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Q22

Consider the following statements : Statement-I : Many chewing gums found in the market are considered a source of environmental pollution. Statement-II: Many chewing gums contain plastic as gum base. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ? (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement- II explains Statement-I (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2024 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Both correct and II explains I. Synthetic **gum base** is a plastic; discarded gum is litter.

(b)

Both correct but II does not explain I. The plastic base is why gum persists as pollution.

(c)

I correct, II incorrect. Many gums do use a synthetic polymer base.

(d)

I incorrect, II correct. Chewing-gum litter is a known urban pollutant.

Summary

Official key is (a). A large share of commercial chewing gum uses a synthetic (plastic) **gum base**. That polymer does not biodegrade readily, so discarded gum is a street and sewer pollutant. Statement-II explains Statement-I.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Gum base

Insoluble part of chewing gum; often a synthetic elastomer.

Microplastics

Gum fragments add to urban plastic load.

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