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Q22

Consider the following statements: 1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only. 2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only. 3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

(a) 1 only. The **Asiatic lion**'s only natural wild population today is in and around Gir, Gujarat, so statement 1 is true. The Bactrian (double-humped) camel is native across Central Asia, not India only. The greater one-horned rhinoceros is wild in India and Nepal (**Kaziranga**-Chitwan belt). So only statement 1 stands, and 1 only is the official key.

(b)

(b) 2 only. Double-humped camel is not India-endemic in the wild, so 2 only is not the key.

(c)

(c) 1 and 3 only. Statement 3 fails because the **one-horned rhino** is also naturally in Nepal, so this pair is not the key.

(d)

(d) 1, 2 and 3. Statements 2 and 3 fail the 'India only' test, so all-three is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1 only. Gir holds the last natural Asiatic lions. Double-humped camels of Nubra are a trans-Himalayan stock of a wider Central Asian species. **One-horned rhino** ranges into Nepal. Honour the stored letter (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Asiatic lion

Gir, Gujarat

Bactrian camel

Camelus bactrianus; Central Asia; Nubra herds

One-horned rhino

India and Nepal

Askable twin

Asiatic cheetah extinct in India, extant in Iran

Kaziranga

Prime Indian rhino landscape

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