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WEEKLY

Weekly Current Affairs Compilation · 1-7 September 2026 · 9 Topics

Grouped by theme for faster revision — Protected Areas & Ecosystems, Species Watch, and Ocean & Fisheries Governance. Every topic includes a Prelims Memory Bank for instant recall.

"innovation in learning"

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PROTECTED AREAS & ECOSYSTEMS

Ghepan Lake — GSI Begins 14-Day Scientific Study Amid GLOF Fears

WHY IN NEWS

A five-member Geological Survey of India team began a 14-day scientific study of Himachal Pradesh's Ghepan Glacial Lake from 1 September 2026, as the Lahaul-Spiti district administration steps up monitoring after the lake expanded 176% over the past 33 years due to rapid glacier melt.

176% EXPANSION OF GHEPAN LAKE OVER THE PAST 33 YEARS

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF)**
  A recurring Himalayan hazard theme, as seen in the 2023 South Lhonak Lake disaster
- **Early Warning Systems for Himalayan hazards**
  Agencies like C-DAC and NDMA play a key role in disaster preparedness
- **Climate change & the Himalayan cryosphere**
  Glacier retreat is driving the formation and expansion of new glacial lakes

PRELIMS MATRIX

Location	Lahaul region, Lahaul-Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh
Altitude	~4,070-4,140 m (also cited as ~13,583 ft)
Local significance	Named after Ghepan, the protector deity of Lahaul
Recent change	Expanded 176% in 33 years; now ~101.30 hectares, ~35.08 million cu m of water
Feeding source	Three hanging glaciers feed the lake — an unusual high-altitude setting
Current action	GSI's 5-member team began a 14-day study on 1 Sept 2026; EWS also planned via C-DAC

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

Ghepan Lake's neon-blue, turquoise water famously does not change colour with shifting sunlight, unlike most glacial lakes — a distinctive optical trait that has made it one of Himachal's most photographed high-altitude lakes even as it now poses a growing flood risk.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

- Ghepan Lake = Lahaul-Spiti, HP; ~4,070-4,140 m altitude
- Expanded 176% in 33 years; ~101.30 hectares now
- Fed by three hanging glaciers; holds ~35 million cu m of water
- GSI's 14-day scientific study began 1 Sept 2026

EXAM TRAP

Don't assume Ghepan Lake's growth is a sudden, recent event — its 176% expansion has occurred gradually over 33 years due to glacier retreat, even though the scientific study and early warning system are new 2026 interventions.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to Ghepan Lake, consider the following statements:
1. It is located in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district.
2. It has expanded by 176% over the past 33 years mainly due to glacier melt.
3. The lake is fed by a single glacier.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only
B 2 and 3 only
C 1 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 2 only

Approach
Statement 3 is the trap — Ghepan Lake is fed by three hanging glaciers, not a single one, an unusual setting for this altitude. Statements 1 and 2 are accurate.

SPECIES WATCH

Liocheles gracilipalpus — New Scorpion Species from the Shivalik Hills

WHY IN NEWS

Researchers have discovered and formally described Liocheles gracilipalpus, a new scorpion species from the Shivalik Hills of Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir, distinguished by its unusually long and slender pedipalps.

34.8-43.2mm BODY LENGTH OF THE NEWLY DESCRIBED SCORPION

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **Western Himalayan arachnid diversity**
  An understudied group compared to Northeast India's Indo-Burma hotspot
- **Integrative taxonomy**
  Combining morphological study with genetic testing to confirm new species status
- **Shivalik Hills ecology**
  The outermost, youngest range of the Himalayan mountain system

PRELIMS MATRIX

Species & family	Liocheles gracilipalpus; family Hormuridae
Location found	Near Judda, Reasi district, J&K, at ~1,655 m elevation
Distinguishing trait	Unusually long, slender pedipalps ("gracilis" = slender + "palpus")
Size	Relatively large for its genus, 34.8-43.2 mm in total length
Appearance	Greyish-brown to dark brown body; lighter legs and tail; sexual dimorphism observed
Published in	Euscorpius journal, August 2026 edition

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

Genetic testing confirmed the Reasi population forms a distinct evolutionary lineage separate from other Liocheles species in India, meaning the discovery relied as much on DNA analysis as on the scorpion's visibly unusual long pedipalps.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

Liocheles gracilipalpus = new scorpion, Shivalik Hills, Reasi (J&K)

Family Hormuridae; found at ~1,655 m elevation

Distinguishing trait: long, slender pedipalps

Published in Euscorpius, August 2026

EXAM TRAP

Don't assume this discovery came from Northeast India's well-known Indo-Burma arachnid hotspot — this new scorpion was found in the Western Himalayas' Shivalik Hills, a comparatively understudied region for arachnid diversity.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to Liocheles gracilipalpus, consider the following statements:
1. It was discovered in the Shivalik Hills of Jammu & Kashmir.
2. It belongs to the scorpion family Hormuridae.
3. It was discovered in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot of Northeast India.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only
B 2 and 3 only
C 1 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 2 only

Approach
Statement 3 is the trap — the species was found in the Western Himalayas (Reasi, J&K), not the Indo-Burma hotspot of Northeast India, home to a different Liocheles species. Statements 1 and 2 are accurate.

SPECIES WATCH

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Recorded at Delhi's Najafgarh Jheel

WHY IN NEWS

A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was recorded at Najafgarh Jheel in Delhi-NCR, marking only the fifth documented sighting of this rare Siberian shorebird in India in about 150 years and highlighting the ecological value of urban and peri-urban wetlands.

5th DOCUMENTED SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER SIGHTING IN INDIA, ~150 YRS

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **East Asian-Australasian Flyway**
  One of the world's major migratory bird routes, passing near India
- **Urban wetland conservation**
  Najafgarh Jheel's role as a stopover despite being in a dense metropolitan region
- **Vagrancy in migratory birds**
  Rare, off-route sightings can indicate shifting migration patterns

PRELIMS MATRIX

Species	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Calidris acuminata); family Scolopacidae
Appearance	Chestnut cap; heavily marked chevron/spotted underparts in breeding plumage
Breeding range	Northern Siberia, from the Lena River delta to the Kolyma region
Normal wintering grounds	Australia and New Zealand, via the East Asian-Australasian Flyway
Sighting	Najafgarh Jheel, Delhi-NCR — only the 5th Indian record in ~150 years
Diet & habitat	Freshwater/coastal wetlands; feeds on seeds, worms, molluscs, crustaceans, insects

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpipers make one of the most remarkable migrations in the bird world — after adults leave Siberia for Australasia, the young birds fly alone about 2,300 km east to Alaska before continuing their onward journey, entirely without parental guidance.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper = Calidris acuminata; family Scolopacidae

Sighted at Najafgarh Jheel, Delhi-NCR

Only the 5th Indian record in ~150 years

Breeds in Siberia; normally winters in Australia/New Zealand

EXAM TRAP

Don't assume the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a regular winter visitor to India — its usual non-breeding range is Australia and New Zealand; Indian records are extremely rare vagrant occurrences, not part of its usual migratory pattern.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, consider the following statements:
1. It breeds in northern Siberia.
2. Its usual non-breeding grounds are Australia and New Zealand.
3. This Delhi sighting represents a common, annual occurrence for the species in India.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only
B 2 and 3 only
C 1 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 2 only

Approach
Statement 3 is the trap — this was only the fifth documented Indian sighting in about 150 years, an extremely rare vagrant record, not a common annual occurrence. Statements 1 and 2 are accurate.

PROTECTED AREAS & ECOSYSTEMS

Male Mahadeshwara Hills — A Critical but Conflict-Prone Tiger Corridor

WHY IN NEWS

Recent forest department data shows Male Mahadeshwara (MM) Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka has accounted for nearly half of the state's poaching and illegal-arms cases over the last 16 years, spotlighting the pressures facing this key tiger corridor even as its tiger population continues to grow.

~50% OF KARNATAKA'S POACHING & ILLEGAL-ARMS CASES (16 YRS) TRACED TO MM HILLS

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **Tiger corridors & landscape connectivity**
  MM Hills links BRT Tiger Reserve, Cauvery WLS and Sathyamangalam TR across two states
- **Poaching enforcement & human-wildlife conflict**
  A recurring theme following 2025's tigress-and-cubs poisoning incident here
- **Pending tiger reserve notification**
  The process by which a sanctuary is upgraded to a tiger reserve

PRELIMS MATRIX

Location	Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka, at the Eastern-Western Ghats junction
Established	Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2013; area ~906.19 sq km
Connectivity	Contiguous with BRT Tiger Reserve, Cauvery WLS (Karnataka) & Sathyamangalam TR (TN)
Status	Pending notification as Karnataka's 6th tiger reserve
Recent data	Accounts for nearly half of Karnataka's poaching/illegal-arms cases over 16 years
Cultural link	Named after the Male Mahadeshwara Temple, a major Shiva pilgrimage site within it

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

MM Hills sits at a rare tri-junction of the Eastern and Western Ghats near where Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu meet, making it one of the most strategically important tiger-corridor links in South India.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

- MM Hills WLS: Chamarajanagar, Karnataka; ~906 sq km, est. 2013
- Links BRT TR, Cauvery WLS, Sathyamangalam TR
- Pending notification as Karnataka's 6th tiger reserve
- ~50% of state's poaching/illegal-arms cases (16 yrs) traced here

EXAM TRAP

Don't assume MM Hills is already a notified tiger reserve — despite NTCA approval being sought and rising tiger numbers, it remains a wildlife sanctuary pending final tiger reserve notification.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to Male Mahadeshwara (MM) Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:
1. It is located in Karnataka.
2. It has already been formally notified as a tiger reserve.
3. It is contiguous with the BRT Tiger Reserve and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 3 only
B 1 and 2 only
C 2 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 3 only

Approach
Statement 2 is the trap — MM Hills remains a wildlife sanctuary pending notification as a tiger reserve, not yet formally declared one. Statements 1 and 3 are accurate.

PROTECTED AREAS & ECOSYSTEMS

Myristica Swamps — Western Ghats' Quietly Disappearing "Living Fossils"

WHY IN NEWS

Myristica swamps, ancient freshwater swamp forests of the Western Ghats dominated by primitive Myristicaceae trees, are back in focus for their ecological role in flood regulation and groundwater recharge even as plantations and human activity continue to shrink these fragmented, threatened habitats.

1960 YEAR MYRISTICA SWAMPS WERE FIRST REPORTED, FROM TRAVANCORE

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **Relic/primitive plant communities**
  Myristica swamps are considered "living fossils" for their evolutionarily ancient traits
- **Western Ghats freshwater ecosystems**
  Distinct from mangroves, dependent on year-round waterlogged, non-saline conditions
- **Species endemism & habitat fragmentation**
  A recurring theme across the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot

PRELIMS MATRIX

Definition	Freshwater swamp forests dominated by Myristicaceae trees
Distribution	Mainly Western Ghats (Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra); also A&N Islands, Meghalaya
First reported	From the Travancore region in 1960; early sites: Shendurney, Kulathupuzha, Anchal
Distinctive trait	Unusual stilt/knee root structures adapted to permanent waterlogging
Ecological role	Flood regulation, groundwater recharge, perennial stream maintenance, high endemism
Current threats	Plantation expansion and human activity causing fragmentation into isolated patches

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

A 2023 study found 18 previously undocumented Myristica swamp patches in Ambanar and seven more in Punnala within Kerala's Pathanapuram forest range, showing that new patches of this ancient ecosystem are still being discovered even as existing ones vanish.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

Myristica swamps = freshwater swamp forests, Myristicaceae family, "living fossils" | **Mainly Western Ghats; smaller pockets in A&N Islands, Meghalaya** | **First reported from Travancore in 1960** | **Threatened by plantation expansion and fragmentation**

EXAM TRAP

Don't confuse Myristica swamps with mangrove ecosystems — Myristica swamps are freshwater, non-saline swamp forests found inland in the Western Ghats, entirely distinct from the saline, coastal mangrove habitat type.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to Myristica swamps, consider the following statements:
1. They are freshwater swamp forests found mainly in the Western Ghats.
2. They are dominated by trees of the Myristicaceae family.
3. Myristica swamps are a type of saline coastal mangrove ecosystem.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only
B 2 and 3 only
C 1 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 2 only

Approach
Statement 3 is the trap — Myristica swamps are freshwater, non-saline inland ecosystems, distinct from saline coastal mangroves. Statements 1 and 2 are accurate.

OCEAN & FISHERIES GOVERNANCE

Supreme Court Directs Faster Purse-Seine Access Passes into the EEZ

WHY IN NEWS

The Supreme Court, in its 2 September 2026 ruling in Fisherman Care v Government of India, directed Tamil Nadu to ensure timely clearance of "access pass" applications letting purse-seine fishing vessels transit through its territorial waters to reach the Exclusive Economic Zone, calling delays an "unwritten ban."

Sept 2 **2026 — SC RULING ON PURSE-SEINE ACCESS PASSES INTO THE EEZ**

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **Fishing as a State subject**
  Under the Seventh Schedule, states regulate marine fishing within territorial waters (12 nm)
- **Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the EEZ Rules, 2025**
  The central framework enabling regulated purse-seine access beyond territorial waters
- **Cooperative federalism in resource governance**
  The Court's framing for resolving Centre-State fishing jurisdiction disputes

PRELIMS MATRIX

Technique	Purse seine — a large net drawn closed like a drawstring purse around fish shoals
Current state bans	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Odisha, D&NH/Daman & Diu, A&N Islands (within 12 nm)
Central framework	Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the EEZ Rules, 2025 (notified 4 Nov 2025)
Access-pass system	Operational across 13 coastal states/UTs since February 2026
SC ruling	2 September 2026, Fisherman Care v Government of India
Key direction	TN must ensure timely pass clearance and designate a transit channel through its waters

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

The Supreme Court found that Tamil Nadu's delay in processing purse-seine access-pass applications effectively created an "unwritten ban" even though only 6 of 257 applications had been cleared — turning a procedural bottleneck into a de facto prohibition despite no formal ban existing on paper.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

Purse seine = net technique; drawn closed like a drawstring purse

TN, Kerala, Odisha, Puducherry, A&N Islands ban it within 12 nm

SC ruling, 2 Sept 2026: TN must speed up EEZ access-pass clearance

Access-pass system live across 13 coastal states/UTs since Feb 2026

EXAM TRAP

Don't assume purse-seine fishing is nationally banned in India — the ban applies only in the territorial waters of specific states/UTs; states like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and West Bengal impose no such ban.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to purse-seine fishing regulation in India, consider the following statements:
1. Fishing within territorial waters is a State subject under India's Constitution.
2. Purse-seine fishing is banned nationwide across all Indian coastal states.
3. The Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the EEZ Rules were notified in 2025.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 3 only
B 1 and 2 only
C 2 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 3 only

Approach
Statement 2 is the trap — the purse-seine ban applies only in specific states/UTs' territorial waters; several states like Gujarat and Karnataka impose no such ban. Statements 1 and 3 are accurate.

SPECIES WATCH

Fulvous Whistling Duck — A Widespread but Under-Studied Wetland Species

WHY IN NEWS

The Fulvous Whistling Duck, a distinctive tawny-coloured waterfowl found across India's wetlands, continues to be tracked under the State of India's Birds assessment as a useful indicator of wetland and rice-field ecosystem health.

8 WHISTLING DUCK SPECIES WORLDWIDE, IN THE GENUS DENDROCYGNA

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **Dendrocygna (whistling ducks)**
  A distinct, ancient duck lineage predating most modern duck groups
- **State of India's Birds (SoIB) assessment**
  A citizen-science-backed framework tracking Indian bird population trends
- **Wetland-dependent species as ecological indicators**
  Relevant to broader wetland conservation policy

PRELIMS MATRIX

Species & IUCN status	Dendrocygna bicolor; Least Concern (IUCN)
Appearance	Tawny/cinnamon body, dark crown, blackish-brown back and tail, white rump band
Behaviour & habits	Forages by day or night, often "tipping up" in shallow water; highly social
Habitat	Rice fields, freshwater marshes, ponds; also coastal lagoons and mangroves in winter
Distribution	India to Myanmar, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Americas — very widely distributed
Diet	Over 95% plant material, especially rice and aquatic plant seeds

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

The Fulvous Whistling Duck belongs to one of the oldest surviving duck lineages, the whistling ducks (Dendrocygna), a group of eight species that were already well established before most other modern ducks, geese and swans had evolved.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

Fulvous Whistling Duck = Dendrocygna bicolor; IUCN Least Concern

Tawny body, dark crown, white rump band; tipping-up feeder

Found in rice fields, marshes; India to Myanmar, Africa, Americas

One of 8 species in the ancient Dendrocygna (whistling duck) lineage

EXAM TRAP

Don't confuse the Fulvous Whistling Duck's white rump with the Lesser Whistling Duck's chestnut rump — this is the standard field mark used to distinguish India's two common whistling duck species.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to the Fulvous Whistling Duck, consider the following statements:
1. It belongs to the genus Dendrocygna.
2. It is classified as Least Concern by the IUCN.
3. It can be distinguished from the Lesser Whistling Duck by its chestnut-coloured rump.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only
B 2 and 3 only
C 1 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 2 only

Approach
Statement 3 is the trap — the Fulvous Whistling Duck has a white/creamy rump, while it is the Lesser Whistling Duck that has the chestnut rump. Statements 1 and 2 are accurate.

PROTECTED AREAS & ECOSYSTEMS

Pichavaram Mangroves Valued at 2,485.38 Crore in New Blue Carbon Study

WHY IN NEWS

A 2026 study titled "Economic Valuation and Blue Carbon Assessment of Ecosystem Services in the Pichavaram Mangrove Forest" has estimated the Tamil Nadu mangrove ecosystem's Total Economic Value at 2,485.38 crore, underscoring its role as natural coastal infrastructure.

2,485.38Cr TOTAL ECONOMIC VALUE OF PICHAVARAM MANGROVES, 2026 STUDY

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **Blue Carbon ecosystems & natural capital accounting**
  Valuing coastal ecosystems as economic assets, not just conservation zones
- **Mangrove ecosystem services**
  Coastal protection, fisheries support, carbon sequestration, tourism and livelihoods
- **India's major mangrove ecosystems**
  Comparative context with the Sundarbans, Bhitarkanika and the Gulf of Kutch

PRELIMS MATRIX

Location	Near Chidambaram, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu; joins the Bay of Bengal
Size	~1,478.64 hectares; India's 2nd largest mangrove forest after the Sundarbans
Total Economic Value (TEV)	Rs 2,485.38 crore; ~Rs 1.83 crore per hectare
Blue carbon value	Rs 1,612.40 crore (vegetation + soil carbon pools)
Carbon stocks	~79.4 t carbon/ha (vegetation); ~251.1 t carbon/ha (soil)
Study by	Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru; 302 households, 5 villages

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

The study found that Pichavaram's soil alone stores over three times more carbon per hectare than its vegetation — a reminder that a mangrove's climate value lies as much in its waterlogged soil as in its visible trees.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

Pichavaram = India's 2nd largest mangrove forest, after Sundarbans

Total Economic Value: Rs 2,485.38 crore (2026 ISEC study)

Blue carbon value: Rs 1,612.40 crore

Located near Chidambaram, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu

EXAM TRAP

Don't assume Pichavaram is India's largest mangrove forest — it ranks second, after the much larger Sundarbans in West Bengal, though it remains one of India's most ecologically and economically valuable mangrove ecosystems.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to the Pichavaram Mangrove Forest, consider the following statements:
1. It is India's second largest mangrove forest after the Sundarbans.
2. The 2026 study valued its Total Economic Value at over Rs 2,400 crore.
3. Pichavaram's vegetation stores more carbon per hectare than its soil.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only
B 2 and 3 only
C 1 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 2 only

Approach
Statement 3 is the trap — the study found soil organic carbon stocks far exceed vegetation carbon stocks at Pichavaram, the reverse of this claim. Statements 1 and 2 are accurate.

SPECIES WATCH

Striped Hyena Sighted for the First Time in Kali Tiger Reserve

WHY IN NEWS

Forest officials recorded a rare striped hyena on camera trap in Karnataka's Kali Tiger Reserve near Dandeli — an unusual sighting since the species is typically associated with drier habitats, not the semi-evergreen to evergreen Western Ghats terrain of this reserve.

1st HYENA SIGHTING RECORDED IN KALI TIGER RESERVE'S WESTERN GHATS TERRAIN

CONNECT TO STATIC SYLLABUS

- **Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**
  The striped hyena's highest level of legal protection in India
- **CMS Appendix listings**
  Recent international conservation steps for the species, agreed at CMS CoP15 in Brazil
- **Species range expansion & habitat suitability**
  Why an arid-adapted species turning up in moist forest terrain is significant

PRELIMS MATRIX

Species & IUCN status	Hyaena hyaena; Near Threatened (IUCN); Vulnerable in the Mediterranean
Appearance & habits	Smaller than the spotted hyena; distinct body stripes; solitary, nocturnal scavenger
Indian legal status	Schedule I, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 — highest protection category
Typical range	Semi-arid/arid India (Rajasthan, Gujarat) — the only hyena species in the subcontinent
Recent sighting	First camera-trap record in Kali Tiger Reserve, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka
Global step	Given stronger protection under CMS at CoP15, Brazil, March 2026

UNIQUE FACT FOR PRELIMS

The individual hyena in Kali Tiger Reserve is suspected to have strayed from the drier forests of nearby Dharwad district, since striped hyenas are otherwise virtually unrecorded in the moist evergreen-to-semi-evergreen terrain typical of the Western Ghats.

PRELIMS MEMORY BANK

Striped hyena = Hyaena hyaena; IUCN Near Threatened; Schedule I (WPA 1972)

Only hyena species found in the Indian subcontinent

First-ever sighting in Kali Tiger Reserve, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka

Given stronger protection under CMS at CoP15, Brazil, March 2026

EXAM TRAP

Don't assume the striped hyena's presence in a Western Ghats reserve like Kali means it is now common there — this was a single, unprecedented individual sighting, likely a stray from drier habitat nearby, not evidence of an established population.

PRELIMS MODEL MCQ

With reference to the striped hyena, consider the following statements:
1. It is the only hyena species found in the Indian subcontinent.
2. It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. Its sighting in Kali Tiger Reserve indicates an established, thriving local population there.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only
B 2 and 3 only
C 1 and 3 only
D 1, 2 and 3

Answer: 1 and 2 only

Approach
Statement 3 is the trap — this was a single, highly unusual individual sighting, not evidence of an established population in this atypical Western Ghats habitat. Statements 1 and 2 are accurate.