

Laudankia Vine Snake

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Why in News?

Recently, wildlife enthusiasts photographed the rare *Laudankia Vine Snake* in Udaipur's Ubeshwar area, the first sighting in 30 years.

- **Common Name** - Laudankia Vine Snake
- **Scientific Name** - *Ahaetulla laudankia*.
- **Habitat** - Diurnal and arboreal species inhabit dry deciduous forests, scrublands, hill slopes, and other natural green habitats.
- **Appearance** - Slender, vine-like body, chestnut-brown colour with fine black speckles, and pale white patches on the lower part of its head.
- A long, pointed snout, large eyes, and horizontal pupils.



- **Length** - Adults 80 cm - 1.5 metres
- **Geographical distribution** - Endemic to India, eastern ghats through central India to eastern Rajasthan.
- Due to its extremely limited records in Rajasthan, it is considered a rare species in the state.
- **Diet** - Mainly consists of lizards, geckos, small frogs, and small birds.
- **Venom** - It is mildly venomous, but its venom affects only small prey and

is not dangerous to humans.

Reference

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