

Purple frog

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Why in news?

The purple frog could soon be designated as Kerala's state amphibian.

About Purple Frog:

- It is also **known as Maveli frog**.
- Indigenous tribes in **Kerala** consume between 15,000 and 20,000 tadpoles annually during the monsoon season.
- Adult frogs are believed to have **medicinal benefits** and are also considered aphrodisiacs.
- **Children wear amulets** made from Adult Maveli frogs as it is believed that doing so will reduce their fear of storms.
- The frog spends the bulk of its life underground and only comes up for about two weeks before the monsoons in order to mate.
- **Male is a third of the size of the female.**
- Classified as an **explosive breeder**, the female of the species lays thousands of eggs at a breeding site.
- They are quite widely distributed in Western Ghats.
- The frog is called '**living fossil**' as it is believed that they have coexisted with dinosaurs almost 70 million years ago.
- IUCN status – **Endangered**