Impatiens selvasinghii

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in news?

A new plant species in the Kudremukh range of the Western Ghats in Karnataka, named after a professor from Madras Christian College.

- **Scientific name** - Impatiens selvasinghii.
- It is known for being the ***smallest-flowered species*** within the genus Impatiens in the Western Ghats.
- **Nomenclature** – Named it after ***P. Selva Singh Richard***, a botany professor from Madras Christian College, for his contributions to studying the Impatiens genus.
- **Discovery location -** Kudremukh National Park in the Chikmagalur district of Karnataka.
- **Features** - It is a ***flowering plant***, belongs to balsam species.
- It has an unique morphology including pendulous flowers and a deeply lobed wing petal.
- It is small, deep pink to orange-pink flowers.
- It differs from its closely related species, such as Impatiens herbicola, by its absence of a distinct petiolar gland, pendulous flowers, lanceolate leaves, and prominently lobed wing petals.
- **Habitat -** The plant grows on wet rocks in evergreen forests and grasslands.
- **Conservation status** - IUCN Red list - Data Deficient (DD).
- **Genus Impatiens** –
    - The genus Impatiens belongs to the ***family Balsaminaceae*** and contains over 1,000 species, commonly known as jewelweed, touch-me-not, and impatiens.
    - Many Impatiens are ***annuals or perennials***, with some developing as semi-succulent herbs.
    - **Distribution -** Impatiens plants are ***found in the tropics and subtropics*** of the World, with major biodiversity hotspots in tropical

Africa, Madagascar, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.
- They are ***popular in horticulture***, with species like Impatiens walleriana (busy Lizzie) and New Guinea impatiens being widely cultivated.
- Impatiens plants are also recognized for their ***potential medicinal properties***, containing various bioactive compounds like flavonoids and coumarins
- In India, the genus Impatiens is represented by ***more than 280 taxa,*** chiefly distributed in the Eastern Himalayas and Western Ghats.
- Over 210 taxa are endemic to India, of which ***130 are endemic to the Western Ghats***, and 80% of taxa in the Western Ghats are categorized as endangered.

Reference

Times of India | Impatiens selvasinghii

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering