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Two New Species of Butterfly

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Why in News

Recently, the lepidopterists have discovered the two new species of **butterfly** i.e. **Striped Hairstreak** and **Elusive Prince** in **Changlang district** of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

- At present, India has 1,327 species of **butterfly** as compared to 1,318 species in 2015.
- A **lepidopterist** is a person who specialises in **studying butterflies and moths**.

Key Points

- **Striped Hairstreak:**



- **Scientific Name:** *Yamamotozephyrus kwangtugensis*
- **Discovery:** It is found in **Vijaynagar village of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh**, bordering Myanmar.
 - It was a subject of interest for the lepidopterists as **its genus is diversified into several genera** (i.e. sub-divisions) and thus, difficult to trace.
- **Habitat:**
 - It was **first recorded** in **Hainan province of China**.
 - It is also found in North America, from the Rocky Mountains

- **Elusive Prince:**



- **Scientific Name:** *Rohana tonkiniana*
 - **Discovery:** It is found in Miao subdivision situated on the periphery of the **Namdapha National Park**.
 - In India only a **male specimen of the Elusive Prince** was found.
 - Initially it was considered as a variant of the Black Prince, but the study revealed that **it is different and not recorded in India** before.
 - **Habitat:** It was first recorded in Tonkin in north Vietnam.
 - **The Rohana Genus:** It has been represented in India by two species — **the Black Prince (*Rohana parisatis*) and the Brown Prince (*Rohana parvata*)**.
- **Significance for Arunachal Pradesh:**
 - These discoveries from Arunachal Pradesh indicate the rich biodiversity of the State.
 - The government thus needs to focus on helping volunteers or citizen scientists by providing the support needed. This will help in boosting eco-tourism apart from regular scientific research.

Butterfly

- Butterflies are insects from the **order Lepidoptera** of phylum **Arthropoda** which also includes moths.
- Adult butterflies have large, often brightly coloured wings, and conspicuous, fluttering flight.

- **Significance:**
 - **Rich Biodiversity:** Abundance of butterflies in any area represents the **rich biodiversity**.
 - **Indicator Species:** The butterfly acts as an **indicator species**.
An indicator species provides **information on the overall condition** of the ecosystem and of other species in that ecosystem. They reflect the quality and changes in environmental conditions as well as aspects of community composition.
 - **Pollinator:** It acts as a **pollinator** by helping in pollination and conserving several species of plants.

Namdapha National Park

- It lies at the international border between **India and Myanmar** within **Changlang District in the state of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is only park in the World to have the four Feline species of big cat namely the **Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*)**, **Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*)**, **Snow Leopard (*Panthera Uncia*)** and **Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis Nebulosa*)**.
- **Hoolock Gibbons**, the only 'ape' species found in India is **found** in this National Park.

Source: TH