

## SHORTNEWS:

### 1.THE BARBADOS THREADSNAKE

**Context:** The world's smallest-known snake, the **Barbados threadsnake**, believed to be lost to science, has been rediscovered on the Caribbean island of Barbados.

#### About Barbados Threadsnae

- **Scientific Name:** *Tetracheilostoma carlae*
- **Physical Traits:**
  - **Pale yellow dorsal lines** along the body.
  - **Eyes on the sides** of its head.
  - **Blind** and **burrows underground**.
  - Feeds on **termites and ants**.
  - Reproduces by laying **a single, slender egg**.
- Extremely difficult to detect due to size and cryptic behavior.
- **Only a handful of sightings since 1889**; last seen around 2006.
- Often **mistaken for Brahminy blind snakes** or even earthworms.
- Unlike the **Brahminy blind snake**, it cannot reproduce asexually.

#### Ecological Importance

- **Role:** Serves a vital function in **soil and insect population balance**.
- Rediscovery highlights the importance of **microhabitats and lesser-known species** in biodiversity conservation.

#### Conservation Significance

- **IUCN Status** – Critically Endangered Species.
- **Habitat Context:** Only **2% of Barbados' original forest cover remains**, with the rest cleared for agriculture over the past 400 years.
  - Barbados has **minimal original forest cover**, second only to Haiti in the Caribbean.
- The species is **vulnerable**, as it lays **just one egg per reproductive cycle**.

### 2.EXERCISE DIVYA DRISHTI

**Context:** Indian Army conducted **Exercise Divya Drishti** in East Sikkim to assess battlefield readiness using AI-enabled systems, UAVs, and modern technologies.

#### About Exercise Divya Drishti

- The Indian Army **conducted a high-altitude technology demonstration** to validate AI-integrated surveillance, real-time decision-making, and sensor-to-shooter systems under realistic battlefield conditions.
- **Conducted by:** **Trishakti Corps**, headquartered in **Sukna**, near Siliguri.
- **Combat Simulation:** Troops deployed **ground-based systems and aerial platforms** including **UAVs and drones** to simulate realistic battlefield scenarios.

### 3. WORLD RECORD 170-HOUR BHARATANATYAM PERFORMANCE

**Context:** Remona Evette Pereira, a final-year student from Mangaluru, entered the **Golden Book of World Records** after performing **Bharatanatyam** for **170 continuous hours**.

#### Key Highlights of the Record Performance

- Recognised as the **first person globally** to achieve this feat.
- Pereira was allowed a **15-minute break every three hours**.
- **Training and Background:** Began learning Bharatanatyam at the age of **three**, Completed her **rangapravesha** (debut solo performance) in **2019**.

#### About Bharatanatyam

- **Origin:** Originated in **Tamil Nadu**, Bharatanatyam is one of the **oldest classical dance forms** of India.
- The origin of this dance can be traced to the sage Bharata Muni's **Natyashastra**.
- The **Abhinaya Darpana** by Nandikesvara is a key text on the technique and grammar of body movements in Bharatanatyam.
- Its modern repertoire was shaped in the **early 19th century** by the **Tanjore Quartet** (Ponnayya, Chinnayya, Sivananda, Vadivelu), under the patronage of **Raja Serfoji**.
  - Hence, also called **Tanjore Natyam**.
- **Nature of Performance:**
  - Primarily a **solo dance**.
  - Follows the **Ekaharya style**, where one dancer portrays **multiple characters**.
  - It blends **footwork, gestures (mudras), and facial expressions** to convey stories, often from **Hindu mythology**.
- **Key Features of Bharatanatyam:**
  - Movements resemble a **dancing flame**, earning it the title "**Fire Dance**."
  - Balances **Tandava (vigour)** and **Lasya (grace)** elements.
  - Emphasis on **mudras** for storytelling.
  - **Characteristic posture:** bent knees, weight evenly spread across both feet.