



Environmental Science & Other Innovations:

Environmental Science

Wildfires & Extreme Weather: Intense wildfires continue to be a major environmental concern globally. Spain and Portugal have experienced large blazes, and a fast-moving fire in California charred over 100,000 acres. In India, a cloudburst in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district caused significant damage. Meanwhile, record-breaking rainfall has led to flooding in parts of New South Wales, Australia, and in Indian states like Gujarat.

Conservation Efforts: California has approved an unprecedented plan to protect its iconic Joshua trees from climate change threats, requiring permits and fees for development near them. Separately, new global maps reveal that less than 10% of biodiversity hotspots for mycorrhizal fungi, which are crucial for carbon storage, are currently protected.

Plastic Waste: A new report warns that the world cannot recycle its way out of the plastic crisis, as less than 10% of global plastic is recycled annually. The report highlights that chemical byproducts from plastic waste are causing an estimated \$1.5 trillion in health damages per year from just three chemicals.

"Sponge Cities": In a move away from traditional "grey" infrastructure, experts are advocating for a "sponge city" approach to manage stormwater, which uses land-based, water-driven solutions to create a more harmonious relationship with nature.

Innovations & Technology

Semiconductor Industry: The 4th edition of "Semicon India 2025" is set to be organized in New Delhi, starting September 2. The event aims to boost India's role as a competitive electronics manufacturing hub and will feature international pavilions from Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Transportation & Infrastructure: India's Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, stated that the country is focused on developing world-class infrastructure at a reduced cost. He also announced plans to convert India's mass rapid transport system into a fully electric mode, including the introduction of 360 ropeways and cable cars. A new flash-charging bus system is also being piloted in Nagpur.

Technology Conference: The 3rd Information Technology Conference 2025 is being held today in New Delhi, with the theme "Innovating the Future: Bridging Technology, Business & Society." The event is focusing on key trends like AI, cloud computing, cybersecurity, and digital transformation.

Research & Policy: A summit on Technology, Research, Innovation, and Policy (TRIPS) 2025 is taking place at IIT Kanpur, with a focus on using science and innovation to build a sustainable future and bridge the "Bharat-India" divide through affordable technology.





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MCQS

1. What is the name of the tree that California has approved a plan to protect from climate change?

- a) Redwood
- b) Joshua tree
- c) Giant sequoia
- d) Bristlecone pine

Answer: b) Joshua tree

The news states, "California has approved an unprecedented plan to protect its iconic Joshua trees from climate change threats."

2. What percentage of global plastic is recycled annually, according to a new report?

- a) Less than 10%
- b) Around 25%
- c) More than 50%
- d) Exactly 10%

Answer: a) Less than 10%

The report warns that "less than 10% of global plastic is recycled annually."

3. What is a "sponge city" approach designed to manage?

- a) Air pollution
- b) Stormwater
- c) Plastic waste
- d) Wildfires

Answer: b) Stormwater

The news defines a "sponge city" approach as one "to manage stormwater," using land-based, water-driven solutions.

4. What is the theme of the 3rd Information Technology Conference 2025 being held in New Delhi?

- a) "The Rise of Artificial Intelligence."





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- b) "Innovating the Future: Bridging Technology, Business & Society."
c) "Building India's Digital Infrastructure."
d) "Cybersecurity in the Modern World."

Answer: b) "Innovating the Future: Bridging Technology, Business & Society."
The report specifies the theme of the conference as "Innovating the Future: Bridging Technology, Business & Society."

5. Which institution is hosting the summit on Technology, Research, Innovation, and Policy (TRIPS) 2025?

- a) IIT Delhi
b) IIT Mumbai
c) IIT Kanpur
d) IIT Madras

Answer: c) IIT Kanpur
The news states that the TRIPS 2025 summit is taking place at "IIT Kanpur."



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