



# CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE PSC 2024

**BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY**

# Meiogyne arunachalensis

- A significant **botanical discovery has been made in Arunachal Pradesh**. Researchers have identified a **new species of tree and named it Meiogyne arunachalensis**.
- **Meiogyne arunachalensis exhibits morphological similarity to another species called Meiogyne maxiflora**, which is found in Thailand.
- **Meiogyne arunachalensis stands out as the largest species in the Meiogyne genus**.
- The recorded habitats of **Meiogyne arunachalensis** include the **East Siang district and the Namdapha National Park** in Changlang district, both located in Arunachal Pradesh

**NEW DISCOVERY AND  
REDISCOVERY IN  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**SMILAX TURBANS  
AND MEIOGYNE  
ARUNACHALENSIS**



# New 'Music Frog' Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- In a groundbreaking discovery, scientists have identified a **new species of 'music frog' in the lush landscapes of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The newly discovered frog, scientifically known as **Nidirana noadihing**, exhibits distinct phenotypic characteristics that set it apart from its congeners.
- **Morphological Traits:** The Noa-Dihing Music Frog boasts a 'robust' body, with males measuring approximately 1.8 to 2.3 inches and females ranging from about 2.4 to 2.6 inches.

**Habitat:** The frogs were discovered nestled within vegetation in shallow pools of water, with male frogs emitting loud calls.



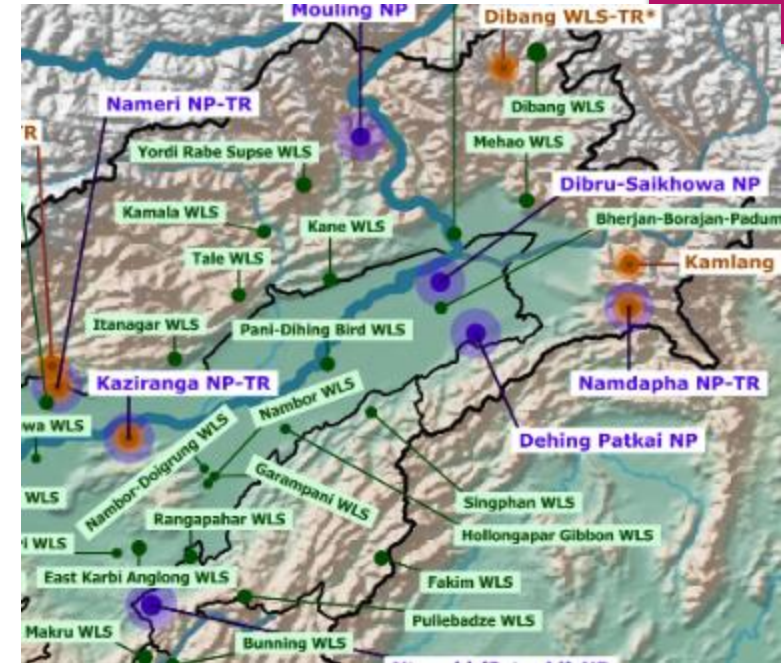
# Three New-to-Science Frogs Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- Scientists have reported **three new frog species belonging to new genera from Arunachal Pradesh's Namdapha-Kamlang** protected area network along the Myanmar border.

## The new frog species discovered are:

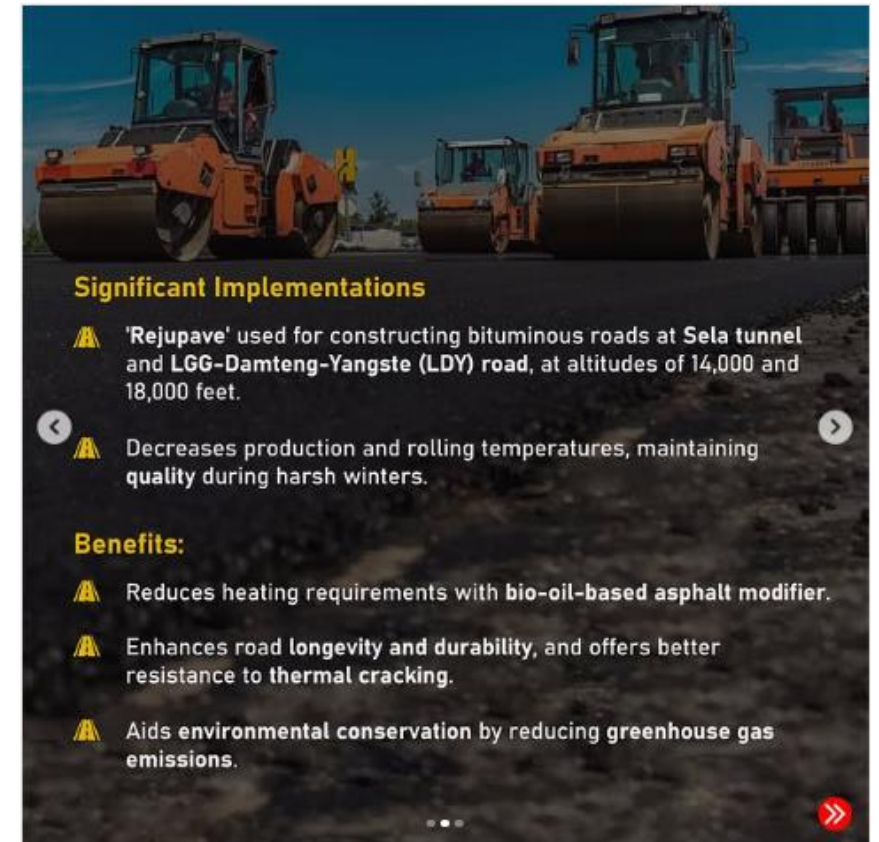
- **Gracixalus patkaiensis** – A translucent green tree frog with jelly-like appearance and insect-like call
- **Alcalus fontinalis** – A tiny brown frog inhabiting fast-flowing hill streams with unique trickling vocalization
- **Nidirana noadihing** – A marsh-dwelling “**music frog**” named after the Noa-Dihing river

- Between India and Myanmar lies Namdapha National Park and Kamlang Tiger Reserve. Namdapha Tiger Reserve is the northernmost tropical rainforest experimentally harboring unique crossover biodiversity between the Eastern Himalayas and Southeast Asia.
- The recent findings take India's documented amphibians to around 470 species.



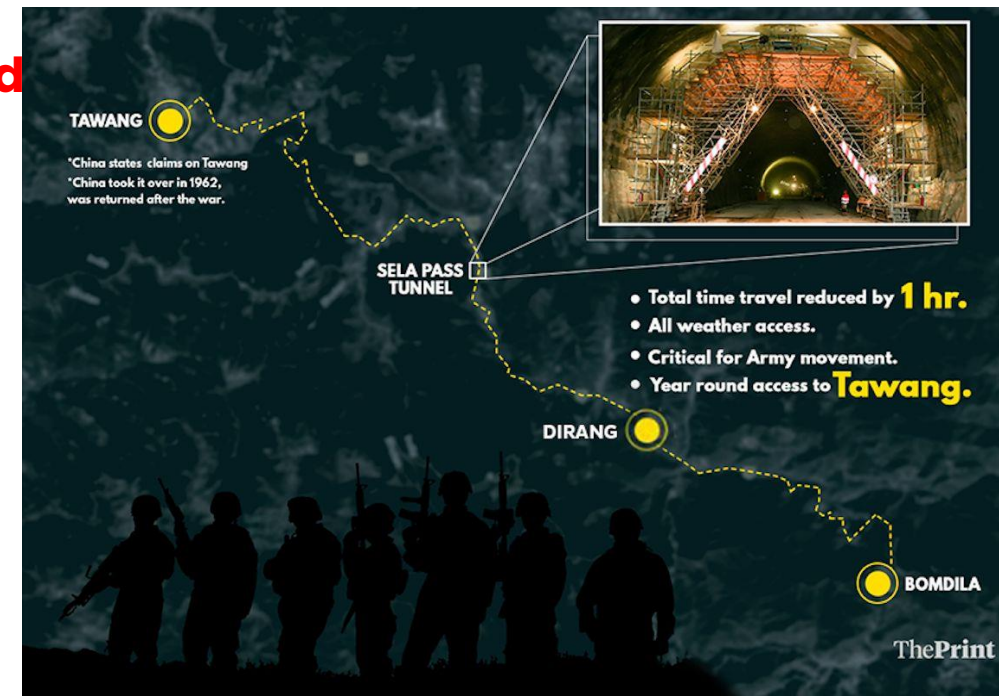
# CSIR-CRRI's REJUPAVE Technology Deployed in Arunachal Pradesh


- India's premier road construction agency, **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** has utilized an **indigenous road construction technology called "REJUPAVE"** developed by **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)**, part of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **REJUPAVE** allows the **construction of high altitude bituminous roads** under low and sub-zero temperatures.
- This innovative technology was recently implemented by BRO to construct parts of the **world's highest Sela Road Tunnel and the LGG-Damteng-Yangste (LDY) road** near the China border in Arunachal Pradesh.



# Sela Tunnel Inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Sela tunnel to the nation, a strategic infrastructure project located in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **The tunnel, built at an altitude of 13,000 feet, is expected to provide all-weather connectivity to the strategically located Tawang district and improve the movement of troops along the frontier region.**
- **Prime Minister attended the virtual inauguration of the tunnel project at the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Northeast' programme in Itanagar.**



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- **The longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world at such an altitude.**
  - **The tunnel, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), connects Assam's Tezpur to the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
  - **The project was completed in just five years, despite challenges posed by the difficult and adverse weather conditions.**
  - **The tunnel has been constructed using the new Austrian tunnelling method and incorporates safety features of the highest standards.**
  - **It is expected to provide a faster and more efficient transport route in the region and prove to be of strategic importance to the country.**



# Extension of AFSPA in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in certain districts of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland for an additional six months, effective from April 1, 2024.**

## Powers Under AFSPA

- **The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, grants sweeping powers to security forces in areas deemed as “disturbed”.**
- **Under the AFSPA, armed forces personnel are authorized to search, arrest, and open fire if deemed necessary for maintaining public order.**

## Law or Flaw?

Enacted in 1958, the contentious Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, gives the armed forces sweeping search and arrest powers and immunities in areas declared ‘disturbed’ by governments. Enforced since 1958 in:

**Nagaland**

**Assam**

**Manipur** (except the Imphal municipal area)

**Arunachal Pradesh** (the Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts plus a 20km belt bordering Assam)

**Meghalaya** (a 20km belt with a common border with Assam)

**Jammu and Kashmir**

**Lifted from**

Tripura in 2015, Mizoram in 1986, Punjab and Chandigarh (imposed 1983, lifted 1997)



# Pseumenes siangensis : New Wasp Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- Entomologists from the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)** have found a new species of **potter wasp in Arunachal Pradesh**, in the Eastern Himalayas. The wasp is named **Pseumenes siangensis**, after the Siang Valley where it was discovered.
- The wasp is about 30.2 mm long and has special body features and color patterns that set it apart from other similar species.
- Potter wasps play a key role in ecosystems. Their larvae feed on caterpillars and other insects that can damage plants, helping with natural pest control.



# New Leafless Orchid Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- ❑ Botanists announced the discovery of a new orchid species, **Gastrodia lohitensis**. This find occurred in **Arunachal Pradesh's Lohit district**. It adds to **India's list of unique, endemic plants**.
- ❑ **Gastrodia lohitensis** was discovered in bamboo thickets near Tezu.
- ❑ It thrives in dense, shaded environments. The orchid relies on specific conditions found in its habitat. It grows in areas with limited sunlight, making it a rare species.
- ❑ **This orchid is leafless**, which is unusual for plants. Instead of photosynthesis, it extracts nutrients from fungi in decomposing leaf litter.
- ❑ This adaptation allows it to survive in **low-light conditions**. It showcases the plant's unique evolutionary traits.



# Cabinet Approves Tato-I Hydro Electric Project

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has sanctioned Rs 1,750 crore for the **Tato-I Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh**, which aims to enhance power supply in the region.
- The project is expected to generate approximately **802 million units of electricity each year**.
- The expected completion time for the **Tato-I HEP is 50 months**, which includes all phases of construction and operational setup.
- The Tato-I HEP is expected to stimulate socio-economic development in the region, which will lead to improvements in infrastructure. Local communities will benefit from increased access to electricity and related services.
- The electricity generated will **support the national power grid**, which is crucial for meeting the growing energy demands across India. The project aligns with national goals for energy security and sustainability.

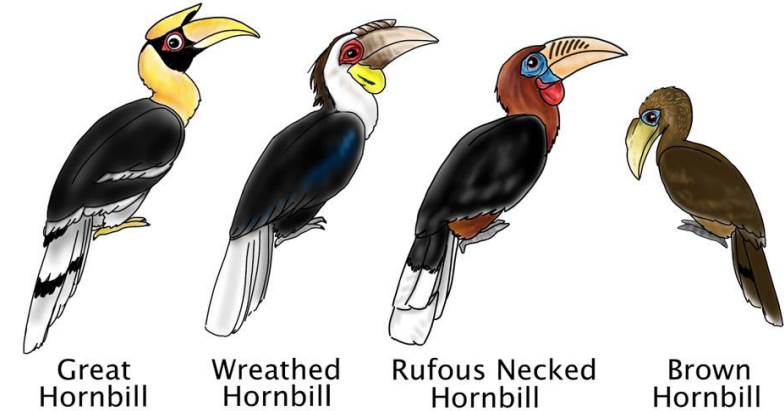
## Hump WWII Museum opens in Arunachal, US aircraft wreckage on display

- ❑ The US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti along with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the 'Hump World War- II' museum at Pasighat in East Siang district.
- ❑ The 'Hump World War- II' museum is a unique museum set-up to house remains of an American aircraft that was came down in Arunchal during the second world war.
- ❑ During WWII, the dangerous route over the eastern Himalayas, known as "The Hump," witnessed the greatest sustained aerial transport" by the US Air Force, overcoming extreme terrain and climate.



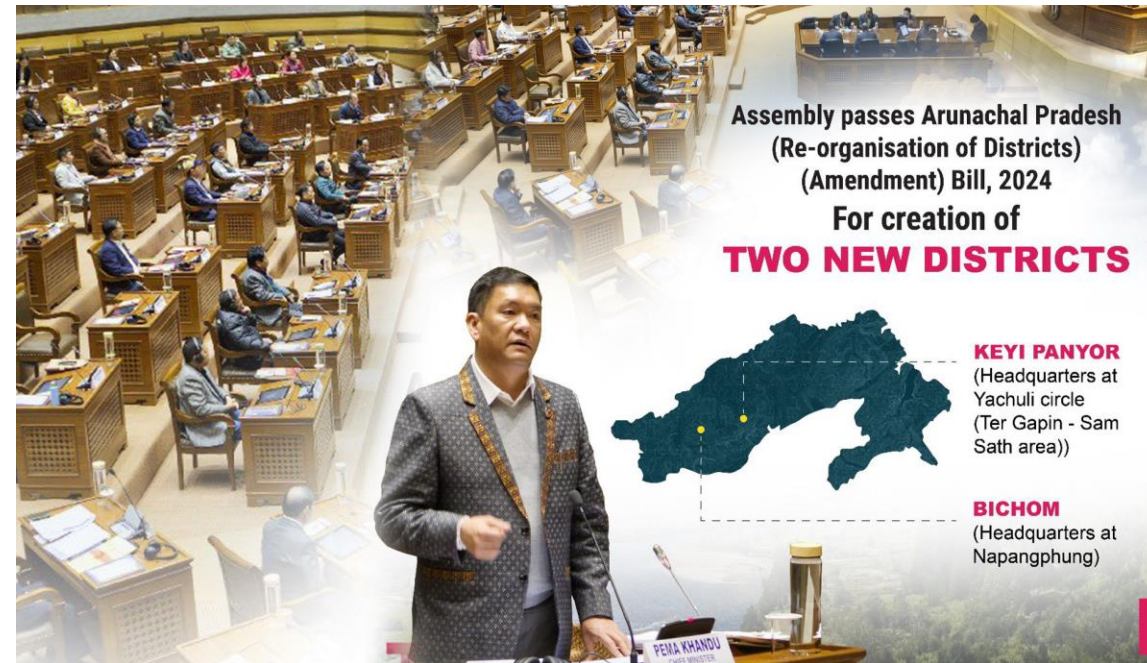
# 9th Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival: Arunachal Pradesh

- ❑ **The 9th Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)** is scheduled from January 18-20, 2024, in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- ❑ **Declared a state festival, PPHF** emphasizes wildlife conservation, particularly of **hornbills**, within the **Pakke Tiger Reserve**.
- ❑ The reserve is home to **four hornbill species**, including **the endangered Wreathed Hornbill**, and the festival aims to raise awareness about their preservation.



# Bichom becomes 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh

- ❑ CM Pema Khandu inaugurated "Bichom," as the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❑ It has been formed from **West/East Kameng district**, with **headquarters at Napangphung**, fulfilling a demand since 1984.
- ❑ CM Khandu further flagged off **Arunachal Grameen Express Yojana vehicles**, laid foundation for 18 projects, and inaugurated testing center/admin building of Central Agricultural University.



# India's first oil palm processing unit commenced in Arunachal Pradesh

India's first oil palm processing unit is located in Roing, Arunachal Pradesh, and is operated by 3F Oil Palm:

- The unit is located in Roing, in the lower **Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the unit on **March 9, 2024**.
- ❑ It is aimed at boosting farmer income in the Northeast.
- ❑ It represents a significant step in achieving **Atmanirbharta in edible oils**.





## Arunachal Pradesh passed bill to prevent unfair means in exams

- ❑ The Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed a landmark bill aimed at **preventing unfair practices in public examinations.**
- ❑ The "**Arunachal Pradesh Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024**" was approved by voice vote .
- ❑ This legislation comes in the wake of a multi-paper leakage scandal that rocked the **Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) examinations.**
- ❑ The new bill introduces severe penalties for those involved in exam malpractices, including fines up to Rs 1 crore and **imprisonment ranging from 3 to 10 years.**
- ❑ The legislation applies to examinations conducted by various state bodies, including the APPSC, Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board, and state-funded universities.

# Arunachal Pradesh boosts Medical Education, Cancer Research Initiative

- ❑ Arunachal Pradesh plans to establish **three new medical colleges in East Siang, Namsai, and West Kameng districts** through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- ❑ **Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIHMS)** in Itanagar has doubled its MBBS seats to 100, with 85 reserved for Arunachal Pradesh ST students.
- ❑ A MoU with **Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Assam**, has been signed aims to enhance cancer research.



## Pankaj Tripathi Promotes Arunachal Pradesh Theatre Festival

- ❑ Actor **Pankaj Tripathi** appointed festival ambassador for **Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024**, an international theatre festival.
- ❑ The event, running until **December 5**, celebrates **Arunachal Pradesh's cultural heritage** and creative talent.
- ❑ Tripathi, acclaimed for roles in "**Gangs of Wasseypur**" and "**Mirzapur**," is honored to support the growth of theatre in Northeast India.



## Arunachal Pradesh Launched 'Mission Arun Himveer'

- ❑ Giving a **boost to market linkages for agri-horti producers of Arunachal Pradesh**, the state government launched '**Mission Arun Himveer**' with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), **Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Board (APAMB) and the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**, North East Frontier, in presence of Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu.
- ❑ Under the MoU signed on Friday, the state government will supply fruits, vegetables, meat and poultry products to the ITBP procured from local farmers, Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations and farmer cooperatives, through the **APAMB**.
- ❑ This follows the first such understanding made between the state government and the Indian Army in **August 2022**.



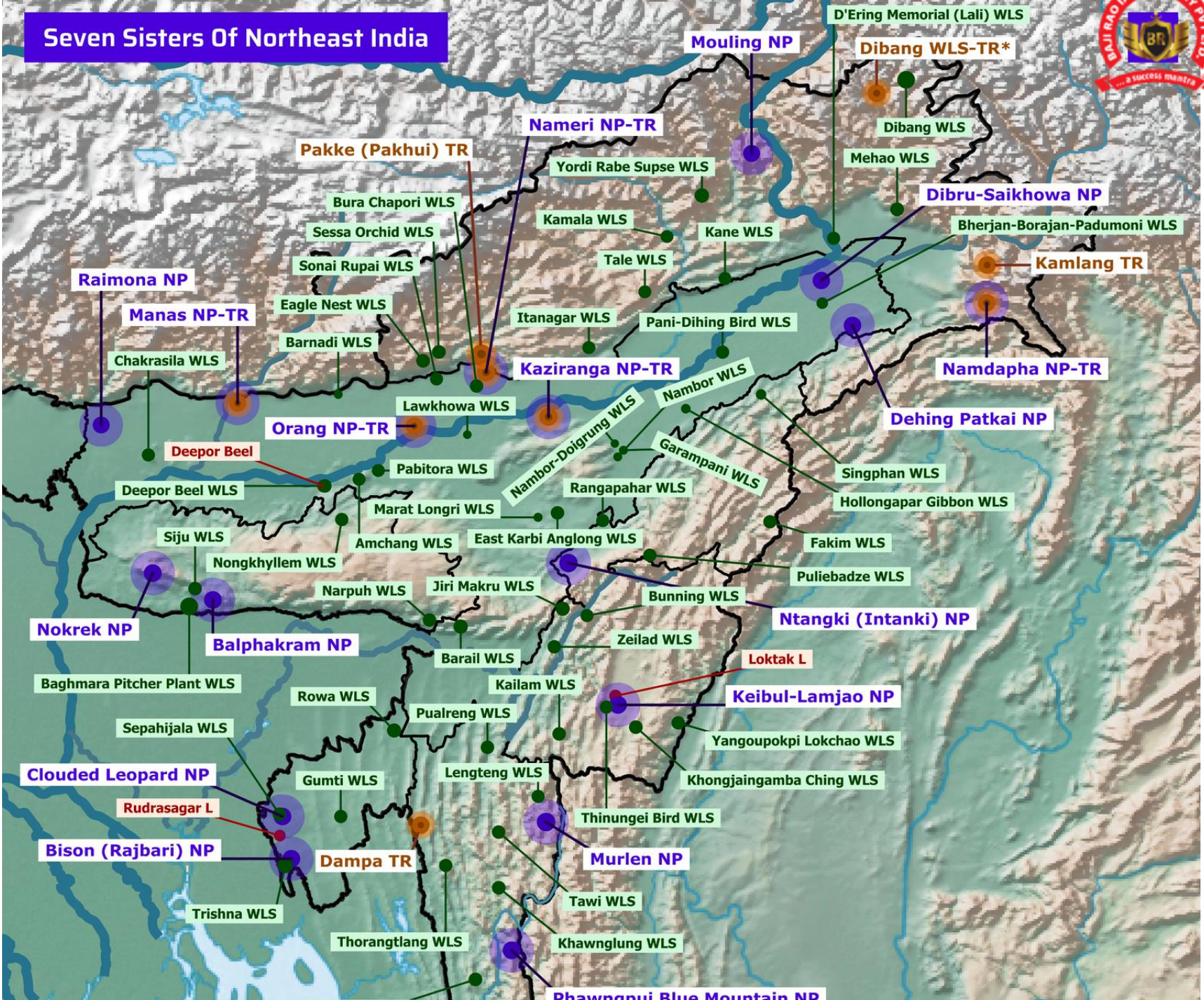


# IMPORTANT NATIONAL PARKS AND BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN NORTH EAST INDIA

# Dihing Patkai National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, ER

- ❑ It is located in the **foothills of Patkai Hills** & **Dihing River** flows through it. Also called **Jeypore Rainforest**, it harbours the **largest stretch of lowland rainforests in India**.
- ❑ The **Digboi Oil Refinery** (the oldest refinery of Asia) and **Lido Coal Mines** are located near the park.
- ❑ It has the highest concentration of the **White Winged Wood Duck (EN)**, **the state bird of Assam**.
- ❑ Vegetation: Assam Valley tropical wet evergreen forest (rainforest with distinct four layers).
- ❑ Major Fauna: Elephant, **tiger**, leopard, clouded leopard, golden cat, fishing cat, marble cat, hog deer, sloth bear.
- ❑ Major Avifauna: Oriental darter, lesser adjutant, greater spotted eagle, hornbills, hill myna.
- ❑ Threats: **Coal mining**, **oil extraction**, tea gardens, village settlements, deforestation.

# Seven Sisters Of Northeast India



# Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Biosphere Reserve

- It is bounded by the **Brahmaputra** and **Lohit Rivers** in the north and **Dibru River** in the south.
- It is famous for **Feral horses** (descendants of horses who bolted out of stables set up by the British Army in and around Tinsukia during World War II).
- Vegetation: Wet evergreen and semi-evergreen, deciduous, littoral and swamp forests.
- Major Fauna: Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, clouded leopard, sloth bear, dhole, **Gangetic dolphin**, Asian elephant, wild boar, sambar, hog deer, barking deer.





# Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, National Park

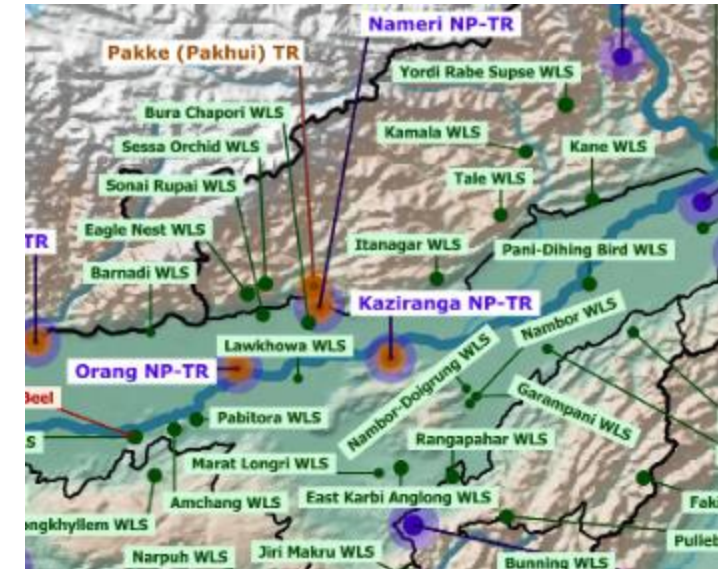
- ❑ It lies in the **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot** and the **Brahmaputra River** flows through the park.
- ❑ This park which hosts **2/3rd of the world's one-horned rhinoceroses**, is a **World Heritage Site**. It is recognized as an **Important Bird Area** by **BirdLife International**.
- ❑ Vegetation: Alluvial grasslands and savanna woodlands, and tropical moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forests.
- ❑ Major Flora: Spear grass, elephant grass, common reed, cotton tree, and elephant apple.
- ❑ Major Fauna: **One-Horned rhinoceros (VU)**, **Royal Bengal Tiger**, **Asian elephant**, **wild water buffalo (EN)** and **swamp deer** are collectively known as the **'Big Five' of Kaziranga**.
- ❑ Other important fauna: fishing cat, small Indian civets, sloth bear, Chinese pangolin, Indian pangolins.

# Manas Biosphere Reserve, National Park, Tiger Reserve, ER

- ❑ It is a **UNESCO Natural World Heritage site** located on the **Himalayan Foothills**. It is contiguous with the **Royal Manas National Park (Bhutan)**. **Manas river** (a tributary of Brahmaputra) passes through the heart of the National Park.
- ❑ The bhabar-terai region with riverine succession makes it one of the richest areas of **biodiversity**.
- ❑ Vegetation: Semi-evergreen forests, moist and dry deciduous forests, savanna woodland, and grasslands.
- ❑ Major Fauna: Hispid hare, pygmy hog, **wild water buffalo (EN)**, **rhinoceros (reintroduced in 2007)**, elephants, sambar, Chinese pangolin, clouded leopards.
- ❑ Major Avifauna: It has the **world's largest population of the endangered Bengal florican**. Other major bird species include great hornbills, pelicans, eagles, and herons.

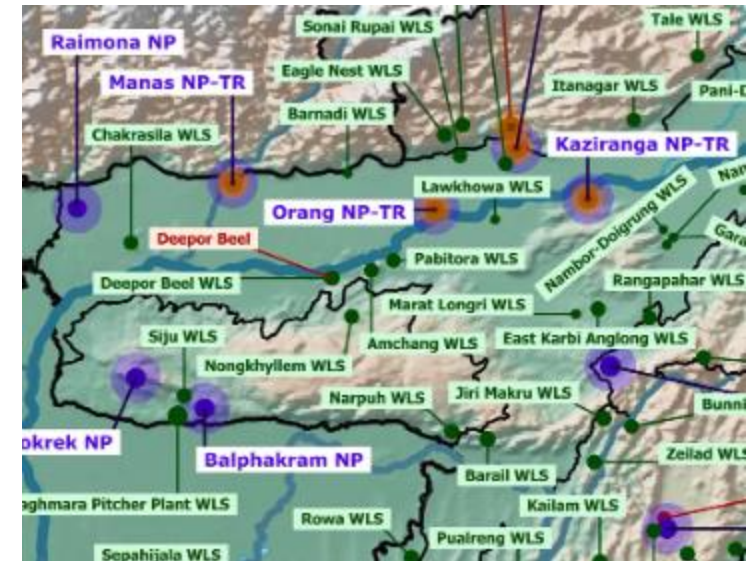
# Nameri Tiger Reserve, National Park

- It is located in the **foothills of the Eastern Himalayas** & **Kameng River** flows along its southern boundary. Its northern boundary is shared with the **Pakke Tiger Reserve**.
- It has two core areas: **Nameri National Park & Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- Major Flora: Ajar, hollock, nahor and orchids.
- Major Fauna: Tiger, leopard, sambar, dhole, **gaur**, **clouded leopard (VU)**, barking deer, marbled cat, Himalayan black bear, capped langur, Indian giant squirrel.
- Major Avifauna: White-winged wood duck.
- Threats: Logging, human-elephant conflict, poaching.



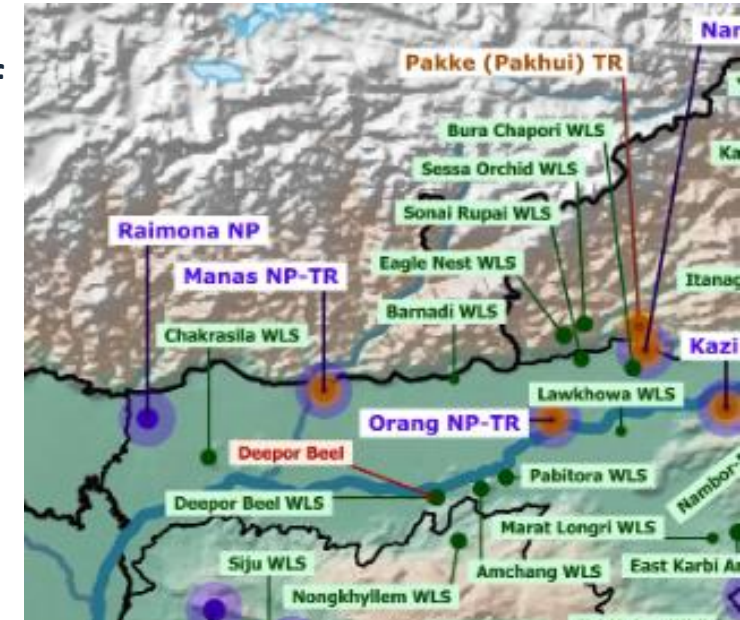
# Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Tiger Reserve

- It lies on the **bank of the Brahmaputra River**. Pachnoi River, Belsiri River and **Dhanshiri River** border the park.
- The park, formed of alluvial flood plains, is an integral part of the **Indo-Burma hotspot** of biodiversity.
- Vegetation: Moist deciduous forest, swamp forest, wet alluvial and savannah grassland.
- Major Fauna: **Indian rhinoceros (VU)**, **pygmy hog (EN)**, Asian elephant, **wild water buffalo (EN)**, Bengal tiger, hog deer, **Gangetic dolphin (EN)**, **Indian pangolin (EN)**.
- Non-human Primates: Rhesus macaque



# Raimona National Park

- It is located along the **Himalayan foothills** together with Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal and Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park of Bhutan.
- It is bounded by the **Sankosh River** on the west, the **Saralbhanga River** on the east, the **Indo-Bhutan border** on the north and **Ripu RF** on the south.
- Vegetation: Moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forest.
- Major Fauna: Asian elephant, Bengal tiger, **clouded leopard (VU)**, Indian gaur, **wild water buffalo**, chital, hornbill.
- Non-human Primates: **Golden langur (EN)** (endemic to the region; named as the mascot of Bodoland region).





# Thank you

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