

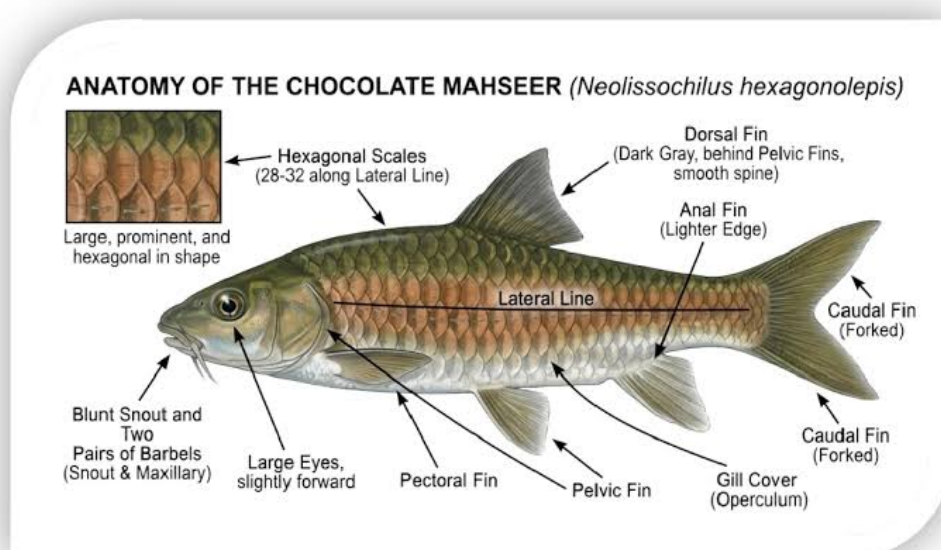
Chocolate Mahseer

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in news?

Sikkim Chief Minister recently released 'Chocolate Mahseer' fish into the Rangeet River during the Chirbirey River Fest near Jorethang.

- **Scientific name** - *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*.
- It is an indigenous freshwater ray-finned fish species.
- It is popularly referred to as the Copper Mahseer or locally as Katley in Sikkim.
- **Family** - Cyprinidae, the family which includes the carps, barbs and related fishes.
- **Distribution** - Found in hill streams and rivers of the Eastern Himalayan and Northeastern region in India.
- Also found in Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Sumatra; may also be present in China and Vietnam.
- **Habitat** - It thrives in cool, clear, fast-flowing, oxygen-rich waters with rocky or gravelly riverbeds.
- **Appearance & Size** - The species, known for its distinctive brown to dark chocolate colouration, can grow up to approximately 120 cm in length and weigh up to 11 kilograms.



- **Conservation Status**
 - IUCN - Near Threatened.
- **Threats** - Habitat degradation, overfishing, and climate change.

Quick Fact

Rangeet River

- **Rangeet River** - It is the largest tributary of the Teesta River and flows in the northeastern states of Sikkim and West Bengal.
- Known for its turbulent waters and pristine mountain surroundings, the perennial river serves as a major source of ecology, hydropower, and adventure tourism for the region.
- **Origin** - Originates from a Rathong glacier of Mount Kabru in the lower Kanchenjunga region within the West Sikkim district.
- **Flows through** - Sikkim, West Bengal and forms a natural boundary between Sikkim and the Darjeeling district of West Bengal.
- **Tributaries** - Joined by major streams including the Rammam River and Little Rangeet.
- **Confluence** - It joins the Teesta River at a famous confluence known as Tribeni (near Melli), which serves as a highly popular local picnic and camping spot.



References

1. [The Print | Sikkim CM bats for conserving indigenous fish species](#)
2. [Meghalaya Monitor | State fish of Meghalaya](#)



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