



# Utricularia Found in Keoladeo National Park

## Why in News?

Recently, a rare and unique carnivorous plant, '**Utricularia**,' has been discovered in Rajasthan's [Keoladeo National Park](#).

- Commonly known as bladderworts, this plant is typically **found in regions like Meghalaya and Darjeeling**.



## Key Points

- **Role in Biodiversity:**
  - Experts believe the **presence of bladderworts in the park enhances biodiversity** and positively contributes to the ecosystem of Keoladeo.
  - Utricularia **plays a vital role in maintaining environmental balance** by capturing small insects.
    - It was **last discovered in India in 2021 in the Mandal Valley of Chamoli, Uttarakhand**, after a 36-year gap.
- **Feeding Mechanism:**
  - The plant entraps creatures such as **protozoa, insects, larvae, mosquitoes, and tadpoles in its bladder-like traps**.
    - **Once trapped, the organism dies** inside the bladder.
  - Terrestrial species of Utricularia thrive in soil filled with water, where they capture small swimming creatures.
- **Ideal Growth Conditions:**
  - The **growth of Utricularia is due to the abundant water supply from the Panchana Dam**, which creates ideal conditions for the plant's growth.

## Keoladeo National Park

▪ **About:**

- It is a **wetland** and bird sanctuary and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** located in **Bharatpur, Rajasthan**.
  - **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 the **Montreux Record**.
- It is known for its **rich avian diversity** and abundance of **waterbirds** and is home to over **365 species of birds**, including several **rare and threatened species**, such as the **Siberian crane**.

▪ **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

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