Calamaria mizoramensis

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Species*

Why in News?

The new reed snake species was identified in Mizoram recently.

- It is a ***non-venomous reed snake*** species discovered in Mizoram.
- **Scientific Name –** Calamaria mizoramensis
- **Genus –** Calamaria, includes 69 recognised species globally, most of which are small, secretive and poorly studied.
- **Habitat –** It inhabits ***humid, forested hill regions*** between 670 and 1,295 metres in elevation, often near human settlements.
- **Distribution –** It is confirmed in Mizoram, whereas the possible presence is in Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, and Chittagong (Bangladesh).
- **Features –** It is ***small, secretive,*** with a ***dark brown to blackish body*** with faint stripes and a yellow underside.
- It adapted to underground habitats and poses no threat to humans.



- **Behaviour –** It is ***nocturnal*** (active at night) and ***semi-fossorial*** (lives partially underground or under leaf litter).
- **Genetic comparisons** – The Mizoram reed snake exhibits over 15% genetic divergence from related species, confirming its status as a new taxon.
- **Conservation Status** – Based on current data, it is tentatively listed as ***'Least Concern'*** under the IUCN Red List criteria.

References

1. Hindustan Times | New reed snake species identified in Mizoram
2. Assam Tribune | New snake species discovered in Mizoram

