



Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha

Why in News

Recently, **six elephants died of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) in Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary** located in Odisha's Kalahandi district.

Key Points

▪ Haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS)

◦ About:

- It is a disease which infects animals that come in contact with contaminated water or soil by a **contagious bacteria (*Pasteurella multocida*)**.
- In this disease the respiratory tract and lungs of the animals are affected, leading to **severe pneumonia**.

◦ Affected Animals:

- It mainly affects water buffalo, cattle and bison with a high mortality rate in infected animals.
- Recently, around 40 buffaloes had succumbed to the infection in Odisha's Kendrapara.

◦ Season:

- The disease generally spreads in the period right before and after the **monsoons**.

▪ Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** It is spread over 175 square kilometre area in Odisha's Kalahandi district.
- **Vegetation:** Dry Deciduous Forest.
- **Fauna:**

- **Mammals:** [Elephant](#), [Leopard](#), [Gaur](#), [Sambar](#), Barking deer, Indian wolf, [Malbar giant squirrel](#), [Pangolin](#), etc.
- **Birds:** Peacock, [Hornbill](#), Red jungle fowl, etc.
- **Reptilians:** [Mugger](#), crocodile, monitor lizard etc.

- **Flora:** Sal, Bija, Bamboo, medicinal plants, etc.
- **Water Body:** **Phurlijharan waterfall** is located within the sanctuary.

▪ Major Protected Areas in Odisha:

◦ National Parks:

- **[Bhitarkanika National Park](#):** It is home to the largest congregation of the endangered **SaltWater Crocodile** in the country.
- **[Simlipal National Park](#):** It derives its name from the **abundance of Semul or red silk cotton trees** that bloom abundantly in the locality.

◦ Wildlife Sanctuaries:

- **Badrama WLS:** It is characterized by the presence of **Moist Sal Forests**.
- **Chilika (Nalaban island) WLS:** Asia's largest and world's second-largest lagoon. Recently, direct sightings of school of Irrawaddy dolphins has been reported here.
- **Hadgarh WLS: Salandi river passes** through it which is home to mugger crocodiles.
- **Baisipalli WLS:** It is a sal dominated forest with a significant number of tigers, leopards, elephants, herbivores like **Chousingha**.
- **Kotagarh WLS:** It consists of dense deciduous forests with grasslands.
- **Nandankanan WLS:** First in the world to breed White tiger and Melanistic tiger.
- **Lakhari Valley WLS:** The Lakhari Valley Sanctuary is a dwelling place of a large number of elephants.
- **Gahirmatha (Marine) WLS:** It is a mass nesting spot in Indian Ocean region and the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha. **The Olive Ridley turtles** travel across the South Pacific to breed on the coast of Gahirmatha

Source:IE

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