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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Global Conservation Efforts

A new report warns that a large proportion of the world's crucial mycorrhizal fungi hotspots are not protected. These fungi, which live in symbiotic relationships with over 80% of plant species, are vital for nutrient cycling and carbon storage, capturing about one-third of global fossil fuel emissions annually. The report, based on new global maps, shows that over 90% of these biodiversity hotspots are outside existing protected areas. The findings highlight a major gap in current climate and conservation policies.

The world's plastic crisis is growing, with a new report revealing that less than 10% of global plastic is recycled annually. The report highlights the environmental and health dangers, estimating that chemical byproducts from just three common plastic chemicals are causing \$1.5 trillion in health damages per year.

Delegates from around the world are meeting at the UN to advance the long-awaited high seas biodiversity treaty, which is close to entering into force. The treaty is a major step toward protecting marine ecosystems.

National & Regional Developments

In India, an Assam-based biodiversity organization, Aaranyak, is working with village chiefs to save vultures, many of which have died from poisoning after consuming pesticide-laced carcasses. The campaign aims to raise awareness and educate communities about the importance of these scavenging birds.

California has approved an unprecedented plan to protect its iconic Joshua trees from climate change threats. The plan requires permits and fees for development near the trees, reflecting a growing commitment to proactive conservation strategies.

To address the growing problem of urban flooding and water management, experts are advocating for a "sponge city" approach. This model uses land-based, water-driven solutions like permeable pavements and green spaces to absorb and reuse rainwater, working in harmony with nature rather than against it. A new flash-charging bus system is also being piloted in Nagpur, marking a step toward sustainable urban transportation.

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- c) Over 90%
d) All of them

Answer: c) Over 90%

The report, based on new global maps, shows that "over 90% of these biodiversity hotspots are outside existing protected areas."

3. What is the main cause of vulture deaths that the organization Aaranyak is addressing in Assam, India?

- a) Habitat loss
b) Avian flu
c) Poisoning from pesticide-laced carcasses
d) Poaching

Answer: c) Poisoning from pesticide-laced carcasses

The news states that Aaranyak is working to save vultures that have "died from poisoning after consuming pesticide-laced carcasses."

4. What is the primary purpose of the "sponge city" approach?

- a) To clean the air in urban areas.
b) To manage stormwater and prevent urban flooding.
c) To create more green spaces for recreation.
d) To filter plastic waste from waterways.

Answer: b) To manage stormwater and prevent urban flooding.

The report explains that experts are advocating for a "sponge city" approach "to manage stormwater," using solutions to absorb and reuse rainwater.

5. Which of the following is a key feature of the plan approved by California to protect Joshua trees?

- a) A complete ban on all development near the trees.

MCQS

1. What is the approximate percentage of global fossil fuel emissions that mycorrhizal fungi help capture and store?

- a) 10%
b) One-third
c) 50%
d) 90%

Answer: b) One-third

The report states that mycorrhizal fungi are "capturing about one-third of global fossil fuel emissions annually."

2. According to a new report, what percentage of biodiversity hotspots for mycorrhizal fungi are currently unprotected?

- a) Less than 10%
b) About 50%





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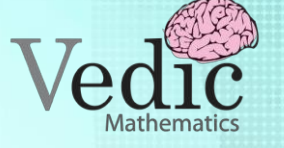
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- b) Requiring permits and fees for development near the trees.
- c) Relocating all Joshua trees to a new protected area.
- d) Using genetic engineering to make the trees more resistant to climate change.

Answer: b) Requiring permits and fees for development near the trees.

The news mentions that the plan to protect Joshua trees "requires permits and fees for development near the trees."

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