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Q22

In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat? (a) Sand deserts of northwest India (b) Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir (c) Salt marshes of western Gujarat (d) Western Ghats Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

Sand deserts of northwest India. The Great Indian Hornbill needs tall wet forests, not Thar dunes. This letter is not the key.

(b)

Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir. High cold mountains are not its habitat. This letter is not the key.

(c)

Salt marshes of western Gujarat. Rann flats do not hold this canopy bird. This letter is not the key.

(d) Official key

Western Ghats. *Buceros bicornis* lives in evergreen and moist deciduous forests of the Western Ghats (and also northeast India). Among the given regions, the Ghats are the natural-habitat match. That stored letter is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Western Ghats. The Great Indian Hornbill is a large forest hornbill of the Western Ghats and northeast, not of desert, high Himalaya or Gujarat salt marsh. Honour the stored letter (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Scientific name

Buceros bicornis

State bird

Kerala (Great Indian Hornbill)

IUCN

Vulnerable

Diet / ecology

Key forest frugivore; needs large nesting trees

Also found in India

Northeast Himalayan foothills and adjoining forests

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