

Illegal Construction Near Sultanpur National Park

Why in News?

Recently, The <u>Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of Forest and Wildlife</u> directed the district administration to submit a report to the <u>Ministry of Environment</u>, <u>Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC)</u> regarding **illegal constructions** near <u>Sultanpur National Park</u> and their current status.

Key Points

- Committee to Monitor Illegal Construction:
 - In March 2024, a committee was formed to monitor illegal construction activities in the <u>restricted zone</u> surrounding the <u>national park</u>.
 - It was found that several illegal colonies are being developed in the Farukhnagar areas near Sultanpur National Park.
 - Construction activities within the **sensitive zones** violate the provisions of the zonal master plan for **eco- sensitive zones**.
- Compliance with Regulations:
 - Officials were instructed to ensure strict compliance with structural construction regulations in the areas surrounding the national park.
 - Action should be taken against those who fail to comply with these regulations.

Sultanpur National Park

- About:
 - Sultanpur National Park is a bird paradise for bird watchers. It is famous for its migratory as well as resident birds.
 - Migratory birds start arriving in the park in September. Birds use the park as a resting place till the following March-April.
 - During <u>summer</u> and <u>monsoon</u> months the park is inhabited by many local bird species.
 - In April 1971, the <u>Sultanpur Jheel</u> inside the park (an area of 1.21 sq. Km.) was accorded_ <u>Sanctuary</u> status under section 8 of the <u>Punjab Wildlife Preservation Act</u>, 1959.
 - The status of the park was upgraded to **National Park** under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** in July 1991.
- Location:
 - It is situated in Gurgaon district of Haryana. The distance of the park is around 50 Km from Delhi and 15km from Gurgaon.
- Important Fauna at the Park:
 - Mammals: <u>Blackbuck</u>, <u>Nilgai</u>, Hog deer, Sambar, <u>Leopard</u> etc.
 - Birds: Siberian Cranes, Greater Flamingo, Demoiselle Crane etc.

