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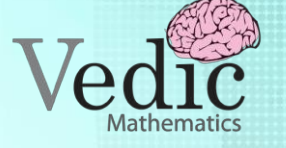
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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Domestic Conservation Efforts

Gujarat is celebrating a remarkable conservation success with the return of the Asiatic lion to the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary after 143 years. The state's lion population has grown to 891 in 2025, a 32% increase since 2020. This success is attributed to "Project Lion," a government initiative that focuses on habitat management, health monitoring, and mitigating human-wildlife conflict. To further boost conservation and eco-tourism, the state has launched various projects worth ₹180 crore, including a new safari park in Barda.

In Haryana, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced an ambitious target of planting over 2.1 crore saplings to combat climate change, irregular rainfall, and rising temperatures. The state-level "Van Mahotsav" event marked the launch of several new projects, including the Saraswati Wetland Reservoir and a biodiversity park.

In a concerning development, the endangered golden langur in Assam is facing threats from electrocution and habitat loss. Two incidents were reported in early August where langurs were harmed by exposed electrical wires, highlighting a need for improved infrastructure and conservation measures.

Global Conservation & Policy

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is a central theme in international discussions. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) highlighted the framework's importance in statements for the

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, recognizing that their traditional knowledge is crucial for its implementation. The CBD also emphasized the G7's leadership in achieving the GBF and its goal of reducing plastic pollution.

Progress is being made on the High Seas Treaty, also known as the BBNJ Agreement. The recent UN Ocean Conference saw 19 additional countries deposit their ratifications, bringing the total to 50 and moving it closer to the 60 ratifications needed for it to enter into force. This treaty is a landmark effort to protect marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The IUCN Red List has released a new update, revealing that more than 1,000 fungi species are now on the list, highlighting growing threats from deforestation and agriculture. The report also notes a decrease in the poaching of African rhinos since 2021, but warns that other threats like drought are offsetting these gains.

In Australia, reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) are underway. These reforms aim to establish a national environment protection agency to strengthen environmental protection and streamline project assessments.

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MCQS

1. What is the primary reason for the success of the Asiatic lion conservation in Gujarat?

- A) The creation of a new safari park.
- B) The return of the lions to the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary.
- C) The success of "Project Lion," focusing on habitat management and health monitoring.
- D) A significant reduction in human-wildlife conflict.

Answer: C) The success of "Project Lion," focusing on habitat management and health monitoring.

The news attributes the 891 lion population to "Project Lion," which is described as a government initiative focusing on habitat management, health monitoring, and mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

2. What is the main threat to the golden langur population in Assam, according to the news?

- A) Poaching and illegal hunting.
- B) Habitat loss and electrocution from exposed electrical wires.
- C) A new disease affecting the langurs.
- D) Competition with other species for food.

Answer: B) Habitat loss and electrocution from exposed electrical wires.

The news highlights that the golden langur is facing threats from electrocution and habitat loss, citing two recent incidents of langurs being harmed by exposed wires.

3. What is the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) a central theme of?

- A) The G7 meetings on climate change.
- B) The UN Ocean Conference.
- C) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) discussions.
- D) The IUCN Red List updates.

Answer: C) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) discussions.

The news states that the GBF is a central theme in international discussions and that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) highlighted its importance.

4. How many more ratifications are needed for the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ Agreement) to enter into force?

- A) 10
- B) 20
- C) 50





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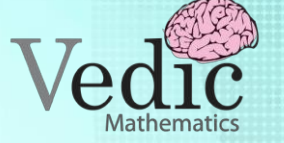
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D) 60

Answer: A) 10

The treaty has received 50 ratifications and needs a total of 60 to enter into force. Therefore, 10 more are needed ($60 - 50 = 10$).

5. What is a new trend noted in the latest update of the IUCN Red List?

- A) A significant increase in the number of African rhinos.
- B) The addition of over 1,000 fungi species to the list.
- C) The complete eradication of poaching for all species.
- D) A new focus on marine species in national parks.

Answer: B) The addition of over 1,000 fungi species to the list.

The IUCN Red List update reveals that more than 1,000 fungi species are now on the list, highlighting a growing threat from deforestation and agriculture.



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