

Blue Tigers Head Towards Western Ghats

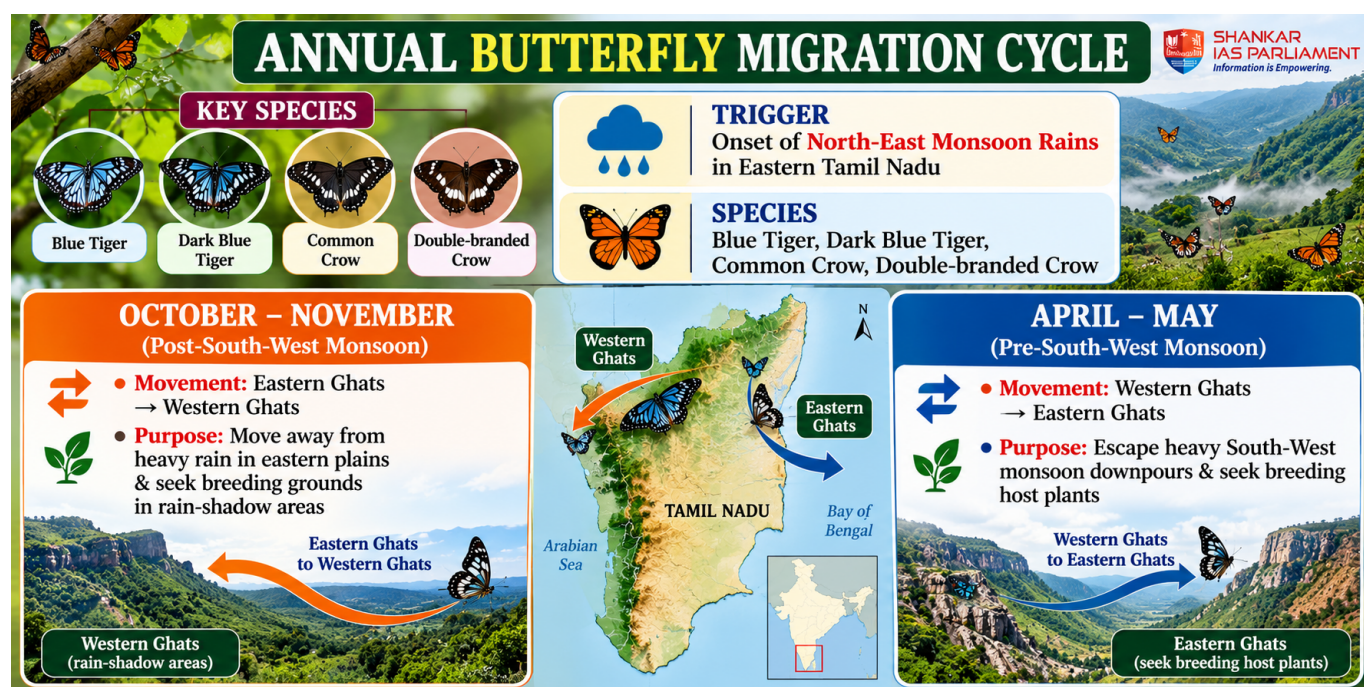
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Why in News?

Recently, millions of milkweed butterflies predominantly Blue Tigers and Dark Blue Tigers, began their annual westward seasonal migration from the Eastern Ghats across the Tamil Nadu

Key Highlights

Aspect	Feature / Mechanism
Participating Species	• Blue Tiger (<i>Tirumala limniace</i>) • Dark Blue Tiger (<i>Tirumala septentrionis</i>) • Common Crow (<i>Euploea core</i>) • Double-branded Crow (<i>Euploea sylvester</i>)
Family & Taxonomy	• Nymphalidae (Milkweed butterflies), known for feeding on toxic host plants (Crotalaria, Asclepiadaceae) to deter predators.
Migratory Corridor	• Begins in eastern coastal plains and Eastern Ghats, moving through Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Tiruppur, and Coimbatore toward the Nilgiris, Anamalai, and Siruvani ranges of the Western Ghats.
Ecological Purpose	• Avoids heavy flooding downpours along the eastern coast while utilizing post-monsoon vegetation growth in the Western Ghats for feeding, breeding, and egg-laying.



Strategic Significance

- **Bio-Indicators** - Butterfly migration patterns directly mirror micro-climate changes, monsoon shifts, and habitat fragmentation across the ecological gap between the Eastern and Western Ghats.
- **Road Mortality** - High mortality rates reported along highways emphasize the need for eco-sensitive transport corridors, canopy bridges, and vegetative speed buffers during peak migration windows.
- **Conservation** - Monitored by bodies such as The Nature and Butterfly Society (TNBS) using field counts and crowdsourced logging, showcasing the role of community-led data collection in biodiversity mapping.

Reference

[The Hindu | Blue tigers head towards Western Ghats](#)

