

Red Coral Kukri Snake

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Red Coral Kukri Snake Latest News

Recently, a rare Red Coral Kukri Snake species, last reported in 1936, was recently found trapped in a net in a village field near **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**.

About Red Coral Kukri Snake

- It is identified as **Oligodon kheriensis**.
- It is one of the rarest **non venomous snake species**.
- This **nocturnal and fossorial snake** is specialized with **curved teeth like kukri** (Nepalian Knife). Hence, they are called "Kukri".
- **Appearance:** Its **whole body including the head is uniform bright coral-red** without any patterns and the underside is yellowish or pinkish hence it is one of the most distinct snakes of its range.
- Its head is short, not broader than the neck and bears an obtusely pointed snout.
- **Distribution:** It is widely distributed in **lowlands (below 1500ft) of Himalayan foothills** from Uttarakhand, Nepal, northern parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal to Sikkim and western Assam.

Conservation Status of Red Coral Kukri Snake

- **IUCN:** Least Concern (LC)
- **Wild Life Protection Act:** Schedule -IV

Key Facts about Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

- It is located in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- It lies along the **India-Nepal border** in the foothills of the Himalayas and is part of the Terai Arc Landscape.
- **Rivers:** The river Gomti originates from the PTR, which is also the catchment of several others like Sharda, Chuka, and Mala Khannot.
- **Habitat:** The habitat is characterized by dense sal forests and tall alluvial grasslands, savannahs, and impenetrable swamps, maintained by periodic flooding from rivers.
- The **Sharda Sagar Dam**, extending up to a length of 22 km, is on the boundary of the reserve.
- It has a dry and hot climate, which brings a combination of dry teak forest and Vindhya Mountain soils.

Source: PTI

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/red-coral-kukri-snake/>

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