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Q72

With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements: 1. The leader of an elephant group is a female. 2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months. 3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only. 4. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 4 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 3 and 4 only Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2020 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

1 and 2 only. Herds are matriarchal; gestation can reach about 22 months. Calving is not capped at 40 as a hard only; Kerala is not the top State (Karnataka is).

(b)

2 and 4 only. Kerala population claim fails.

(c)

3 only. The false age cap.

(d)

1, 3 and 4 only. Keeps two misses.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1 and 2 only. Asian elephant groups are led by a female; pregnancy can last up to about 22 months. They can calve beyond forty, and the largest wild population among States is Karnataka, not Kerala.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Matriarch

Oldest female leads the family.

Elephant census

Karnataka > Assam > Kerala in recent counts.

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