



ENVIRONMENT- ANIMALS CHEAT SHEET

“Last Seen in UPSC: Animals Less Endangered Than Your Free Time.”

- All Question Numbers from SET A
- List of all Animals asked from 2014-2023 including those in options
- “Various” under IUCN Status means different sub species has different status’

2023

Q NO. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks	Habitat	Areas in India	Areas in World	Unique Chars.
14	Lion tailed macaque	Endangered	Silent Valley, Anamalai Hills	Tropical evergreen forests	Western Ghats	India	Long silver-white mane surrounding the head, arboreal
14	Malabar Civet	Critically Endangered	Not specifically tied to a national park	Tropical rainforests, plains	Western Ghats	India	Nocturnal, elusive, thought to be extinct until recent sightings
14	Sambar deer	Vulnerable	Corbett National Park, Kanha National Park	Forests, grasslands	Throughout India	Asia	Largest deer species in India, males have large, rugged antlers
15	Honey bees	nearly threatened	-	Various, including gardens and wild areas	Widely distributed	Globally	Communication through dances, crucial pollinators





Q. No. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks	Habitat	Areas in India	Areas in World	Unique Chars.
15	Butterflies	Not Evaluated	-	Forests, meadows, gardens	Widely distributed	Globally	Highly diverse group, important pollinators, known for their colorful wings
15	Dragonflies	Not Evaluated	-	Wetlands, lakes, ponds	Widely distributed	Globally	Predatory insects, known for their fast flight and large eyes
16	Mushrooms	Varies by species	-	Forests, grasslands, human-altered environments	Widely distributed	Globally	Diverse group, some with medicinal or toxic properties
19	Fishing cat	Vulnerable	Sundarbans National Park, Chilika Lake	Wetlands, mangroves, swamps	Eastern India, Mangrove regions	Southeast Asia, South Asia	Semi-aquatic, excellent swimmer, feeds primarily on fish and aquatic animals
19	Orangutan	Critically Endangered (Sumatran), Endangered (Bornean)	-	Tropical rainforests	-	Borneo, Sumatra	Highly intelligent, uses tools, primarily arboreal
19	Otter	Varies by species	Corbett National Park, Kaziranga National Park	Rivers, wetlands	Widely distributed in suitable habitats	Globally, in suitable habitats	Playful behavior, use stones to crack open shellfish
19	Sloth bear	Vulnerable	Kanha National Park, Satpura National Park	Dry and moist forests	India	Indian subcontinent	

2022

Q.no. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks Where They Are Found	Habitat	Areas Found in India	Areas Found in World	Unique Chars



| Clear your doubts now.



47	Golden Mahseer	Too much variation	Jim Corbett, Nameri National Parks	Freshwater rivers and lakes	Northern and Northeastern India	South and Southeast Asia	Prized in sport fishing, significant for aquatic biodiversity, can grow quite large.
47	Indian Nightjar	Least Concern	Found across many parks, prefers open scrubby areas	Open woodland, scrub, and grassland	Widely distributed across India	South Asia	Nocturnal bird with camouflaged plumage, known for its distinctive churring calls at night.
47	Spoonbill	Least Concern	Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Chilika Lake	Wetlands, shallow lakes and rivers	North, Northeast, and South India	Europe, Asia, Africa	Large wading bird with a distinctive spoon-shaped bill, feeds on aquatic life in shallow waters.
47	White Ibis	Least Concern	Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (Keoladeo Ghana National Park)	Wetlands, marshes, rice fields	Not native to India, introduced species in some areas	Americas, Africa, Australia	Known for its white plumage and curved bill, lives in colonies, feeds on small aquatic prey.

2021

Q.No. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks	Habitat	Areas in India	Areas in World	Unique Characteristics
23	Hedgehog	Least Concern	None specific; hedgehogs are not native to India	Forests, gardens, and grasslands	Not native to India	Europe, Asia, and Africa	Nocturnal, spiny protection; diet includes insects, snails, frogs
23	Marmot	Least Concern	Hemis National Park (India), Rocky Mountain (USA)	Alpine meadows, grasslands	Himalayan Region	North America, Europe, Asia	Hibernates, lives in colonies, has a loud whistle to communicate
32	Pangolin	Near Threatened to Critically Endangered	Various across their range; Bandhavgarh	Forests, grasslands	Throughout India	Asia, Africa	Keratin scales, solitary, nocturnal, threatened by





			National Park (India)				illegal wildlife trade
26	Catfish	Varies by species	Sundarbans (India), Manas National Park (India)	Freshwater and brackish waters	Across India	Global	Diverse group with barbels resembling whiskers, some species have electric receptors
26	Octopus	Least Concern	None specific; mostly found in marine protected areas	Oceans, coral reefs	Coastal waters of India	Global	Intelligent, camouflage skills, ability to squirt ink
26	Oyster	Least Concern	Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park (India)	Marine waters, oyster reefs	Coastal areas of India	Global	Filter feeders, important for water quality and as a food source
26	Pelican	Least Concern	Chilika Lake (India), Keoladeo National Park (India)	Lakes, rivers, coastal environments	Widely across India	Global	Large bill and throat pouch, gregarious, often found in large flocks
28	Earthworm	Not Evaluated	None specific; found ubiquitously where soil conditions are suitable	Soil	Across India	Global	Vital for soil fertility, aerate the soil, decomposers
28	Jellyfish	Not Evaluated	None specific; often found in marine protected areas	Oceans	Coastal waters of India	Global	Radial symmetry, some species have painful stings, important in oceanic food webs
28	Millipedes	Not Evaluated	Western Ghats (India), various forests	Moist forests, under stones, decaying logs	Throughout India	Global	Decomposers, secrete defensive chemicals, multiple legs
28	Seahorse	Vulnerable to Endangered	Gulf of Mannar (India), marine protected areas	Tropical and temperate waters	Southern coasts of India	Global	Males carry eggs in brood pouch, can change color,





							seahorse-shaped head
28	Woodlice	Not Evaluated	None specific; found ubiquitously in moist environments	Under stones, logs, and leaf litter	Throughout India	Global	Can roll into a ball as a defensive mechanism, crustacean but lives on land

2020

Q.No. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks Where They Are Found	Habitat	Areas Found in India	Areas Found in World	Unique Chars
72	Indian Elephants	Endangered	Jim Corbett National Park, Kaziranga National Park, almost entire South India	Grasslands, forests, scrublands	Across India, mainly in the Northeast and Southern regions	South and Southeast Asia	Matriarchal social structure, long gestation period, intelligent and strong social bonds
74	Ceylon Frogmouthing	Least Concern	Western Ghats region, like Thattekad Bird Sanctuary	Tropical forests	Western Ghats of India and Sri Lanka	South Asia	Nocturnal, camouflaged plumage, frog-like calls
74	Coppersmith Barbet	Least Concern	Widespread across various habitats, Keoladeo Ghana NP	Wooded areas, urban gardens	Throughout India	South Asia and Southeast Asia	Red forehead, yellow throat, and a distinctive metallic 'tuk... tuk... tuk' call
74	Gray-chinned Minivet	Least Concern	Eastern Himalayas, found in forests	Subtropical or tropical moist forests	Eastern Himalayas in India	Asia	Small passerine bird, males with grey and orange plumage, females with grey and yellow





74	White-throated Redstart	Least Concern	Protected areas in the Himalayas	Montane forests	North Western Himalayas in India	Asia, predominantly Himalayan region	Striking red underparts, white throat, and males have a black upper body
75	Indian Swamp Deer (Barasingha)	Vulnerable	Kanha National Park	Grasslands, wetlands	Central India (Madhya Pradesh)	India	Known for its large antlers with more than 10 tines, adapted to hard ground unlike other swamp deer
77	Musk Deer	Endangered	Askot Wildlife Sanctuary, Gangotri National Park	Forests, alpine scrub, and meadows	Northern India	Asia, primarily in the Himalayas	Solitary, nocturnal, males have a musk gland which is valuable in the perfume industry
95	Great Indian Bustard	Critically Endangered	Desert National Park	Arid and semi-arid grasslands	Western India (Rajasthan, Gujarat)	Indian subcontinent	Large ground bird, critically endangered due to habitat loss and hunting
100	Tiger	Endangered	Nagarjunsagar-Srisaïlam, Sundarbans, Corbett, Ranthambore and more	Various including forests, mangroves, and grasslands	Throughout India, in designated reserves	Indonesia, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, Russia, Bangladesh, Myanmar	Apex predator, territorial, requires large habitats for sustenance and is a keystone species

2019

Q.No. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks Where They Are Found	Habitat	Areas Found in India	Areas Found in World	Unique Characteristics
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22	Asiatic Lion	Endangered	Gir Forest National Park	Dry deciduous forest and scrubland	Gujarat, India	Endemic to the Gir Forest in India	The only lion species found in Asia, known for its characteristic belly fold and smaller mane in males
22	Double-humped Camel	critically endangered	Nubra Valley (Not a National Park)	Cold deserts	Ladakh region, India	Central Asia	Adapted to cold deserts, known for two distinct humps and woolly fur
22	One-horned Rhinoceros	Vulnerable	Kaziranga National Park, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary	Grasslands, swamps, forests	Assam, West Bengal, India	Indian subcontinent, with the largest population in Assam, India	Armour-plated appearance but with skin folds, single black horn
29	Blue-finned Mahseer	least concerned	Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary	Fast-flowing rivers and streams	South India	India, mainly in the Cauvery River basin	Important game fish, known for their size and power, endangered due to overfishing and habitat loss
29	Irawady dolphin	critically endangered	Chilika Lake	Shallow coastal waters, estuaries, rivers	Odisha, West Bengal in India	South and Southeast Asia	Bulbous forehead and short beak, live in small groups, known for spitting water as a form of communication
29	Rusty-spotted Cat	Near Threatened	Eastern Ghats, dry deciduous forests	Forests, grasslands, scrublands	Sri Lanka and India	Endemic to India and Sri Lanka	One of the smallest wild cat species, nocturnal and elusive, lives in dense forest and scrub habitats

2018

No Species Asked!

2017

Q.No. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks	Habitat	Areas India	Areas World	Unique Characteristics
56	Gharial	Critically Endangered	Chambal River, National Chambal Sanctuary	Rivers and lakes	Northern India (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh)	India, Nepal	Long, thin jaws for fish-catching, critically endangered due to habitat loss and fishing practices



| Clear your doubts now.



56	Indian Wild Ass	Near Threatened	Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary (Little Rann of Kutch)	Salt pans, deserts, grasslands	Gujarat, India	India	Known for its speed and stamina, survives in arid conditions
56	Wild Buffalo	Endangered	Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park	Grasslands, swamps	Assam, India	South Asia, Southeast Asia	Largest of the wild cattle, important for biodiversity, threatened by habitat loss and disease
45	Asiatic Lion	Endangered	Gir Forest National Park	Dry deciduous forest	Gujarat, India	India (Gir Forest)	Smaller and less mane than African lions, population confined to Gir Forest
44	Tiger	Endangered	Sunderbans, Ranthambore, Kanha, Bandhavgarh, and many others	Forests, grasslands, mangroves	Throughout India	Indonesia, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, Russia, Bangladesh, Myanmar	Apex predator, territorial, diverse habitats from tropical forests to cold coniferous forests

2016

Q.No. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks	Habitat	Areas India	Areas World	Unique Characteristics
35	Khari Camel	Endangered	Not applicable (lives in community areas)	Coastal areas, mangroves	Gujarat, India	India only	Capable of swimming, grazes on mangroves, uniquely adapted to both desert and marine environments.
33	Great Indian Hornbill	Vulnerable	Namdapha National Park, Western Ghats	Tropical and subtropical forests	Northeast India, Western Ghats	India, Nepal, Bhutan, Mainland Southeast Asia	Known for its large size, bright yellow and black casque on top of its massive bill, crucial for forest ecology as a seed disperser.





2015

Q.No [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks	Habitat	Areas India	Areas World	Unique Characteristics
21	Dugong	Vulnerable	Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park	Marine, seagrass beds	Gulf of Kachchh, Gulf of Mannar	Coastal waters of countries like Australia, East Africa, South Asia	Only strictly marine herbivorous mammal, also known as the sea cow
22	Saltwater Crocodile	Least Concern	Bhitarkanika National Park	Estuarine, coastal, brackish waters	East coast of India, from Odisha to the Sunderbans	Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam	World's largest living crocodile, renowned for its aggression
22	Olive Ridley Turtle	Vulnerable	Gahirmatha Beach, Odisha	Pelagic, coastal regions	Coastal Odisha, Andhra Pradesh	Warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans	Known for mass nesting called arribada, smallest of the sea turtles
22	Gangetic Dolphin	Endangered	Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary	Freshwater rivers	Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers and their tributaries in India	Bangladesh, Nepal	India's national aquatic animal, effectively blind with strong echolocation
22	Gharial	Critically Endangered	National Chambal Sanctuary	Freshwater rivers	Chambal River, few other rivers in Northern India	Small populations in Bhutan and possibly Myanmar	Long, narrow snout specialized for catching fish, critically endangered due to habitat loss

2014

Q.No. [Set-A]	Species	IUCN Status	National Parks	Habitat	Areas India	Areas World	Unique Characteristics
10	Ganges River Dolphins	Endangered	Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary	Freshwater rivers	Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins	Bangladesh, India	They have a long, pointed nose and can only live in freshwater; effectively blind





							with strong echolocation.
17	Bats	Various	Many across India; exact parks vary by species	Caves, forests, urban areas	Throughout India	Worldwide in a variety of habitats	Only mammals capable of sustained flight; many species are important for pollination and seed dispersal.
17	Bears	Various	Parks like Jim Corbett, Rajaji (for Sloth Bears)	Varied, from forests to Arctic tundra	Different species in various parts of India	North America, South America, Europe, and Asia	Hibernation and varied diets depending on species; play important roles in their ecosystems.
17	Rodents	Various	Throughout India in all national parks and beyond	Almost all terrestrial habitats	Throughout India	Worldwide	Diverse group; many are key for seed dispersal and as a food source for predators; some are pests.
20	Painted Stork	Near Threatened	Keoladeo National Park, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary	Wetlands, lakes, and rivers	Northern, Central, and Southern India	South Asia, Southeast Asia	Known for their colorful plumage and for nesting in colonies often with other waterbirds.
20	Common Myna	Least Concern	Ubiquitous across Indian subcontinent	Open woodland, cultivation, urban areas	Throughout India	Asia	Highly adaptable, often found around human habitation, recognized by brown body, black head, and yellow bill and eye patches.
20	Black-necked Crane	Threatened	No specific national park in India, but winter visitor to Ladakh	High-altitude wetlands in the Tibetan Plateau	Ladakh in India during winter	China, Bhutan, Vietnam (breeding season)	Noted for their black neck and white body, these cranes breed in high-altitude wetlands.

