

IMPORTANT TID-BITS FOR UPSC PRELIMS-2020

(Based on Previous Years Questions)

1. Highest density of saltwater crocodiles- Bhitarkanika Mangroves
2. Gahirmatha beach lies near Bhitarkanika mangroves- largest nesting site of the *Oliver Ridley Turtles*.
3. Chilika Lake- Largest coastal lagoon in India and largest wintering ground of migratory birds in the Indian sub continent .
4. Indus dolphins are found in Harike Lake of Punjab.
5. Keoldeo National Park – Ramsar site, listed on *Montreux Record*, UNESCO World Heritage Site-Rare Siberian Cranes visit the wetlands.
6. Kolleru lake- Andhra Pradesh – contains large number of fertile islets called Lankas,vulnerable Grey Pelican migratory birds
7. Loktak Lake Manipur- thick floatings mats of weeds called *Phumdis*-unique feature,*Montreux Record*, Home of Sangai deer-state animal of Manipur
8. Sasthamkotta lake- largest freshwater lake of Kerala
 - Larva called “*cabavorus*” eliminates bacteria leading to pure water
9. Sundarbans wetlands- largest tidaly halophytic mangrove forests in the world,largest Ramsar site in India,UNESCO World Heritage Site,home to Royal Bengal Tigers

10. Tsomoriri ,Ladakh- *Borex laden* wetlands,Black necked crane and Bar headed geese found, Barley fields at *Korzok* are the highest cultivated land in the world, *WWF Sacred Gift for the Living Planet*

11. Wular lake- largest freshwater lake in the world- cultivation of water chestnut.

12. Vembanad- Kol wetland- largest wetland of India

13. Renuka- smallest wetland of India

14. Corals- marine invertebrates and reef builders that inhabit tropical(also sub tropical) oceans of the world and secrete *calcium carbonate* to form hard skeletons,greatest biodiversity of all marine ecosystems.

eg- *Great Barrier Reef of Australia*

15. Sea grasses- only flowering plants that live in water

16. Turtle grass- one of the species of sea-grass

17. Sea cucumber- its an animal,not a plant

18.Gangetic Dolphin- National Aquatic Animal of India- Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers,freshwater species.

19. Gharials- Endangered ,IUCN list,National Chambal Sanctuary- major habitat

20. Dugong – large herbivorous mammal found in the Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, State animal of Andaman.

21.Kharai camels- found in Gujarat's *Bhuj* area,grazes of mangroves,tolerant to saline sea water,swim upto 3 kms

22.Ganges Shark- critically endangered species,Ganga and Brahmputra rivers,Freshwater species

23. Sea Snakes- found in warm coastal waters of the Indian ocean, venomous elapid snakes

24. Olive Ridley Turtles- smallest, most abundant sea turtles, inhabit warm waters of Pacific, Indian, Atlantic Oceans, unique mass nesting called Arribada, Vulnerable under IUCN list, Gahiramatha beach, Odisha- world's largest nesting site.

25. Saltwater crocodiles- largest species of crocodiles, largest living reptile in the world, found in Bhitarkanika and Sunderbans Mangrove wetlands.

26. Humpback dolphins- Schedule 1 of the WPA -1972, found in Indian ocean from India to South Africa

27. Jerdon's Courser- nocturnal, endemic to Andhra Pradesh, flagship species of extremely threatened scrub jungles, found in Sri Lankamaleswara Wildlife Sanctuary.

28. Himalayan Quail- possibly extinct, used to be found in Western Himalayas

29. Siberian Crane- endangered species, winter and breed at Keoldeo National Park, Rajasthan, migratory birds.

30. Saffron Heritage of India- Pampore Karewas, Kashmir, GIAHS from India

31. Koraput traditional agriculture- Odisha, GIAHS India

32. Kuttanad Below sea level farming system- Kerala, GIAHS India, rice cultivation below sea level

33. Ziro valley of Arunachal Pradesh- unique rice cultivation by *Apatani* tribes

(not a GIAHS)

34. Great Hornbill – state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala- *Appendix 1* of *CITES*, Vulnerable

35. Greater Flamingo- largest flamingo species, state bird of Gujarat, Flamingo city in Gujarat, Least Concern status

36. Great Indian Bustard- one of the heaviest among flying birds, IUCN- critically endangered, state bird of Rajasthan

37. Sarus Crane- state bird of UP, IUCN-vulnerable, builds large nests called “*islands*”.

38. Andaman Wood Pigeon- state bird of Andaman & Nicobar, IUCN- near threatened, endemic to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

39. Great Himalayan National Park- Himachal Pradesh, UNESCO WHS (WORLD HERITAGE SITE),at junction of the world's two major faunal regions,Fauna- snow leopard,Himalayan brown bear,musk deer,Himalayan tahr

40.Kaziranga National park- UNESCO-WHS- Indo-malaya ecozone,biodiversity hotspot,Tiger Reserve,one horned rhinoceros,Important Bird Area (IBA),situated in Golaghat and Naogaon districts of Assam.

41.Keoldeo Ghana National Park- UNESCO-WHS-Man made wetland,winter habitat of rare Siberian cranes,Ramsar site,Rajasthan.

42.Manas Wildlife Sanctuary- UNESCO-WHS-also a Tiger reserve,Elephant reserve,Manas river- tributary of Brahmaputra. Fauna- pygmy hog,rhinoceros,wild water buffalo,Bengal Florican,Chinese pangolin,Malyan Giant squirrel

43.Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Park- Uttarakhand,a biosphere reserve,UNESCO-WHS,Rishi Ganga river

Fauna-Himalayan tahr,Himalayan brown bear,Snow leopard,Musk deer etc

Flora-Rhododendrons,fir,birch and juniper

44. Blackbuck- fastest running land animal in India, only species of antelope genus, endangered, state animal of Haryana and Andhra Pradesh
45. Indian Bison/Gaur- tallest wild cattle species, Vulnerable, largest extant bovine, native to south and south east Asia
46. Gayal/Mithun- large domesticated bovine, state animal of Arunachal Pradesh, found mainly in North East India.
47. Snow leopard- state animal -Himachal Pradesh, mountain ranges of central and south Asia, Vulnerable- IUCN red list
48. Hangul/Kashmiri Stag- critically endangered- IUCN, Dachigam National Park, Central Asian Red Deer, sub-species of Elk native to India
49. Indian Giant Squirrel- Maharashtra, Western Ghats, diurnal, arboreal, mainly herbivorous large tree squirrel native to India, endemic to deciduous and moist evergreen forests of India
50. Sangai- Brown antlered deer/Dancing Deer- Manipur, *Schedule 1* of WPA- 1972, Keibul Lamjao National Park, threat from decreasing *Phumdis* in Loktak Lake.

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