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Q59

Consider the following statements regarding mercury pollution :
1. Gold mining activity is a source of mercury pollution in the world. 2. Coal-based thermal power plants cause mercury pollution. 3. There is no known safe level of exposure to mercury.
How many of the above statements are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Only one. Gold mining and coal plants are both mercury sources.

(b) Official key

Only two. **ASGM** and coal-fired plants release mercury. A blanket 'no known safe level' is not keyed as the third correct limb.

(c)

All three. The paper stops at two.

(d)

None. Two pollution sources stand.

Summary

Official key is (b) only two. Artisanal gold mining (mercury amalgamation) and coal combustion are major global mercury sources. The Commission does not count the 'no known safe level' sentence as a third correct statement in this item.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Minamata Convention

2013; legally binding on mercury.

ASGM

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining - a top mercury source.

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