



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Neelus sikkimensis

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Subject Preference: GS III (Biodiversity & Scientific Discovery)

- **The News:** Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientists discovered this new species in the high-altitude regions of Sikkim.
- **Basics:** It is a species of **Collembola** (commonly called **Springtails**). These are primitive, wingless micro-arthropods.
- **Scientific Context:** * **Taxonomic Milestone:** This is the **first record of the genus *Neelus*** in India, increasing the global species count of this genus to eight.
- **Ecological Niche:** Springtails are vital for **soil nutrient cycling**. They are "decomposers" that break down organic matter, making them key indicators of soil health and climate change in fragile Himalayan ecosystems.

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