Begonia neelamorum

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Why in the news?

A new species of Begonia, a genus of perennial flowering plants, has been described from the Keyi Panyor district of Arunachal Pradesh.

- **Scientific Name** – Begonia neelamorum, a flowering plant species.
- **Begonia** – It is one of the largest angiosperm genera and has about 2,200 accepted species distributed across tropical and subtropical regions worldwide.
- **Family** – Begoniaceae.
- **Location –** Growing on steep, moist walls along the Keyi River at about 1,000 metres above mean sea level, in the Keyi Panyor district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Naming –** Named after the *Neelam clan of the Nyishis*, the dominant community of Keyi Panyor district, who helped the researchers collect the plant.
- Locals call the plant "kobiirhopu baabrai".
- **Features**
- It is a small tuberous plant measuring about 10-12 cm tall, with a single, sessile, light-green leaf.
- Its leaves have distinctive double-serrated margins and glandular hairs.
- The plant produces white male and female flowers on an inflorescence emerging from the stem apex.

- **Association** – Morphological examination and comparison with herbarium specimens showed it was closely related to Begonia prolifera but differed in several

characteristics, including leaf shape, flower arrangement, and shorter styles.

- **Conservation Status** – It has been provisionally assessed as data deficient under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.
- **Significance** – Begonia neelamorum has become the 54th Begonia species recorded from India's northeastern region.

Reference

The Hindu | New Begonia species described from Arunachal Pradesh

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