

Biodiversity & Conservation:

Mangrove Conservation & Coastal Ecosystems:

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem: July 26, 2025, is observed as the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem. This day highlights the critical role mangroves play in India's climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and the empowerment of coastal communities.

Mangroves as a Coastal Barrier: Mangrove forests across India's coasts act as a vital barrier between land and sea, attenuating damage during natural disasters like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and recurring cyclones. They also shelter fisheries and store carbon.

Tamil Nadu's Renewed Efforts: Tamil Nadu has made significant strides in mangrove restoration, adding nearly 3,000 hectares of mangroves in the last three years (since 2022). This includes planting new mangroves and rehabilitating degraded areas across nine coastal districts, with a focus on reintroducing rare species.

Gujarat Leads in Mangrove Cultivation: Gujarat leads the country in mangrove cultivation under the Union government's Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme, having cultivated over 19,520 hectares. Gujarat also ranks second among all states for mangrove cover.

Microplastic Threat to Mumbai's Mangroves: A new study has mapped microplastics in Mumbai's mangrove sediments, finding an average of 6,730 microplastic particles per

kilogram of dry sediment. This highlights the urgent need for management plans and policies to address microplastic pollution and protect marine organisms. Local initiatives by young conservationists in Nerul, Navi Mumbai, are actively involved in cleaning up mangrove areas.

Indian Coast Guard's Role: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has showcased its leadership in marine conservation, conducting over 58 major coastal clean-up drives in the past year, removing more than 194 tonnes of plastic waste. They also play a pivotal role in protecting fragile ecosystems like coral reefs, mangroves and nesting beaches, including anti-poaching operations.

Wildlife Conservation & Habitat Protection:

Increased Wildlife Sightings in Hyderabad's Fringes: Conservationists are alarmed by the increasing frequency of wild animal sightings, particularly leopards, around Hyderabad's urban fringes. This is directly linked to rapid urbanization, fragmentation of natural habitats, and loss of green cover in areas like Rangareddy district. The decline in leopard numbers in urban peripheries (from 334 in 2018 to 297 now) underscores the urgency of habitat restoration, protection outside designated Protected Areas, and conflict mitigation strategies.

"Edward James Corbett Award" for Wildlife Conservation: On the 150th birth anniversary of legendary hunter-turned-conservationist Jim Corbett, Uttarakhand announced the institution of an annual "Edward James Corbett Award" to recognize individuals, NGOs, and forest staff for



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exemplary contributions to wildlife conservation.

Hornbill Conservation Centre in Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR): The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned ₹1 crore for establishing a Centre of Excellence for the conservation of Great Indian Hornbill at ATR. This center will focus on research, monitoring, breeding, habitat management, and involving local communities in conservation efforts.

Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) Species Botanical Garden: A grand tree plantation program was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra, at a "Rare, Endangered and Threatened Species Botanical Garden" (RET Park). Over 70 RET plant species were planted, with digital labels providing scientific information. This is part of the "Green Maharashtra, Prosperous Maharashtra" initiative.

ISRO's Role in Biodiversity Conservation: An ISRO delegation recently attended the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit (July 23-25), aimed at strengthening international commitment to biodiversity conservation, and also made presentations on the application of space technology and remote sensing in fields like agriculture and fisheries.

Forest Conservation Policies & Initiatives:

National Agroforestry Scheme: This scheme aims to encourage farmers to adopt agroforestry for climate resilience, environmental conservation, and economic benefits. It supports farmers through price guarantees and buy-back options and promotes private sector participation.

Green India Mission (GIM): A key part of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), GIM aims to expand and improve forest/tree cover, boost ecosystem services, and improve livelihoods for forest-dependent households.

Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme: This centrally sponsored scheme provides financial aid to states for preventing and managing forest fires, emphasizing community involvement and the use of modern technology.

Van Dhan Yojana: This scheme aims to enhance tribal incomes through sustainable forest-based businesses and encourage the conservation of forest resources.

Coral Reefs:

Coral Cover Reduction in Lakshadweep: A 24-year study has revealed a shocking 50% reduction in coral cover in the Lakshadweep archipelago since 1998, primarily due to repeated marine heatwaves exacerbated by climate change. The study highlights that local restoration efforts alone cannot compensate for the urgent need for global climate action.





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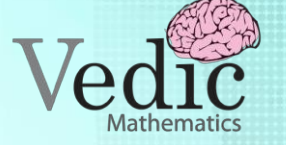
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MCQS

1. What is observed on July 26, 2025?

- a) World Environment Day
- b) International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem
- c) National Wildlife Day
- d) Earth Day

Answer: b) International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem
The news clearly states, "July 26, 2025, is observed as the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem."

2. Approximately how many hectares of mangroves has Tamil Nadu added in the last three years (since 2022)?

- a) 1,500 hectares
- b) 2,000 hectares
- c) 3,000 hectares
- d) 4,000 hectares

Answer: c) 3,000 hectares

The text mentions, "Tamil Nadu has made significant strides in mangrove restoration, adding nearly 3,000 hectares of mangroves in the last three years (since 2022)."

3. Which state leads the country in mangrove cultivation under the Union government's MISHTI scheme?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) Odisha

Answer: c) Gujarat

The news states, "Gujarat Leads in Mangrove Cultivation... having cultivated over 19,520 hectares. Gujarat also ranks second among all states for mangrove cover."





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4. What is the average number of microplastic particles found per kilogram of dry sediment in Mumbai's mangrove sediments, according to a new study?

- a) 3,000 particles
- b) 5,500 particles
- c) 6,730 particles
- d) 8,000 particles

Answer: c) 6,730 particles

The text reports, "finding an average of 6,730 microplastic particles per kilogram of dry sediment."

5. Over the past year, how many major coastal clean-up drives has the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted, removing more than 194 tonnes of plastic waste?

- a) Over 30
- b) Over 45
- c) Over 58
- d) Over 70

Answer: c) Over 58

The news states, "conducting over 58 major coastal clean-up drives in the past year, removing more than 194 tonnes of plastic waste."

Wildlife Conservation & Habitat Protection

6. What award has Uttarakhand announced to recognize contributions to wildlife conservation, named after a legendary hunter-turned-conservationist?

- a) Jim Corbett Conservation Award
- b) Edward James Corbett Award
- c) Uttarakhand Wildlife Protector Award
- d) Green Hunter Award

Answer: b) Edward James Corbett Award**

The news reports, "Uttarakhand announced the institution of an annual 'Edward James Corbett Award' to recognize individuals, NGOs, and

forest staff for exemplary contributions to wildlife conservation."

7. How much has the Tamil Nadu government sanctioned for establishing a Centre of Excellence for the conservation of Great Indian Hornbill at Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)?

- a) ₹50 lakh
- b) ₹75 lakh
- c) ₹1 crore
- d) ₹2 crore

Answer: c) ₹1 crore

The text indicates, "The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned ₹1 crore for establishing a Centre of Excellence for the conservation of Great Indian Hornbill at ATR."

8. Approximately how many Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) plant species were planted at the RET Park in Nagpur, Maharashtra?

- a) Over 50
- b) Over 60
- c) Over 70
- d) Over 80

Answer: c) Over 70

The news states, "Over 70 RET plant species were planted, with digital labels providing scientific information."

Forest Conservation Policies & Initiatives

9. Which scheme aims to encourage farmers to adopt agroforestry for climate resilience, environmental conservation, and economic benefits?

- a) Green India Mission
- b) Van Dhan Yojana
- c) National Agroforestry Scheme
- d) Forest Fire Prevention Scheme

Answer: c) National Agroforestry Scheme**





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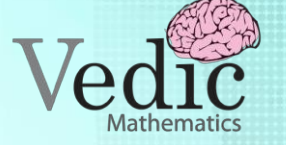
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The news describes, "This scheme aims to encourage farmers to adopt agroforestry for climate resilience, environmental conservation, and economic benefits."

10. Which scheme is a key part of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)?

- a) National Agroforestry Scheme
- b) Green India Mission (GIM)
- c) Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme
- d) Van Dhan Yojana

Answer: b) Green India Mission (GIM)

The text states, "Green India Mission (GIM): A key part of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)."
Coral Reefs

11. What percentage reduction in coral cover has a 24-year study revealed in the Lakshadweep archipelago since 1998?

- a) 25%
- b) 40%
- c) 50%
- d) 60%

Answer: c) 50%

The news reports, "A 24-year study has revealed a shocking 50% reduction in coral cover in the Lakshadweep archipelago since 1998."

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