

Mahabaleshwar cricket frog

Why in News?

A team of researchers has recently discovered a new species of cricket frog in the northern Western Ghats.

- It is a ***new species of endemic frog*** found in Mahabaleshwar region in the Northern Western Ghats, Maharashtra.
- **Scientific Name** - *Minervarya ghatiborealis*.
- **Nomenclature** - This species is named after the Sanskrit word 'Ghati' western and Latin word 'Borealis' meaning northern region, thus meaning 'from the north western Ghats'.
- **Genus** - It has been included in the genus *Minervarya*, commonly known as the 'Cricket frog'.
 - Frogs of the *Minervarya* genus are distinguished by the parallel lines on their abdomens.
 - They nest near standing water or small springs and make noises similar to that of nightingales.
 - The breeding vocalization of males differ from other species of the genus.
- **Appearance** - It is ***a large-sized cricket frog***, reaching about 2.5 inches in length.
- It has thin fingers, long legs, and distinctive ***golden-yellow eyes*** that are darker at the edges and lighter in the center.
- The frog's coloration varies from blotchy brown to orange, with pale cream bellies and yellow-tinted sides.



- **Distinction** - Large, robust body and distinct morphological features like sub-elliptical snout, rudimentary webbing, and highly ridged glandular skin.

- DNA analysis found the new species had at least *6% genetic divergence* from other related frog species.
- **Similar species** - Similar-sized species was discovered from Bamburde village, Pune, in 2019, which was named '*Minervarya Marathi*'.

References

1. [Times of India | Minervarya ghatiborealis](#)
2. [Miami Herald | Mahabaleshwar Cricket Frog](#)
3. [My Pune Pulse | 'Golden-Eyed' Frog](#)

