New Scorpion Species in Similipal Tiger Reserve

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in News?

Researchers formally described a new scorpion species, Liocheles similipalensis, from Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha, the first confirmed record of the genus Liocheles in the state.

- **Scientific name** – Liocheles similipalensis (new species; described in 2026).
- **Scorpions** – These are arachnids, not insects. Arachnids generally have four pairs of walking legs and lack antennae; they belong to the order Scorpiones. Spiders belong to the order Araneae.
- **Institutional collaboration** – Thackeray Wildlife Foundation (TWF) and Similipal Tiger Reserve officials.
- **Habitat recorded** – Rocky habitats in tropical moist deciduous forest, at about 1,000 metres above sea level.
- **Physical description** – Approximately 44–53 mm long, with a glossy bluish-black appearance.
- **Taxonomic significance** – The genus Liocheles now has seven recognised species; this is the fourth species of the genus described from India.
- **About the discovery** – The researchers compared male and female specimens with the six previously known species of the genus.
- Identification relied on a combination of morphological characters, including the structure of carinae (ridges) and granulation on the pedipalps and metasomal segments, as well as median-eye ratios.



Quick Fact

Similipal Tiger Reserve
• **Location** – Mayurbhanj district, northern Odisha. • **Protected-area profile** – A tiger reserve of approximately 2,750 sq. km, with core and buffer components. • **Tiger conservation** – Similipal was among India's early Project Tiger reserves; its current legal notification as a tiger reserve was issued in 2007. • **Biosphere Reserve** – Similipal was designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 1994 and included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009. • **Ecological features** – Sal-dominated forests, tropical moist deciduous and semi-evergreen vegetation, streams and waterfalls; the landscape is also known for its distinctive melanistic (black) tigers.

Reference

[The New Indian Express | New scorpion species discovered in Similipal]

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering