

India to Get Its First Forest University

Uttar Pradesh is set to establish India's first dedicated forest university in Gorakhpur, with an estimated investment of around ₹500 crore. The institution will focus on education, research, and training skilled professionals in forest management and conservation to address current environmental challenges.

Overview and Key Points

- **Location:** The university will be on a 125-acre campus in Gorakhpur, strategically located near the existing Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre.
- **Academic Focus:** The curriculum will offer degree and diploma programs with a strong emphasis on field-based learning, practical exposure, and applied research. Key areas of study will include:
 - Forestry, Agroforestry, and Social Forestry
 - Wildlife Studies and Ecology
 - Horticulture and Natural Resource Management
 - Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability
- **Objectives:** The primary goal is to produce a skilled workforce for forest departments, research organizations, and conservation agencies to tackle the deepening climate crisis and shrinking green cover in India.
- **Infrastructure:** Plans include a comprehensive campus with modern laboratories, classrooms, an auditorium, sports facilities, faculty housing, and separate hostels with a combined capacity of approximately 500 students.
- **Status and Funding:**
 - The project was announced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
 - Land approval has been secured, and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is finalized.
 - The draft legislation required to establish the university is under final review.
 - ₹50 crore was allocated in the 2024 UP budget for initial work.
 - Tendering and construction will commence after the state cabinet approves the DPR.
- **Significance:** Once operational, the university is expected to become a national hub for forest education and research, attracting students and researchers from across India and internationally. It is also noted to be North India's first and India's second such institution, as the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun is a deemed university.

Practice Questions:

1. With reference to the proposed Forest University in India, consider the following statements:

- I. The university will function as a specialized institution focused exclusively on forest sciences and wildlife research.
- II. To strictly implement the National Forest Policy of 1988 within the state's borders

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) Both I and II
- d) Neither I nor II

Answer: a

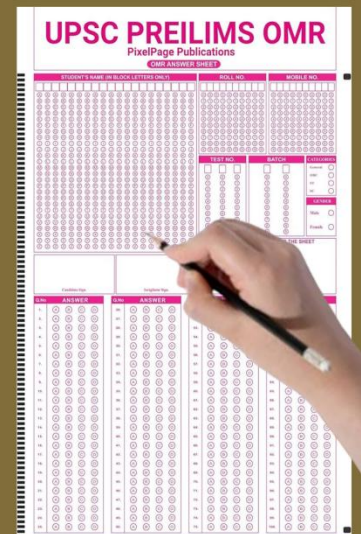
Explanation: Statement I is Correct because the proposed university in Gorakhpur is specifically designed to function as India's first dedicated forest university, focusing exclusively on a wide range of forest sciences, wildlife studies, ecology, climate change, and environmental sustainability. **Statement II is Incorrect:** The National Forest Policy of 1988 is a national policy that sets a goal for the entire country to have 33% of its total geographical area under forest or tree cover. It is a policy objective and framework, not something a single university is established to "strictly implement within the state's borders" as its primary function. While the university will support the broader goals of forest conservation and management through research and education, the policy itself is a national mandate, and its implementation involves various government bodies, not a single university's direct enforcement.

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