



Utricularia Found in Keoladeo National Park | Rajasthan | 17 Jan 2025

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

Great Indian Bustards | Rajasthan | 17 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Researchers spotted 12 [Great Indian Bustards \(GIBs\)](#) at [Desert National Park \(DNP\)](#) in Rajasthan. This provides a **major boost to efforts to conserve** one of India's most critically endangered species.

Key Points

- **GIB Population Status:**
 - The GIB is **critically endangered**, with **only 173 birds remaining**.
 - Of these, 128 are found in the wild, and the remaining birds are bred in captivity.
 - Besides Rajasthan, the species is **also found in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka**.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
 - The GIB was listed as "**critically endangered**" by the [IUCN Red List](#) in 2011 due to hunting, habitat loss, and fragmentation.
 - In response, **Rajasthan launched a Rs 12.90 crore project in 2013 to conserve the species**, focusing on protecting its habitat and improving breeding conditions.
 - The **project has led to the successful breeding of 45 chicks** in two locations, Sam and Ramdevra.
- **Habitat Protection and Breeding:**
 - The birds spotted were born in the wild, mostly females aged three to four years, with some males up to one year old.
 - Efforts to protect their habitat include **improving grasslands and fencing areas to shield the birds from predators** such as [desert foxes](#), cats, and [mongooses](#).
- **Milestone in Conservation:**
 - In 2018, [the Wildlife Institute of India](#), along with the Rajasthan government and the Forest Department, established [the National Conservation Breeding Centre in Jaisalmer](#).
 - In **October 2024**, Rajasthan achieved a milestone when a GIB chick successfully

hatched through artificial insemination.

Great Indian Bustard



▪ About:

- The **Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*)**, the **State bird of Rajasthan**, is considered India's most critically endangered bird.
- It is **considered the flagship grassland species**, representing the health of the grassland ecology.

▪ Protection Status:

- **IUCN Red List**: Critically Endangered
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**: Appendix 1
- **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**: Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule I

Desert National Park

- It is situated in **Jaisalmer & Barmer Districts of Rajasthan**.
- Great Indian Bustards, **Rajasthan State animal- Chinkara** and **State tree- khejri** and **State flower- Rohida** are found naturally at this park.
- It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1980** and **National Park** in **1992**.