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Q6

Ilmenite and rutile, abundantly available in certain coastal tracts of India, are rich sources of which one of the following? (a) Aluminium (b) Copper (c) Iron (d) Titanium Official key: D.

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

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

Explanation

(a)

Aluminium. That is bauxite (gibbsite, boehmite), not beach **ilmenite**.

(b)

Copper. Chalcopyrite and similar sulphides.

(c)

Iron. Haematite and magnetite; **ilmenite** is an iron-titanium oxide, but the industrial prize is titanium.

(d) Official key

Titanium. **Ilmenite** (FeTiO_3) and rutile (TiO_2) are the beach-sand titanium ores.

Summary

Official key is (d) titanium. Kerala-Tamil Nadu-Odisha beach sands hold **ilmenite** and rutile, the main ores of titanium (pigment, metal, welding). Iron is present in **ilmenite**'s formula but is not why these sands are worked.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Ilmenite

FeTiO_3 ; principal titanium ore in Indian placer sands.

IREL

Indian Rare Earths; processes beach-sand minerals including ilmenite and rutile.