New Bristle Worm Species

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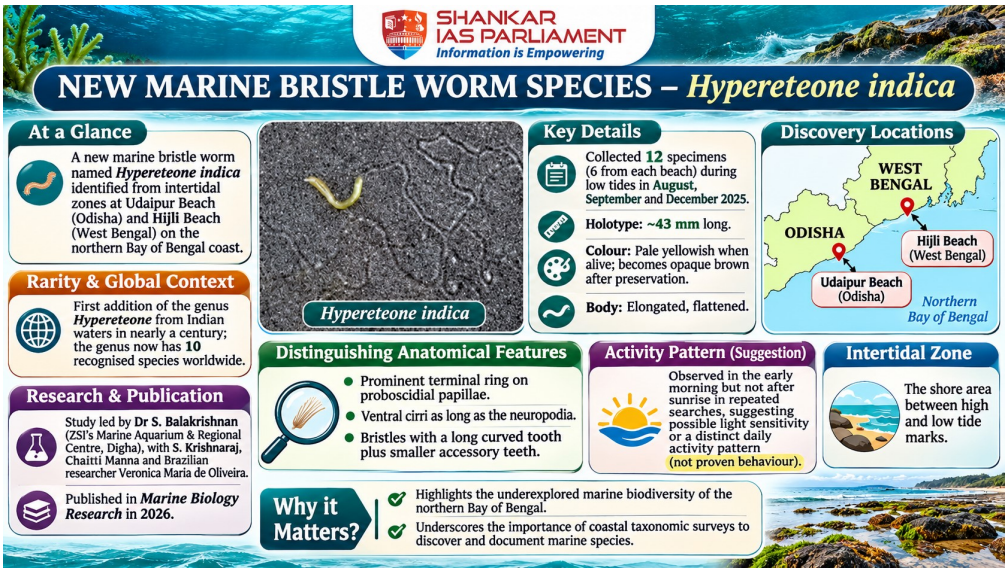
Why in News?

Researchers have discovered a new marine bristle worm species, Hypereteone indica, in the intertidal zones of Udaipur beach in Odisha and Hijli beach in West Bengal.

- **Taxonomy & Significance-** Belonging to the family Phyllodocidae and genus *Hypereteone*, this is the first addition to the genus from Indian waters in over 90 years, bringing the global count to 10 recognised species.
- **Collection & Behaviour-** Scientists collected 12 specimens (six from each beach) during low tides in August, September, and December 2025.
- The worms appeared in the early morning but vanished after sunrise, pointing to light sensitivity or a distinct daily activity cycle.
- **Physical Traits-** The worm has an elongated, flattened body and is pale yellowish when alive before turning opaque brown after preservation. The holotype measures about 43 mm.
- **Distinguishing Features-** It differs from close relatives through a prominent terminal ring on its proboscidial papillae, ventral cirri matching the length of the neuropodia, and bristles bearing a long, curved tooth alongside smaller accessory teeth.



Reference

[The Times of India| New Bristle Worm Species]



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