New Spider Species

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

Recently, ZSI researchers discovered 2 new spider species in subterranean caves of Meghalaya and canopies of Andhra Pradesh.

Attribute	Simonia lawbah (Cave Ray Spider)	Hamataliwa papikonda (Canopy Lynx Spider)
Scientific Name	*Simonia lawbah*	*Hamataliwa papikonda*
Family	Ray Spiders (**Theridiosomatidae**)	Lynx Spiders (**Oxyopidae**)
Location	Krem Lawbah Cave, Lawbah, Meghalaya	Papikonda National Park, Andhra Pradesh
Ecosystem	Subterranean cave (**troglophilic**)	Mixed deciduous forest canopy
Body Size	Microscopic	Petite
Key Feature	Cone-shaped “ray webs” used as slingshots to catch flying insects	Hexagonal eye structure, spiny legs, high-speed arboreal hunting (no webs)
Taxonomic Significance	First record of genus *Simonia* in India	First record of genus *Hamataliwa* in Andhra Pradesh
Ecological Role	Cave-dwelling predator using web mechanics	Agile canopy predator relying on speed and vision
Significance	Expands distribution of Theridiosomatidae; highlights hidden cave biodiversity	Highlights Eastern Ghats as evolutionary pocket; expands Oxyopidae records

Reference

PIB | Spider