

## Biodiversity & Conservation:

### Global Context

The World Climate and Biodiversity Summit is taking place in New York City on September 25, bringing together leaders to bridge the climate and nature agendas. This comes on the heels of a new study showing that while companies near protected areas reduce their toxic emissions, they often do so by cutting jobs and production rather than investing in pollution reduction technology. The study highlights the need for policymakers to balance ecological goals with economic impacts as they work toward the UN's 30-by-30 target, which aims to protect 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030. A recent survey across eight countries found widespread public support for this target.

The IUCN Red List has seen updates, including the assessment of over 1,000 fungi species, many of which are threatened by deforestation and urban development.

### India's Initiatives & Discoveries

India continues to advance its conservation efforts through policy and technology.

**Financial and Regulatory Measures:** India's Union Cabinet approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme for e-waste and battery recycling to recover critical minerals and reduce import dependency. This serves as a near-term solution to meet mineral needs. The National Biodiversity Authority has also introduced the Biodiversity Benefit Sharing Regulations 2025, which require industries to share a portion of their economic benefits from using Indian biological resources with local communities.

**Technological Integration:** India is using AI and machine learning for wildlife conservation and to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. This includes efforts to predict and control forest fires using space technology in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India.

**Species & Habitat Conservation:** The first dedicated vulture conservation portal, "The Vulture Network," was launched in Assam. This platform provides awareness and information on vulture conservation in local languages. India is also continuing to reintroduce tigers into areas where they were previously extinct, such as in the Rajaji, Madhav, Mukundra Hills, and Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserves.

### Other Scientific Insights

New findings in paleontology and ecology have provided insight into Earth's history and the challenges facing species.

**Climate & Species:** A study found that tropical bird populations are plummeting due to more frequent days of extreme heat, with some species declining by over 95%.

**Fossil Discoveries:** An 80-million-year-old fossil of a sauropod from Brazil has revealed that these dinosaurs were susceptible to deadly infections like osteomyelitis, showing that diseases have long impacted life on Earth.

**Earth's Magnetic Field:** Research has revealed that carbon is a key element that enabled Earth's solid inner core to freeze, which in turn stabilized the planet's magnetic field and protected it from solar radiation.



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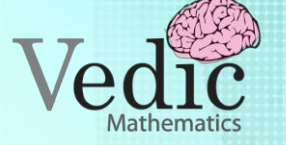
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## MCQS

1. According to the provided text, which of the following is a key finding from a recent study regarding companies located near protected areas?

- A) Companies near protected areas increase their production while investing heavily in pollution reduction technology.
- B) Companies near protected areas reduce their toxic emissions by cutting jobs and production.
- C) Companies near protected areas are unaffected by new environmental regulations.
- D) Companies near protected areas receive financial incentives for increasing production and emissions.

**Correct Answer: B)**

The text states, "while companies near protected areas reduce their toxic emissions, they often do so by cutting jobs and production rather than investing in pollution reduction technology." This highlights a significant trade-off between environmental protection and economic stability, a challenge policymakers must address.

2. What is the primary purpose of India's newly approved ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme?

- A) To provide subsidies for wildlife tourism.
- B) To promote the use of fossil fuels.
- C) To encourage e-waste and battery recycling to recover critical minerals.
- D) To fund research into ancient dinosaur diseases.

**Answer: C)**

The text explicitly mentions that the Union Cabinet approved a "₹1,500 crore incentive scheme for e-waste and battery recycling to recover critical minerals and reduce import dependency." This initiative addresses the







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country's need for critical minerals as a "near-term solution" to meet its resource needs.

**3.The new Biodiversity Benefit Sharing Regulations 2025 in India require which of the following?**

- A) International companies to pay a flat tax for operating in India.
- B) Industries to share economic benefits from biological resources with local communities.
- C) Government agencies to fund all biodiversity conservation projects.
- D) The public to donate a portion of their income to conservation efforts.

**Answer: B)**

The text states that the National Biodiversity Authority introduced regulations that "require industries to share a portion of their economic benefits from using Indian biological resources with local communities." This policy is designed to ensure that local populations, who act as stewards of biological resources, benefit directly from their commercial use.

**4.What scientific finding has provided insight into the stability of Earth's magnetic field?**

- A) The discovery of ancient dinosaur fossils in Brazil.
- B) The plummeting populations of tropical birds due to extreme heat.
- C) The realization that carbon is a key element that enabled the inner core to freeze.
- D) The assessment of over 1,000 fungi species on the IUCN Red List.

**Answer: C)**

The text notes that research has "revealed that carbon is a key element that enabled Earth's solid inner core to freeze, which in turn stabilized the planet's magnetic field and protected it from solar radiation." This finding links the planet's geological and atmospheric

history to a single element's role in a critical process.

**5.Which of the following is an example of technological integration for conservation in India, as mentioned in the text?**

- A) Launching a new fossil discovery portal.
- B) Using AI and machine learning for wildlife conservation and to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.
- C) Banning all industrial activity near protected areas.
- D) Creating a national registry for all plant species.

**Answer: B)**

The text specifically states that "India is using AI and machine learning for wildlife conservation and to mitigate human-wildlife conflict." This shows how India is leveraging modern technology to address complex environmental and social challenges.

**6.The 30-by-30 target, supported by the public in a recent survey, aims to achieve what?**

- A) Reduce global carbon emissions by 30% by the year 2030.
- B) Protect 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030.
- C) Restore 30% of the world's forests.
- D) Increase biodiversity funding by 30%.

**Answer: B)**

The text clearly defines the UN's 30-by-30 target as an aim "to protect 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030." This ambitious goal is a central theme of global conservation efforts and is widely supported.





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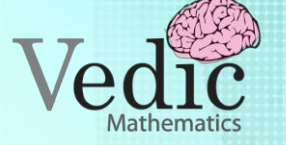
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