Three Butterfly Species Recorded for the First Time in Silent Valley National Park

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Why in News?

Three butterfly species were recorded for the first time in Silent Valley National Park, Kerala, during a three-day butterfly survey (November 13–15).

A total of **189 butterfly species** were documented during the survey.

The survey was jointly conducted by the **Kerala Forest Department and Malabar Natural History Society**.

- **Newly Recorded Species**
  - **Branded Royal**
  - Rare, forest-dwelling butterfly.
  - Distinguished by characteristic wing markings.
  - **Extra Lascar**
  - Recognised by attractive brown and orange wing patterns.
  - **Orange-spotted Grass Jewel**
  - One of India's smallest butterflies.
  - Commonly found in grasslands and open scrub.



- **Survey Highlights**
- **189 species** of butterflies recorded during the survey.

- **68 participants** – researchers, naturalists, butterfly enthusiasts and trained volunteers.
- Survey covered **15 locations** across the national park and its buffer zone.
- **Studies**– Butterfly diversity and distribution, Breeding habitats, Larval host plants, Nectar sources ,Habitat preferences and Seasonal variations in butterfly activity

Quick facts

Silent Valley National Park
• **Location**– Palakkad district, Kerala, Western Ghats. • **Ecosystem**– Tropical evergreen rainforest. • **River**– Kunthipuzha, a tributary of the Bharathapuzha river system. • **Biosphere Reserve**– Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. • **Biodiversity**– Rich endemic flora and fauna, particularly associated with tropical rainforest ecosystems.

Reference

The Times of India| Three Butterfly Species

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