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Q7

About three-fourths of world's cobalt, a metal required for the manufacture of batteries for electric motor vehicles, is produced by (a) Argentina (b) Botswana (c) The Democratic Republic of the Congo (d) Kazakhstan Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

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

Explanation

(a)

Argentina. Lithium and copper stories, not three-fourths of **cobalt**.

(b)

Botswana. Diamonds; not the **cobalt** giant.

(c) Official key

The Democratic Republic of the Congo. About three-quarters of mined **cobalt**.

(d)

Kazakhstan. Uranium and other metals, not this **cobalt** share.

Summary

Official key is (c) the DRC. Artisanal and industrial mines in **Katanga** supply most of the world's **cobalt**, the metal that stabilises many lithium-ion cathodes. Argentina, Botswana and Kazakhstan are the wrong mineral maps.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Cobalt

By-product of copper and nickel; EV batteries (NMC, NCA).

Katanga

DRC copper-cobalt belt; also a child-labour and governance PYQ neighbour.