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Q78

In India, in which one of the following types of forests is teak a dominant tree species? (a) Tropical moist deciduous forest (b) Tropical rain forest (c) Tropical thorn scrub forest (d) Temperate forest with grasslands Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Teak (*Tectona grandis*) is the characteristic dominant of tropical moist deciduous forests in India, as in parts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. This option is the official key.

(b)

Tropical rain forests (wet evergreen) are dominated by dipterocarps and dense evergreen canopies, not by teak as the leading species. This option is not the key.

(c)

Tropical thorn scrub has acacias, euphorbias and hardy shrubs; teak is not dominant there. This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

Temperate forests with grasslands (Himalayan or high-altitude) do not carry teak, a tropical species. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) Tropical moist deciduous forest. Teak sheds leaves in the dry season and occupies the moist deciduous belt of peninsular India. Wet evergreen, thorn scrub and temperate types have other dominants. Forest-type questions pair teak with moist deciduous, **sal** with dry/moist deciduous of the north, and dipterocarps with wet evergreen. Only (a) is correct.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Tectona grandis

Teak; Verbenaceae (Lamiaceae s.l.)

Sal

Shorea robusta; moist and dry deciduous of north and east India

Sandalwood

Associated with dry deciduous of southern India

Western Ghats evergreen

Hopea, Dipterocarpus, not teak dominance

Nilgiri teak

Famous teak of moist deciduous belts in southern peninsula

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