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

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