ce, La, Nd, Th.

IREL

Indian Rare Earths Limited; beach-sand minerals.

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