

Monarch Butterfly

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Monarch Butterfly Latest News

Recently, there has been a 64 per cent increase in the presence of the Monarch butterfly in Mexican overwintering forests during the 2025-2026 seasons.

About Monarch Butterfly

- It is known by **scientists as Danaus plexippus**, which in Greek literally means “sleepy transformation.”
- **Appearance**
 - Adult monarch butterflies **possess two pairs of brilliant orange-red wings**, featuring black veins and white spots along the edges.
 - Males, who possess distinguishing black dots along the veins of their wings, are slightly bigger than females.
- **Distribution:** It is found in **North America, Central America, and South America**, Australia, Hawaii, **India**, and other locations.
- **Habitat:** Gardens, Managed Corridors, Agricultural Areas, and Natural and Restored Areas.

- **Life Span:** Each adult butterfly lives **only about four to five weeks**.
- **Reproduction:** The mating **period occurs in the spring**, just prior to migration from the overwintering sites.
 - **Milkweed** is the **only plant** on which **monarchs will lay their eggs** and the only source of food for baby caterpillars
- **Migration:** They travel between 1,200 and 2,800 miles or more from the northeast United States, and southeast Canada to the mountain forests in central Mexico
- **Threats:** Illegal logging, land development, **loss of milkweed plants**, and climate change, all of which affect its habitat and migration.

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/monarch-butterfly/>

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