

Keoladeo National Park

Why in News?

The Rajasthan Government has proposed to construct a zoo inside <u>Keoladeo National Park</u>, a <u>World Heritage Site</u> popularly known as **Bharatpur bird sanctuary**, to display a range of wetland species.

The purpose of this zoo, called Wetland ex-situ Conservation Establishment (WESCE), is to display
a range of wetland species, including rhinos, water buffaloes, crocodiles, dolphins and exotic
species.

What is the Purpose of WESCE?

- The WESCE aims to rejuvenate the biodiversity of Keoladeo National Park, thereby boosting
 its outstanding universal values.
- The WESCE plan is part of the ambitious Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBDP) for which Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the overseas development arm of the French government, has agreed to fund up to Rs 12 crore over eight years.
- Several facilities are planned inside Keoladeo National Park, including,
 - A breeding and reintroduction centre for locally extinct species (otters, fishing cats, blackbucks, hog deer, etc).
 - An aquarium for indigenous species like <u>Gangetic Dolphin</u>, <u>crocodiles</u>; enclosures for the display of large wetland species like Indian Rhino, Water Buffalo, Barasingha (swamp deer); etc.

What are the Key Points of Keoladeo National Park?

About:

- Keoladeo National Park is a wetland and bird sanctuary located in Bharatpur,
 Rajasthan. It is a <u>UNESCO World Heritage Site</u> and one of the most important bird-watching areas in the world.
 - Chilika Lake (Orissa) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were recognized as the first Ramsar Sites of India in 1981.
 - Currently, Keoladeo National Park and <u>Loktak Lake (Manipur)</u> are in <u>Montreux</u> record.
- It is known for its rich avian diversity and abundance of waterbirds. The park is home
 to over 365 species of birds, including several rare and threatened species, such
 as the Siberian crane.
- Different species from far-flung areas of the northern hemisphere visit the Sanctuary for breeding. The Siberian crane is one of the rare species that can be spotted here.

• Fauna:

• Animals such as Jackals, Sambar, Nilgai, wild cats, hyenas, wild boar, porcupine and mongoose can be found in the region.

Flora:

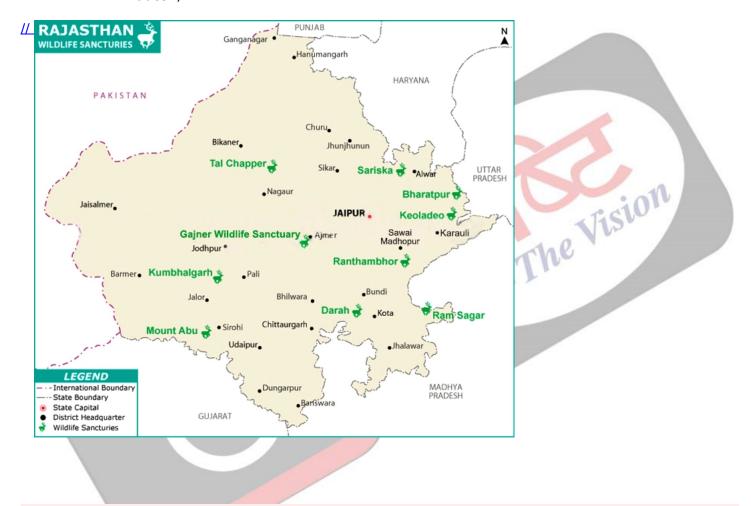
• The principal vegetation types are tropical dry deciduous forest dominated by Acacia nilotica intermixed with dry grassland.

River:

• Gambhir and Banganga are two rivers that flow through this National Park.

What are Protected Areas in Rajasthan?

- Tiger Reserves:
 - Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in Sawai Madhopur
 - Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar
 - Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota
- National Park:
 - Desert National Park, Jaisalmer
- Wildlife Sanctuary:
 - Sajjangarh wildlife sanctuary, Udaipur
 - National Chambal Sanctuary (on tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh).



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2014)

	Wetlands	Confluence of Rivers
1.	Harike Wetlands	Confluence of Beas and Satluj/Sutlej
2.	Keoladeo Ghana	Confluence of Banas National Park and Chambal
3.	Kolleru Lake	Confluence of Musi and Krishna

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Source: IE

