Spathaspina noohi

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance | Conservation*

Why in News?

New beetle species has recently been discovered in Meghalaya forests.

- It is a ***new beetle species*** that features a striking sword-like spine on its back, an anatomical trait so rare.
- **Nomenclature** - Named in honour of P. B. Nooh, IAS, Director of Tourism, Government of Kerala, for his efforts in promoting nature-based tourism.
- **Genus** – It is also classified under an entirely new genus, Spathaspina.
- **Family** – Weevil,part of the large beetle family Curculionidae.
    - Many are known as agricultural pests.
- It was found in the Umran area of Ri Bhoi district in Meghalaya.
- **Features** - It is known for features like a spine-like structure on the thorax and specific antenna formations.
- Beetles in this subfamily are typically identified by their compact bodies, the way they tuck their snouts between their legs when resting, and a specific visible structure from the back.
- **Benefits** - It plays an important role in ecosystems by helping control invasive plant species and maintaining ecological balance.



References

1. North East News | Spathaspina noohi
2. Hub Network | Spathaspina noohi

