

New Catfish Species in Odisha

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Species

Why in News?

Recently, researchers reported the discovery of a new freshwater catfish species, *Pseudolaguvia khairii*, in the Budhabalanga River, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.

Taxonomy

- **Scientific Name** - *Pseudolaguvia khairii*
- **Genus** - *Pseudolaguvia* (small hillstream catfishes).
- **Order** - Siluriformes (catfish group).
- **Distribution** - Genus found in fast-flowing rivers of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar.
- **Species Count** - Adds to the diversity of Indian hillstream catfishes.

Features

- **Size** - Only a few centimetres long.
- **Unique Trait** - Fleshy protuberance at the base of dorsal fin (not recorded earlier in genus).
- **Adaptation** - Suited to fast-flowing freshwater rivers.
- **Nomenclature** - Khairi - Tigress rescued from Similipal forests in 1970s, raised by conservationist Saroj Raj Choudhury and Nihar Nalini Swain.



- **Role of Catfishes** - Indicators of healthy river ecosystems.
- **Hillstream Species** - Adapted to strong currents, important for ecological balance.

Reference

[New Indian Express | Pseudolaguviya Khairii](#)