

Dragon Fish

April 6, 2020

Why in news?

Bioluminescence has been witnessed in this fish.

What is bioluminescence?

- Bioluminescence is the **production and emission of light by a living organism.**
- It is a form of **chemiluminescence.**
- It occurs widely in **marine vertebrates and invertebrates**, as well as in some **fungi**, microorganisms including some **bioluminescent bacteria and terrestrial arthropods such as fireflies.**
- In some animals, the light is **bacteriogenic**, produced by symbiotic organisms such as *Vibrio* bacteria and in others, it is **autogenic**, produced by the animals themselves.
- In a general sense, the principal chemical reaction in bioluminescence involves some light-emitting molecule and an enzyme, generally called the **luciferin** and the **luciferase**, respectively.
- The **reaction takes place inside or outside the cell.**
- **In Dragonfish** (a scale less fish found inhabiting deep in the sea) there are special organs called **photophores that are known to produce light.**
- Apart from producing the **traditional blue-green colour**, they are also capable of **producing the red light** which helps them find their prey in the dark.