



White Tufted Royal Butterfly

Why in News?

Recently, a team of butterfly observers and researchers **have found the White Tufted Royal Butterfly**, a rare butterfly species in Kannur, Kerala which was **earlier spotted in Agasthyakoodam** in 2017 and **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary** in 2018.

- The butterfly is **protected under Schedule 2 of the [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#)**.

What are the Key Facts About Butterflies?

- **About:**
 - 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**.
 - Recently, a **Himalayan butterfly known as [Golden Birdwing](#)** (*Troides aeacus*) has been **discovered as India's largest butterfly** after 88 years.
- **Significance:**
 - **Rich Biodiversity:** The abundance of butterflies in any area **represents 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.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. Recently, for the first time in our country, which of the following States has declared a particular butterfly as State Butterfly? (2016)

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Maharashtra

Ans: (d)

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