



# Keoladeo National Park

## Why in News?

The Rajasthan Government has proposed to construct a zoo inside [Keoladeo National Park](#), a [World Heritage Site](#) 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 [Gangetic Dolphin](#), [crocodiles](#); 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 [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) 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 [Loktak Lake \(Manipur\)](#) are in [Montreux 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:**
  - [Sajjargarh 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)**

	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Confluence of Rivers</b>
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)**

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