

- Of all the countries in the world, **India faces the highest health burden** of air pollution.
- The average Indian resident is set to **lose five years of life expectancy** if the WHO guidelines are not followed.
- **Delhi**, the most polluted megacity in the world stands to **lose 10 years of life expectancy** if the current air pollution level persists.

17. Glischropus Meghalayanus

Why in News?

Scientists have discovered a new species of bamboo-dwelling bat named *Glischropus meghalayanus* in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya.

About

- Bamboo-dwelling bats are a particular kind of bats **living in the internodes of bamboos** with specialized morphological characteristics that help them to adapt to the life inside a bamboo.



📌 Glischropus Meghalayanus

- It is a bamboo-dwelling thick-thumbed bat species **found near the forested patch of Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The species is **small in size** and has a **dark brown colour** with a sulphur-yellow belly.
- Significance: This discovery is the first report of a thick-thumbed bat **not only from India but also from South Asia**.
- Note: Thick-thumbed bats of the genus *Glischropus* are currently composed of **four recognized species from Southeast Asia**, two of which were described in recent times.

📌 What were the recent discoveries in Meghalaya?

- In the past few years, **three bamboo-dwelling bats** have been **reported from the area** which highlights the ecological significance of the region.
- For instance, from the same forested patches outside **Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary**, another species of a disk-footed bat "***Eudiscopus denticulus***" was discovered recently.

📌 Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary

- Situated in the **Ri-Bhoi district near Lailad village** and spread over an area of 29 sq. kms, Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the **famous attractions of Meghalaya**.
- The Sanctuary falls in the **Eastern Himalayan Global biodiversity hotspot**.
- The sanctuary supports different species of fauna such as **Royal Bengal Tiger, Clouded Leopard, Indian Bison, and Himalayan Black Bear** etc.
- Among the birds, the rare species which can be spotted here are **Manipur Bush Quail, Rufous Necked Hornbill** and **Brown Hornbill**.
- Other Wildlife Sanctuary in Meghalaya:
 - Siju Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Baghmara Pitcher Plant Sanctuary
 - Nokrek National Park.

18. Single-use-plastic

Why in News?