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Q45

With reference to "Gucchi" sometimes mentioned in the news, consider the following statements: 1. It is a fungus. 2. It grows in some Himalayan forest areas. 3. It is commercially cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of north-eastern India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 3 only (c) 1 and 2 (d) 2 and 3 Official key: C.

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Explanation**(a)**

1 only. Himalayan morel also grows wild in western Himalayan woods.

(b)

3 only. It is not a commercial NE-foothills crop as stated.

(c) Official key

1 and 2. **Gucchi** is a morel fungus; wild in parts of the Himalaya. Not farmed as a NE commercial crop.

(d)

2 and 3. Statement 3 fails.

Summary

Official key is (c) 1 and 2. **Gucchi** is **Morchella**, a wild morel of western Himalayan forests (J&K, HP). It is foraged, not a commercial plantation crop of the north-eastern foothills.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Gucchi

Dried morel; among the costliest Indian wild mushrooms.

Morchella

Ascomycete fungus; fruiting after snowmelt.

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