Malleco Spiny-chest Frog (Alsodes vittatus)

Prelims *– General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change.*

Mains *– GS III | Conservation.*

Why in News?

Researchers discovered a rare amphibian, once thought to be extinct has resurfaced in Chile, South America recently.

- Alsodes vittatus is a rare small frog known is ***endemic to Chile, America.***
- **First described by -** The German-born naturalist ***Rudolph Amandus Philippi*** in 1902 (based on specimens collected in 1893).
- **Habitat –** Limited, in isolated mountain streams of Chile.
- **Appearance -** Adult males ranged from light brown with yellow and green hues to olive brown, while some juveniles showed darker brown colors.
- **Distinctive feature -** A yellowish stripe running the length of its back.
- In some individuals, this stripe was prominent, while in others, it was completely absent.
- The Alsodes vittatus populations were found to be genetically close to *Alsodes neuquensis*, a species previously known only from Argentina.
- **Conservation Status -** Despite significant threats to the species, researchers have suggested reevaluating the frog's conservation category from Critically Endangered to Endangered.
- **Threats -** Deforestation, the expansion of livestock grazing, invasive species like introduced trout (which may prey on tadpoles), and the looming dangers of climate change.



Reference

Daily Galaxy | Alsodes Vittatus

