

## 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](#)

