



New Himalayan Bat Species Found in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

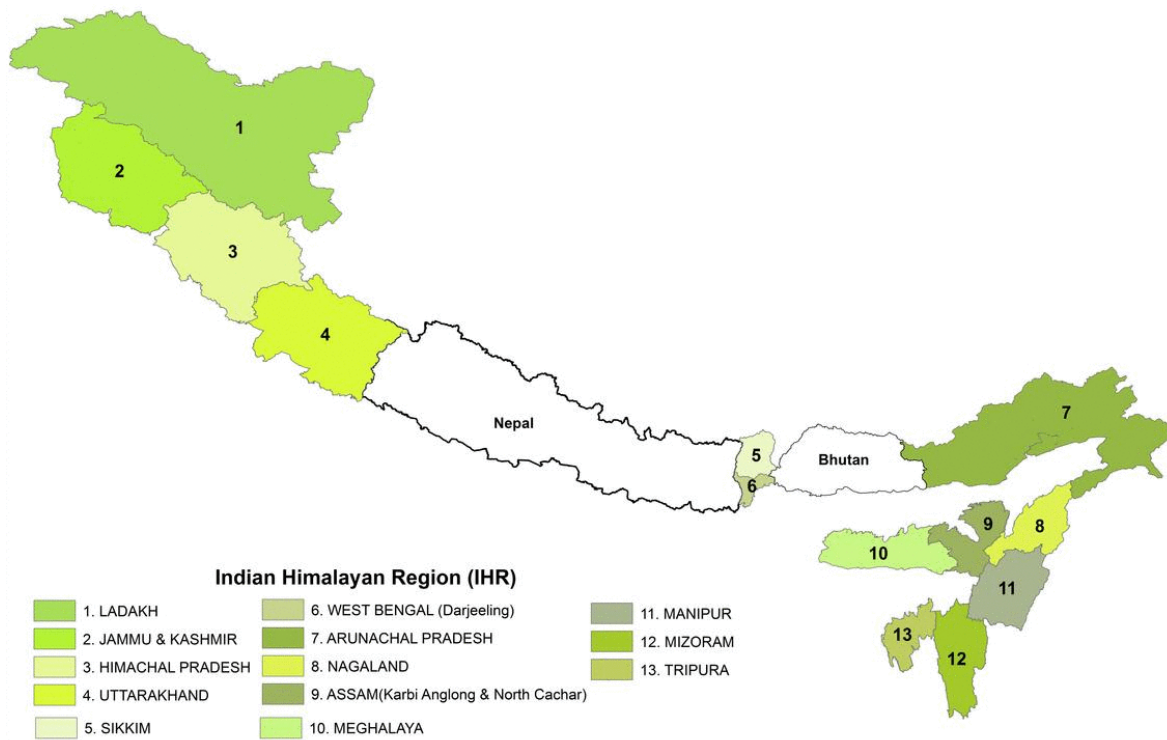
A recent study by Indian scientists has unveiled a **new-to-science bat species, the Himalayan long-tailed myotis (*Myotis himalaicus*)**, recorded in **Uttarakhand**.

- It was previously identified in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 1998.

Key Points

Key Findings and Implications of the Study

- **About the Study:** Indian scientists documented **29 bat species between 2017 and 2021** during **surveys in the [Western Himalayas](#)** region of **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.
- **New Bat Species:** The **Himalayan long-tailed myotis**, found in Uttarakhand's **[Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary](#)**, has been formally described as a new species in the Zootaxa journal.
 - This **addition brings India's total bat species count to 135**.
- **Range Extension of Known Species:** The **East Asian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida insignis*)**, previously mistaken for the European species, has been confirmed in India for the first time.
 - This species, extending its range by 2,500 km **from China and Taiwan**, has now been documented in the Western Himalayas.
- **Confirmation of Babu's Pipistrelle as a Valid Species:**
 - The study reinstated **Babu's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus babu*)** as a valid species, **separate from Javan pipistrelle (*P. javanicus*)**.
 - Previously thought to be a synonym due to morphological similarities, Babu's pipistrelle is now confirmed to be **found in Pakistan, India, and Nepal**.
- **First-Time Records in India:**
 - The study also provided the first specimen-based confirmation in India for:
 - **Savi's pipistrelle (*Hypsugo savii*)**
 - **Japanese greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus nippon*)**
- **Key Species & Conservation Significance:**
 - **Key species** included **[Blandford's fruit bat](#)**, Japanese and Chinese horseshoe bats, Nepalese whiskered bat, Mandelli's mouse-eared bat, Kashmir cave myotis, chocolate pipistrelle, and eastern long-winged bat.
 - According to the **[Zoological Survey of India \(ZSI\)](#)**, the research will significantly advance the conservation and documentation of India's small mammal diversity, especially in the ecologically sensitive Himalayan region.



Zoological Survey of India

- ZSI is also a **subordinate organization of the MoEFCC** and was **established in 1916** as a national center for the **faunistic survey and exploration** of the resources leading to the advancement of knowledge on the exceptionally rich faunal diversity of the country.
- It has its **headquarters in Kolkata** and **16 regional stations** located in different geographic locations of the country.

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