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KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK

This article covers “Daily current events “and the topic is about ‘Keoladeo national park’ which is in news, it covers the “Environment and ecology” In GS-3, the following content has relevance for UPSC.

For Prelims: About Keoladeo Ghana national park

For Mains: GS-3, environment and ecology

Why in news:

- In order to present a variety of wetland species, the Rajasthan government has suggested building a zoo inside Keoladeo National Park, a World Heritage Site also known as the Bharatpur bird sanctuary.
- **Wetland ex-situ Conservation Establishment (WESCE)** is a zoo with the aim of exhibiting a variety of wetland species, such as rhinos, water buffaloes, crocodiles, dolphins, and exotic species.

AIM OF WESCE

- The **Keoladeo National Park's** exceptional universal values will be enhanced by the WESCE's goal of revitalizing the park's biodiversity.
- The ambitious Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBDP), for which the French government's overseas development agency, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), has agreed to provide funding of up to Rs 12 crore over eight years, includes the WESCE plan.
- A breeding and reintroduction center for locally extinct species is one of the facilities planned for this Park (otters, fishing cats, blackbucks, hog deer, etc).
- An aquarium for native animals like Gangetic Dolphins and Crocodiles; enclosures for the display of huge wetland animals like Indian Rhinos, Water Buffalo, and Barasingha (swamp deer); etc.

ABOUT KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK

- The Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, now known as the Keoladeo National Park or Keoladeo Ghana National Park, is located in Rajasthan's Bharatpur District. It is known for its vast assemblage of non-migratory resident breeding birds and serves as a significant wintering area for Palaearctic migratory waterfowl. In this patchwork of grasslands, forests, woodland swamps, and wetlands totaling just 2,873 hectares, a green nature oasis located inside a populous human-dominated landscape, about 375 bird species and a rich array of other life forms have been recorded.
- This "Bird Paradise" was created in a natural depression marsh that was run as a duck shooting reserve at the turn of the 20th century.
- Due to its advantageous location in the middle of the Central Asian migratory flyway and in the winter, enormous flocks of ducks, geese, coots, pelicans, and waders arrive.
- One of the most significant places in the world for birdwatching, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- In 1981, Chilika Lake in Orissa and Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan were designated as the country's first Ramsar Sites.
- The Montreux record currently belongs to Keoladeo National Park and Loktak Lake (Manipur).
- It is renowned for having a wide variety of birds, particularly waterbirds. More than 365 different bird species may be seen in the park, including numerous endangered and unusual ones like the Siberian crane.
- The Sanctuary serves as a breeding ground for a variety of species from remote regions of the northern hemisphere. One of the uncommon species that can be seen here is the Siberian crane.
- The region is home to a variety of animals, including jackals, sambars, nilgais, wild cats, hyenas, wild boars, porcupines, and mongooses.

Flora:

The main forms of vegetation are tropical dry deciduous woodland, with *Acacia nilotica* as its dominant species, combined with dry grassland.

River: This National Park is crossed by the rivers Banganga and Gambhir.

Piyush Singh