



Issi Saaneq: New Dinosaur Species

Why in News

Recently, researchers have discovered the first dinosaur species that lived on [Greenland](#) 214 million years ago (**Late Triassic epoch**).

Key Points

▪ Discovery:

- In 1994, **palaeontologists from Harvard University** unearthed two well-preserved dinosaur skulls during an excavation in **East Greenland**. [//](#)



- One of the specimens was originally thought to be from a **Plateosaurus**, a well-known long-necked dinosaur that lived in Germany, France and Switzerland.
- Researchers have determined that the **finding belongs to a new species**, which they have named 'Issi saaneq'.

▪ About:

- This medium-sized, long-necked dinosaur was a predecessor of the **sauro pods, the biggest land animals ever** to have thundered across our planet.
 - Issi Saaneq **differs from all other sauropodomorphs** discovered so far, but has **similarities with dinosaurs found in Brazil**, such as the **Macrocollum** and **Unaysaurus**, which are almost 15 million years older.
 - It was the **first sauropodomorph to have reached altitudes over 40 degrees north**.
- The name of the new dinosaur (Issi Saaneq) pays tribute to **Greenland's Inuit language** and means "**coldbone**".
 - The Inuit language, the **northeastern division of the Eskimo languages**, spoken in northern Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

▪ Significance of Discovery:

- The new species lived during an important time in [Earth's history](#). It will help the researchers to understand the climatic changes according to that time.
- The fact that this is a new species unique to Greenland is important, because it **helps researchers to understand more about the range of Late Triassic dinosaurs**, as well as how sauropods evolved.
- The discovery of Issi saaneq will **broaden the knowledge** about the **evolution of**

plateosaurid sauropodomorphs.

[Source: IE](#)

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