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Biodiversity & Conservation:

National Conservation Efforts

In India, a new approach to human-elephant conflict is being highlighted in western Nepal. Farmers are successfully switching from traditional crops to turmeric, a plant that elephants avoid, to prevent crop raiding. This initiative, which combines traditional knowledge with scientific support, has dramatically reduced conflict and improved the farmers' economic situation.

Additionally, in Arunachal Pradesh, a similar awareness drive on human-elephant conflict was conducted in collaboration with the Pakke Tiger Reserve and the World Wildlife Fund. These efforts underscore the importance of community engagement and education in wildlife conservation.

Environmental Threats and Responses

In a significant threat to cultural and natural heritage, a new study using computer modeling predicts that by 2080, sea level rise and powerful waves could flood up to 51 cultural treasures, including the iconic Moai statues, on Rapa Nui (Easter Island). This discovery emphasizes the urgent need for protective measures to preserve the island's unique heritage from the impacts of climate change.

On a different front, a new study reveals that agricultural soils now contain approximately 23 times more microplastics than the oceans, highlighting a significant and under-reported environmental concern. This finding points to the need for a greater focus on soil health and pollution in addition to marine ecosystems.

Other Developments

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been highlighting youth involvement and the role of indigenous peoples in conservation, especially in relation to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The CBD's executive secretary has stressed the "whole-of-society" approach needed to implement these global goals.

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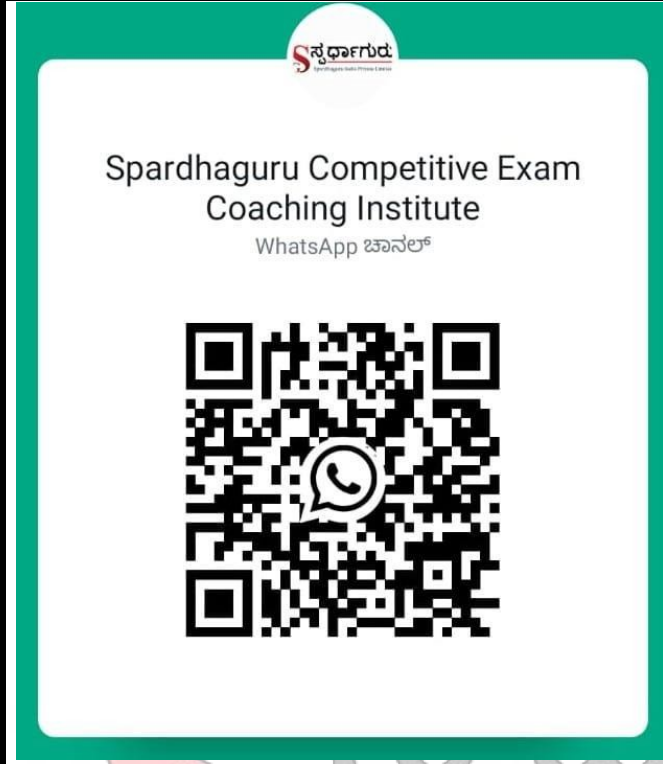
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- b) To promote tourism in the Pakke Tiger Reserve.
- c) To educate students and the community on elephant protection.
- d) To research new methods of elephant tracking.

Answer: c) To educate students and the community on elephant protection.
The article mentions that the drive was conducted to "raise awareness about human-elephant conflict (HEC) and importance of protecting elephants" and aimed at "educating students."

3. What is the main threat to the Moai statues on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) by 2080?

- a) Earthquakes and volcanic activity
- b) Vandalism and theft
- c) Sea level rise and powerful waves
- d) Wind erosion and sandstorms

Answer: c) Sea level rise and powerful waves
The news report states that "sea level rise and powerful waves could flood up to 51 cultural treasures, including the sacred Moai statues, on Rapa Nui (Easter Island)."

4. According to a study from Murdoch University, how do the levels of microplastics in agricultural soils compare to the oceans?

- a) Soils contain approximately the same amount of microplastics as oceans.
- b) Soils have a significantly lower concentration of microplastics.
- c) Soils hold approximately 23 times more microplastics than the oceans.
- d) The study found no correlation between soil and ocean microplastic levels.

Answer: c) Soils hold approximately 23 times more microplastics than the oceans.

MCQS

1. Why are farmers in western Nepal planting turmeric?

- a) To increase their profits by selling the spice.
- b) To deter elephants and reduce human-elephant conflict.
- c) To improve soil health and crop yields.
- d) To attract more tourists to the region.

Answer: b) To deter elephants and reduce human-elephant conflict.

The text explicitly states that farmers are switching to turmeric because it is a plant that elephants avoid, thereby reducing crop raiding and conflict.

2. What is the primary purpose of the awareness drive on human-elephant conflict in Arunachal Pradesh?

- a) To capture and relocate elephants.





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The study found that agricultural soils "hold approximately 23 times more microplastics than the oceans," highlighting a significant environmental concern.

5. What is the "whole-of-society" approach emphasized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)?

- a) A strategy that focuses solely on governmental policies.
- b) An approach that involves only scientists and conservationists.
- c) The idea that everyone in society, including governments, should contribute to biodiversity conservation.
- d) A plan to implement biodiversity frameworks only in developed nations.

Answer: c) The idea that everyone in society, including governments, should contribute to biodiversity conservation.

The text explains that the "whole-of-society" approach means that "while governments are responsible for developing and enacting public policy, legal and administrative measures for implementation, everyone in society should contribute."



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