Cyrtodactylus jayadityai

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

Why in News?

A team of researchers has described a new species of bent-toed gecko from Tripura.

- It is a ***new bent-toed gecko species*** discovered in Tripura.

  Geckos are small, mostly carnivorous lizards known for their incredible climbing skills and unique vocalizations.

- **Nomenclature -** Named after their Assam-based herpetologist mentor Jayaditya Purkayastha.
- **Genus -** Cyrtodactylus, commonly known as bent-toed geckos, widely distributed across Asia.
- **Closest relative -** *Cyrtodactylus tripuraensis*, based on mitochondrial DNA data.
- **Habitat -** Inhabits lowland forest patches in North Tripura district, occupying a ***highly restricted range*** of 8-12 square km.
- **Behaviour -** It is primarily ***nocturnal,*** emerging at night to forage and retreating into burrows and crevices during the day.
- **Classification -** The researchers categorised the gecko as ***'data deficient'*** due to limited data on its distribution and exposure to habitat disturbance.
- **Threats -**Increasing human activity and environmental degradation.



Reference

The Hindu | Cyrtodactylus jayadityai

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