



Ophichthus Kailashchandrai: Snake Eel

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/ophichthus-kailashchandrai-snake-eel

Why in News

A new snake eel species residing in the Bay of Bengal has been discovered by the Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) at Gopalpur in Odisha.

The discovery of the new species suggests that the marine biodiversity of the long Indian coastline is considerably unexplored.



Key Points

- **Ophichthus kailashchandrai**
eighth species**Ophichthus genus**It is the of the found on the Indian coast.
The new marine species has been named as to honour the vast contributions of Dr Kailash Chandra (Director of Zoological Survey of India) to Indian animal taxonomy.
- **depth of around 50 metres**It lives at a in the sea.
- **420 mm to 462 mm in lengthlight brownnot poisonous.** It is and in colour, with white fins. The outer surface of their bodies is slimy but they are
- Their teeth are moderately elongated, conical and sharp and thus they feed on small fish and crabs.

Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC)

- **at Gopalpur on-sea Odisha****Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)****.regional centres of the**
Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) is one of the 16
- It was established in 1980 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The main objective of the Centre is to conduct surveys, explorations and research on the faunal diversity of estuaries, backwaters, lagoons and mangrove ecosystem of India.

Source: TH