

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](#)

