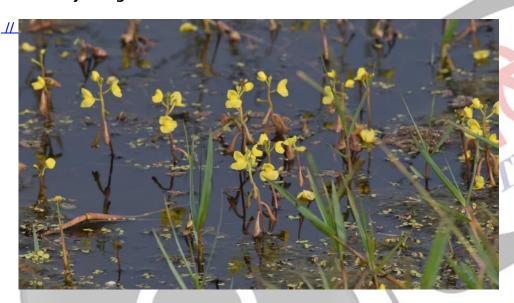


# Utricularia Found in Keoladeo National Park | Rajasthan | 17 Jan 2025

## 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.

ne Vision

- 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 <u>protozoa</u>, insects, <u>larvae</u>, <u>mosquitoes</u>, 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 <u>wetland</u> and bird sanctuary and a <u>UNESCO World Heritage Site</u> located in **Bharatpur**, **Rajasthan**.
  - <u>Chilika Lake</u> (**Orissa**) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were recognized as the first <u>Ramsar Sites</u> of India in **1981**.
  - Currently, Keoladeo National Park and <u>Loktak Lake (Manipur)</u> are in the <u>Montreux Record.</u>
- 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, <u>nilgai</u>, wild cats, <u>hyenas</u>, wild boar, <u>porcupine</u> and <u>mongoose</u> 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 <u>IUCN Red List</u> 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 <u>desert foxes</u>, cats, and <u>mongooses</u>.

### • 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 laisalmer.
  - In October 2024, Rajasthan achieved a milestone when a GIB chick successfully

## **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- <u>Chinkara</u> and State tree- <u>khejri</u> and State flower- <u>Rohida</u> are found naturally at this park.
- It was declared a <u>UNESCO World Heritage Site</u> in 1980 and <u>National Park</u> in 1992.