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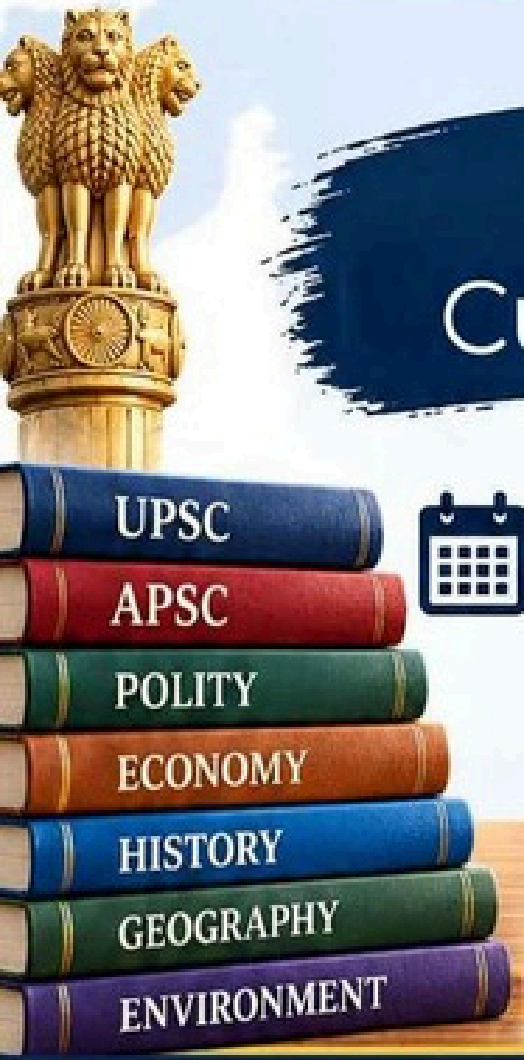
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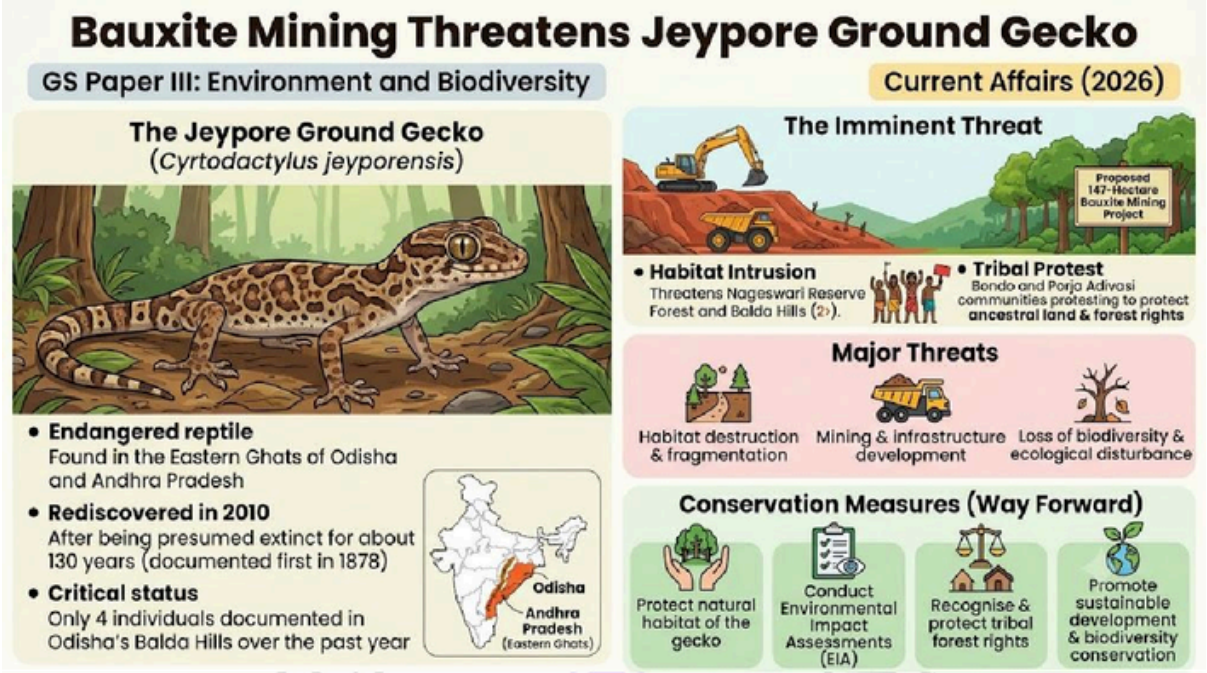


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GS Paper III: Environment and Biodiversity

Bauxite Mining Threatens Jeypore Ground Gecko



- **Jeypore ground gecko is an endangered reptile found in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.**
- **It was first documented in 1878 and rediscovered in 2010 after being presumed extinct for about 130 years.**
- **Only four individuals were documented in Odisha's Balda Hills over the past year.**
- **A proposed 147-hectare bauxite mining project in the Nageswari Reserve Forest threatens its habitat.**
- **The Bondo and Porja Adivasi communities have protested against the mining project, citing concerns over their ancestral land and forest rights.**

Major Threats:

- Habitat destruction and fragmentation.
- Mining and infrastructure development.
- Loss of biodiversity and disturbance of fragile ecosystems.

Conservation Measures:

- Protect the gecko's natural habitat.
- Conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).
- Recognise and protect the legitimate forest rights of tribal communities.
- Promote sustainable development and biodiversity conservation

Prelims Questions

The Jeypore ground gecko is primarily associated with which geographical region?

A. Western Ghats

B. Eastern Ghats

C. Aravalli Hills

D. Western Himalayas

Answer: B. Eastern Ghats

Mains Question (GS Paper III):

How does mining threaten biodiversity in ecologically sensitive regions? Discuss the measures required to balance mineral development with environmental conservation. (150 words)

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