Nagaland Cascade Frog

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) recorded a new species of frog in Nagaland.

- **Common name** – Nagaland Cascade Frog
- **Scientific name** – Amolops kamal
- **Kingdom** – Animalia
- **Phylum** – Chordata
- **Class** – Amphibia
- **Order** – Anura
- **Family** – Ranidae
- **Habitat** – The frog inhabits hill-stream ecosystems.
- **Publication** – The findings were published in the journal Records of the *Zoological Survey of India.*
- **Nomenclature motivation** – The species has been named Amolops kamal in honour of *Kamal Choudhury*, who was the teacher and mentor of the lead author, Bhaskar Saikia.

Key features

- Highly adapted to fast-flowing hill streams and waterfalls.
- Strong limbs, adhesive toe pads for gripping wet rocks, and extensive foot webbing.



- Scientists confirmed the distinct status of the species through integrative taxonomic analysis,

including molecular phylogenetic studies.

- **Evolutionary lineage** – The research revealed that Amolops kamal represents a unique evolutionary lineage within the Amolops indoburmanensis species complex.
- Studies - Suggests that Amolops indoburmanensis, previously considered a single widespread species, may actually comprise several cryptic species distributed across Northeast India and neighbouring regions.
- The Asian genus Amolops currently contains 90 recognized species worldwide, of which 20 species are reported from India.
- **Indian Amolops** – They are mainly grouped under *Amolops marmoratus*, *Amolops monticola*, and *Amolops viridimaculatus*, with the marmoratus group being the most diverse.
- This discovery enriches India's amphibian diversity and contributes significantly to taxonomic and conservation research.

Reference

The Hindu| Nagaland Cascade frog

