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Q35

According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law? 1. Gharial 2. Indian wild ass 3. Wild buffalo Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 only. **Gharial** is protected, but wild ass and **wild buffalo** are also listed species that cannot be freely hunted. 1 only is incomplete.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3 only. **Gharial** is equally a **Schedule I** / protected reptile. Dropping 1 is wrong.

(c)

(c) 1 and 3 only. **Indian wild ass** is also protected. Not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) 1, 2 and 3. **Gharial**, **Indian wild ass** and **wild buffalo** are all protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; hunting is barred except under narrow statutory exceptions. This is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) 1, 2 and 3. The 1972 Act schedules species so that hunting is prohibited except in the tightly drawn cases the law itself allows (for example specified scientific or exceptional permissions). **Gharial**, **Indian wild ass** (khur) and **wild buffalo** are all conservation-priority animals on those schedules. None of the three is a free-hunting species. **Schedule I** is the highest protection band, shared in spirit with the tiger.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

WPA year

1972

Gharial

Critically endangered crocodilian

Indian wild ass

Little Rann of Kutch stronghold

Wild buffalo

Central India / NE populations

Schedule I

Highest protection; hunting banned

NBWL

National Board for Wildlife

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