

Two New Spider Species

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Two New Spider Species Latest News

Scientists at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have officially documented two newly discovered spider species named *Simonia lawbah* and *Hamataliwa papikonda* from contrasting and highly specialised ecosystems in Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh.

About *Simonia Lawbah*

- It is a new species of **cave-dwelling ray spider**.
- It was found inside **Krem Lawbah Cave in Meghalaya**.
- It belongs to the Theridiosomatidae family, commonly known as Ray Spiders. It marks the **first-ever record** of the **genus Simonia in India**.
- Measuring **less than two millimetres**, this tiny **cave-dwelling** spider is specially adapted to **life in perpetual darkness**.
- Scientists describe it as **troglophilic**, meaning it **thrives in cave environments** while **retaining the ability to survive outside** them under suitable conditions.

- Its most fascinating feature is the construction of an **intricate cone-shaped “ray web.”**
 - These “ray webs” function like **miniature slingshots**, allowing the spider to **launch its web at high speed to trap flying insects.**

About Hamataliwa Papikonda

- It is a new species of **lynx spider.**
- It was recorded in the mixed deciduous forest canopy of **Papikonda National Park** in **Andhra Pradesh.**
- It represents the first documented occurrence of the genus Hamataliwa in Andhra Pradesh.
- Measuring just under **5 mm**, the **yellow-bodied** spider belongs to the **lynx spider family Oxyopidae** and is an active predator that **does not build webs.**
- Instead, it relies on **speed, agility and its spiny legs to capture prey.**
- It has a **distinctive hexagonal arrangement of eight eyes**, which helps it **track and hunt insects** with precision.

News: PIB

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