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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Conservation Status and Threats

The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) released a new report highlighting the precarious status of all eight recognized pangolin species. The report emphasizes that despite a sharp decline in legal trade since 2016, extensive and highly organized trafficking continues. Over half a million pangolins have been impacted by illegal trade between 2016 and 2024. The report calls for stronger global cooperation and a greater focus on collaboration with local and Indigenous communities to implement effective conservation measures.

Another important finding was a commentary on the urgent need to prioritize the conservation of wetlands in climate negotiations. The article highlights that wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests and that their degradation releases massive amounts of greenhouse gases. The death of a jaguar named Gaia in the Pantanal, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Brazil, serves as a poignant symbol of the climate crisis's impact on these vital ecosystems.

Marine and Species Protection

The Preparatory Commission for the Marine Biodiversity Treaty continued its second session, working on financial rules and governance for the conservation of marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Republic of Moldova and Cabo Verde both took steps to join the treaty, bringing the total number of signatories to 140 and ratifications to 54.

In a new discovery, scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) found two new species of Collembola (soil-dwelling microarthropods) in West Bengal. These tiny creatures, named *Salina aurantiamaculata* and *Salina pseudomontana*, are crucial for maintaining soil health by contributing to nutrient cycling and decomposition.

Paleontology and Extinct Species

Paleontologists discovered a new species of ancient crocodile in southern Patagonia, Argentina. The carnivorous crocodile, named *Kostensuchus atrox*, lived about 70 million years ago and was a terrestrial predator.

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2: The death of a jaguar named Gaia in the Pantanal serves as a symbol of what?

- A) The success of conservation efforts in Brazil.
- B) The impact of the climate crisis on vital ecosystems.
- C) The need for more research on ancient crocodiles.
- D) The importance of the Marine Biodiversity Treaty.

Answer: B) The impact of the climate crisis on vital ecosystems.
The text describes the jaguar's death as a "poignant symbol of the climate crisis's impact on these vital ecosystems."

3: Which two countries are mentioned as having taken steps to join the Marine Biodiversity Treaty?

- A) Argentina and Brazil
- B) India and Pakistan
- C) The Republic of Moldova and Cabo Verde
- D) France and Germany

Answer: C) The Republic of Moldova and Cabo Verde

The news states that "The Republic of Moldova and Cabo Verde both took steps to join the treaty."

4: Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new species of which type of creature in West Bengal?

- A) Ancient crocodiles
- B) Jaguars
- C) Armored dinosaurs
- D) Collembola (soil-dwelling micro-arthropods)

Answer: D) Collembola (soil-dwelling micro-arthropods)

MCQS

1: According to the IUCN report, what is the current status of all eight recognized pangolin species?

- A) They are no longer threatened due to a decline in illegal trade.
- B) They are recovering due to global conservation efforts.
- C) They are still under threat from extensive and organized illegal trafficking.
- D) Their population has increased since 2016.

Answer: C) They are still under threat from extensive and organized illegal trafficking.
The news states that despite a decline in legal trade, "extensive and highly organized trafficking continues" for all eight pangolin species.





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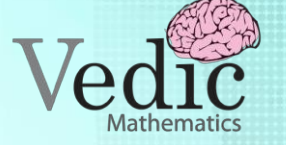
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The news report states that scientists from the ZSI "found two new species of Collembola... in West Bengal."

5:Where was a new species of ancient carnivorous crocodile named *Kostensuchus atrox* discovered?

- A) West Bengal, India
- B) The Pantanal, Brazil
- C) The Dolomites
- D) Southern Patagonia, Argentina

Answer: D) Southern Patagonia, Argentina

The news states that "Paleontologists discovered a new species of ancient crocodile in southern Patagonia, Argentina."



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