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Q98

Consider the following statements: 1. The definition of "Critical Wildlife Habitat" is incorporated in the Forest Rights Act, 2006. 2. For the first time in India, Baigas have been given Habitat Rights. 3. Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2018 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

(a) 1 and 2 only. The **Forest Rights Act, 2006** defines **Critical Wildlife Habitat** in national parks and sanctuaries. **Baiga** (a PVTG) received **habitat rights** in Madhya Pradesh-the first such recognition in India. Statement 3 is false: **habitat rights** are conferred under FRA by the gram sabha-SDLCs/DLCs process, not unilaterally declared by MoEFCC. Hence 1 and 2. This option is the official key.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3 only. Statement 2 is true, but MoEFCC does not "officially decide and declare" **habitat rights**. This option is not the key.

(c)

(c) 3 only. The ministry-declaration claim is wrong. This option is not the key.

(d)

(d) 1, 2 and 3. Statement 3 fails, so all three cannot stand. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1 and 2 only. **Critical Wildlife Habitat** is an FRA, 2006 concept. **Habitat rights** for the **Baiga** were first recognised in Madhya Pradesh. Union Environment Ministry is not the authority that declares PVTG **habitat rights**; that lies in the FRA machinery (with tribal affairs as the nodal Union ministry). Statement 3 therefore drops. The WRAP key is (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

FRA 2006

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act

Critical Wildlife Habitat

Inviolate NP/WLS areas after scientific and gram-sabha process

Habitat rights

Section 3(1)(e) FRA rights of PVTGs and pre-ag communities

Baiga

PVTG; Dindori (Madhya Pradesh) habitat-rights recognition

MoTA

Nodal Union ministry for FRA, not MoEFCC for habitat-rights title

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