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Q17

Consider the following statements regarding the Indian squirrels:

1. They build nests by making burrows in the ground. 2. They store their food materials like nuts and seeds in the ground. 3. They are omnivorous. How many of the above statements are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Only one. Two statements hold for Indian squirrels as a class.

(b) Official key

Only two. They cache nuts and they are omnivorous. Typical Indian palm squirrels nest in tree dreys, not by digging burrows.

(c)

All three. Statement 1 treats them as burrowers; that is ground squirrels, not Funambulus.

(d)

None. Caching and omnivory stand.

Summary

Official key is (b) only two. Indian palm squirrels (Funambulus) build leaf dreys in trees, not ground burrows. They do store food, and they eat plant matter plus insects - omnivory. Statement 1 is the miss.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Funambulus palmarum

Three-striped palm squirrel; common Indian tree squirrel.

Drey

A spherical tree nest of leaves and twigs.

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