

Adi Cascade Frog

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In news- Researchers have discovered a new species of cascade frog in Arunachal Pradesh. It has **been named after the indigenous Adi tribe** and the Adi hills they inhabit.

About Adi Cascade Frog (*Amolops Adicola*)

- It was **discovered by a group of researchers from Delhi University (DU)**, along with biologists from the **Wildlife Institute of India** and **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, USA**.
- The frog is a predominantly brown colour frog, with a size ranging roughly between 4 cm to 7 cm.
- The **genus Amolops is one of the largest groups of ranid frogs** (family Ranidae) with currently 73 known species that are widely distributed across Northeast and North India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, through Indochina, to the Malay Peninsula.
- The new species was identified based on multiple criteria, including external morphology, DNA, and calling pattern.
- **Cascade frogs are named** so because of their **preference of small waterfalls or cascades** in flowing hill streams.
- **Adi hills were historically known as Abor hills.**
- The study also resolved the century-old taxonomic confusions surrounding the identity of **another cascade frog species, Amolops Monticola**, which was discovered from the Sikkim Himalayas 150 years ago.

Adi tribe-

- They are one of the most populous groups of indigenous peoples in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

- They are also found in Tibet Autonomous Region where they are called the Lhoba together with some of the Nishi, Na, Galo, Mishmi people and Tagin people.
- The present habitat of the Adi people is heavily influenced by the historic location of the ancient Lhoyu.
- The Adi live in hill villages, each traditionally keeping to itself, under a selected chief styled *Gam* or *Gao Burra* who moderates the village council, which acts even as the traditional court, referred to as a *Kebang*.
- The various languages and dialects of the Adi people fall into two groups: **Abor** (Abor-Minyong, Bor-abor (Padam), Abor-Miri, etc.) and **Lhoba** (Lho-Pa, Luoba).
- **The Adi celebrate a number of festivals**, in particular, their prime festivals are Aran, Donggin, Solung, podi barbii and Etor.
- **Solung** is observed in the first week of September for five days or more.
- It is a **harvest festival** performed after the sowing of seeds and transplantation, to seek for future bumper crops.
- Ponung songs and dances are performed by women folk during the festival.