

ZSI E-News

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from the Director's Desk

Cover: *Marmota himalayana* (Hodgson, 1841)

Courtesy: ZSI, Headquarter, Kolkata

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Dear Colleagues, Readers, Partners, and Friends,

It is my pleasure to present the successful launch of the ZSI Monthly e-Newsletter for May 2026. This platform is a symbol of scientific progress and knowledge sharing, highlighting the Zoological Survey of India's commitment to exploring, identifying, and documenting fauna, as well as their conservation efforts across the country. Each issue shows the dedication and hard work of our scientists, researchers, and field workers in uncovering India's rich and diverse faunal heritage. Through fieldwork in various ecosystems, taxonomic research, behavior studies, genetical research and conservation programs, we keep building our understanding of biodiversity and supporting environmental care. Discovering new species, documenting additional records of faunal communities, and updating protection plans isn't just about boosting science, it also indicates how we need to safeguard the special environments that support life. This platform connects scientific work, protective actions, and raising awareness among the public.

The Zoological Survey of India participated successfully in the Rajbhasha inspection organized by the 3rd Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language and presented detailed works by using Hindi in official duties at the Western Ghats Regional Centre in Kozhikode on 11th May 2026. Through participation in interactions with the Chief Minister, West Bengal, ZSI reinforced its role in supporting biodiversity conservation and environmental management initiatives at both national and state levels. ZSI made a detailed discussion with the Anthropological Survey of India for fostering interdisciplinary research in biodiversity, anthropology, and paleo-anthropology to strengthen integrated approaches to understanding India's natural and cultural heritage. ZSI conducted its Annual Progress Monitoring Committee Meeting of 2025-2026 involving Headquarters and Regional Centres, comprehensively reviewing scientific achievements and institutional progress, performance evaluation, and strengthening of ongoing faunal research and conservation programmes across the country. ZSI provided scientific inputs to the National Biodiversity Authority on the status of vertebrate invasive alien species in India, reinforcing its role as a key national institution supporting biodiversity assessment, monitoring, and management. The scientists and researchers from ZSI documented a total of 1781 species of faunal communities across various ecosystems in India. This accomplishment includes the identification of fourteen new species viz. five species of Lepidoptera, three species of Diptera, one species of Hymenoptera, two species of Arachnida, one species of land Mollusca, one species of Pisces and one species of Amphibia. Furthermore, new records for India were noted for one genus of Arachnida, three species of Lepidoptera, one species of Diptera, one species of Hemiptera, two species of Platyhelminthes, and one species of Pisces.

Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make ZSI shine in every way. This e-news is really significant for sharing scientific info, helping people collaborate, and raising awareness about India's amazing biodiversity.

Let's keep up the good work and aim for more breakthroughs in the future.

Jai Hind,

Dr. Dhriti Banerjee
Director
5th June 2026
Kolkata

HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA

A total of 625 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Platyhelminthes, Orthoptera, Blattodea, Dermaptera, Mantodea, Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Hemiptera, Mollusca, and Nematelminthes were identified. A total of five species belonging to Arachnida, and Diptera are described as new to science. One genus of Arachnida and five species belonging to Diptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera and Platyhelminthes were reported for the

first time from the country. A total of 39 species of Arachnida, Diptera, Lepidoptera, Mantodea, Platyhelminthes, Nematelminthes, and Hemiptera were augmented to National Zoological Collections (NZCs). Apart from these, two species of archaeological specimens were identified. Identification and Advisory services was rendered to Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College and Bidhanagar College.

NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

A total of 90 species of faunal communities belonging to Orthoptera, Odonata, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Aranae, Pisces, Amphibia, Decapoda, and Reptilia were identified. One species of Amphibia and one species of Arachnida were described as new to science. Identification and

advisory services were rendered to four different institutions. A total of 90 students belonging to three different educational institutions visited the museum of the centre. International Day of Biological Diversity was celebrated at the centre during this month.



WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

A total of 87 species of faunal communities belonging to Crustacea, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Mollusca, Pisces, and Blattodea were identified. A species of Lepidoptera was described as new to science. A total of 11 DNA sequences

have been submitted to NCBI. Identification and advisory services were rendered to seven different educational institutions. A total of 90 visitors visited the museum of the centre.



Giant African land snail, *Lissachatina fulica* (Bowdich, 1822)



Patalganga River, Raigad district, Maharashtra

CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

A total of 120 species of faunal communities, including Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, and Hemiptera were identified. A total of 12 visitors, including

students from various educational institutions, visited the museum of the centre.



Gaur, *Bos gaurus* (Smith, 1827) spotted at Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh



Tasar Silk Moth, *Antheraea mylitta* (Drury, 1773) spotted at Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh

DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

A total of 128 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera, and Pisces were identified. A total of 119 visitors including the students from Mother's World Academy

School, Soorsagar, visited the museum of the centre. All the staff of the centre participated in the outreach programme on the New Labour Codes conducted by Mr. Mridul, Assistant Labour Officer, Jodhpur on 11th May 2026.



Students from Mother's World Academy School, Soorsagar, visited ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

A total of 91 species of faunal communities belonging to Phthiraptera, Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Coleoptera, Pisces, Amphibia and Reptilia were identified. The Centre organized “Mission Life Programme- Save Water, Save Electricity, Cleanliness

Drive”, and “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” Campaign along with the students of Indira Gandhi University, Meerpur, Rewari, Haryana and Dolphin (P.G.) Institute of Biomedical & Natural Sciences, Dehradun, Uttarakhand during this month.



Common Clubtail Dragonfly, *Ictinogomphus rapax* (Rambur, 1842)



Students of Indira Gandhi University, Rewari, Haryana at ZSI/NRC, Fauna Museum

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A total of 173 species of faunal communities belonging to Crustacea, Ephemeroptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Psocoptera, Mollusca, Pisces, Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves, and zooplankton were identified. Fourteen Inspectors of Fisheries from the Tamil Nadu Fisheries

and Fishermen Welfare Department visited office premises and shared information about zooplankton and fishes and their role in the aquatic ecosystem. Identification and advisory services were rendered for Blattodea to the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore.



Spot Billed Duck, *Anas poecilorhyncha* Forster, 1781



Tufted Grey Langur, *Semnopithecus priam* Blyth, 1844

GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA, BIHAR

A total of 105 species belonging to Insecta, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified. An awareness programme for the International Day for Biological Diversity was organized at the centre on 22nd May 2026.



Jungle owlet observed during Gaya Survey



During International Day for Biological Diversity Celebrations at ZSI/GPRC, Patna

HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A total of 114 species of faunal communities belonging to Lepidoptera, Trichoptera, Orthoptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Coleoptera, and Mantodea were identified during this month. Four species of Lepidoptera were described as new to science, three species were recorded for the first time from the country and one species reported for the first time from Bangladesh. A total of three research articles were reviewed by the scientists of the centre during this month. Two persons from Fishery Department, Himachal Pradesh Visited the Museum of the centre on 26th May 2026. Identification and advisory services were rendered to CP University, Hamirpur. International Day of Biodiversity was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Ghadasani village, near Solan, Himachal Pradesh.



Scientists of ZSI and BSI along with village people on Occasion of International Biodiversity Day on 22.05.2026



Distribution of medicinal plants by scientists to the village people on 22.05. 2026

MARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A survey tour was conducted in Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar from 9th to 22nd May 2026, under the research programme '*Study of health and coral diversity reassessments in Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park*'. Two local surveys were conducted at the Kasimedu Landing Centre, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. A total of 66 species belonging to different faunal groups were identified during this month.



Bleached coral colonies in Palk Bay



Fixing of experimental plots to study coral-algae interactions in Palk Bay

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, SRI VIJAYA PURAM, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Long-term surveys were conducted to Great Nicobar Island from 1st to 31st May 2026 and 15th to 31st May 2026 to Nancowry group of Islands to study the Marine and Terrestrial faunal diversity. Local surveys were also conducted from 18th to 23rd May 2026 to South Andaman i.e., Pongi Balu, Burmanallah, Sippighat, Ograbraj, Collinpur, Bada Balu, Mount Manipur, Kalatang, and Shoal Bay to study the Terrestrial and Marine Faunal diversity. A total of 196 species of faunal communities belonging to Amphibia, Aves, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Mammalia, Reptilia, Decapoda Stomatopoda, Fishes, and Mollusca were identified. One species of land molluscs i.e., *Leptopoma subbaraoi* Tripathy *et al.*, 2026 was described new to science. International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated at the centre during 18th to 25th May 2026 and Valedictory function of the International Day for Biological Diversity was conducted on 25th May 2026. Plantation drives were conducted on 23rd May, 24th May, and 26th May under the Mission LiFE campaign. A Beach Cleanup event was organized at the Radha Nagar beach (Swarajdweep) in collaboration with the AATO and Department of Tourism on 24th May 2026, as part of the observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity. An awareness campaign with the tourists was organized on 25th May 2026 in Laxamanpur beach II, and Shaheed dweep to sensitize tourists about sustainable and environmentally responsible practices while visiting the Islands. Online Photography Competition, Storytelling Competition, and Craft Making Competition on the theme “Acting Locally for Global Impact”, were organized by the centre during this month. First level screening of ‘111 hours Hackthon’ on Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity Conservation was organized at the centre on 27th May 2026.



Valedictory Function of International Day of Biological Diversity 2026



Heteractis aurora (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)



Periophthalmus argentilineatus Valenciennes, 1837

SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

A total 45 species of faunal communities belonging to Arthropoda, and Mollusca were identified during this month.



Ocypode macrocera H. Milne Edwards, 1837

FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

A total of 98 species of faunal communities belonging to Fishes, Aquatic Coleoptera, Aquatic Hemiptera, Branchiopoda, Amphibia, and Mollusca were identified during this month. A total of 25 DNA sequences have been submitted to NCBI. Mission Life and Swachhta Hi Seva

Special Campaign 5.0 were conducted to generate awareness among people. First level screening of '111 hours Hackthon' on Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity Conservation was organized at the centre on 29th May 2026.



Ardea cinerea Linnaeus, 1758



111hrs of ZSI Hackathon participants

WESTERN GHATS REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

A total of 58 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate Amoeba, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Dermaptera, and Pisces were identified. One species of Hymenoptera was described as new to science. Identification and advisory services were rendered to the Range Officer of the Rapid Response Team

(RRT) of Kozhikode Forest Division. A total of 48 visitors visited the museum of the centre. The Centre cleared the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language inspection held at Grand Hayat, Bolgatty Island, Kochi, Keralam conducted on 11th May 2026.



Sansadeeya Rajbhasha Samiti Meeting

ESTUARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, GOPALPUR-ON-SEA, ODISHA

A total of 457 species of different faunal communities were identified in this month. *Bascanichthys chepakakiensis* Sanghamitra *et al.*, 2026 a species of snake eel is described new to science from two specimens collected from Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh and Aryapalli, Odisha.

A total of 23 DNA barcodes were uploaded to the NCBI database belonging to 21 species. Students of Tourism Department, Berhampur University, Odisha along with their teachers had visited the museum of the centre.



Students of Tourism Department, Berhampur University visited the museum of ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-On-Sea

ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

A total of 133 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Mollusca, Aves, and Pisces were identified. Identification and advisory services was rendered to Rajiv Gandhi University.

International Biodiversity Day was observed at the centre on 22nd May 2026 in collaboration with BSI/APRC, Itanagar under the theme '*acting locally for global impact*' where 40 student where participated.



International Biodiversity Day celebration at ZSI/APRC, Itanagar



Infrared image of *Moschus leucogaster* at 3032 m elevation, at Yordi Rabe Supse Wildlife sanctuary

NEW DISCOVERIES

NEW SPECIES



Amolops kamal Saikia et al., 2026



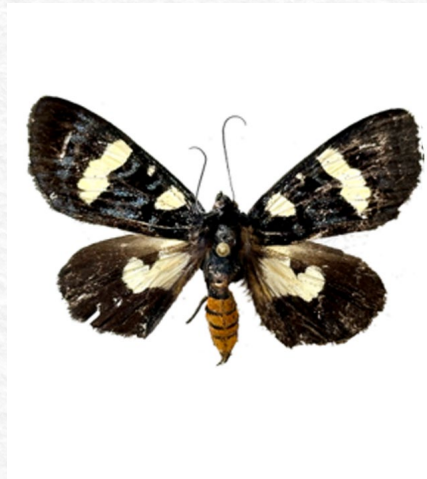
Bascanichthys chepakakiensis Sanghamitra et al., 2026



Hamataliwa papikonda Bhattacharya, Sudhin & Sen, 2026



Simonia lawbah Dutta, Goswami, Sudhin, Sen & Banerjee, 2026



Mimeusemia kali Kalawate & László, 2026

NEW RECORDS



Lutjanus arakan Hasan, Durand & Iwatsuki, 2025

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

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2. Shashank, P., Joshi, R., Tarmann, G.M., Efetov, K.A., Reddy, K.M., Farooqui, S.A. and Naik, S. 2026. A catalogue of Zygaenidae (Lepidoptera: Zygaenoidea) from India. *Zootaxa*, **5812**(1): 1–64.

PAPERS

1. Ahmad, J., Yadav, S. and Singh, N. 2026. First report of *Bocula divergens* Prout, 1926 (Erebidae: Rivulinae) from India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, **126**(2): 169–172.
2. Amal, S. and Girish Kumar, P. 2026. *Spilomena malabarica* (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae: Pemphredoninae), a new species of aphid wasp from Kerala, India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, **126**(2): 107–111.

3. Banerjee, S., Kumar, D., Jaiswal, D. and Karuthapandi, M. 2026. Integrative taxonomy of the backswimmer genus *Enithares* (Hemiptera: Notonectidae) from India, with two new records. *Journal of Diversity Studies*, **5**(1): 107–114.
4. Behera, R.K., Behera, B., Mishra, S.S. and Mohapatra, A. 2026. New records of two elongate fishes, *Gymnothorax tile* (Anguilliformes: Muraenidae) and *Ophichthys cuchia* (Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae), from Chilika Lagoon, Odisha, India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, **126**(2): 179–183.
5. Behera R.K., Mohanty S.R., Acharya S., Thathachari T.K.S., Behera B., Mishra S.S. and Mohapatra A. 2026. Distributional range extension of *Lutjanus arakan* Hasan, Durand & Iwatsuki 2025 (Perciformes: Lutjanidae) from the Indian coast. *Zootaxa*, **5802**(3): 577–584.
6. Bhattacharya, U., Sudhin, P.P. and Sen, S. 2026. A new species of *Hamataliwa* Keyserling, 1887 (Araneae: Oxyopidae) from India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, **126**(2): 101–106.
7. Dar, S.A., Singh, V.K., Ghosh, A., Kumar, V., Singh, H., Singh, A.P., Sharief, A., Dutta, R., Joshi, B.D., Thakur, M., Banerjee, D. and Sharma, L. K. 2026. High gene flow in Asiatic black bears and Leopards indicates effective movement through human-dominated landscapes of the Western Himalaya. *Conservation Genetics*, **27**(3): 65.
8. Debnath, R., Abitha, J., Rajmohana, K. and Dinesh, K.P. 2026. Description of ten new species of *Duta* Nixon (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) from India. *Zootaxa*, **5807**(2): 201–244.
9. Dutta, S., Goswami, R., Sudhin, P.P., Sen, S. and Banerjee, D. 2026. Taxonomic notes on the ray spider family Theridiosomatidae Simon, 1881 (Arachnida: Araneae) from India. *Zootaxa*, **5821**(2): 291–300.
10. Ghosh, A., Das, S. and Bhattacharya, U. 2026. Two new records of parasitic trematodes (Plagiorchiida: Opecoelidae and Bucephalidae) in fishes from India. *Indian Journal of Geo Marine Sciences*, **54**(03): 156–165.
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13. Khanra, S., Dash, S. and Pal, A. 2026. Discovery of *Rhyacobates malaisei* Andersen and Chen, 1995 (Hemiptera: Gerridae) in India: the first record for the country. *Aquatic Insects*, 1–6.
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16. Mukherjee, K., Pramanik, D., Mukherjee, A., Mukherjee, A., Naskar, A. and Banerjee, D. 2026. Taxonomy, ecology and medical relevance of human-biting *Leptoconops* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) from Andaman and Nicobar archipelago with insights on capture methods. *Scientific Reports*, **15****723**:16.
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- genus *Compsoctena* Zeller, 1852 (Lepidoptera: Eriocottidae) from India and Bangladesh, with descriptions of three new species. *Zootaxa*, **5810**(1): 89–110.
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 21. Saikia, B., Sinha, B., Shabnam, A., Konwar, P.N., Borthakur, M.K. and Dinesh, K.P. 2026. Description of a new cascade frog of the genus *Amolops* Cope (1865) (Anura: Ranidae) from Nagaland, North-East India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, **126**(2): 131–140.
 22. Sangamithra, E.R., Suyani, N.K., Kathirvelpandian, A., Behera, R.K., Acharya, S., Mohapatra, A., Chakraborty, K. and Kumar, T.A. 2026. A New Snake Eel Species of *Bascanichthys* (Ophichthidae) from the Bay of Bengal Supported by Morphology and Mitochondrial Analysis. *Journal of Ichthyology*, 1–9.
 23. Selvaraj, K., Kavya Yadav, G.A., Vasundhara, J., Ranjith, M., Rameshkumar, A. and Sushil, S.N. 2026. New alliances in the ecosystem: *Eretmocerus queenslandensis* Naumann and Schmidt (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae) as a biocontrol agent of *Bemisia breyniae* (Singh) (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) in India. *Journal of Natural History*, **60**(25–28): 1259–1269.
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 25. Shabnam, A., Senraj, M., Morey, R. and Dinesh, K.P. 2026. DNA barcodes and species delimitation reveal overlooked diversity in Indian cockroaches (Blattodea). *Zootaxa*, **5814**(2): 276–292.
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POPULAR ARTICLES

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2. रिफत हुसैन रैना, प्रीति चौधरी, इश्फाक मजिद शाह एवं इंदु शर्मा | 2026. बदलती जलवायु और हिमालय की मधुमक्खियाँ: परागण तंत्र पर गहराता संकट | जलवायु | downtoearth-hindi on May 3, 2026.
3. रिफत हुसैन रैना, प्रीति चौधरी एवं इश्फाक मजिद शाह | 2026. मधुमक्खियों का हमला: क्या वास्तव में वे आक्रामक हो रही हैं या हम उनका घर छीन रहे हैं? वन्यजीव और जैव विविधता | downtoearth-hindi on May 20, 2026.
4. Raina, R.H., Pokhrel, N. and Banerjee, D. 2026. Sikkim's Bumblebees: The Unsung Guardians of Our Mountain World. *Sikkim Express*, 5pp. (May 24, 2026)

MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, attended a meeting with the Director, Anthropological Survey of India on 7th May 2026 for strengthening ties and moving ahead together through collaboration work to explore anthropology, biodiversity and paleo-anthropology research in India; attended the Oath-Taking Ceremony of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal on 9th May 2026 as a VVIP guest and extended ZSI's heartiest congratulations to the new Government and remains committed to supporting the state's vibrant biodiversity and wildlife conservation efforts; attended the Rajbhasha inspection by the 3rd Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language for Western Ghat Regional Centre (WGRC), ZSI, Kozhikode held on 11th May 2026 at Kochi, Kerala; attended a Meeting of the Committee for evaluation of nominations for Padma Awards, 2027 on 11th May 2026; attended a meeting on 12th May 2026, hosted by MoEF&CC to discuss the issues pertaining to State Governments under the chairmanship of JS(VPM). Director, BSI along with other Head of Offices / concerned officers attended the meeting; attended the Annual Progress Monitoring Committee Meeting of the Headquarters and Regional Centres of the Zoological Survey of India, along with Ten other scientists and officers from ZSI, for reviewing the progress made during the period from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 at Diamond Harbour, West Bengal held from 14th to 18th May 2026; attended a meeting of the Sub Nodal Officers of 8 CPC scheduled on 19th May 2026 under the chairmanship of the Nodal Officer of 8 CPC i.e. Shri Satyajit Mishra, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC; attended the Hindi Karyashala hosted by VC-MoEFCC on the topic of "*Usefulness of Artificial Intelligence in Official Translation and other works*" on 20th May 2026; was present for assisting the interviews at the College Annex Building and to serve as an external expert on the selection committee for the contractual faculty position in the Department of Life Sciences of RKM Residential College, Narendrapur on 23rd May 2026; attended the "*Interaction cum Dinner*" Programme with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal scheduled to facilitate cordial interaction and exchange of views with the heads of central government offices functioning in Kolkata on 25th May 2026; visited Southern Regional Centre, Chennai along with two other scientists on 27th and 28th May 2026 regarding discussions related to the matters of Administrative Building of SRC, ZSI, Chennai and Celebration of IYD.
2. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist- F, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the review meeting of National Coastal Mission 2.0 and presented the progress on the project Development of Coral Reefs and its Management on 6th May 2026, organized by Joint Secretary, MoEFCC on virtual mode; attended the subcommittee meeting of Invasive Alien Species (Vertebrates) organized by National Biodiversity Authority on 7th May 2026 and presented the status of Vertebrate Invasive Alien Species in India through virtual mode; served as a Member Secretary–Scientific Committee in the Annual Progress Monitoring Committee meeting of ZSI held on 14th to 18th May 2026; attended the meeting at NCSCM, Chennai on 27th May 2026 to discuss the planning of coral reef restoration under NCM 2.0.
3. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist- F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, attended passing board meeting at Department of Ocean Studies and Marine Biology, Pondicherry University as a Vice Chancellor nominee on 9th May 2026; attended Annual Progress meeting during 14th to 18th May 2026 and presented the progress of the ANRC/ZSI, Sri Vijaya Puram; attended passing board meeting at Department of Management Studies, Pondicherry University as a Vice Chancellor nominee on 15th May 2026; attended meeting at MSRDC in connection with the scientific research for marine mammals in the vicinity of the Construction of Versova Bandra Sea Link

Project (VBSLP) on 19th May 2026.

4. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist- F, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, attended “*Meeting for discussion of Annexure in relation to the 8th CPC*” through virtual mode organized by ZSI, HQs., Kolkata on 20th May 2026; attended meeting with Head of Institutions of Central and State Governments of Dehradun for a strategic dialogue on “*Wildlife Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047*” organized in the Meeting Hall of WII by The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 22nd May 2026.
5. Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist- E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended a two-day research seminar on “*Sharing Research Results and Plans/Focus of Research Projects from Protected and Non-Protected Areas of Arunachal Pradesh*” held on 22nd and 23rd May 2026 at the PCCF Office, Itanagar.
6. Smt. Ilona Kharkongor, Scientist- E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended the online meeting with ZSI/HQ for discussing the filling up of 8th CPC-related annexures on the 20th May 2026.
7. Dr. P.S. Bhatnagar, Scientist- E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended the meeting on campaign “*Ek Ped Maa ke Naam*” in presence of Honourable Joint Secretary, MoEFCC on 27th May 2026.
8. Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea, along with Dr. P.C. Tudu, Scientist-D, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea, and Dr. Tanoy Mukherjee, Scientist-B, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea attended the celebration of International Day for Biodiversity on 22nd May 2026 at Lokseva Bhawan, Organised by the Government of Odisha.
9. Dr. D.S. Suman, Scientist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea, attended a meeting of Expert-Committee on operational study of the use of larvivorous fish for vector control and guidelines under the Chairpersonship of Dr. R.P. Joshi, Addl. DGHS on 11th May 2026 at NCVBDC, New Delhi in online mode; 20th May 2026 को कार्यालय कार्य में एआई के उपयोग के लिए राजभाषा कार्यशाला में भाग लिया।
10. Dr Anil Kumar, Scientist-E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, attended an online meeting organised by MoEF&CC, New Delhi on 27th May 2026 regarding ‘*Discussion on the activities and programmes on ‘Ek ped ma ke nam’ campaign*’ 5th June onwards for one year.
11. Mrs. Jennifer Lyngdoh, Scientist- E, ZSI/NERC, Shillong, attended “*Meeting for discussion of Annexure in relation to the 8th CPC*” through virtual mode organized by ZSI, HQs., Kolkata on 20th May 2026; attended a VC meeting under the chairmanship of JS(CS-II) on 27th May 2026 to discuss the preparation for ‘*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*’;
12. Dr. Anjum N. Rizvi, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the selection committee meeting for the recruitment of 20 Junior Research Fellows (JRFs) and 6 Senior Research Fellows (SRFs), conducted during 20th to 22nd May 2026 at ZSI, HQ, Kolkata.
13. Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a VC meeting on ‘*Nominations for Padma Awards, 2027*’ under the chairmanship of DGF&SS, MoEFCC on 6th May 2026; attended a VC meeting under the chairmanship of JS(CS-II) on 27th May 2026 to discuss the preparation for ‘*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*’.
14. Dr. Rahul Joshi, Scientist- D, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended a meeting for discussion of Annexures in relation to the 8th CPC on 20th May 2026 organized by ZSI HQ Kolkata; attended online meeting regarding Bulk payment update on 25th May 2026 organized by GEM.
15. Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist- D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, provided comments on Indo-German Environment Forum 2026 as required by International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through ZSI/HQ; provided comments on India’s stand on the Initiative Governance Committee (IGC) of the Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform (CORDAP) as required by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through ZSI/HQ; attended a review meeting on Development of Coral Reefs and its Management under National Coastal Mission 2.0 on 6th May 2026 virtually, attended a meeting with NCSCM for the

- discussion of the Development of coral reefs and its management on 11th and 12th May 2026 virtually; attended Second Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Accounts in India on 15th May 2026 organized by Statistics Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change virtually; attended a meeting of sub-committee on Compilation and updating of invasive species List, Reference Framework and Data Collection and Coordination constituted under the Expert Committee of the Invasive Alien Species on 25th May 2026 virtually; attended a Review Meeting of India's Ranking in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) under the Chairmanship of Shri Lalsanglur, Senior Economic Adviser, MoEFCC on 25th May 2026 virtually.
16. Dr. Atanu Naskar, Scientist- C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the selection committee meeting for the recruitment of 20 Junior Research Fellows (JRFs) and 6 Senior Research Fellows (SRFs), conducted during 20th to 22nd May 2026 at ZSI, HQ, Kolkata.
 17. Ms. Debashree Dam, Scientist- C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a virtual meeting hosted by MoEFCC Media team on 13th May 2026 wrt media coordination and amplification in connection with International Big cat Alliance (IBCA); attended a virtual meeting hosted by MoEFCC under the chairmanship of JS(CS-II) on 27th May 2026 to discuss the preparation for 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' on 5th June 2026; attended a virtual meeting hosted by MoEFCC under the chairmanship of Shri Satyajit Mishra, Joint Secretary (Media) on 29th May 2026 to discuss the modality of the social media outreach of the tree plantation programme on the occasion of World Environment Day, 2026.
 18. All scientists of ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended meeting with Ms. Meenaxi Rawat, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoEFCC with ZSI, BSI and PCB office at Pune on 14th May 2026.
 19. Shri Manish Chandra Patel, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, attended Prarambh 2026, an outreach programme on the New Income Tax Act 2025 organized by the Office of the Principal Chief Income Tax Commissioner at the Bihar Chamber of Commerce and Industries on 21st May 2026, in his capacity as the DDO of the centre.
 20. All the Scientist and Scientific Staff of ZSI/ HQ and Regional Centres attended Annual Progress Monitoring Committee meeting of ZSI held on 14th to 18th May 2026.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

1. ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, organized valedictory function of Three-month certificate course on Junior Para-Taxonomy & Nature Conservator-cum-Ecotourism Guide under the Green Skill Development Programme on 15th May 2026.
2. ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, organized an internship program for 48 M. Sc. and B. Sc. Students of MES Mumpad College, Malappuram & Maharaja College, Ernakulam on the topic "An introduction to Taxonomy" from 18th to 22nd May 2026.
3. ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, organized one day "Capacity Building Hands-on-Training Programme on Status of Faunal Diversity in India and efforts on their conservation" to 32 M.Sc. students of Indira Gandhi University, Meerpur, Rewari, Haryana on 8th May 2026; organized one day "Capacity Building Hands-on-Training Workshop on Faunal Diversity in India" to 34 B.Sc. and M.Sc. Zoology students of Dolphin (P.G.) Institute of Biomedical & Natural Sciences, Dehradun on 12th May 2026.

TRAININGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist- C, ZSI/ WGRC, Kozhikode, attended Assembly Election training classes at Civil station, Kozhikode on 29th April and 3rd May 2026, and performed counting duty on 4th May 2026 at J.D.T. Islam Arts & Science College, Vellimadukunnu, Kozhikode.

2. Dr. Vikram Delu, Scientist- B, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended a Hindi Workshop on 20th May 2026 organized by the MoEFCC on the ethical use of AI and other technologies for Hindi related works.
3. Dr. Aparna S. Kalawate, Scientist- E of the centre visited Lepidoptera section of NHM, London, during this month.
4. Two officers and ten staff members of ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur performed the Census HLO-2027 duty from 1st May to 30th May 2026 at Jabalpur.
4. Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on 'Spider Ecology' in Advanced Certificate course in 'Wildlife Management & Ecotourism' meant for defence personnels organized by Vidyasagar University, West Bengal on 1st May 2026.
5. Dr. S.S. Talmale, Scientist- C, ZSI/WRC, Pune, delivered an online lecture on "Research Methodology with respect to Biodiversity Perspective" on 18th May 2026 to the students of RTM Nagpur University at Vidya Vikas Art's Commerce & Science college, Samudrapur district, Wardha.

LECTURES DELIVERED

1. Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist- E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered a talk on the biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh during the International Day for Biological Diversity celebration organized with the Botanical Survey of India, Itanagar, on 22nd May 2026.
2. Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea, presented an invited talk on "India's Blue Economic Ambitions: Safeguarding Biodiversity in a Developing Ocean Economy" in the Fakir Mohan University sponsored summer internship programme (SIP-2026) on 20th May 2026.
3. Dr Anil Kumar, Scientist-E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, delivered a talk on the 'significance of plants for the conservation and sustainability of biodiversity in Gangetic Plains Region' during International Day for Biological Diversity celebration at ZSI/GPRC, Patna on 22nd May 2026.
6. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist- C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a keynote address on the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2026, "Think Locally for Global Impact" for the members of the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of the Kannur District Panchayat on 18th May 2026 at the District Panchayat conference Hall, Kannur.
7. Dr. V. M. Sathish Kumar, Scientist-C, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, delivered a talk on "Acting locally for global impact" on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, 2026 at ZSI/GPRC, Patna, on 22nd May 2026.
8. Dr. Vikram Delu, Scientist- B, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered a lecture titled 'Biodiversity monitoring thorough molecular techniques' during the International Day for Biological Diversity celebration organized with the Botanical Survey of India, Itanagar, on 22nd May 2026.

PHOTO GALLERY



Director, ZSI felicitated honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal



Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI greeted Shri Suvendu Adhikari, honourable Chief Minister, West Bengal



Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India, was invited as a VVIP guest and honoured to attend the Oath-Taking Ceremony of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal on 9th May 2026



Glimpses of the meeting with the Director, Anthropological Survey of India on 7th May, 2026



Officers present at the Annual Progress Monitoring Committee Meeting of the Headquarters and Regional Centres of the Zoological Survey of India at Diamond Harbour, West Bengal held from 14.05.2026 to 18.05.2026



DZSI attended the Rajbhasha inspection by the 3rd Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language for Western Ghat Regional Centre (WGRC), ZSI, Kozhikode on 11.05.2026 at Kochi, Kerala



Glimpses of the Rajbhasha inspection by the 3rd Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language for Western Ghat Regional Centre (WGRC), ZSI, Kozhikode on 11.05.2026 at Kochi, Kerala

A Tribute to Dr. P.T. Cherian

**Renowned Entomologist, Master Taxonomist,
and Janaki Ammal National Awardee**

by

Dr. K. Venkataraman

Former Director, ZSI; Former Secretary, NBA; Former Member Secretary LoEA



“The world needs more taxonomists to describe the immense biodiversity.”

— Dr. P. T. Cherian

This tribute honours Dr. P.T. Cherian, one of India's foremost systematic entomologists and taxonomists, whose life's work represents the very foundation upon which biodiversity science and conservation planning rest. A scholar of rare depth and discipline, Dr. Cherian's contributions—particularly to the taxonomy of Diptera—have permanently enriched Indian and global zoological science.

Early Life and Academic Foundations

Dr. P.T. Cherian was born on 19th October 1942 in Thumpamon village, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala. From early childhood, he exhibited an intense curiosity about nature and living organisms. A meritorious student throughout, he pursued his postgraduate studies in Zoology at St. John's College, Agra.

In 1966, he was awarded a Senior Research Fellowship by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, which

enabled him to undertake advanced research in the School of Entomology at St. John's College, under the guidance of the legendary Indian entomologist Prof. Dr. M.S. Mani. This formative mentorship laid the intellectual foundation for his lifelong devotion to insect taxonomy.

Distinguished Career at the Zoological Survey of India

Dr. Cherian joined the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) as a Class I Officer in 1972. Over the next three decades, he served the institution with exceptional distinction, heading several ZSI stations and playing a major role in shaping national faunal documentation programmes.

He retired in 2002 as the senior-most Additional Director, overseeing eight of the sixteen Regional Centres of ZSI—an indication of the immense trust placed in his leadership and scientific judgement. Even after retirement, his commitment to science continued as Emeritus Scientist in

the Department of Zoology, University of Kerala, where he taught postgraduate students and mentored researchers.

A Master Taxonomist of Global Repute

Dr. Cherian was an internationally recognised authority on the insect order Diptera (true flies), with particular mastery over the family Chloropidae (grass flies or fruit flies), and significant contributions to Agromyzidae.

His scientific achievements are extraordinary in both scale and precision:

- » Discovery and description of about 700 new species
- » Establishment of 20 new genera and one new tribe
- » Global revision of multiple tribes and genera
- » Authorship of more than 175 research papers, over 90% as a single author

The taxonomic classifications devised by Dr. Cherian are still followed worldwide, a rare distinction reflecting their robustness and clarity.

Magnum Opus: Fauna of India – Diptera: Chloropidae

The crowning achievement of Dr. Cherian's career is the monumental volume:

“Fauna of India, Diptera: Chloropidae” (Vol. 9, Part 1, 2002)

Spanning 363 pages, this authoritative monograph synthesised decades of meticulous research and examination of historical collections, including type specimens. It remains the definitive reference for Chloropidae in India and neighbouring regions and continues to guide ecological, agricultural, and biodiversity studies.

Integration of Taxonomy with Conservation and Development

Beyond pure taxonomy, Dr. Cherian played a critical role in environmental impact assessment. He personally visited and submitted expert reports on 75 proposed hydel, industrial, and atomic projects to the Government of India, ensuring that development decisions were informed by sound ecological understanding.

He also served in numerous national-level roles, including:

- » Member, Programme Advisory Committee for Animal Sciences (DST)
- » Member, Expert Group for Ecodevelopment of Eastern & Western Ghats (MoEF)
- » Member, Monitoring Committee, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, Bengaluru
- » Expert Member, UPSC
- » Chief Editor and Editorial Board Member of several Indian and international journals

Faunal Surveys and Interdisciplinary Contributions

Dr. Cherian made vital contributions to ZSI's Fauna of Conservation Area Series, notably for the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, where he authored the overview chapter and documented Dipteran diversity. His scientific breadth extended beyond insects, through collaborative works on:

- » Ichthyofauna of Trivandrum District
- » Taxonomic clarification of Belontiidae fishes
- » Ichthyo-herpetofaunal diversity of Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary

These interdisciplinary efforts reflect his holistic vision of biodiversity documentation.

Teacher, Mentor, and Scientific Conscience

At the University of Kerala, Dr. Cherian taught M.Sc. and M.Phil. Students, trained researchers and lecturers, and guided several Ph.D. scholars. He repeatedly voiced concern that classical taxonomy is declining, warning that:

- » Only ~12% of global fauna has been formally named
- » The biology of 99% of insects remains unknown
- » Over 3 billion specimens worldwide lie unidentified in museums

His call for nurturing young taxonomists remains profoundly relevant today.

International Recognition

Dr. Cherian visited several prestigious international institutions. He often recalled with humility his experience at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., where—despite it being a holiday—the institute opened its doors and senior scientists welcomed him, recognising the global value of his work produced “in a corner of the world.”

Janaki Ammal National Award

In recognition of his unparalleled contributions, Dr. P.T. Cherian was conferred the E.K. Janaki Ammal National Award for Animal Taxonomy (2017)—India’s highest

honour in the field. The award was presented by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, on the eve of World Environment Day 2018 at New Delhi, and carried a cash prize of ₹5 lakhs, a scroll, and a medallion.

Legacy

Dr. P. T. Cherian’s legacy is not merely a list of publications or taxa described. It is the intellectual infrastructure upon which biodiversity science depends. His life exemplifies patience, precision, integrity, and service to knowledge—qualities increasingly rare and deeply needed. Indian zoology, and global entomology, stands immeasurably enriched by his lifetime of quiet, rigorous dedication.