



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Stauranthera aureoglossa – New Plant Species in Arunachal and India's Northeast Biodiversity

23 April 2026

ENVIRONMENT

GEOGRAPHY

GS3

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

Stauranthera aureoglossa — New Plant Species in Arunachal and India's Northeast Biodiversity

23 April 2026 · 3 min read

3 tags

WHY IN NEWS

Scientists have identified a previously undescribed plant species, *Stauranthera aureoglossa*, from the mid-elevation evergreen forests of **Arunachal Pradesh**. The perennial herb belongs to the family **Gesneriaceae** and features distinctive bell-shaped, bluish-purple flowers with a golden-yellow marking on the corolla — giving it the name *aureoglossa* (Latin: “golden tongue”). The discovery underscores the rich, underexplored botanical diversity of India’s Northeast.

ABOUT THE SPECIES

FEATURE	DETAIL
Species	<i>Stauranthera aureoglossa</i>
Family	Gesneriaceae (the African violet family)
Meaning	<i>aureo</i> = golden; <i>glossa</i> = tongue (Latin)
Type	Perennial herb
Habitat	Mid-elevation evergreen forests, Arunachal Pradesh
Morphology	Bell-shaped, bluish-purple corolla with yellow marking
Discovery	Botanical Survey of India / state scientists

Why *Stauranthera* Is Significant

- The genus *Stauranthera* is predominantly found in Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar) — its occurrence in India extends the known range significantly
- This discovery reinforces the **biogeographic connection** between Northeast India and Indo-Malayan flora

- Family Gesneriaceae includes well-known ornamental plants like African violets; new species have potential horticultural value

NORTHEAST INDIA — A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot

Arunachal Pradesh lies within the **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot** — one of 36 globally recognised biodiversity hotspots (defined by Conservation International as areas with exceptional concentrations of endemic species and significant habitat loss):

FEATURE OF INDO-BURMA HOTSPOT	DETAIL
Geographic extent	Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, South China, NE India, SW China
India's coverage	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim
Plant species (estimated)	13,000+ vascular plant species; 7,000+ endemic
Threatened mammals	~430 species
Why at risk	Deforestation, jhum cultivation, infrastructure, climate change

India's Four Biodiversity Hotspots

HOTSPOT	STATES COVERED
Indo-Burma	NE India (Arunachal, Assam, Manipur, etc.)
Himalaya	J&K, Himachal, Uttarakhand, NE states
Sundaland	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (partial)
Western Ghats + Sri Lanka	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Maharashtra

NORTHEAST INDIA — ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Why the Northeast Is a Biodiversity Treasure

- ❶ **Confluence of biogeographic zones:** Palearctic (Himalayan), Indo-Malayan, and Indian subcontinent zones meet in Northeast India
- ❷ **Elevation gradient:** From Brahmaputra floodplains (50 m) to Kangto peak (6,700 m) — creates diverse microclimates
- ❸ **High endemism:** ~8,000 flowering plant species; ~50% endemic to the region
- ❹ **Threatened ecosystems:** Semi-evergreen, subtropical broadleaf, and alpine forests

Key Biodiversity Data for Northeast India

INDICATOR	FIGURE
Flowering plant species	~8,000
Orchid species	~900 (India has ~1,300 total; most in NE)
Bird species	~900 (50% of India's avifauna)
Mammal species	~200
Reptile species	~250

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (BSI)

BSI — the agency responsible for documenting India's plant diversity:

DETAIL	INFORMATION
Established	1890
Under	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
HQ	Kolkata
Function	Survey, exploration, documentation of Indian flora
Publication	Annotated Checklist of Flowering Plants of India
Significance	Discovers and documents new species including <i>Stauranthera aureoglossa</i>

TAXONOMY — UNDERSTANDING THE DISCOVERY

A **new species discovery** follows a rigorous process:

- 1 Field collection of specimens
- 2 Morphological description (shape, size, colour, anatomy)
- 3 Molecular analysis (DNA barcoding)
- 4 Comparison with type specimens in herbaria globally
- 5 Publication in a peer-reviewed **taxonomy** journal (e.g., *Phytotaxa*, *Plant Systematics and Evolution*)
- 6 Latin binomial nomenclature assigned (International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants — ICN)

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims

- *Stauranthera aureoglossa*: new plant species, Gesneriaceae family, Arunachal Pradesh
- Indo-Burma hotspot: one of India's 4 biodiversity hotspots
- India's biodiversity hotspots: Indo-Burma, Himalaya, Western Ghats+Sri Lanka, Sundaland (A&N)
- BSI: Botanical Survey of India — 1890; under MoEFCC; HQ Kolkata
- India's orchid species: ~1,300 (highest in NE India)

Mains

- “India's Northeast is a biodiversity heritage threatened by development pressures. What policies are needed for its conservation?”
- Role of taxonomy and scientific documentation in biodiversity conservation

FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
New species	<i>Stauranthera aureoglossa</i> — “golden tongue”
Family	Gesneriaceae
Location	Mid-elevation evergreen forests, Arunachal Pradesh
Biodiversity hotspot	Indo-Burma (one of 36 global hotspots)
India’s biodiversity hotspots	4: Indo-Burma, Himalaya, Western Ghats+Sri Lanka, Sundaland
BSI	Botanical Survey of India — est. 1890; MoEFCC; HQ Kolkata
NE India orchid species	~900 (out of India’s ~1,300 total)
NE India bird species	~900 (50% of India’s avifauna)
Global biodiversity hotspots	36 (Conservation International)
Hotspot criteria	1,500+ endemic vascular plants + 70%+ habitat loss

← **NEWER ARTICLE**

Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) — Regulating India's...

OLDER ARTICLE →

DIVEX 2026 — India-Sri Lanka Naval Exercise and the...

RELATED EDITORIALS

THE HINDU

[Industrial Disasters in India — The Regulatory Gap That Keeps Killing](#)

23 Apr

DOWN TO EARTH

[IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings 2026 — When Development Finance Conflicts With Climate](#)

22 Apr

THE HINDU

[India's LPG Crisis Is the Wake-Up Call It Cannot Ignore](#)

22 Apr

INDIAN EXPRESS

[The Tadoba-Andhari Model — Balancing Tiger Conservation with Human Costs](#)

22 Apr

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[Agri-Photovoltaic](#)

A dual land-use technology that integrates elevated solar panels with...

KEY TERM

[Aquifer](#)

Underground layer of permeable rock, sediment, or soil that stores and...

KEY TERM

[BBNJ Treaty](#)

The first legally binding international agreement for conservation and...

KEY TERM

[Bioaccumulation](#)

Gradual accumulation of chemical substances or toxins in the tissues...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/04/23/stauranthera-aureoglossa-arunachal-biodiversity/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com