Laudankia Vine Snake

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

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

ToI | Laudankia Vine Snake