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Biodiversity & Conservation:

International & National Recognition

The Bibi Fatima Self-Help Group from Dharwad, Karnataka, was honored with the Equator Initiative Award from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), often called the "Nobel Prize for biodiversity conservation." The all-women group was recognized for its work in promoting sustainable, climate-resilient farming, conserving indigenous crop varieties, and establishing a community seed bank to safeguard hundreds of millet varieties.

Separately, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was celebrated on August 9 with the theme "Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures." The theme highlights how the traditional knowledge of indigenous communities is crucial for biodiversity conservation and explores the challenges and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence for these groups.

Wildlife Discoveries & Conservation

A new species of rain snake, named Smithophis leptofasciatus, or the narrow-banded rain snake, was discovered in the montane forests of Mizoram. The discovery underscores Mizoram's status as a biodiversity hotspot and highlights the need for conservation efforts to protect its fragile forest ecosystems from threats like deforestation and pollution.

In Gujarat, the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary has successfully emerged as a secondary habitat for the Asiatic lion. On World Lion Day, new data from the 2023 wildlife census showed that the sanctuary now hosts 17 Asiatic lions, a major

step in the state's efforts to decentralize lion conservation beyond the Gir Protected Area under Project Lion.

Conservation Efforts & Policy

The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) has released its Green Skills Program Calendar for 2025-26 and is actively seeking AI-driven solutions to environmental challenges. The initiative aims to provide science-based solutions for a cleaner and more resilient future. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Bhopal also issued a notice to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) over a road-broadening project that could lead to the felling of thousands of trees, raising significant environmental concerns.

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- A. Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination
- B. The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation of Traditional Knowledge
- C. Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures
- D. Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous Peoples and the Call for a New Social Contract

Answer: C. Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures

The news mentions that the theme for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was "Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures."

3. A new species of rain snake, *Smithophis leptofasciatus*, was discovered in which Indian state?

- A. Assam
- B. Mizoram
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Nagaland

Answer: B. Mizoram

A new species of rain snake was discovered in the montane forests of Mizoram, according to the news.

4. The Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat has become a secondary habitat for which animal under Project Lion?

- A. Bengal Tiger
- B. Indian Leopard
- C. Asiatic Lion
- D. Indian Rhino

Answer: C. Asiatic Lion

The news states that the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary has emerged as a secondary habitat for the Asiatic lion under Project Lion.

MCQS

1. Which women's self-help group from Karnataka received the UNDP's Equator Initiative Award?

- A. Shakti Self-Help Group
- B. Vanitha Vikas Self-Help Group
- C. Bibi Fatima Self-Help Group
- D. Mahila Samakhya

Answer: C. Bibi Fatima Self-Help Group

The news states that the Bibi Fatima Self-Help Group from Dharwad, Karnataka, was honored with the Equator Initiative Award.

2. What was the theme for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9, 2025?





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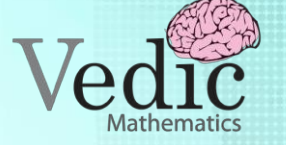
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5. The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) has released a calendar for which program in 2025-26?

- A. Water Conservation Initiative
- B. Green Skills Program
- C. AI for Environment
- D. Biodiversity Research Project

Answer: B. Green Skills Program

The CSIR-NEERI has released its Green Skills Program Calendar for 2025-26.

6. For what purpose was the Bibi Fatima Self-Help Group specifically recognized by the UNDP?

- A. For creating a new irrigation system.
- B. For conserving indigenous crop varieties and establishing a community seed bank.
- C. For developing a new sustainable fertilizer.
- D. For leading a tree-planting campaign.

Answer: B. For conserving indigenous crop varieties and establishing a community seed bank.

The news states that the group was recognized for "conserving indigenous crop varieties, and establishing a community seed bank to safeguard hundreds of millet varieties."

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