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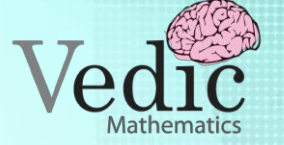
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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Global & International News

Turtles and Tortoises at Risk: A new report, "Turtles in Trouble," warns that over 54% of the world's 364 known turtle and tortoise species are now threatened with extinction. The report highlights Asia as the "epicenter of the crisis," with China alone accounting for nine of the most threatened species.

Plastic Pollution Treaty: Negotiations for a legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution have stalled. Despite a lack of a final agreement in Geneva, participating countries have expressed a willingness to continue the talks.

NASA-ISRO Satellite: The joint Earth-observing satellite, NISAR, successfully deployed its 12-meter-diameter radar antenna reflector. This is a critical step for the mission, which will measure Earth's changing surface, including glacial movement and ecosystem changes, to help with conservation efforts.

Blue Whale Vocalizations: A study has found that recent reports of blue whales "falling silent" off the coast of California were exaggerated. The whales sang less during a marine heatwave but have since returned to their normal vocal patterns.

National & Regional News

Human-Leopard Conflict: A new study from India shows that leopards in the country are increasingly living close to major cities. The study recommends community outreach and protecting key habitats to help manage human-leopard conflict. India's Wild Life (Protection)

Act of 1972 gives leopards the highest level of protection.

New Species Discovery: Citizen scientists in Australia have helped uncover a new species of butterfly called the violet copper butterfly (*Paralucia crosbyi*). The rare butterfly, active only in winter, was previously overlooked and its full range is now being tracked with the help of volunteers.

Wildlife Management Areas in New York: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced that several of its wildlife management areas, normally restricted to the public, will be open from August 16 to August 31. This annual event allows visitors to see areas normally closed to protect breeding waterfowl and other species.

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MCQS

Q1. According to the "Turtles in Trouble" report, what percentage of the world's known turtle and tortoise species are now threatened with extinction?

- A. 25%
- B. 34%
- C. 54%
- D. 75%

Answer: C

The news states that a new report, "Turtles in Trouble," warns that "over 54%" of the world's known turtle and tortoise species are threatened with extinction.

Q2. What is the key finding regarding blue whale vocalizations off the coast of California?

- A. They have completely stopped singing due to a marine heatwave.

- B. They sang less during a marine heatwave but have resumed their normal vocal patterns.
- C. Their vocalizations have become louder and more frequent.
- D. A new species of whale has been discovered that has no vocalizations.

Answer: B

The news clarifies that reports of the whales "falling silent" were exaggerated, and the study found that they "sang less during a marine heatwave but have since returned to their normal vocal patterns."

Q3. What is the name of the new species of butterfly discovered in Australia with the help of citizen scientists?

- A. The blue monarch butterfly
- B. The winter flyer butterfly
- C. The violet copper butterfly
- D. The Australian painted lady butterfly

Answer: C

The news states that "a new species of butterfly called the violet copper butterfly (Paralucia crosbyi)" was uncovered in Australia.

Q4. What is a key recommendation from a new study from India to manage human-leopard conflict?

- A. Increasing the number of leopard trapping programs.
- B. Relocating all leopards away from major cities.
- C. Promoting community outreach and protecting key habitats.
- D. Introducing new predators to control the leopard population.

Answer: C

The news states that the study recommends "community outreach and protecting key





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habitats to help manage human-leopard conflict."

Q5. What is the primary purpose of opening certain New York State wildlife management areas to the public from August 16 to August 31?

- A. To conduct a census of all wildlife species.
- B. To allow visitors to see areas normally closed to protect breeding waterfowl and other species.
- C. To allow for controlled hunting of certain animals.
- D. To clean up the areas and remove invasive species.

Answer: B

The news states that this annual event "allows visitors to see areas normally closed to protect breeding waterfowl and other species."

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