



## Biodiversity & Conservation:

### India's Conservation Efforts

**Bhitarkanika Bird Census:** A three-day bird census began on August 30 in the mangrove forests of Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha, India. The survey focuses on colonial nesting birds at four specific sites to gather crucial data on their population density, nesting patterns, and habitat conditions. This information will be used for future conservation and wildlife management strategies in the region, which is a vital hub for avian life in eastern India.

**Dulung Reserve Forest:** A first-of-its-kind "Butterfly Walk" was held in the Dulung Reserve Forest in Lakhimpur, Assam. The event exceeded expectations, documenting over 70 butterfly species in just three hours, including rare ones like the white dragonail and Paris peacock. The survey also recorded more than 15 bird species, showcasing the forest's rich biodiversity. This initiative aims to raise awareness among local communities and highlight the importance of conserving the area.

### International Agreements & Threats

**Marine Biodiversity Treaty:** The second session of the Preparatory Commission for the BBNJ Agreement (Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction) concluded on August 29, 2025. This landmark UN treaty aims to protect biodiversity in the high seas. However, a commentary highlights that despite the global momentum, ratification from Mediterranean nations remains uneven, which could impact their ability to influence decisions on conservation efforts in the region.

**Glacier Conservation:** In the Dolomites, Italy, experts and students convened to discuss the urgent need for glacier conservation, which are rapidly vanishing due to rising global temperatures. Glaciers are critical for regulating the Earth's climate and providing freshwater to billions, and their loss disrupts ecosystems and the entire water cycle.

**Forests & Mega-fires:** A study has found that timber plantations face a 50% higher risk of megafires than public lands. The research points to the uniform, dense nature of these forests as a key factor in fueling more severe and extensive fires, highlighting a critical link between land management and wildfire risk.

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- c) To document butterfly and bird species and raise awareness about conservation.  
d) To prepare a report on deforestation.

**Answer:** c) To document butterfly and bird species and raise awareness about conservation.

The news states the event was for documenting species and that it "aims to raise awareness among local communities and highlight the importance of conserving the area."

**3.What is the primary objective of the BBNJ Agreement?**

- a) To establish a new trade route.  
b) To protect biodiversity in the high seas.  
c) To regulate fishing in coastal waters.  
d) To monitor pollution in rivers.

**Answer:** b) To protect biodiversity in the high seas.

The news states that the UN treaty "aims to protect biodiversity in the high seas."

**4. According to the news, what is a primary function of glaciers that is threatened by rising global temperatures?**

- a) Regulating Earth's seasons.  
b) Providing a habitat for polar bears.  
c) Regulating Earth's climate and supplying freshwater.  
d) Acting as a barrier against solar radiation.

**Answer:** c) Regulating Earth's climate and supplying freshwater.

The text highlights that glaciers are "critical to regulating the Earth's climate and supplying freshwater to billions."

**5.Why do timber plantations face a higher risk of megafires compared to public lands?**

- a) They are located in dryer climates.

## MCQS

**1.The three-day bird census in Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha, specifically focuses on which type of birds?**

- a) Migratory birds  
b) Colonial nesting birds  
c) Endangered species  
d) Marine birds

**Answer:** b) Colonial nesting birds

The news states that the survey is "specifically focusing on colonial nesting birds across four major nesting sites."

**2.What was the purpose of the "Butterfly Walk" in Dulung Reserve Forest?**

- a) To find new species of plants.  
b) To record all insects in the forest.







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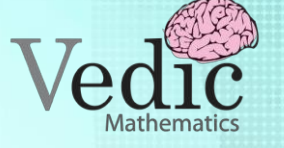
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- b) They are more susceptible to lightning strikes.
- c) They are often less managed than public lands.
- d) Their dense, uniform nature can fuel fire severity.

**Answer:** d) Their dense, uniform nature can fuel fire severity.

The news directly states that "dense, uniform forests can fuel fire severity."

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