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Q9

Which of the following National Parks is unique in being a swamp with floating vegetation that supports a rich biodiversity? (a) Bhitarkanika National Park (b) Keibul Lamjao National Park (c) Keoladeo Ghana National Park (d) Sultanpur National Park

Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

(a) **Bhitarkanika** National Park. This Odisha park is a mangrove and saltwater-crocodile landscape, not a floating-**phumdi** swamp. It is the wrong habitat type.

(b) Official key

(b) **Keibul Lamjao** National Park. On **Loktak Lake**, Manipur, this is the world's only floating national park: **phumdi** (floating biomass) supports the brow-antlered **sangai**. That unique swamp-with-floating-vegetation is the official key.

(c)

(c) Keoladeo Ghana National Park. Bharatpur is a man-managed wetland for migratory birds, not a floating-vegetation swamp of the Loktak type. Not the key.

(d)

(d) Sultanpur National Park. A Haryana bird wetland near Gurugram, without **phumdi** ecology. Not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b) **Keibul Lamjao** National Park. It sits on **Loktak Lake** and is famous for floating phumdis and the **sangai** deer. **Bhitarkanika** is mangrove, Keoladeo and Sultanpur are bird wetlands without that floating-swamp character. Only **Keibul Lamjao** matches the stem.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Loktak Lake

Largest freshwater lake in North-East India, Manipur

Phumdi

Floating heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil and organic matter

Sangai

Manipur brow-antlered deer, *Rucervus eldii eldii*

Keibul Lamjao

World's only floating national park

Bhitarkanika

Mangrove NP, saltwater crocodile, Odisha

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