

New Fish Species in Bay of Bengal

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) formally confirmed the discovery of a new species of marine eel named *Bathymyrus perplexus*.

- The species identification was completed after analyzing 32 specimens collected between 2021 and 2025 across multiple coastal landing sites along the Bay of Bengal.

Physical Characteristics

- **Taxonomy** - Belongs to the genus *Bathymyrus* within the family Congridae (Conger eels).
- **Morphological Attributes**
 - Displays a long, cylindrical body with coloration ranging from **pink to cloudy pink**.
 - Characterized by **heavy black pigmentation** on the upper part of the head and a distinct black streak running from the eye to the snout.
 - Possesses thin black margins bordering the outer edges of its dorsal and anal fins.
 - Features specialized teeth present along both the upper and lower jaws, as well as the head region.
- **Toxicity Status** - Non-venomous marine organism.
- **Habitat & Depth Distribution**
 - **Geographic Spread** - Recorded across the north-eastern Indian Ocean shelf, spanning coastal regions from West Bengal and Odisha down to Northern Andhra Pradesh (Godavari basin and Kakinada).
 - **Benthic Depth** - Inhabits demersal zone waters at depths ranging between **50 meters and 100 meters**.

Significance

- Adds a critical new taxon to the marine demersal fauna of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), underscoring the under-explored benthic diversity of the Bay of Bengal basin.
- DNA barcodes and physical holotypes preserved at ZSI Gopalpur serve as scientific reference points for future taxonomy and ecological baseline studies for marine fisheries management.



Reference

[ETV Bharat | New Fish Species Discovered In Bay Of Bengal](#)



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering