New Wolf Spider Species

Prelims - *Current events of National & International importance,*

General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity & climate change.

Why in News?

Recently, researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) announced the discovery of a new spider species on Sagar Island in the Sundarbans.

- **Scientific name -** *Piratula acuminata*, commonly known as wolf spider.
- **Genus -** India's first recorded instance of the Genus Piratula.
    - It is a group of wolf spiders predominantly found across Asia, with limited distribution in Europe and North America.
- **Family –** Lycosidae.
- **Size -** Medium-sized, approximately 8-10 millimeters in length.
- **Appearance -** Pale creamy white coloration interspersed with brown, chalk-white spots on its abdomen, and a pair of light brown stripes towards the rear.
- Distinctive structural intricacies of its genitalia mark a novel identification for it.



- **Hunting Strategy -** Unlike web-building spiders, these agile predators are ground-dwelling and ambush their prey.
- **Discovered in-** Sagar Island, the largest island within the Sundarbans deltaic complex, reinforces the ecological richness of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Its unique ecosystems, shaped by alluvial deposits from the Ganga River, include vital mudflats and estuarine waters supporting a diverse array of flora and fauna.

References

1. Deccan Herald| The New Wolf Spider in Sundarbans
2. The Times of India| New Spider Species in Sundarbans

