

New Frog Species in Aravalis

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An **amphibian survey conducted by Delhi University professor** has found four new species of frogs in the Aravalli biodiversity area.

- The survey has found the presence of **eight frog species in Aravalli biodiversity park**.
 - The four species reported earlier are <u>Bull frog</u> (largest frog in India), **Indian** skipper frog, Narrow-mouthed frog (smallest land vertebrate from Delhi) and Pierrei's wart frog.
 - The four new species found this year are **Nepal's Wart Frog**, **Indian Toad**, **Indus Valley Toad and Indian burrowing Frog**.
- Since frogs are an environmental indicator, their presence indicates a relatively healthy ecosystem.

Indian Skipper Frog

- The species is **widely distributed in South Asia and South-east Asia**, from southeastern Iran, southern Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and eastern India at low to moderate elevations.
- They are often seen **at the edge of bodies of water** with their eyes above the water. They noisily move away from the shore when disturbed, giving them their common name.
- It is classified as **least concern** by the <u>IUCN</u>.

Pierrei's Wart Frog

- It is found in India and its adjacent countries Nepal Bangladesh and Bhutan.
- It is a common species associated with **paddy fields**.
- It is classified as **least concern** by the IUCN.

Nepal's Wart Frog

- It is a **small-sized frog native to northern and northeastern India,** Bangladesh, and Nepal.
- It is classified as **least concern** by the IUCN.

Indian Toad

- It is found widely from northern Pakistan through Nepal, Bangladesh, India including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and other southeast Asian countries.
- It lives mostly in **disturbed lowland habitats**, from upper beaches and riverbanks to human-dominated agricultural and urban areas but uncommon in closed forests.
- It is classified as **Near Threatened** by the IUCN.

Source: TOI