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Q52

Which one of the following National Parks has a climate that varies from tropical to subtropical, temperate and arctic? (a) Khangchendzonga National Park (b) Nandadevi National Park (c) Neora Valley National Park (d) Namdapha National Park Official key: D.

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

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

Explanation**(a)**

Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim spans high Himalayan altitudes and has temperate to alpine belts, but it is not the park classically cited for a continuous tropical-to-arctic gradient in this question. This option is not the key.

(b)

Nanda Devi National Park in Uttarakhand is a high-altitude Himalayan reserve of alpine meadows and glaciers. It lacks a tropical lowland belt of the kind Namdapha shows. This option is therefore wrong.

(c)

Neora Valley National Park in the Kalimpong hills of West Bengal is a temperate-to-subtropical Eastern Himalayan forest. It does not run from tropical rain forest to arctic conditions. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

Namdapha National Park in Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh, rises from low tropical valleys to high snow-bearing ridges. That elevation range produces tropical, subtropical, temperate and alpine/arctic climates in one park. This option is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Namdapha National Park. Namdapha's altitude span from tropical foothills to high Himalayan ridges packs several climate belts into one protected area. **Khangchendzonga** and **Nanda Devi** are high Himalayan parks without that full tropical-to-arctic sequence as framed here. Neora Valley is a narrower Eastern Himalayan forest. Only Namdapha matches the climate gradient asked.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Namdapha location

Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh, Patkai-Eastern Himalaya

Namdapha river

Noa-Dihing (a Brahmaputra tributary) drains the park

Four big cats

Tiger, leopard, clouded leopard and snow leopard reported from Namdapha

Khangchendzonga

UNESCO World Heritage mixed site in Sikkim

Nanda Devi

UNESCO World Heritage with Valley of Flowers

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