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## Biodiversity & Conservation:

### Key Highlights:

**New Species Discovered:** Researchers in Kerala, India, have identified a new species of edible tuber from the Western Ghats region of Wayanad district. Named *Dioscorea balakrishnanii*, the species holds potential for food security due to its low glycemic index. This discovery underscores the rich, yet not fully documented, biodiversity of the region.

**New Conservation Campaign in New Zealand:** New Zealand's Department of Conservation (DOC) launched a major new campaign called "Always Be Naturing." The campaign aims to raise public awareness about the state of nature, revealing that while 90% of New Zealanders care about nature, 89% incorrectly believe it is in "good shape." The initiative seeks to spark curiosity and encourage public action, from building bird feeders to supporting local conservation groups, to protect the 4,000 native species threatened or at risk of extinction.

**India's Conservation Progress:** India continues to make strides in wildlife conservation. Recent reports highlight a number of key initiatives:

**Tiger Conservation:** The Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board has cleared the 614 sq km Omkareshwar Sanctuary, which is set to become the newest tiger reserve in the country. This move will help ease pressure on overcrowded reserves and protect a vulnerable tiger population.

**Cheetah Reintroduction:** The cheetah reintroduction program is progressing, with 12 cubs born to relocated cheetahs, marking a significant milestone for the project.

**Riverine Dolphins:** The first-ever riverine dolphin estimation was released, identifying over 6,300 dolphins across India's rivers. This data will be crucial for formulating better conservation policies and pollution control measures.

**Global Summits:** Global conferences are set to address the urgent need for biodiversity restoration. The World Biodiversity Summit, which will take place on the sidelines of Climate Week NYC, will focus on forging public-private partnerships and exploring the synergies between climate and biodiversity agendas. These summits aim to bolster support for nature and mitigate climate and biodiversity risks.

**Focus on Freshwater Ecosystems:** In the Philippines, a forum was held in celebration of the first-ever World Lake Day. The event highlighted threats to lake biodiversity, such as invasive species and pollution, and stressed the importance of communicating biodiversity research to local communities to foster proper management and conservation.

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## MCQS

1.A new species of edible tuber, *Dioscorea balakrishnanii*, was recently discovered in which part of India?

- a) The Himalayan foothills
- b) The Sundarbans
- c) The Western Ghats
- d) The Thar Desert

**Answer:** c) The Western Ghats

The text states, "Researchers in Kerala, India, have identified a new species of edible tuber from the Western Ghats region of Wayanad district."

2.What is the primary goal of New Zealand's "Always Be Naturing" conservation campaign?

- a) To introduce new species to native habitats.

- b) To raise public awareness and encourage action to protect native species.
- c) To build new national parks.
- d) To fund scientific research into invasive species.

**Answer:** b) To raise public awareness and encourage action to protect native species.

The text explains that the campaign "aims to raise public awareness about the state of nature...and encourage public action...to protect the 4,000 native species threatened or at risk of extinction."

3.According to the provided text, what is a significant milestone for India's cheetah reintroduction program?

- a) The establishment of a new sanctuary for cheetahs.
- b) The birth of 12 cubs to relocated cheetahs.
- c) The successful relocation of cheetahs from Africa.
- d) The first-ever census of the cheetah population.

**Answer:** b) The birth of 12 cubs to relocated cheetahs.

The text highlights, "The cheetah reintroduction program is progressing, with 12 cubs born to relocated cheetahs, marking a significant milestone for the project."

4.What is the focus of the World Biodiversity Summit taking place on the sidelines of Climate Week NYC?

- a) Public-private partnerships and the synergy between climate and biodiversity agendas.
- b) The reintroduction of endangered species.
- c) Creating a new international treaty on conservation.
- d) Celebrating a new discovery in marine life.







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**Answer:** a) Public-private partnerships and the synergy between climate and biodiversity agendas.

The text states the summit "will focus on forging public-private partnerships and exploring the synergies between climate and biodiversity agendas."

**5.In which country was the first-ever World Lake Day forum held, according to the text?**

- a) India
- b) New Zealand
- c) The Philippines
- d) United States

**Answer:** c) The Philippines

The text mentions that a forum was held "In the Philippines, in celebration of the first-ever World Lake Day."

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