

Animal Discoveries and Plant Discoveries 2025

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Animal Discoveries and Plant Discoveries 2025 Latest News

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change recently released several critical publications, notably Animal Discoveries-2025 and Plant Discoveries-2025, during the 111th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata.

About Animal Discoveries and Plant Discoveries 2025

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, the country's premier institution for faunal exploration and research, publishes **Animal Discoveries** every year detailing the **new discoveries of fauna**.
- Similarly, the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)**, the country's premier organisation for plant research and taxonomy, publishes **Plant Discoveries** every year detailing the **new discoveries of flora**.

Highlights of Animal Discoveries 2025

- India added **709 new species to its fauna** in 2025, which includes **483 species new to science** and **226 species recorded for the first time in India**.

- **India's total faunal biodiversity** now reaches **105,953 species**, reinforcing its position as a global megadiverse nation.
- Among the states, **Kerala** recorded the **highest number of new species (98)**, followed by **West Bengal (76)**, **Karnataka (67)**, and Arunachal Pradesh (65).
- **Among the animal groups** added to the country's fauna **Hymenoptera contributed the highest number of additions (106)**, followed by Lepidoptera (65), Diptera (64), Arachnida (64), Coleoptera (55), and Pisces (50), reflecting the remarkable diversity and continuing discovery of India's invertebrate fauna.
- **Among the crucial fauna discovered** in 2025 are
 - **Myotis himalaicus**, a new species of **Himalayan bat**.
 - **Ptyctolaemus namdaphaensis** and **Ptyctolaemu siangensis** are two newly discovered species of **green fan-throated lizard** from **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - **Lycodon irwini**, a species commonly known as **Irwin's wolf snake**, discovered on the remote **Great Nicobar Island**.

Highlights of Plant Discoveries 2025

- It records the **addition of 353 taxa** to the country's floral inventory, **comprising 339 species** and **14 infraspecific taxa**.
- Of these, **221 taxa** have been described as **new to science**, while **132 taxa** represent **new distributional records for India**.
- Among the states, **Arunachal Pradesh** emerged as the **leading contributor with 49 discoveries**, followed by **Uttarakhand (39)** and **Kerala (37)**.
- **Nearly 64 percent** of all newly documented taxa were recorded from the **Himalayan region, the Western Ghats**, and the **North-Eastern states**.
- It documents **154 angiosperms**, three pteridophytes, 13 bryophytes, 62 lichens, 93 fungi, 22 algae, and six microbes.
- Approximately **43%** of the newly described taxa belong to **vascular plants**.
- Among the **most notable discoveries** are several **wild relatives** of economically and ecologically significant **plant groups, including Begonia, Impatiens (balsams), legumes, and orchids**.
- **Among the crucial plants discovered are,**
 - **Polystichum siangense**, a recently discovered species of **fern** belonging to the family Dryopteridaceae, found in the Siang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - **Miliusa beddomei**, a new wild member of the **custard apple family** discovered in the **Western Ghats**.
 - **Hericium indicum**, a recently discovered species of **wild edible tooth fungus** in **Uttarakhand**.

News: AIMA

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