

Discovery of Two New Marine Species

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Why in News?

Recently, Scientists from ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), identified 2 new marine species from Indian waters.

Pachycheles ravichandrani (Porcelain Crab)

- **Location** - Coral reefs of Agatti Island, Lakshadweep.
- **Genus** - *Pachycheles*
- **Family** - Porcellanidae
- **Nomenclature** - Honours Dr M. Ravichandran, former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, for contributions to marine biodiversity exploration.
- **Distinct Traits** -
 - Setae along lateral ridges and posterior margin of carapace.
 - Tiny, 3 mm, fits on a fingertip.
 - Distinct gap between fingers of minor cheliped.
 - Truncate cutting edge of minor cheliped.



Bascanichthys chepakakiensis (Snake Eel)

- **Location** - Bay of Bengal, near Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh).

- **Genus** - *Bascanichthys*
- **Family** - Ophichthidae.
- **Nomenclature** - Derived from Telugu words *chepa* (fish) + *kaki* (short for Kakinada) meaning fish from Kakinada.
- **Methodology** - Morphological examination + mitochondrial DNA analysis confirmed new species status.
- **Distinct Traits** -
 - Dorsal-fin origin before middle of head.
 - Slightly darker head, dusky to dark-brown snout.



Reference

[ICAR | New Species](#)