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Q23

Consider the following animals: 1. Hedgehog 2. marmot 3. Pangolin to reduce the chance of being captured by predators, which of the above organisms rolls up/roll up and protects/protect its/their vulnerable parts? (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 only (c) 3 only (d) 1 and 3 Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

1 and 2. Marmots freeze or bolt to burrows; they are not the roll-up pair.

(b)

2 only. Marmot is the miss.

(c)

3 only. **Hedgehog** also rolls.

(d) Official key

1 and 3. **Hedgehog** and **pangolin** curl to hide the soft underside. Marmot does not.

Summary

Official key is (d) 1 and 3. Hedgehogs and pangolins roll into a ball. Marmots rely on burrows, not a defensive roll.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Pangolin

Keratin scales; illegal wildlife trade flagship.

Hedgehog

Spines; European and Indian species.