



## Dancing Frogs

[Source: DTE](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Wildlife Trust of India](#) has assessed the [2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Global Amphibian Assessment](#) coordinated by the Amphibian Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, which shows that the Dancing Frogs that are endemic to the [Western Ghats](#) are the most threatened amphibian genus of India.

- Of the 24 species of the frogs belonging to the *Micrixalus* genus that were assessed, **two were found to be critically endangered** and 15 were endangered. This makes them the **most threatened of all Indo-Malayan genera**.
- It is also the fifth most threatened genus in the world with 92% of its species in the threatened category.

### What are Dancing Frogs?

- **About:**
  - Dancing frogs, specifically from the ***Micrixalus* genus**, are a group of frogs.



- **Behavior and Mating Display:**
  - Dancing frogs exhibit a unique mating behavior characterized by **foot flagging, where males extend their hind legs and wave their webbed toes**.
  - This visual display helps in attracting female mates and signaling to rival males.
- **Habitat Preference:**

- They prefer **habitats with a thick canopy cover**, typically around 70-80 %, and are often **found near slow-moving perennial streams** within the Western Ghats.
- **Threats:**
  - The population of dancing frogs is threatened by various anthropogenic factors, including **invasive species like the Mosquito Fish**, land use change, temperature and humidity variations, extreme weather events, infectious diseases, water pollution, light pollution, and infrastructure projects such as dams.
  - Protecting the natural habitats and maintaining optimal living conditions are crucial for the survival of these species. However, **globally, amphibian populations are declining**, with a significant percentage categorized as threatened with extinction.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
  - Conservation initiatives, such as the Wildlife Trust of India's **Amphibian Recovery Project**, are actively working to address challenges that pose a risk of extinction to amphibian species.
  - These efforts include threat mitigation, conservation action planning, capacity development, training, advocacy, and information sharing.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/dancing-frogs>

