

Dehing Patkai National Park

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in News?

Altogether 165 butterfly species, including 37 endangered ones, have been recorded in Assam's Dehing Patkai National Park, highlighting the rich biodiversity of the rainforest.

- **Dehing Patkai** is a lowland rainforest located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam.
- Spanning 234.26 sq km, it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2004 and upgraded to a national park in 2020.
- The National Park harbours the **largest stretch of lowland rainforests in India**.
- **Distribution** – It is one of the last remaining stretches of Assam Valley Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests, clinging to the foothills that border Arunachal Pradesh.
- It forms the core of the larger 937 sq km Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, a landscape where history and ecology intertwine.
- Nearby lie the World War II cemeteries, the legendary Stilwell Road, Asia's oldest refinery at Digboi, and an open-cast coal mine at Lido.
- **Flora & Fauna** – It is home to the Chinese pangolin, flying fox, slow loris, stump-tailed and Assamese macaques, capped langur, hoolock gibbon, Himalayan black bear, hog-badger, jungle cat, leopard cat, clouded leopard, tiger, sambar, barking deer, gaur and Malayan giant squirrel.
- Countless bird species and reptiles share this world & emerging as a thriving haven for butterfly diversity.



- **Significance** - The presence of such a diverse butterfly population reflects the importance of protecting healthy and connected natural habitats.
- More than just a national park, Dehing Patkai is a thriving ecosystem where forests, wildlife and countless smaller species coexist.

References

1. [Times of India | Dehing Patkai's jungle - 165 butterfly species](#)
2. [Govt of Assam | Dehing Patkai National Park](#)