New Predatory Backswimmer Species

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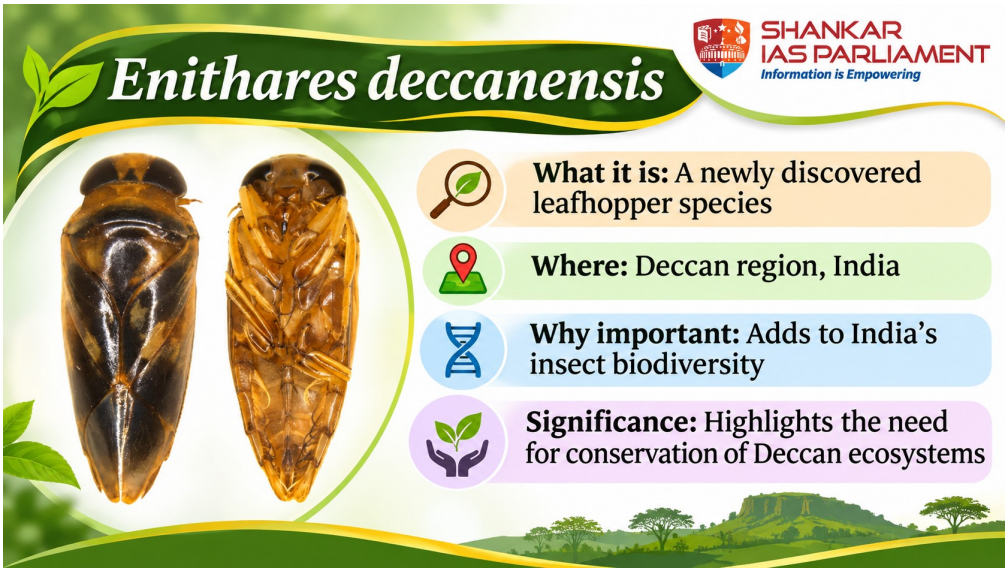
Why in News?

Researchers have discovered a new predatory backswimmer species, Enithares deccanensis (family Notonectidae), in freshwater habitats of the Eastern Ghats.

- The study was published in the *Journal of Natural History*.
- **Protected areas–** Documented in the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve (Andhra Pradesh) and Amrabad Tiger Reserve (Telangana).
- **Habitats–** Found in freshwater environments including shaded rock pools, forest streams, and waterfall pools.
- **Additional findings–** The study also reported *Enithares intricata* and *Enithares metallica* for the first time from the Indian subcontinent.
- **Identifying Features**
- **Wing & body traits–** Elongated, oval-shaped body with dark dorsal colouring and a distinct dark, V-shaped marking on the wings (hemelytra).
- **Colour variation–** Specimens occur in both light and dark colour forms.
- **Anatomy & genetics–** Males have a sickle-shaped reproductive structure. DNA barcoding and phylogenetic analysis showed a genetic divergence of about 10% to 14.5% from examined related species.



Reference

Deccan Chronicle| *Enithares deccanensis*



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