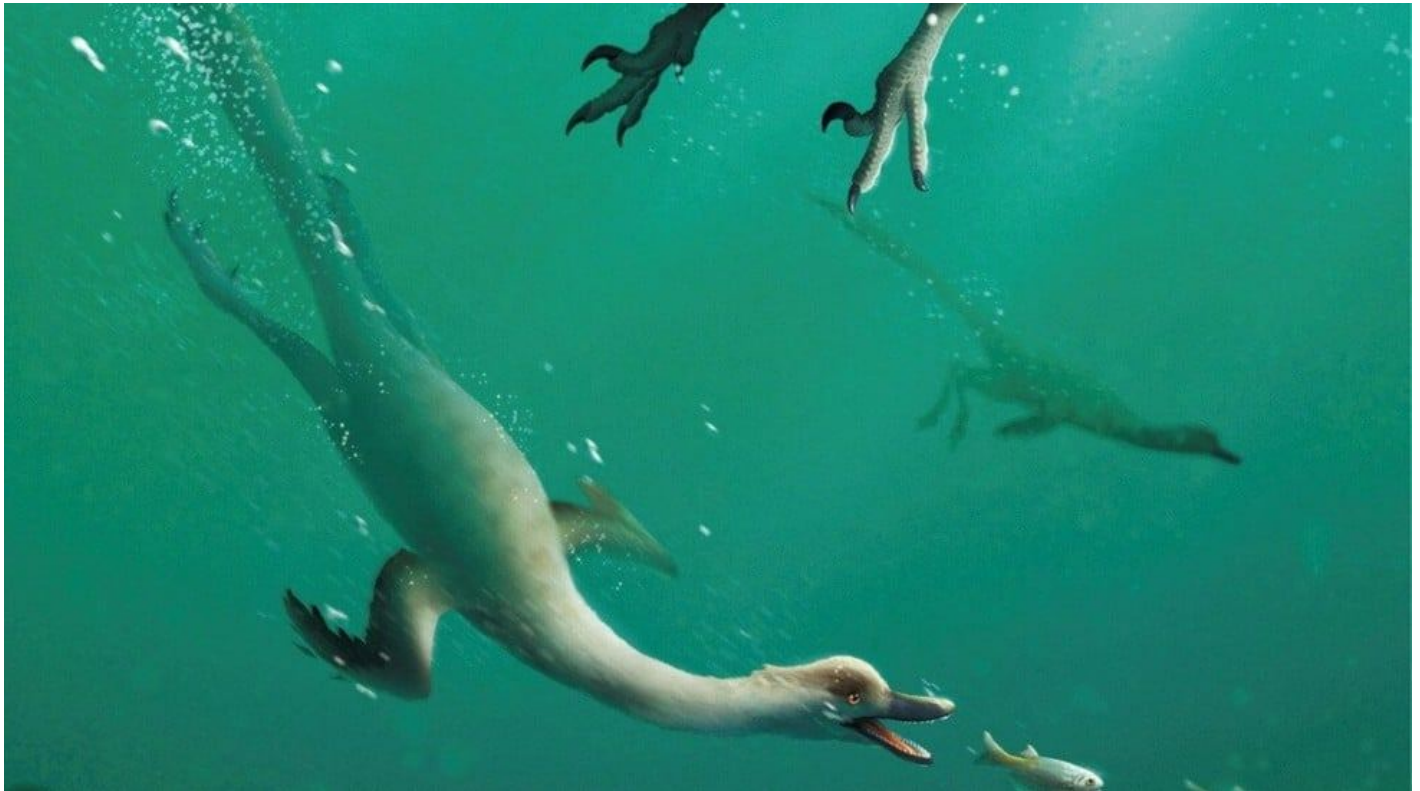


Natovenator polydontus?

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What is Natovenator polydontus?

- **The dinosaur, called Natovenator polydontus**, lived about 72 million years ago during the **Cretaceous Period** and was **built like a diving bird with a streamlined body** while possessing a goose-like elongated neck and a long flattened snout with a mouth bearing more than 100 small teeth. It was almost covered in feathers.
- While it was a cousin of **speedy little predator Velociraptor**, Natovenator was adapted to a **semi-aquatic lifestyle in a freshwater ecosystem**, perhaps floating on rivers and lakes, paddling with its front limbs, and using its flexible neck to catch fish and insects or diving underwater to capture its prey.
- Natovenator is **part of the dinosaur group called theropods** – sharing traits including **bipedalism** – best known for large meat-eaters including Tyrannosaurus, Tarbosaurus and Giganotosaurus.
- But the **theropods, many of which were feathered**, branched out in unusual directions with examples such as long-clawed ground sloth-like Therizinosaurus, ostrich-like Struthiomimus, termite-eating Mononykus and the entire bird lineage.

Q1) What is a theropod in biology?

The theropod (meaning “beast-footed”) dinosaurs are a diverse group of bipedal saurischian dinosaurs which include the largest terrestrial carnivores.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/natovenator-polydontus/>

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