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- 
- 
- Home
- UPSC
 - Current Affairs IAS
 -   
 - Quiz IAS
 -   
 - UPSC News Editorial (/Eng)
 - Answer Writing ( /Eng)
 - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
 - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
 - Yojana ( /Eng)
 - IAS Strategy for Prelims
 - General Studies
 - CSAT
 - IAS Strategy for Mains
 - IAS GS 1
 - IAS GS 2
 - IAS GS 3
 - IAS GS 4
 - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
 - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
 -   
 - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

- Himachal News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
- Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (Hindi/Eng)
- Giriraj
 - Magazine
 - Giriraj Quiz
- Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- Syllabus Prelims Himachal HPAS
 - GENERAL STUDIES
 - CSAT
 - English
 - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
 - English,Hindi,Essay & One Optional
 - HPAS GS 3
 - HPAS GS 2
 - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
 - HCS Quiz
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
 - Haryana News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
 - Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
 - Haryana Essay (Hindi/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
 - Syllabus Mains Haryana HCS
 - Syllabus Prelims Haryana HCS
 - HCS Prelims Test Series

- [Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab PCS Current Affairs](#)
- [Daily Quiz Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab News Editorial \(Eng\)](#)
- [Answer Writing \(Eng\)](#)
- [Punjab Essay \(Eng\)](#)
- [All you need to know about Punjab PCS Exam 2021](#)
- [Syllabus Prelims Punjab PCS](#)
 - [General Studies](#)
 - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
 - [PCS GS 1](#)
 - [PCS GS 2](#)
 - [PCS GS 3](#)
 - [PCS GS 4](#)
 - [Online PUNJAB PCS TEST SERIES 2020](#)
- [CSAT](#)
 - [CSAT English](#)
 - [Punjab PCS CSAT](#)
- [Concept Mindmaps](#)
 - [Polity \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Art and Culture \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Punjab PCS Concepts](#)
 - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
 - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

- Geography Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Environment Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- History Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Economics Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
 - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
- Exam Blogs
 - UPSC Exam Blogs
 - Himachal Exam Blogs
 - Punjab exam Blogs
 - Haryana Exam Blogs
 - Rajasthan Exam Blogs
 - E-Magazine
 - E-Magazine for HPAS
 - हिंदी/English में हिंदी-हिंदी
 - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
- UPCOMING EXAMS
 - National Exams
 - Himachal Pradesh Exams
 - Punjab Exams
 - Test Series Planner
- About US
- Sign Up
- Login
- facebook 

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▪ youtube 

MENU

Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

Topics Covered



- Summary:
- What is the news?
 - Why important?
 - Unveiling a Hidden Gem:
 - Expanding Our Knowledge
 - A Call for Conservation
 - Looking Ahead: A Symphony of Discovery
 - Where these colorful cicadas are typically found worldwide?
 - QuizTime:
 - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
 - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
 - Question 1:
 - Model Answer:
 - Question 2:
 - Model Answer:
 - Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
- Prelims:
- Mains:

Summary:

- **New Species:** The Butterfly Cicada is a stunning new species found in Meghalaya.
- **Genus Record:** It's the first-ever record of the genus *Becquartina* in India.
- **Colorful Wings:** Named for its vibrant wings, shared by other *Becquartina* members.
- **Biodiversity Importance:** This discovery highlights the need to protect fragile habitats in Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi district.

What is the news?

- The vibrant tapestry of life in India continues to unfurl, with the recent discovery of a stunning new cicada species in Meghalaya.

Why important?

- This fascinating insect, informally christened the "Butterfly Cicada," not only adds to the country's rich biodiversity but also marks a significant milestone – the first-ever record of the genus *Becquartina* in India.

Unveiling a Hidden Gem:

- Scientists have documented this new species in the Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya. Its captivating name originates from its colorful wings, a characteristic shared by other members of the *Becquartina* genus. These cicadas are known for their dazzling displays of color, earning them the moniker “Butterfly Cicadas.” The specific scientific name assigned to the newly discovered species, “bicolour,” reflects its possession of two distinct color forms, further enriching the visual spectacle it presents.

Expanding Our Knowledge

- The discovery of the “Butterfly Cicada” not only adds a new chapter to India’s entomological history but also broadens our understanding of the genus *Becquartina* itself. Previously, only six species were known, primarily distributed across Southeast Asia. This new find in Meghalaya extends the geographical range of the genus westward, highlighting the potential for further discoveries in the diverse ecosystems of India.

A Call for Conservation

- The “Butterfly Cicada” is not just a captivating addition to our scientific knowledge; it also serves as a reminder of the importance of biodiversity conservation. Localized in Garo Hills

and a single community forest in Ri-Bhoi district, these cicadas point towards the significance of protecting these fragile habitats. Ensuring the health of these ecosystems is crucial for the survival of not only the “Butterfly Cicada” but also countless other species that call these forests home.

Looking Ahead: A Symphony of Discovery

- The discovery of the “Butterfly Cicada” serves as a testament to the ongoing process of scientific exploration and the hidden wonders that await us in the natural world. This newfound species not only enriches India’s biodiversity but also underscores the importance of continued research and conservation efforts. As we delve deeper into the unexplored corners of our ecosystems, we can expect a symphony of discoveries that will continue to expand our understanding of the planet’s incredible diversity.

Where these colorful cicadas are typically found worldwide?

- While the recent discovery of the “Butterfly Cicada” in Meghalaya expands our knowledge of cicada diversity, the *Becquartina* genus itself isn’t entirely new. Here’s a breakdown of where these colorful cicadas are typically found worldwide:

- **Prior Distribution:** Before the Meghalayan discovery, all known *Becquartina* species were primarily found in Southeast Asia. This region encompasses countries like Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.
- **New Western Frontier:** The discovery of the Butterfly Cicada in Meghalaya marks a westward expansion of the known geographical range for the *Becquartina* genus. This suggests the possibility of finding other *Becquartina* species within India's diverse ecosystems, particularly in similar habitat types.
- **Uncertain Global Distribution:** Due to the recent nature of the discovery and the limited research on this specific genus, it's difficult to definitively say where else Butterfly Cicadas might be found outside of Southeast Asia and Meghalaya, India. Further exploration and research are needed to determine the full global distribution of the *Becquartina* genus.



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General Studies

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Read the Below Instructions Carefully:

- Click on - Start Quiz
 - Attempt all questions (You can attempt or leave)
 - After Attempting Last Question.
 - Enter Name & Email
 - Click on - Check Result
 - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
- Thank you.

Loading ...



1 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Public awareness campaigns, as suggested in the editorial for Butterfly Cicada conservation, aim to:

- Encourage mass tourism in the region where the species is found.
- Increase public knowledge about the importance of biodiversity.
- Promote the commercial use of the Butterfly Cicada for medicinal purposes.
- Generate revenue for local communities through wildlife trade.

Prev

Finish

Next

2 / 5

Category: General Studies

A major challenge to biodiversity conservation in India, as highlighted by the Butterfly Cicada discovery, is:

- Overexploitation of marine resources.
- Habitat destruction due to human activities.
- Increased use of pesticides in agriculture.
- Introduction of invasive alien species.

Prev

Finish

Next

3 / 5

Category: General Studies

Scientific research, as highlighted by the Butterfly Cicada discovery, is crucial for environmental conservation because it helps us:

- Develop new recreational activities in natural areas.

- Understand the functioning of ecosystems and threats to biodiversity.
- Predict extreme weather events with greater accuracy.
- Increase commercial exploitation of natural resources.

Prev

Finish

Next

4 / 5

Category: General Studies

A potential measure to address the challenges faced by the Butterfly Cicada, based on the information in the editorial, could be:

- Introducing a new predator species to control its population.
- Encouraging the use of chemical fertilizers in the surrounding areas.
- Promoting sustainable forestry practices in the region.
- Allowing increased mining activity near the habitat.

Prev

Finish

Next

5 / 5

Category: General Studies

The recent discovery of the "Butterfly Cicada" in Meghalaya signifies:

- A new agricultural pest in the region.
- The first record of the genus *Becquartina* in India.
- A decline in insect biodiversity in the area.
- A common species already known to science.

Prev

Finish

Check Rank, Result Now and enter correct email as you will get Solutions in the email as well for future use!

Check the Result

Your score is

0%

Restart quiz

Please Rate!

Send feedback

Mains Questions:

Below Mains Question

Write in Comment Section



Question 1:

The discovery of the “Butterfly Cicada” in Meghalaya highlights the importance of

biodiversity conservation. Discuss the various challenges faced by biodiversity conservation in India and suggest measures to address them. (250 words)

Model Answer:

The “Butterfly Cicada” discovery underscores India’s rich biodiversity and the need for its conservation. However, India faces several challenges:

- **Habitat Loss:** Deforestation, infrastructure development, and unsustainable resource use lead to habitat destruction, threatening various species.
- **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events disrupt ecosystems and endanger species survival.
- **Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade:** Illegal activities like poaching and wildlife trade put a strain on endangered species populations.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Limited public awareness about the importance of biodiversity hinders conservation efforts.

To address these challenges, we need:

- **Strengthened Protected Areas:** Expand and effectively manage National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Bioserves.

- **Sustainable Practices:** Promote sustainable forestry, agriculture, and infrastructure development practices that minimize environmental impact.
- **Community Participation:** Engage local communities in conservation efforts, ensuring their livelihoods are not adversely affected.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Raise public awareness about the significance of biodiversity and encourage responsible behavior.
- **Stricter Enforcement:** Strengthen law enforcement to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

Question 2:

The discovery of a new cicada species in India demonstrates the potential for further scientific exploration. Discuss the significance of scientific research in environmental conservation and suggest ways to promote scientific research in India. (250 words)

Model Answer:

Scientific research plays a crucial role in environmental conservation:

- **Understanding Ecosystems:** Research helps us understand the functioning of ecosystems, species

- interactions, and threats to biodiversity.
- **Conservation Strategies:** Research guides the development of effective conservation strategies for endangered species and vulnerable habitats.
 - **Sustainable Solutions:** Scientific advancements can lead to the development of sustainable practices for resource management and pollution reduction.
 - **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Research provides data for monitoring environmental changes and evaluating the effectiveness of conservation efforts.

To promote scientific research in India:

- **Increased Funding:** Increase government and private sector funding for scientific research institutions and universities.
- **Collaboration:** Encourage collaboration between scientists, policymakers, and conservationists for impactful research.
- **Improved Infrastructure:** Invest in research infrastructure, including laboratories, equipment, and technological advancements.
- **Science Education:** Strengthen science education at all levels to cultivate a culture of scientific curiosity and innovation.
- **Recognition and Incentives:** Recognize and reward scientific achievements to inspire and motivate researchers.
- **By fostering a robust scientific ecosystem, India can unlock its full potential for environmental conservation and ensure a sustainable future.**

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective. Read entire UPSC Current

Affairs.

Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

- **Environment and Ecology:** This section might indirectly encompass the discovery through the broader theme of scientific advancements and their relevance to the environment.

Mains:

- **Environment and Ecology (Optional):** You can discuss the discovery within the context of India's rich biodiversity and the importance of conserving endemic species.
- **Zoology (Optional):** If you choose Zoology as your optional, you can elaborate on the discovery, highlighting the unique characteristics of the Butterfly Cicada and its significance for understanding cicada

diversity.

- **Essay Paper:** The Butterfly Cicada discovery can be a springboard for essays related to environmental conservation, scientific exploration, or the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems.



*Click here to read in
Hindi.*

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Quiz Time

The profit triples with a doubling of the selling price. Determine the profit percentage.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3



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- उत्तर प्रदेश प्रश्नपत्र

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- Punjab Current Affairs
- PPSC Quiz
- Punjab Mindmaps
- Punjab Editorial
- Punjab E-Magazine
- PPSC Free Mock Test
- PPSC Prelims Test Series

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- Haryana Current Affairs
- HCS Quiz
- HCS Editorials
- HCS Mindmaps
- HCS E-Magazine
- HCS Free Mock Test
- HCS Prelims Test Series

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- Haryana HCS
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- Punjab PCS
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- Privacy Policy
- Haryana HCS
- Himachal HPAS
- CSAT
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- Privacy Policy

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