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Q25

Which one of the following is the national aquatic animal of India? (a) Saltwater crocodile (b) Olive ridley turtle (c) Gangetic dolphin (d) Gharial Official key: C.

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

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

Explanation

(a)

(a) Saltwater crocodile. *Crocodylus porosus* is protected in Bhitarkanika and the Andamans, but it is not the **national aquatic animal**.

(b)

(b) Olive ridley turtle. Famous for Gahirmatha arribadas; a Schedule I marine turtle, not the **national aquatic animal**.

(c) Official key

(c) Gangetic dolphin. *Platanista gangetica* was declared India's **national aquatic animal** in 2009. That is the official key.

(d)

(d) Gharial. *Gavialis gangeticus* is a critically endangered crocodilian of the Ganga system, not the **national aquatic animal**.

Summary

Official key is (c) Gangetic dolphin. The Ganges river dolphin was notified as the **national aquatic animal** in 2009. Saltwater crocodile, olive ridley and gharial are important fauna but do not hold that title. Only the Gangetic dolphin matches.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

National aquatic animal

Gangetic dolphin, 2009

Vikramshila / National Dolphin Day

Conservation landmarks for the species

Blind river dolphin

Echolocation in turbid rivers

National reptile

King cobra (popular listing; not this question)

Project Dolphin

Later Union conservation initiative

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