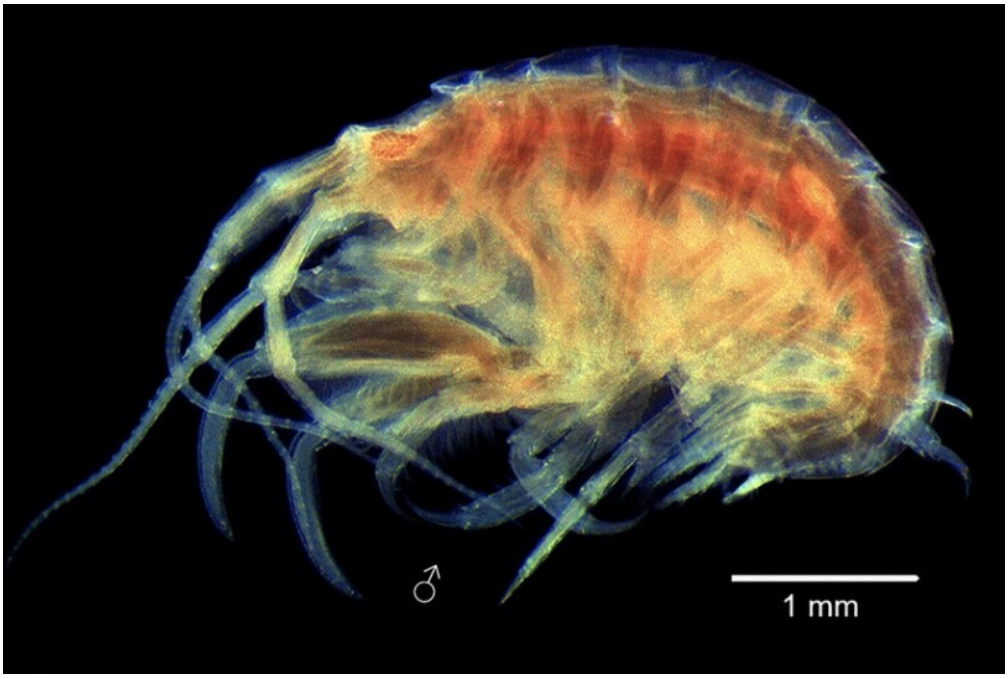
New Marine Amphipod in Indian Waters (Stenothoe lowryi)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Conservation*

Why in News?

Recently, a rare shrimp-like marine amphipod was recorded in Indian waters with findings published in the Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

- **Scientific Name –** Stenothoe lowryi.
- **Genus –** Stenothoe.
- **Habitat –** Intertidal rocky pools and coastal rock environments.
- **Distribution –** Recorded for the first time in Indian waters at Arjyapalli in ***Ganjam district, Odisha***, at least eight specimens were collected.
- Earlier recorded from Pangkor Island in the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia.
- **Key Characteristics –** Small Shrimp-like marine species (crustacean) with smooth bodies.
- Long antennae longer than the head and the first body segments.
- **Size –** About 5.5 mm in length
- Large claws and a preference for rocky environments.
- *Stenothoe lowryi* is morphologically similar to the ***closely related species Stenothoe gallensis.***
- **Ecological Significance –** Increases the number of stenothoid amphipod species recorded in South Asia.
- Believed to contribute to the marine food web.



- **Other related species discovery**
  - **Grandidierella geetanjalae** – It is a marine amphipod, a shrimp-like crustacea discovered from Chilika lagoon in Jan, 2026.
  - **Parhyale odian -** In 2022, the new species of marine amphipod from the Chilika lake at Barkul, named as ***Parhyale odian*** after Odisha's native language.

Reference

ToI | Stenothoe lowryi

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