Portulaca bharat

Prelims: Current events of National Importance | Conservation

Why in News?

New plant species discovered in Aravali hills landscape near Jaipur.

- It is a ***new species of flowering plant*** named after Bharat serves as a symbolic reminder of India's rich and still-unfolding natural heritage.
- **Genus** - **Portulaca** currently comprises about 153 species worldwide, primarily found in tropical and subtropical regions.
- These succulent plants are known for their toughness, water-storing tissues, and adaptation to extreme environments.
- In India, 11 species are currently known, including four endemics, mostly distributed in dry and semi-arid habitats.
- **Habitat** - Discovered in the rocky and semi-arid landscape of Aravali hills.
- **Appearance** – It has opposite and slightly conclave leaves and pale-yellow flowers becoming creamish-white towards apex, with the presence of glandular hairs on stamen filaments and thick roots.
- It added to the list of India's endemics.
- The plant's narrow endemism and specific habitat requirements make it *highly vulnerable* to habitat degradation and climate change.
- It has been provisionally assessed as ***"data deficient"*** under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List guidelines.

Reference

The Hindu | Portulaca bharat