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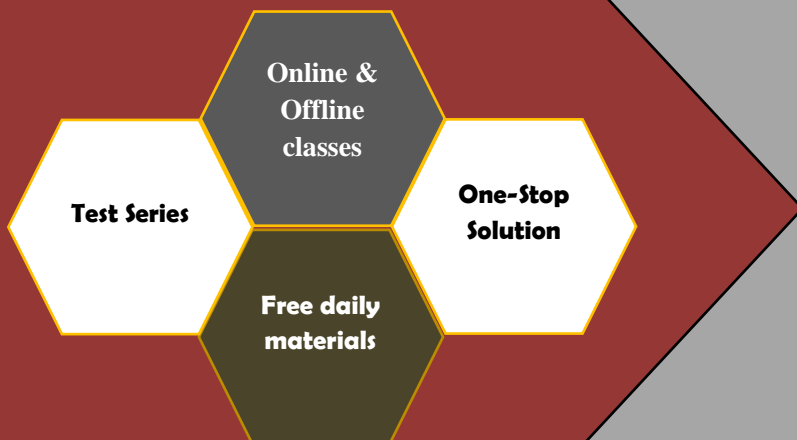
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Issi Saaneq: New Dinosaur Species

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

Issi Saaneq: New Dinosaur Species

Recently, researchers have discovered the first dinosaur species that lived on

Greenland 214 million years ago (Late Triassic epoch).Key Points

- **Discovery:**
 - In 1994, **palaeontologists from Harvard University** unearthed two well-preserved dinosaur skulls during an excavation in **East Greenland**.
 - One of the specimens was originally thought to be from a **Plateosaurus**, a well-known long-necked dinosaur that lived in Germany, France and Switzerland.
 - Researchers have determined that the **finding belongs to a new species**, which they have named 'Issi saaneq'.

About:

- This medium-sized, long-necked dinosaur was a predecessor of the **sauropods, the biggest land animals ever** to have thundered across our planet.
 - Issi Saaneq **differs from all other sauropodomorphs** discovered so far, but has **similarities with dinosaurs found in Brazil**, such as the **Macrocollum** and **Unaysaurus**, which are almost 15 million years older.
 - **It was the first sauropodomorph to have reached altitudes over 40 degrees north.**
- The name of the new dinosaur (Issi Saaneq) pays tribute to **Greenland's Inuit language** and means **"coldbone"**.
 - The Inuit language, the **northeastern division of the Eskimo languages**, spoken in northern Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

Significance of Discovery:

- The new species lived during an important time in **Earth's history**. It will help the researchers to understand the climatic changes according to that time.
- The fact that this is a new species unique to Greenland is important, because it **helps researchers to understand more about the range of Late Triassic dinosaurs**, as well as how sauropods evolved.
- The discovery of Issi saaneq will **broaden the knowledge** about the **evolution of plateosaurid sauropodomorphs**.