



Kaiser-i-Hind Butterfly

Why in News

Recently, **Arunachal Pradesh** has approved the large, brightly coloured **Kaiser-i-Hind** as the **State butterfly**.

- **Kaiser-i-Hind** literally means **Emperor of India**.



Key Points

- **Scientific Name:** *Teinopalpus imperialis*
- **Habitat:**
 - It is one of the **very rare and elusive swallowtail butterflies** which are found at medium and higher elevations.
 - Swallowtail butterfly is any of a group of butterflies **in the family Papilionidae (order Lepidoptera)**.
 - It flies high in the canopy of broad leaved **temperate evergreen forests**.
 - The temperate evergreen forests are **found in the Eastern and Western Himalayas**.
 - This butterfly with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in **(West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim and Manipur)** along the **Eastern Himalayas**.
 - Its presence indicates the existence of a good forest ecosystem and protection.
 - The butterfly also flutters in **Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and southern China**.
- **Protection Status:**

- **IUCN:** Near Threatened
- **CITES:** Appendix II
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule II

Butterfly

▪ 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:** 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.

Source: [TH](#)

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