

Arunachal Pit Viper

April 5, 2020

Why in news?

India's newest pit viper found in Arunachal Pradesh.

About the viper:

- The newly discovered species makes **Arunachal Pradesh the only Indian state to have a pit viper named after it.**
- Scientific name is *Trimeresurus arunachalensis*.
- It is a **species of reddish-brown pit viper**, a venomous snake with a unique heat-sensing system.
- With this, **India now has a fifth brown pit viper** (Other four are Malabar, horseshoe, hump-nosed and Himalayan).
- Discovery makes the Arunachal pit viper the second serpent to have been discovered after the non-venomous crying keelback in the State's Lepa-Rada district in 2018.