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2021 Environment

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2021 Environment - January

2020 is 8th Warmest Year in India Since 1901: IMD

The 'Statement on Climate of India during 2020' issued by Climate Research and Services (CRS) of India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India mentioned that 2020 was the 8th warmest year in India since nation-wide records commenced in 1901. But, this is substantially low than the highest warming observed over India during 2016 (+0.71°C). As per "[The State of the Global Climate 2020](#)" released by World Meteorological Organisation(WMO), the global mean surface temperature during January to October, 2020 was +1.2°C

'Euphranta Siruvani'-New Species of Fruit Fly named after Siruvani in Western Ghats

A New Species of Fruit Fly has been named 'Euphranta Siruvani' after it was discovered in Siruvani, Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. The discovery has been published in the Zootaxa Journal, which has been authored by K.J. David and K. Sachin from National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru, D.L. Hancock from the United Kingdom, Sudhir Singh from Forest Research Institute, Dehradun & H. Sankaraman from Annamalai University. The fruit fly 'Euphranta Siruvani' belongs to family Tephritidae.

New Species of Ant Discovered: Ooceraea joshii in Kerala & Ooceraea decamera discovered in Tamil Nadu

The team of researchers led by Himender Bharti of Punjabi University, Patiala discovered two new species – Ooceraea joshii (in Kerala) and Ooceraea decamera (in Tamil Nadu), first of its kind with 10 segmented antennae among the rare genus Ooceraea in India. The discovery of the team has been published in ZooKeys, a peer reviewed journal. Ooceraea joshii, named after Prof. Amitabh Joshi, a distinguished evolutionary biologist

2021 Environment - February

Cyrtodactylus arunachalensis: New Species of Gecko Named After Arunachal Pradesh

A team of researchers from 5 institutes discovered a new species of gecko in Arunachal Pradesh. The species is named "Cyrtodactylus arunachalensis" after Arunachal Pradesh, the state in which it was discovered. The paper on the newly discovered Gecko was published in "[Evolutionary Systematics](#)", an international peer reviewed journal. Cyrtodactylus arunachalensis belongs to the genus Cyrtodactylus, commonly known as bent-toed geckos.

New Chameleon Species "Brookesia nana": Earth's Smallest Reptile Species

Scientists from Germany and Madagascar have discovered a new species of Chameleon "Brookesia nana" in the montane rainforest in northern Madagascar. This is the Earth's smallest known reptile. Brookesia nana belongs to the genus Brookesia. The male species measures 21.6 mm and the female measures 28.9 mm. The world's longest reptile reticulated python (6.25 meter) is as long as 289 brookesia nanas and Sphaerodactylus ariasae, the smallest species of lizards is 20 to 25% longer than brookesia nana. The discovery of Brookesia nana is published in the Journal Scientific Reports.

Scientists Discovered Cremanthodium indicum, New Alpine Plant Species in Arunachal Pradesh

A group of scientists from 3 institutes across India discovered a new species of Alpine plant in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The new species of Himalayan Sunflower family has been named

“Cremanthodium indicum”. The discovery of the species was published in ‘Biodiversitas: Journal of Biological Diversity’ an international peer reviewed publication.

India's 1st fossil of a Dickinsonia Discovered in 'Auditorium Cave' at Bhimbetka, MP: GSI

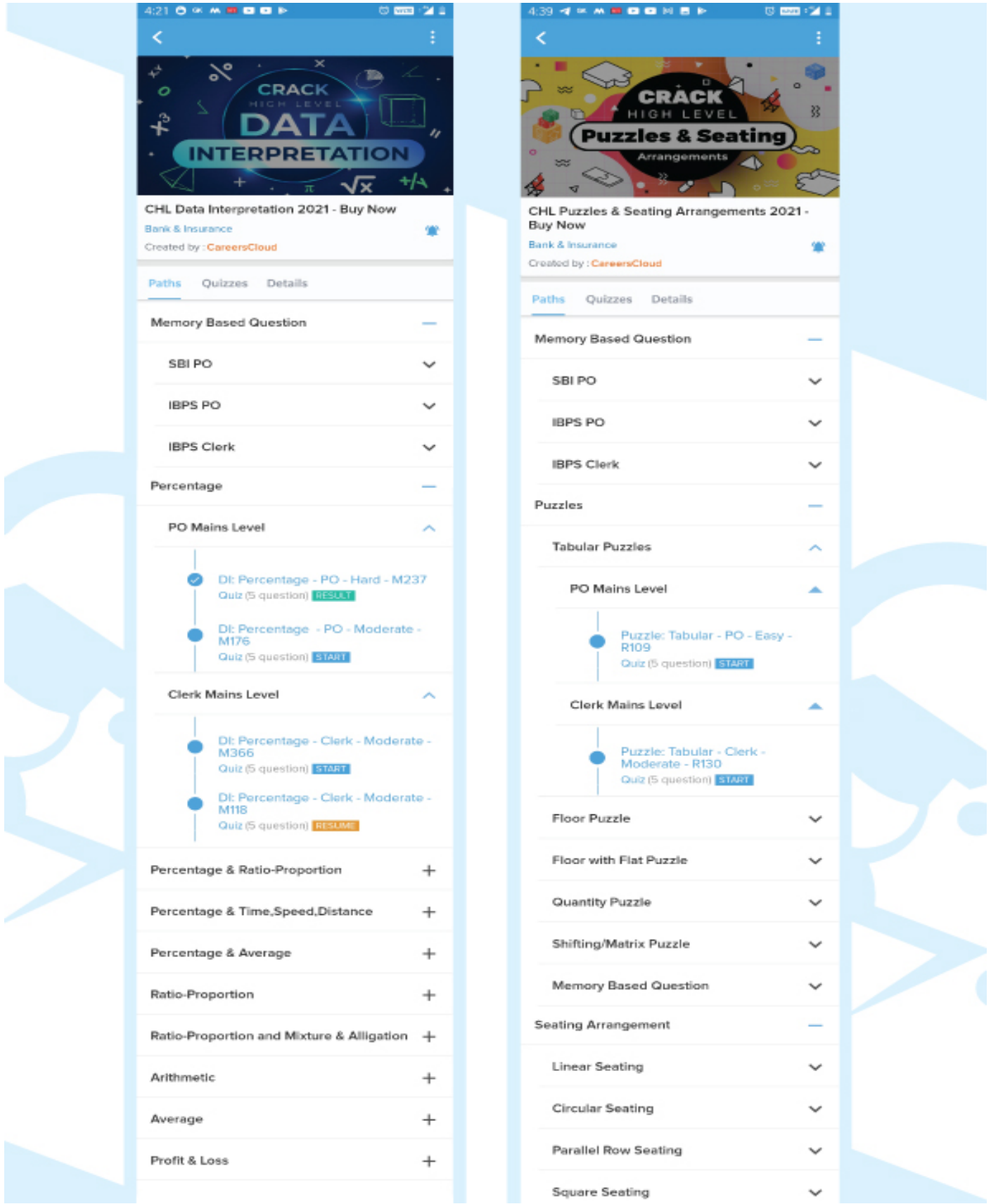
Two experts from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) found three fossils of a Dickinsonia, the Earth's 'oldest animal', dating back 570 million years in the roof of Auditorium Cave at Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, Madhya Pradesh. It is India's 1st fossil of Dickinsonia. The cave is a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site for Paleolithic and Mesolithic cave art. The discovery was published in Gondwana Research titled, 'Dickinsonia Discovered in India and Late Ediacaran Biogeography'.

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2021 Environment - March

Researchers Discover 5 new Species of Shrub Frogs in Western Ghats

Researchers from India's University of Delhi and Kerala Forest Research Institute along with University of Minnesota, USA have discovered 5 new species of Shrub Frogs (genus Raorchestes) in Western Ghats. Their findings were published in 'PeerJ' journal, the findings came as an outcome of a long comprehensive study on the Shrub frogs that was conducted in Western Ghats over a period of 10 years. The scientific name of Frog is "Anura".

Hemiandrus Jacinda: Insect named after New Zealand prime minister

Hemiandrus Jacinda is a species of wētā, a giant flightless cricket and native to New Zealand was first described by Steven A. Trewick. It was named after New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and was published in Zootaxa journal. Steven A. Trewick is a professor and scientist at Massey University in New Zealand. This species is bigger and more brightly coloured than the previous one and found in native forests in Northland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Coromandel in the upper North Island.

Crotalaria lamelliformis: New Species Discovered from Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

A team of Botanists has discovered a new species of Calycinae genus named "Crotalaria lamelliformis" in the Sadasivakona grove area a part of Southern Eastern Ghats, in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh. The new species was discovered as a part of the critical investigation from July 2018 to November 2020. The discovery of "Crotalaria lamelliformis" has been published in "Phytotaxa", an international journal.

New species of Diatoms named 'Epithemia agharkarii' discovered in the Mula River

The study led by researchers from the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) discovered a new species of Diatoms in the Mula River, Pune, Maharashtra. They named the species Epithemia agharkarii after S P Agharkar who was the founder-director of the institute ARI.

African Elephants listed under IUCN Red List as Endangered & Critically Endangered

On 25th March 2021, The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the African Elephants: African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) as Critically Endangered and the African Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) as Endangered in the IUCN Red List. As a result of new genetic findings, the African Elephants are classified into 2 groups Forest & Savanna Elephant.

Methylobacterium ajmalii: new bacteria found on ISS named after Indian Scientist Ajmal Khan

New bacterial strains were found in different locations on the International Space Station (ISS). The new species is named "Methylobacterium ajmalii" to honour the renowned Indian biodiversity scientist, Dr. Ajmal Khan, a former professor at Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu. The genome analysis of Methylobacterium ajmalii revealed the presence of genes that are involved in promoting plant growth. The findings of the study were published in the journal "Frontiers in Microbiology".

Two New Red Seaweed species discovered along India's Coastline

A Group of marine botanists led by Researcher Felix Bast from the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) have discovered 2 New red algal seaweed species - 'Hypnea Indica' (after India) & 'Hypnea Bullata' (Presence of blister like marks on its body) along the coasts of Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu & in Gujarat and Daman & Diu. It is the 1st time that red algal species of seaweeds have been discovered along Indian coasts.

2021 Environment - April

Nacaduba sinhala ramaswamii Sadasivan: New species of Butterfly Discovered

A new sub-species of six-line blue butterfly named “Nacaduba sinhala ramaswamii Sadasivan” was discovered from south Western Ghats. The discovery of the species in Agasthyamala a decade ago was published in the journal of Threatened Taxa in March 2021. The taxon of Lycaenid butterflies belongs to the genus of Nacaduba. This is the first time a new species of butterfly was discovered by an all-Indian research team from Western Ghats.

Argyreia sharadchandraji – New Plant Species Discovered in Maharashtra Named After Sharad Pawar

Researchers Dr Pramod R Lawand and Dr Vinod B Shimpale discovered a new species of flowering plants belonging to the genus “Argyreia”, in Western Ghats at Kolhapur district, Maharashtra. The species is named as “Argyreia Sharadchandraji” to honour Sharad Pawar, former Union Agriculture Minister of India. Their findings were listed in the research paper “Argyreia sharadchandraji (Convolvulaceae), a new species from the Western Ghats, India” in the Journal of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy.

Three Banded Rosefinch New Species Discovered In Arunachal Pradesh; Indian Avian Species Count Reached 1340

A team of researchers from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), spotted a new avian species – Three-banded Rosefinch at a higher altitude coniferous Forests of Arunachal Pradesh. This belongs to the family – Fringillidae, seed-eating passerine birds with a conical bill. The total number of avian species reported from India has reached 1340. The findings of the research team are published in the journal – ‘Indian Birds’.

Egypt excavates 3, 000-year-old ‘Lost Golden City’ in Luxor

A 3, 000-year-old town has been excavated in the city of Luxor, Egypt. The city formally named the ‘Rise of Aten’ (commonly called the ‘Lost Golden City’) dates back to the reign of 18th-dynasty King Amenhotep III, who ruled between 1391 and 1353 BCE. It is believed to be the largest ancient city ever uncovered in Egypt. The city is located on the west bank of the Nile river. It is considered the second most important archaeological discovery since the tomb of Tutankhamen.

Potamophylax coronavirus-Discovered in Accursed Mountains of Kosovo

Kosovar Biologist Halil Ibrahim has discovered a new insect species named ‘Potamophylax coronavirus’ in Accursed Mountains (Kosovo’s Western Bjeshket e Nemuna National Park). The insect was named after Coronavirus (Covid-19). The newly found species of Caddisfly is different from those found in the Balkans & it is endemic to the National Park. The new species is considerably smaller and lives in open and high-altitude zones, that is, 2,000 metres above the sea level.

‘Blue Nature Alliance’ Launched to protect 18 Million Square Kilometres of the World’s Ocean

A New Global Partnership called ‘Blue Nature Alliance’ has been launched jointly by several Philanthropic Organizations across the world to protect 18 Million Square kilometres of the ocean (5% of the World’s Ocean) over the next 5 years. Alliance is founded & led by 5 partners – Conservation International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation, and the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation. It aims to achieve a global target of conserving at least 30% of the ocean by 2030.

2021 Environment - May

Two New Species of Damselfly Discovered in Western Ghats, Maharashtra

Two New species –

“Euphaea thosegharensis” after the place Thoseghar and “Euphaea pseudodispar”.

Published in - Journal of Threatened Taxa.

These new species are commonly known as torrent darts belonging to the genus Euphaea.

Xylophis deepaki: New species of Snake discovered in TamilNadu

Name of Species - Xylophis deepaki, kind of tiny snake

Found at - Western Ghats from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

Published in - Vertebrate Zoology.

- ❖ It is named after Indian Herpetologist Deepak Veerappan to honour his contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes.
- ❖ The common name of the new species is Deepak’s wood snake.

Crocidura Narcondamica: New Shrew Species Discovered

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientists have discovered a white-toothed shrew, a new species of insectivorous mammal from Narcondam Island (volcanic island) of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands

Named of species - Crocidura narcondamica (Soricidae: Eulipotyphla) and it is named after the locality, Narcondam Island.

Two dung eating beetle species discovered from Maharashtra

Name of Species - Bolboceras bopdevense (11.46mm in length) and Bolboceras trimbakense (12.39mm in length)

Found at - Pune’s Bopdev ghat and Trimbakeshwar in Nashik respectively, Maharashtra.

Characteristics - Beetles were deep brown in colour and had distinct horns growing on their face.

New Species of Bryophyte Discovered in Kerala

Species name - Bryocrumia malabarica, named after Malabar region where it was spotted

Published in - Acta Botanica Hungarica

Location - Malabar Wildlife sanctuary along the Western Ghats in Kerala.

Discovered by – Botanist team led by Manju C Nair

Bryocrumia malabarica has closely arranged leaves with distinct tricostate, ovate rounded to truncate leaves and an inconspicuous central strand in the stem cross-section.

Five Deeps Expedition measures Extreme Depths of World’s 5 Oceans

Five Deeps Expedition has measured the extreme depths of the World’s 5 Oceans – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic & Southern ocean (also known as Antarctic ocean). The Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench in Pacific Ocean remains the Deepest Trench in the world. 2nd Deepest Trench in the world is the Horizon Deep (10, 816 m) in the Tonga Trench, Pacific Ocean.

Subdoluseps nilgiriensis: New Species of Asian Gracile Skink Discovered

Species name - Subdoluseps nilgiriensis, a new species of Asian gracile skink

Location - Nilgiri Hills (Western Ghats) Tamil Nadu and **Published in** - Zootaxa

Discovered by – Herpetologists who gathered for the South Asian Reptile Red List Assessment organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN).

Features - New species has a slender, small-sized body of about 7 cm and sandy brown in colour.

Cyclone Tauktae makes Landfall in Gujarat

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the ‘extremely severe cyclonic storm’ – ‘Tauktae’ made landfall in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The cyclone originated from the Arabian Sea. The name ‘Tauktae’ for the cyclone has been given by Myanmar, It means ‘gecko’, a highly vocal lizard in Burmese dialect.

New Species of Racer Snake Discovered in Tamil Nadu

Species name - Platyceps Josephi, a new species of racer snake.

Published in - Vertebrate Zoology. **Location** - Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu ,

The new species Platyceps josephi is named after late Herpetologist Naveen Joseph. New species should be considered a species in the Vulnerable category according to the IUCN criteria.

New Species of the African Violet plant Discovered in Northeast India

Species name - Didymocarpus vickifunkiae , new species of the African Violet plant.

Published in - Systematic Botany, **Location** – Mizoram, Northeast India and adjacent areas in Myanmar.

The new species is named after the late Dr. Vicki Ann Funk, a renowned Botanist of Smithsonian Institute, United States.

World’s largest iceberg named A-76 breaks off from Antarctica

A **huge iceberg named A-76** has become the world’s largest iceberg, which has broken off from western Antarctica into the Weddell Sea. It measures around 170 km long and 25 km wide, with an area of 4,320 sq km. It was spotted by the British Antarctic Survey and confirmed by using images from the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission satellite of European Space Agency(ESA).

Cyclone Yaas makes Landfall in South of Balasore, Odisha

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the ‘**very severe cyclonic storm**’ – **Yaas** made landfall south of the Balasore region of Odisha. The cyclone originated from the Bay of Bengal. As the cyclone names are given by countries on a rotational basis, the name ‘Yaas’ for the cyclone has been given by Oman. Yaas is a Persian language and it means Jasmin.

2021 Environment - June

A new species of Spider Cricket discovered in Chhattisgarh

Species name - “Jayanti”, a new species of Spider Cricket in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh. It named after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of India’s leading cave explorers.

- ✓ **Published in** - ‘Zootaxa’.
- ✓ A team of zoologists headed by Dr Ranjana Jaiswara of the Zoology Department of Panjab University have discovered this species in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ Jayanti has distinct lock-and-key model genitalia structure and Unique way of Vibrational communication.

Black Carbon Deposits Speed Up Glaciers & Snow Melt in Himalayan Ranges

World Bank Study “Glaciers of the Himalayas : Climate Change, Black Carbon, and Regional Resilience”, informs that the black carbon deposits generated by human activities from inside and outside South Asia have accelerated the glaciers and snow melt in the Himalayan range.

Cyrtodactylus bengkhuaiai: New Species of Gecko Named after Mizo Chieftain

Cyrtodactylus bengkhuaiai, a new species of bent toed gecko, was discovered from Meghalaya and Mizoram.

- ✓ The new species was named after the Mizoram Chieftain Bengkhuaia who fought against the British forces in India.
- These new species are a part of the Cyrtodactylus khasiensis group. It was published in Zootaxa, a peer-reviewed scientific journal published from New Zealand.

New Species of Coffee Plant discovered in Wagamon Hills of Kerala

Researchers from Kerala's Bishop Abraham Memorial College had discovered a new species of Coffee plant in Wagamon hills, a famous tourist destination of Kerala.

Published in - Webbia journal of plant taxonomy and geography.

- ✓ The species belonging to the **Rubiaceae (flowering plant)** family was named as "Argostemma quarantena", to commemorate the lives lost in COVID-19.

15-metre Tree of Coffee Family Discovered in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Pyrostria laljii, the new species that belongs to the genus of the coffee family, was recently discovered from the Andaman Islands by a team of researchers from India and the Philippines.

Published by - M.C. Naik, Botanical Survey of India, M. Bheemalingappa, and Axel H. Arriola, Philippines. It is named after Lal Ji Singh, Joint Director and Head of Office, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India.

Newly Discovered Tardigrade Species Named After Kerala

Stygarctus keralensis, new tardigrade species discovered and named after Kerala since it was discovered from Vadakara in north Kerala.

- ✓ **Published in** - Zootaxa.
- ✓ They are the eighth species named under genus Stygarctus. They are the first taxonomically described marine tardigrade from Indian waters.

New Grass Species Discovered in Nigidi Forest of Anantapur, AP

Lophopogon prasannae, a new grass species was discovered by Dr Kothareddy Prasad, research scientist of Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board. It was located in the Nigidi forest of Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- ✓ This has been named after Dr PV Prasanna, well-known botanist, Scientist of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).
- ✓ Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s 'red list' criteria, L. Prasannae is assessed as "critically endangered".

World's First Genetically Modified Rubber Planted in Assam

World's first genetically modified (GM) rubber sapling was planted at the Rubber Board's Sarutari research farm on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam. It is developed by the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), under the Rubber Board through long years of research in its Biotechnology laboratory. Rubber Board chairman and executive director KN Raghavan planted the sapling.

New Species of Skittering Frog Discovered Around Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary

Euphlyctis Kerala, a new species of genus **Euphlyctis (skittering frog)** discovered from the surroundings of the Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, Kothamangalam, Kerala by the team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Mount Carmel College (MCC) - Bengaluru, and National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar.

Published in - International journal Zootaxa, from New Zealand.

New Plant Species Identified from Wastelands of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

'**Sida keralensis**', a New Plant Species have identified by Group of Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Palode, Kerala.

Published in - Phytotaxa.

It belongs to the Genus 'Sida' & family 'Malvaceae'. It is similar to Sida scabrida but differs in physical characteristics.

New Spider Species Named After 26/11 Martyr Tukaram Omble

Scientists have discovered two new species of jumping spiders in Maharashtra and named one of them as "**Icius tukarami**", after Tukaram Omble, the Mumbai Police Assistant Sub-Inspector who was killed during the 26/11 terror attacks in the city.

Published In - Russian Scientific Journal Arthropoda Selecta.

The scientific paper was published by Prajapati, Somnath Kumbhar, Jhon Caleb, Rajesh Sanap and Ravi D Kamboj.

2021 Environment - July

2 new Species of Snails discovered in Western Ghats

Two different discoveries conducted by separate groups of researchers have identified 2-endemic species of snails from the West Ghats region. A species of nocturnal semi slug called as "Varadia amboliensis", which is new to science world

The "Snail of Sahyadri" which is compared to tiger due to its unique carnivore characters was discovered for the 1st time in Maharashtra's Western Ghats region

Zoologist Amrut R. Bhosale from Shivaji University, Kolhapur is the primary author of the research, which was published in the 'European Journal of Taxonomy'

New Snake Species Discovered in Mizoram

A Team of Researchers from **Mizoram University** discovered a new snake species '**Stoliczka vanhnuailianai**' near the villages of Aizawl, Capital of Mizoram, it has been named after Mizo's Local Warrior Vanhnuailiana. The findings have been published in **Zootaxa, a Scientific Journal**.

✓ The snake belongs to the '**Stoliczka**' genus and is only the third Species of Stoliczka from India.

Scientists from DBT-ILS & SRM-DBT decode Genome Sequence of Mangrove Species for the 1st Time

Scientists at the **Department of Biotechnology-Institute of Life Sciences (DBT-ILS), Bhubaneswar, Odisha** and **SRM-DBT Partnership Platform** for Advanced Life Sciences Technologies at SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Tamil Nadu for the 1st time reported a reference-grade whole genome sequence of '**Avicennia marina**', a highly salt-tolerant and salt-secreting true-mangrove species. The study has been published in the journal – Nature Communications Biology.

✓ The decoding will help researchers to study the potential of the identified genes for developing drought and salinity tolerant varieties of important crop species of the coastal region.

Polar Biologists Discovered New Species of Moss from Antarctica

Polar Biologists from the Central University of Punjab discovered *Bryum bharatiensis*, a new native species of moss from Antarctica. The species is named after India as a tribute to India and its Antarctic Station "**Bharati**". ***Bryum bharatiensis* is the first plant species discovered from Antarctica during the Indian Antarctic Mission which began in 1981.**

2 new Spider species discovered in Assam's Chirang Reserve Forest

2 new Spider species – **Gravelyia boro** & **Dexippus kleini** were discovered in Chirang Reserve Forest in Assam's Bodoland Territorial region. *Gravelyia boro*, a spider species that lives underground, is new to science and *Dexippus kleini*'s discovery comes after 129 years since its last record in Sumatra Islands.

Published in - 'Acta Arachnologica'

New Wingless Insect Species 'Bionychiurus Tamilensis' discovered in Nilgiris, TN

Researchers from the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College, Ooty have discovered a new Wingless Insect '**Bionychiurus Tamilensis**' in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu (TN). The discovery has been published in the journal 'Biologia' published by Springer Nature (**Lead Author - Muhsina Thunisa**).

- ✓ The insect is endemic to Nilgiris and has been named Bionychiurus Tamilensis as it was recorded in TN). There are only 6 species under the Genus 'Bionychiurus' across the world.

MoEF&CC: 14 Tiger Reserves of India Received CA|TS Accreditation

Bhupender Yadav, **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** announced that 14 Tiger reserves across India have received the accreditation of the global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) during the virtual event organized on the occasion of the International Tiger Day 2021, (29th July).

He also released the report '**Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018**' and the special edition of '**STRIPES**' quarterly newsletter of the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA).

2021 Environment - August

Researchers discover New Frog Species in Western Ghats

Minervarya Pentali, a team of researchers from Delhi University have discovered a new frog species in Western Ghats. The new frog species has been named after Professor Deepak Pentel - renowned Plant Geneticist and the former Vice chancellor of the Delhi University.

- ✓ **Published in** - International Journal 'Asian Herpetological Research'

The new species has been identified based on its unique external morphology, DNA and calling pattern.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav Released Elephant & Tiger Population Estimation Protocol

Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, released the Elephant & Tiger Population Estimation Protocol on the occasion of the **World Elephant Day 2021 (12th August)**, which was celebrated at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

- ✓ This protocol is to be adopted in the All-India elephant and tiger population estimation exercise in 2022.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, along with Minister of State of MoEF&CC Ashwini Kumar Choubey released the 4th edition of the quarterly newsletter "Trumpet".

Three New Wild Balsams Identified in Kerala

Three new wild balsam species belonging to genus Impatiens were identified in the Western Ghats region of southern Kerala (Sankhili forest) and the Idukki district of Kerala. The 3 identified plants were named as Impatiens achudanandanii, Impatiens shailajae, and Impatiens danii. The plants were identified by S. Arya and V.S. Anil Kumar of the Department of Botany, University College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

New Species of Cascade Frog Discovered from Arunachal Pradesh

Amolops adicola (Adi Cascade Frog): Indian and American Biologists from Delhi University, Wildlife Institute of India and North Carolina Museum of Natural Science (USA) have discovered a new species of Cascade Frog from Adi Hills of Arunachal Pradesh.

The species is named Amolops adicola (Adi Cascade Frog) after the Adi Hills, the home of Adi tribes, an indigenous people from the Himalayan region of Arunachal Pradesh.

- ✓ The details of the discovery are published as “Phylogenetic position of the poorly known montane cascade frog *Amolops monticola* (Ranidae) and description of a new closely related species from Northeast India” in the Journal of Natural History.

Brachystelma tumakurens, a new species of tuberous flowering plant discovered in Tumakura district of Karnataka has been named after the district.

New algae species discovered on the Island of Andaman & Nicobar

Acetabularia jalakanyakae: A team of marine biologists from the Central University of Punjab (CUP) has discovered a new marine algae species with an umbrella-like cap on the Islands of the Andaman and Nicobar.

- ✓ The paper on the discovery will be published in the Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences, published by CSIR.
- ✓ The new species has been named ‘*Acetabularia jalakanyakae*’, after the Sanskrit word ‘*Jalakanyaka*’ which means ‘Goddess of Oceans’ or ‘mermaid’.

A rare orchid species discovered in Uttarakhand

Cephalanthera erecta var. oblancoolata: Uttarakhand Forests Department has discovered a rare species of orchid named paper *Cephalanthera erecta* var. *oblancoolata* (Orchidaceae). This species has been found for the 1st time in India in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The research paper on the new species has been published in *Nelumbo*, the six-monthly journal of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

MoEFCC Declares Assam’s Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary as eco-sensitive Zone

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary as an eco-sensitive zone which is situated near Guwahati, Assam. The notification specified the eco-sensitive zone of total area of 148.97 sq Km (varying from 294 m to 16.32 km). It is the only Ramsar site in Assam, One of the largest freshwater lakes & an Important Bird Area.

Land degradation, the most pressing environmental problem of India: Findings Released by ISRO

In accordance with the findings in ‘Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India’ released by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), land degradation is the most pressing environmental problem of India. Almost 30% of India’s geographical area is already affected as all Indian states have recorded an increase in degraded land in the past 15 years mainly in northeastern states.

GA Questions Asked in Exams

- [GA Questions asked in RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Jan 30](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO Mains 2021 – Jan 29](#)
- [SBI Clerk Mains 2020](#)
- [IBPS RRB Officer Scale II GBO Exam 2020](#)
- [RBI Assistant Mains 2020](#)
- [GA Questions Asked in IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2020 – 90% Questions Covered by AC](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO 2019 Main Exam](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI Clerk Main Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS PO Main Exam 2019](#)
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Suggestions & Feedback are welcomed

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