New Aquatic Beetle Species

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Why in News?

Recently, Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and collaborating institutions have discovered 3 new species of aquatic beetles from freshwater habitats in Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

- **Common Name –** Beetle.
- **Family –** Hydrophilidae (aquatic scavenger beetles).
- **Genus –** *Amphiops*, Adapted to shallow freshwater ecosystems like ponds, wetlands, and vegetated substrates.
    - **Amphiops hyderabadi –** Found in a seasonal pond in Hyderabad, Telangana.
    - **Amphiops kinnerasani –** Collected from a roadside pond inside Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana.
    - **Amphiops sandi –** Discovered in Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Distinct Traits –** Each species shows unique body structures, punctation patterns, and reproductive features.
- **Genetic Divergence –** COI mitochondrial DNA barcoding revealed 7–17%

divergence, confirming them as distinct evolutionary lineages.

COI Gene Sequencing (Cytochrome c Oxidase I gene) – Standard DNA barcoding method using a short section of the to identify and differentiate animal species.

Reference

New Indian Express | New Aquatic Beetle Species