



## Biodiversity & Conservation:

A significant focus of biodiversity and conservation news on August 26, 2025, is the launch of the Chennai City Biodiversity Index (CBI), a first for Tamil Nadu, India. The city's index scored 38 out of 72, establishing a baseline to measure future progress.

### Urban Biodiversity

**Chennai City Biodiversity Index:** On August 25, Chennai's Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the city's first-ever City Biodiversity Index (CBI). The index, which uses 23 globally recognized indicators, is an assessment of Chennai's natural assets, including its wetlands and green spaces. Chennai received a score of 38 out of 72, with a mixed performance across various indicators. It scored well on native biodiversity and the presence of institutions like Guindy National Park, but poorly on the ability of its ecosystems to perform "life-supporting functions" such as managing water flow and carbon storage. The index will serve as a baseline for future conservation strategies.

**National Plan for Indian Cities:** Following Chennai's lead, the Tamil Nadu government announced that five more cities in the state will develop their own City Biodiversity Index to evaluate and benchmark their urban biodiversity.

### Global & National Conservation Efforts

**Forest Ecosystem Restoration:** The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is hosting a global workshop on its Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from August 26 to August 28, 2025. This meeting

brings together experts to discuss and plan forest restoration strategies.

**Indigenous-Led Conservation:** Kakadu National Park in Australia has launched a new 10-year Indigenous-led research strategy, guided by its traditional Bininj/Mungguy owners. The plan will focus on using scientific knowledge and traditional wisdom to manage major threats like invasive species and fire.

**Plastic Pollution:** A new report highlights that the Global South faces a growing health crisis due to the burning of plastic waste, which releases pollutants leading to respiratory diseases.

### Recent Discoveries

**New Marine Species:** The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census has announced the identification of 866 new marine species, a significant step toward its goal of identifying 100,000 new species in the next decade. These discoveries include a new guitar shark species and a venomous deep-sea snail, among others.

**New Land Species in India:** In July 2025, researchers in India discovered a number of new species, including a new wolf spider, two new species of bent-toed geckos, and a new dragonfly.

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## MCQS

**Question 1: What was Chennai's score on its first-ever City Biodiversity Index (CBI)?**

- A) 23 out of 72
- B) 38 out of 72
- C) 50 out of 72
- D) 72 out of 72

**Answer: B) 38 out of 72**

The news states, "Chennai received a score of 38 out of 72..."

**Question 2: According to the Chennai City Biodiversity Index, what was one of the areas where the city scored poorly?**

- A) The presence of Guindy National Park
- B) Native biodiversity
- C) The ability of its ecosystems to manage water flow and carbon storage
- D) The number of green spaces

**Answer: C) The ability of its ecosystems to manage water flow and carbon storage**  
The news states, "...but [it scored] poorly on the ability of its ecosystems to perform 'life-supporting functions' such as managing water flow and carbon storage."

**Question 3: Following Chennai's lead, how many other cities in Tamil Nadu will also develop their own City Biodiversity Index?**

- A) Two
- B) Five
- C) Ten
- D) All cities in the state

**Answer: B) Five**

The news states, "the Tamil Nadu government announced that five more cities in the state will develop their own City Biodiversity Index..."

**Question 4: What is the purpose of the global workshop being hosted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Seoul?**

- A) To discuss strategies for plastic waste management
- B) To plan forest restoration strategies
- C) To launch new marine species conservation efforts
- D) To announce a new indigenous conservation strategy







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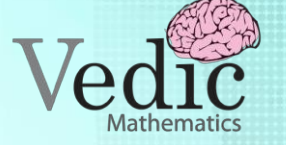
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**Answer:** B) To plan forest restoration strategies  
The news states, "This meeting brings together experts to discuss and plan forest restoration strategies."

**Question 5: What is the focus of the new 10-year Indigenous-led research strategy at Kakadu National Park?**

- A) Increasing tourism in the park
- B) Introducing new non-native species
- C) Managing major threats like invasive species and fire
- D) Building new infrastructure for visitors

**Answer:** C) Managing major threats like invasive species and fire

The news states, "The plan will focus on using scientific knowledge and traditional wisdom to manage major threats like invasive species and fire."

**Question 6: How many new marine species has the Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census announced the identification of?**

- A) 866
- B) 100
- C) 1,000
- D) 10,000

**Answer:** A) 866

The news states, "The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census has announced the identification of 866 new marine species..."

**Question 7: Which of the following new species was discovered in India in July 2025?**

- A) A new guitar shark species
- B) A new wolf spider
- C) A new venomous deep-sea snail
- D) A new type of fish

**Answer:** B) A new wolf spider

The news states, "researchers in India discovered a number of new species, including a new wolf spider..."

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