

Balsams

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Why in news?

According to a study published by the Botanical Survey of India, 23 new species of Balsams have been discovered from the eastern Himalayas.

What are these?

- Between 2010 and 2019, botanists and taxonomists working on **Impatiens** – a group of plants commonly known as **Balsams or jewel-weeds** discovered 23 new species.
- Consisting of both annual and perennial herbs, balsams are succulent plants with high endemism.
- Because of their bright beautiful flowers, these groups of plants are of **prized horticultural significance**.
- They are **highly sensitive to climatic conditions** like extreme drought and extended exposure to sunlight.
- They are typically confined to stream margins, moist roadsides, waterside boulders, near waterfalls and wet forests.