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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Key Updates & Conservation Efforts

The Convention on Biological Diversity is hosting several meetings and workshops in September and October 2025 to advance the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. One notable event on September 9 is a workshop on corporate biodiversity measurement in marine environments, focusing on developing metrics and tools to assess and improve the private sector's impact on oceans.

India's state of Madhya Pradesh has launched a "rewilding" initiative to reintroduce both predator and prey species into their natural habitats to restore ecological balance. This plan, which includes reintroducing swamp deer, aims to serve as a model for wildlife conservation.

Species on the Brink

A study published in Nature Reviews Biodiversity revealed that over 10,000 species are critically endangered, with most facing a loss of habitat. This includes a recent focus on the Shelley Leek Orchid in Australia, a critically endangered species with a single remaining population. Efforts are underway to remove competing plant matter to help it thrive and to establish an "ex-situ" population to safeguard the species from extinction.

The spectacled flying fox, a species vital for pollinating and dispersing seeds in Australia's rainforests, has also been highlighted as endangered. Its population has declined by an estimated 75% due to global warming, habitat loss, and human persecution.

The Great Barrier Reef

A new report from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) confirms that the Great Barrier Reef has suffered its largest annual coral decline on record between 2024 and 2025. This decline is attributed to a combination of climate-induced heat stress, tropical cyclones, and outbreaks of the coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish. The report notes a 30.6% relative decline from 2024 levels, the biggest annual decline ever recorded for the southern part of the reef.

New Species Discoveries

Dinosaurs: Paleontologists in China have unearthed a new genus and species of early sauropod named Huashanosaurus qini. The discovery of this 39-foot-long plant-eater pushes back the known timeline of sauropods in the region by approximately 30 million years.

Tarantulas: Researchers in India's Western Ghats region have discovered four new species of tarantulas, including a completely new genus. This highlights the rich biodiversity of the area and the importance of conservation for even less-publicized species, which are facing threats from habitat loss and the illegal pet trade.

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MCQS

1: The "rewilding" initiative to restore ecological balance has been launched in which Indian state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Gujarat
- D) Kerala

Answer: B) Madhya Pradesh

The news states, "India's state of Madhya Pradesh has launched a 'rewilding' initiative to reintroduce both predator and prey species into

their natural habitats to restore ecological balance."

2: Which species in Australia is facing extinction with only a single remaining population?

- A) The spectacled flying fox
- B) The swamp deer
- C) The Shelley Leek Orchid
- D) The crown-of-thorns starfish

Answer: C) The Shelley Leek Orchid

The summary mentions that the Shelley Leek Orchid in Australia is a critically endangered species "with a single remaining population."

3: By what estimated percentage has the population of the spectacled flying fox declined due to global warming and habitat loss?

- A) 25%
- B) 50%
- C) 75%
- D) 90%

Answer: C) 75%

The news states, "Its population has declined by an estimated 75% due to global warming, habitat loss, and human persecution."

4: What is one of the main causes for the record coral decline in the Great Barrier Reef mentioned in the news?

- A) An increase in fishing activity
- B) Climate-induced heat stress
- C) Pollution from nearby coastal cities
- D) A new type of algae

Answer: B) Climate-induced heat stress

The summary reports that the coral decline is attributed to a "combination of climate-induced heat stress, tropical cyclones, and outbreaks of the coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish."





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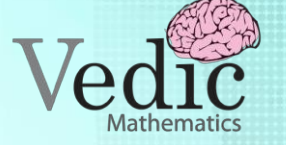
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5: What was the recorded annual decline for the southern part of the Great Barrier Reef from 2024 levels?

- A) 10.5%
- B) 20.1%
- C) 30.6%
- D) 45.3%

Answer: C) 30.6%

The news notes a "30.6% relative decline from 2024 levels, the biggest annual decline ever recorded for the southern part of the reef."

6: What is the name of the new species of early sauropod discovered in China?

- A) Tyrannosaurus rex
- B) Stegosaurus
- C) Huashanosaurus qini
- D) Triceratops

Answer: C) Huashanosaurus qini

The news states that paleontologists in China have unearthed a new genus and species of early sauropod named Huashanosaurus qini.

7: How many new species of tarantulas were discovered in India's Western Ghats region?

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four
- D) Five

Answer: C) Four

The news reports, "Researchers in India's Western Ghats region have discovered four new species of tarantulas..."

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