Topic Wise Content

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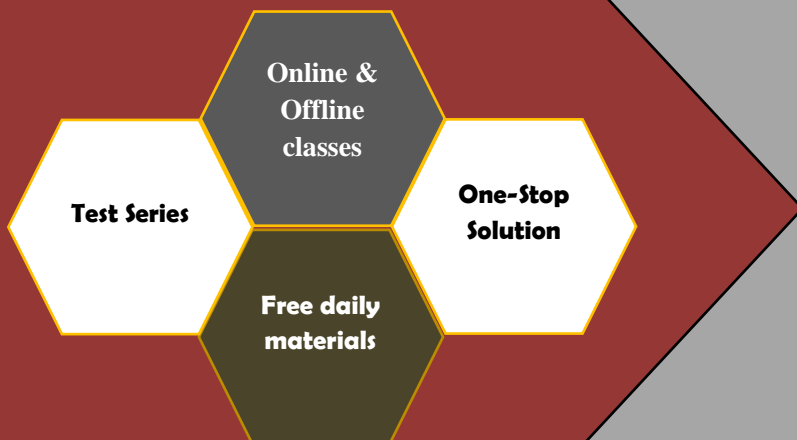## Kaiser-i-Hind Butterfly

Notes for civil services preparation

Kaiser-i-Hind Butterfly

- Recently, **Arunachal Pradesh** has approved the large, brightly coloured **Kaiser-i- Hind as the State butterfly.**

    - **Kaiser-i-Hind** literally means **Emperor of India.**

  Key Points

    - **Scientific Name:** Teinopalpus imperialis

Habitat:

- It is one of the **very rare and elusive swallowtail butterflies** which are found at medium and higher elevations.

- Swallowtail butterfly is any of a group of butterflies **in the family Papilionidae (order Lepidoptera).**

- It flies high in the canopy of broad leaved **temperate evergreen forests.**

- The temperate evergreen forests are **found in the Eastern and Western Himalayas.**

- This butterfly with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in (**West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim and Manipur**) along the **Eastern Himalayas.**

- Its presence indicates the existence of a good forest ecosystem and protection.

- The butterfly also flutters in **Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and southern China.**

Protection Status:

- **IUCN:** Near Threatened
- **CITES**: Appendix II
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule II

Butterfly

About:

- Butterflies are insects from the order **Lepidoptera of phylum Arthropoda** which also includes moths.

- Adult butterflies have large, often brightly coloured wings, and conspicuous, fluttering flight.

- Recently, a Himalayan butterfly known as **Golden Birdwing** (*Troides aeacus*) has been discovered as **India's largest butterfly** after 88 years.

Significance:

- **Rich Biodiversity:** Abundance of butterflies in any area represents therich biodiversity.
- **Indicator Species:** The butterfly acts as an **indicator species.**

- An indicator species **provides information on the overall condition** of the ecosystem and of other species in that ecosystem. They reflect the quality and changes in environmental conditions as well as aspects of community composition.
- **Pollinator:** It acts as a **pollinator** by helping in pollination and conserving several species of plants.