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Q44

What is/are unique about 'Kharai camel', a breed found in India?

**1. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometres in seawater.
2. It survives by grazing on mangroves. 3. It lives in the wild and cannot be domesticated. Select the correct answer using the code given below (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: A.**

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

1 and 2 only. The Kharai camel of Kachchh can swim in seawater (reports of about three kilometres) and browses mangrove stands along the gulf. It is a domesticated pastoral breed, not an undomesticable wild animal. That stored letter is the official key.

(b)

Statement 3 only. Kharai camels are kept by pastoralists (e.g. Fakirani Jat, Rabari); they are not wild-only. 3 is false.

(c)

1 and 3 only. Swimming is right; 'cannot be domesticated' is wrong. This pairing is not the key.

(d)

All three. Statement 3 fails, so all three cannot be the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1 and 2 only. Kharai camels swim and graze mangroves in Kachchh and are a domesticated breed, not wild-only. Honour the stored letter (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Region

Kachchh coast, Gujarat; Gulf of Kachchh mangroves

Breed status

Recognised indigenous camel breed of India

Pastoral groups

Fakirani Jat, Rabari among keepers

Threats

Mangrove loss, industrial coast, shrinking herds

Other Indian camels

Bikaneri, Jaisalmeri, Kachchhi (distinct from Kharai)

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