

Biodiversity & Conservation

Indian Biodiversity & Conservation News

- **"Nilgiris: A Shared Wilderness" Documentary Release:** A significant wildlife documentary film, "Nilgiris: A Shared Wilderness," is being released in theaters across India on July 18, 2025. This feature-length film focuses on India's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Nilgiris, highlighting its incredible beauty, biodiversity, and the challenges posed by human activity. It's the first wildlife documentary to receive a nationwide theatrical release in India, aiming to raise awareness and encourage conservation efforts.
- **Rising Dolphin Carcasses on Kerala Coast:** There's a concerning increase in the number of dolphin carcasses washing ashore along the Kerala coast. In 2024, 18 carcasses were recorded, up from 12 in 2023, and about four have been reported so far in 2025. These are Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, listed under Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Experts attribute the rise to increased reporting awareness, intensive fishing activities (bycatch), underwater noise pollution from vessels, and the rough seas during monsoon. There's a call for a marine conservation template that involves both scientific institutions and fishing communities.
- **Kerala's Climate-Resilient Agriculture Plan (CREEA):** Kerala has launched a comprehensive plan, the Climate-Resilient and Energy-Efficient Agriculture (CREEA) report, to tackle climate change impacts on its farm economy. This plan aims to reduce farming's carbon footprint, improve resilience to extreme weather, and includes initiatives like K-CRAIL (Kerala Climate-Resilient Agriculture Innovation Labs) to evaluate sustainable farming practices, promote bio-inputs, micro-irrigation, resilient crops, and protect indigenous crops through community seed banks.
- **The Aluva State Seed Farm, India's first carbon-neutral farm, is highlighted as a model.**
- **Revival of Eco-Conscious Living and Traditional Practices:** Across India, there's a growing trend of families embracing eco-conscious living by reviving ancient traditions. This includes swapping plastics for natural materials, using herbal cleansers, and growing native plants. Practices like crop rotation, natural fertilizers, and establishing sacred groves for forest conservation, deeply rooted in Indian culture, are being revived to maintain soil fertility and biodiversity. This blend of modern awareness and ancestral knowledge is seen as crucial for ecological balance.
- **Snake Identification and Rescue Workshop in Assam:** The Assam Forest School Jalukbari, in collaboration with the Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust, conducted a workshop on snake identification and rescue. This initiative aims to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of forest personnel in managing increasing snake-human encounters, distinguishing between venomous and non-venomous species, and promoting ethical rescue practices to aid snake conservation. The workshop addressed common myths about snakes that hinder conservation efforts.
- **India's Leadership in Wildlife Conservation:** Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, stated at the Indian Conservation Conference 2025 (held in June) that India is playing a leading global role in environment and wildlife conservation. India now has 58 tiger reserves, up from 47 in 2014, and 23 Indian tiger reserves are CA|TS-accredited. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) also officially became a treaty-based intergovernmental organization in January 2025, with India among the ratifying countries, aiming to drive global big cat conservation.
- **Goa State Heritage Policy 2025–2030:** Goa has notified a five-year action plan to protect and promote its cultural and natural heritage, including

legal reforms, community engagement, and conservation funding.

Global Biodiversity & Conservation News

- **Guizhou Triassic Fossil Sites and UNESCO Geoparks:** At the Eco-forum Global Guiyang 2025 in China, a forum focused on "Preserving Geological Heritage." Discussions highlighted China's leadership in global geological park development with 49 UNESCO-designated global geoparks. There was a call to nominate the "Guizhou Triassic Fossil Sites," a "key document" of Earth's evolution showing life's recovery from a mass extinction 240 million years ago, to the World Heritage List. This emphasizes the importance of geological biodiversity.
- **Threats from U.S. Regulatory Rollbacks:** Environmental groups are strongly opposing U.S. President Donald Trump's proclamations that seek to exempt certain industrial facilities and coal plants from pollution laws. These actions are seen as a setback for environmental protection and could lead to increased emissions of toxic substances, negatively impacting ecosystems and human health.
- **Global Plastic Pollution Crisis & Treaty:** The ongoing "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally" initiative (World Environment Day 2025 theme) continues to highlight the pervasive issue of plastic waste. Negotiations for a global treaty to combat plastic pollution are underway, addressing its severe impacts on marine and terrestrial ecosystems and concerns about microplastics.
- **Mongabay's Conservation & Biodiversity Updates:** Mongabay reports on various global conservation challenges, including Indonesia revising its sea sand export policy, the reclassification of a small Australian carnivorous marsupial into three species (indicating new biodiversity insights), and ongoing environmental

harm in the Andes. A significant setback mentioned is Brazil's Congress passing a "devastation bill."

- **Optimism for Biodiversity in Sri Lanka:** A "plant messiah" in Sri Lanka is spreading optimism for biodiversity and conservation through the rediscovery of plant species long thought extinct and the discovery of potentially new ones, highlighting the hidden biodiversity even in well-explored regions.
- **Endangered Species Updates (General Trends):** While specific new listings on July 18, 2025, aren't detailed, broader trends from recent reports (e.g., IUCN Red List updates from earlier in 2025) indicate that a million species globally are at risk of extinction. Key threatened groups include mammals (27%), amphibians (41%), sharks and rays (37%), and reptiles (21%). Habitat destruction, overexploitation, pollution, climate change, and human population growth are identified as primary drivers. Specific endangered animals highlighted in recent 2025 reports include African forest elephants, Amur leopards, various rhino species, Bornean orangutans, and Cross River gorillas. The IUCN Red List also highlighted threats to fungi species, coral species, and hoverflies from human activities.
- **G20 Climate and Environment Sustainability Working Group Meeting:** This meeting is concluding today (July 18th) in South Africa, as part of G20 events, focusing on global environmental and climate issues.

MCQs

1. The wildlife documentary film "Nilgiris: A Shared Wilderness," released on July 18, 2025, focuses on India's first what?
A) National Park
B) Wildlife Sanctuary
C) UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
D) Tiger Reserve



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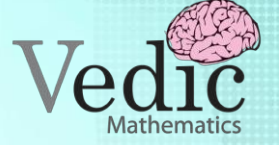
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Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The news states, "This feature-length film focuses on India's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Nilgiris..."

2. The Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, whose carcasses are increasingly washing ashore along the Kerala coast, are listed under which Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972?

- A) Schedule 4
- B) Schedule 2
- C) Schedule 5
- D) Schedule 1

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The news mentions, "These are Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, listed under Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972."

3. What is the name of Kerala's comprehensive plan to tackle climate change impacts on its farm economy?

- A) Kerala Green Agriculture Initiative (KGAi)
- B) Climate-Resilient and Energy-Efficient Agriculture (CREEA)
- C) Sustainable Farming for Future (SFF)
- D) Monsoon Resilient Farming Project (MRFP)

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The news states, "Kerala has launched a comprehensive plan, the Climate-Resilient and Energy-Efficient Agriculture (CREEA) report, to tackle climate change impacts on its farm economy."

4. India's first carbon-neutral farm, highlighted as a model in Kerala's climate-resilient agriculture plan, is located at which State Seed Farm?

- A) Palakkad
- B) Wayanad

- C) Aluva
- D) Kollam

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The news highlights, "The Aluva State Seed Farm, India's first carbon-neutral farm, is highlighted as a model."

5. At the Indian Conservation Conference 2025, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav stated that India now has how many tiger reserves?

- A) 47
- B) 50
- C) 58
- D) 65

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The news states, "India now has 58 tiger reserves, up from 47 in 2014..."

6. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) officially became a treaty-based intergovernmental organization in which month of 2025?

- A) January
- B) April
- C) June
- D) July

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The news states, "The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) also officially became a treaty-based intergovernmental organization in January 2025..."

7. What type of "geological heritage" was the focus of discussions at the Eco-forum Global Guiyang 2025 in China, with a call for nomination to the World Heritage List?

- A) Ancient cave systems
- B) Massive mineral deposits





- C) Guizhou Triassic Fossil Sites
D) Volcanic formations

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The news mentions, "There was a call to nominate the 'Guizhou Triassic Fossil Sites,' a 'key document' of Earth's evolution... to the World Heritage List."

8. What is the theme of World Environment Day 2025, highlighting a major global environmental crisis?

- A) "Connect with Nature"
B) "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally"
C) "Beat Air Pollution"
D) "Biodiversity: Our Food, Our Health"

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The news mentions, "World Environment Day 2025, with its theme 'Ending Plastic Pollution Globally,' continues to highlight the pervasive issue of plastic waste."

9. Mongabay reported on a significant environmental setback, mentioning that the Congress of which country passed a "devastation bill"?

- A) Indonesia
B) Australia
C) Brazil
D) Peru

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The news states, "It also highlighted Brazil's Congress passing a "devastation bill" seen as a major environmental setback."

10. What percentage of amphibians globally are estimated to be at risk of extinction, according to general trends from recent IUCN Red List updates?

- A) 12%

- B) 27%
C) 37%
D) 41%

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The news states, "Key threatened groups include mammals (27%), amphibians (41%), sharks and rays (37%), and reptiles (21%)."

