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Q90

Recently, for the first time in our country, which of the following States has declared a particular butterfly as 'State Butterfly'? (a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Maharashtra Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

Indian art, architecture, culture - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

Arunachal Pradesh is butterfly-rich but was not the first State in India to declare a State Butterfly in the news this question uses. This option is not the key.

(b)

Himachal Pradesh has later insect/wildlife symbols; it was not that first declaration. This option is wrong.

(c)

Karnataka is a **Western Ghats** State with rich butterfly fauna, but Maharashtra made the first State Butterfly declaration. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

Maharashtra, in 2015, became the first Indian State to declare a State Butterfly, the **Blue Mormon** (*Papilio polymnestor*). That is why (d) is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Maharashtra. The **Blue Mormon**, a large swallowtail found in the **Western Ghats** and elsewhere in peninsular India, was notified as Maharashtra's State Butterfly - the first such State-level symbol in the country. Arunachal, Himachal and Karnataka were not that first mover. Other States later named their own butterflies. The question is about the first declaration, not about which State has the most species.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Blue Mormon

Papilio polymnestor; among India's largest butterflies

Year

2015 declaration by Maharashtra

Southern Birdwing

Later named State butterfly of Karnataka

Kaiser-i-Hind

Associated with Arunachal Pradesh as a later State butterfly

Western Ghats

Global butterfly hotspot overlapping Maharashtra

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