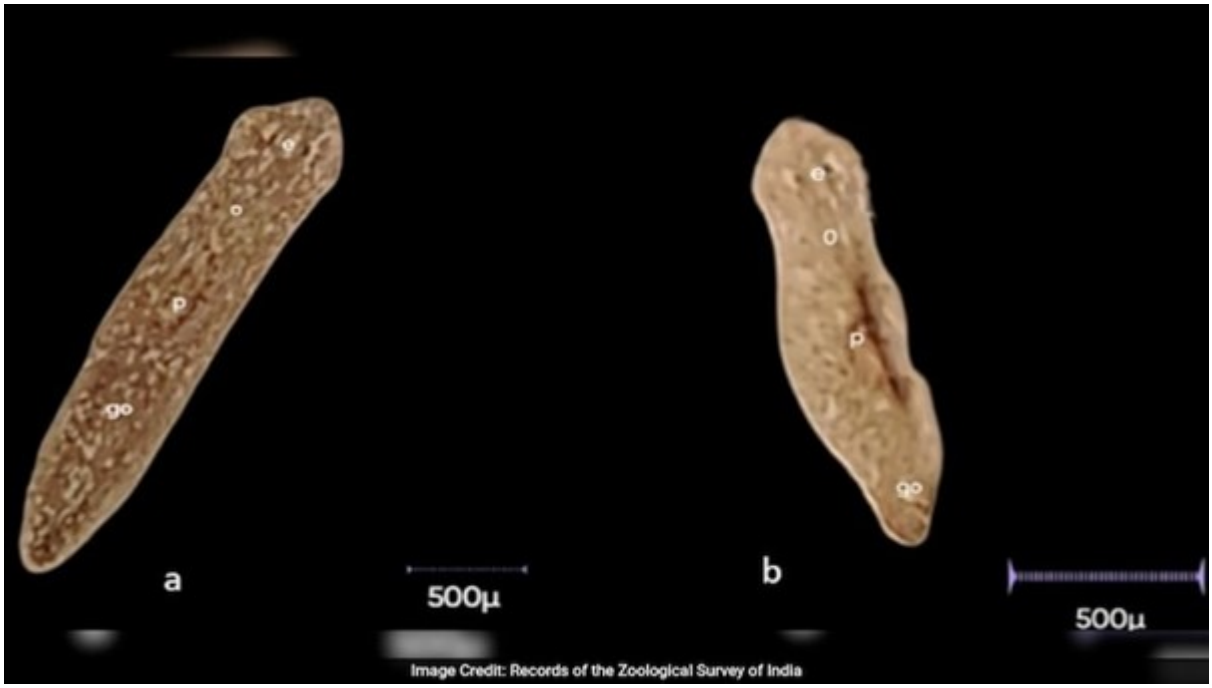
Dugesia punensis

Why in News?

Prelims - General issues on Biodiversity, Environmental Ecology, & Climate Change

A PhD student and her research guide from Modern College of Arts, Science, and Commerce discovered a new species of planarian worm in Pashan Lake, Pune.

- It is a new species of planarian worm, named Dugesia punensis.
- This specimen was deposited at the Zoological Survey of India.
- Planarians are aquatic flatworms known for their regenerative capabilities.
- **Habitat -** They are found in stagnant water.
- This is the first time since 1983 that a new species of planarian was scientifically recorded in India.
- **Characteristics -** Even if their body is cut into pieces, each piece can regenerate into a complete organism.
- Hence, they are very important in stem research.
- The regenerative potential of this worm is 14 days, compared to others whose regenerative span is about 18 days or more.
- **Morphology** - The morphology is also different from others, was more delicate.
- The new species is characterised by its spotted appearance, slightly reduced auricles and elongated pharynx and gonopore.
- The body size ranges between 8mm-12mm in length.
- The dorsal side is spotted dark brown in appearance, with a light brown back. The ventral side looks pale.
- Eggs are circular and have a reddish appearance. Auricular grooves enclose two bright black eyes
- **Diet -** The flatworm feeds on chicken liver.



Reference

Times of India | Dugesia punensis

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