Common nawab butterfly recorded in Sariska Tiger Reserve

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

The Common Nawab butterfly (Polyura athamas) has been recorded and photographed for the first time in northern Rajasthan's Sariska Tiger Reserve.

Key Highlights

- **Range Expansion -**Previously known in Rajasthan primarily from the southern Aravalli region including Mount Abu and Udaipur it extends its appearance in Sariska.
- **Survey Context -** Sariska has conducted systematic butterfly surveys (including during 2016–2018 and in July 2025) that documented rich lepidopteran diversity such as the Golden Birdwing with high butterfly density.

Features	Detail
Common Name	Common Nawab
Scientific Name	*Polyura athamas*
Family / Subfamily	Nymphalidae (Brush-footed butterflies) / Charaxinae (Rajahs and Nawabs)
Distribution	Widespread across tropical Asia (Himalayas, Western & Eastern Ghats, central hills, Northeast India, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia into Indonesia)
Behavior	Known for swift, powerful flight and canopy habits; adults frequently engage in mud-puddling on damp earth or mineral-rich surfaces to acquire sodium and amino acids.
Identification	Recognizable by dark brown to black wings marked with a broad, pale greenish-yellow (or creamy) median band and distinct twin tails on each hindwing.
Larval Host Plants	Leguminous trees/shrubs (Fabaceae), including *Albizia*, *Bauhinia*, and *Acacia* species
Wildlife Protection Act (1972)	**Schedule II** *(Post-2022 amendment)*



Reference

ETV Bharat | Common Nawab butterfly

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