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Q18

Which one of the following National Parks lies completely in the temperate alpine (a) Manas National Park (b) Namdapha National Park (c) Neora Valley National Park (d) Valley of Flowers National Park Official key: D.

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

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

Explanation**(a)**

(a) **Manas** National Park. **Manas** (Assam) is a terai-bhabar and tropical grassland-forest landscape on the Bhutan foothills, not a park lying wholly in the temperate alpine zone, so it is not the key.

(b)

(b) **Namdapha** National Park. **Namdapha** (Arunachal) spans tropical to alpine belts along a huge elevation gradient; it does not lie completely in the temperate alpine zone, so it is not the key.

(c)

(c) Neora Valley National Park. Neora Valley (Kalimpong, West Bengal) is Eastern Himalayan forest at mid to high hills, not a wholly temperate-alpine park, so it is not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) Valley of Flowers National Park. In Chamoli, Uttarakhand, this Nanda Devi biosphere unit is a high Himalayan glacial valley of alpine meadows, lying wholly in the temperate alpine zone. That is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Valley of Flowers National Park. It is a high-altitude alpine-flower valley in the Garhwal Himalaya, entirely in the temperate alpine belt. **Manas** is lowland Assam; **Namdapha** and Neora Valley mix tropical and montane zones. Honour the stored letter (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

State

Uttarakhand (Chamoli)

UNESCO

Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers World Heritage

Namdapha

Changlang, Arunachal; elevation transect

Manas

Tiger, elephant, biosphere; Assam-Bhutan

Askable twin

Great Himalayan National Park as another alpine landscape

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