



New Frog Species: Minervarya Pentali

Why in News

Recently, a **new frog species was discovered in the Western Ghats** and named after former DU Vice-Chancellor and plant geneticist Deepak Pentali.



Key Points

- The new frog species named **Minervarya Pentali** belongs to the **family of Dicroglossidae**.
 - The **family Dicroglossidae** comprises **202 species of semiaquatic frogs** distributed by the **tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and Asia and Papua New Guinea**.
 - The family contains large-sized (e.g., genus *Hoplobatrachus*) and dwarf species, with a total length about 30 mm (e.g., genus *Nannophrys*).
- It was discovered from the **Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot**, extending along the **southwest coast of the Indian Peninsula**.
- This new species is **endemic to the southern Western Ghats**.
- This species is also among the **smallest known Minervarya (genus) frogs**.

The Western Ghats

- These are the **mountain ranges** running parallel **along the western coast of India starting from Gujarat and ending in Tamil Nadu**.
- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are the six Indian states covered by Western Ghats.
- The mountain range is also a **“Hottest Hotspot” of biodiversity**.
- The Ghats are often called the **Great Escarpment of India** and are also a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#).
- **High Biodiversity and Endemism** are special features of Western Ghats along with the presence of Evergreen Forests.

Source: IE

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