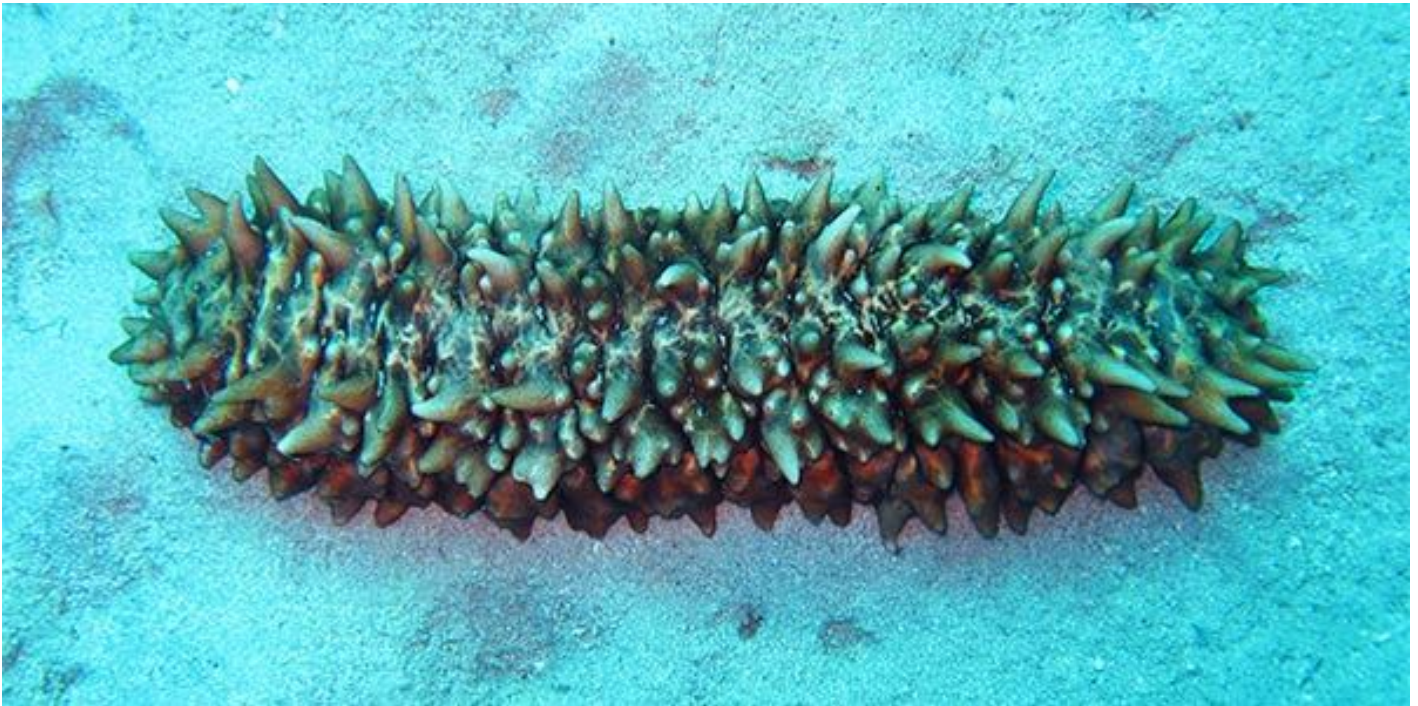


Sea Cucumber

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About Sea Cucumber

- This species is a part of a larger animal group called echinoderms and are invertebrates that live on the seafloor.
- Their body shape is similar to a cucumber, but they have small tentacle-like tube feet that are used for locomotion and feeding.
- There are about 1,250 species of sea cucumber, all of which belong to the taxonomic class Holothuroidea.
- Habitat:
 - They are found in all marine environments throughout the world, from shallow to deep-sea environments.
 - These are benthic, meaning they live on the ocean floor.
- They excrete inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus, enhancing the productivity of benthic biota.
- Reproduction:
 - They exhibit sexual and asexual reproduction.
 - Unlike most terrestrial animals, sea cucumber eggs undergo external fertilization—females release eggs into the water that are fertilized when they come into contact with sperm that males have released.
- Conservation status
 - CITES: Appendix II

Q1) What are Echinoderms?

These are a diverse group of marine animals belonging to the phylum Echinodermata. They are characterized by several unique features, including a radial symmetry, a spiny or prickly skin, and a water vascular system. Echinoderms are exclusively found in marine environments and are known for their remarkable regenerative abilities.

Source: [330 kg sea cucumber and 594 kg raw turmeric seized in Gulf of Mannar; 8 SL nationals among 12 held](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/c-cucumber/>

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