

Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Nyctibatrachus'

1. They are called as night frogs
2. They are endemic to Western Ghats

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.1) Solution (c)

Nyctibatrachus is a genus of frogs endemic to the Western Ghats of southwestern India. Their common name is night frogs. Their scientific name also means "night frog", in reference to their habits and dark colour.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/malabar-sanctuary-home-to-new-night-frog/article22333739.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about 'Epiphytes'

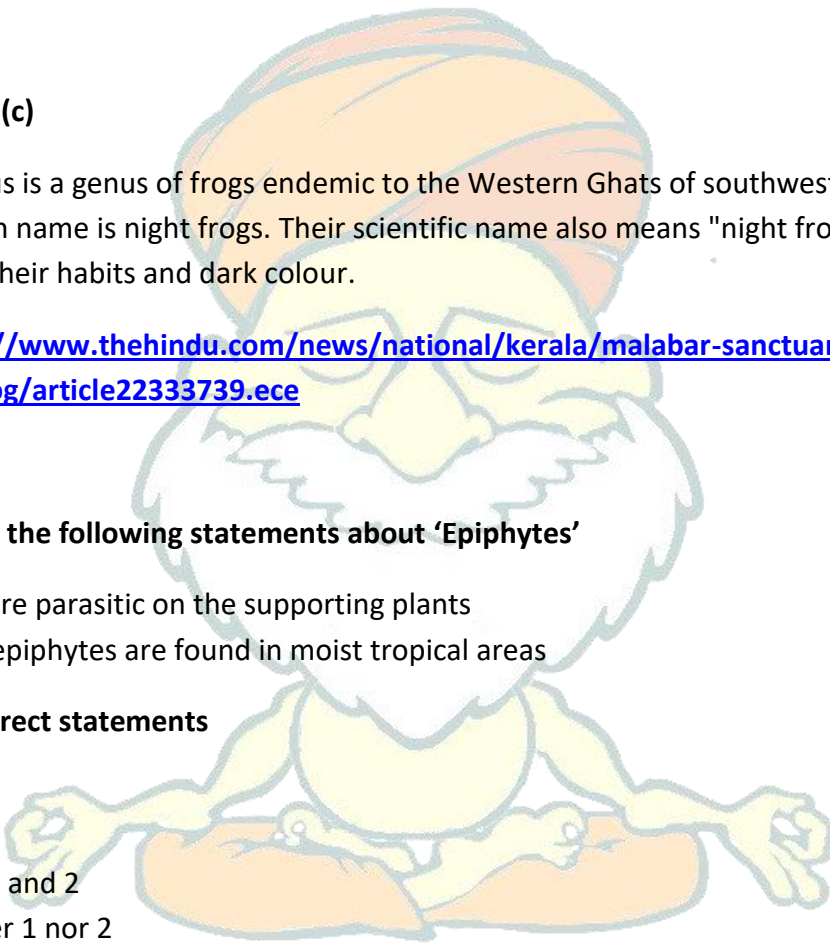
1. They are parasitic on the supporting plants
2. Most epiphytes are found in moist tropical areas

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.2) Solution (b)

An epiphyte is an organism that grows on the surface of a plant and derives its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, water (in marine environments) or from debris accumulating around it. Epiphytes take part in nutrient cycles and add to both the diversity and biomass of the ecosystem in which they occur like any other organism. They are an important source of food for many species. Typically, the older parts of a plant will have more epiphytes



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growing on them. Epiphytes differ from parasites in that epiphytes grow on other plants for physical support and do not necessarily negatively affect the host.

Epiphyte species make good houseplants due to their minimal water and soil requirements. Epiphytes provide a rich and diverse habitat for other organisms including animals, fungi, bacteria, and myxomycetes.

Assemblages of large epiphytes occur most abundantly in moist tropical forests, but mosses and lichens occur as epiphytes in almost all biomes.

Two news ginger species discovered –

- Hedychium chingmeianum was located in Nagaland, while Caulokaempferia was found in Manipur
- Both the plants are from the family of Zingiberaceae
- Hedychium chingmeianum, the species discovered in Tuensang district, is an epiphytic plant and grows on tall trees, while Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis was found growing in rock crevices, boulders and humus rich soil in the Shirui Hills

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/2-new-ginger-species-found-in-the-northeast/article22339509.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about SOFIA

1. It is an airborne observatory
2. It is a joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Centre, DLR

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.3) Solution (c)

The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is an 80/20 joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Center (DLR)[1] to construct and maintain an airborne observatory. NASA awarded the contract for the development of the aircraft, operation of the observatory and management of the American part of the project to the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) in 1996. The DSI (Deutsches SOFIA Institut) manages the

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German parts of the project which are primarily science and telescope related. SOFIA's telescope saw first light on May 26, 2010. SOFIA is the successor to the Kuiper Airborne Observatory.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/nasas-flying-telescope-sofia-to-study-saturns-moon-comets-in-2018-5007609/>

Q.4) Which of the following are breeds of cattle?

1. Mehsani
2. Sahiwal
3. Rathi

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.4) Solution (b)

6 indigenous breeds of cattle (Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Kankrej, Tharparkar and Hariana)

6 buffalo breeds (Murrah, Mehsani, Jaffarabadi, Nili Ravi, Pandharpuri and Banni)

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/scheme-to-promote-increase-in-milk-production-117122900612_1.html

Q.5) The first to start a joint stock company to trade with India were the

- a) French
- b) Portuguese
- c) Dutch
- d) Danish

Q.5) Solution (c)

It was the Dutch East India Company to start a joint stock company to trade with India.