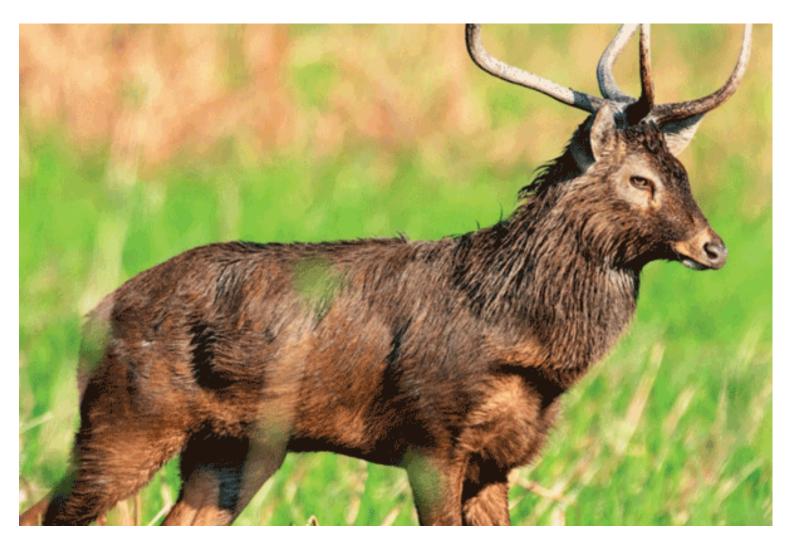
IT IAS Toppers

Sangai

By IASToppers | 2023-11-25 15:40:00



Sangai

The Manipur Government has raised concerns with the Centre regarding a hydro-electric modernization plan for Loktak Lake, stating it could pose a threat to the endangered Sangai deer species and disrupt the lake's biodiversity.

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About Sangai deer:

- The sangai is an endemic and endangered subspecies of Eld's deer found only in Manipur.
- It is the state animal of Manipur.
- Its original natural habitat is the floating marshy grasslands of the Keibul Lamjao National Park, located in the southern parts of the Loktak Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in eastern India.
- **Conservation status**: Schedule-1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Endangered on IUCN Red List.

Features:

- It is a medium-sized deer, with **uniquely distinctive antlers**, with **extremely long brow tine**, which form the **main beam**.
- It has a dark reddish brown winter coat, which turns paler in summer.
- The females give birth to fawns throughout the year.
- The deer walks on the hind surface of its pasterns with mincing hops over floating foliage, earning



it the nickname Dancing Deer.

Threat:

- Sangai faces threat from steadily **degenerating habitat of phumdi** as a result of **continuous inundation** and **flooding caused due to artificial reservoir**.
- The reservoir's water quality is **deteriorating** due to **pollution** and the **i stoppage of nutrient supply**.
- Additionally, non-native plants like **Paragrass are invading the area**, contributing to a decline in the **phumdi's area**.
- Sangai faces threats of diseases from the livestock, inbreeding depression and poaching.

About Loktak lake:

- Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in northeast India.
- It is renowned for being home to the country's only floating national park Keibul Lamjao.
 Keibul Lamjao was created in 1966 as a wildlife sanctuary
- It is famous for its floating vegetation, known as phumdis.
- It was included on the **Montreux Record in 1993** as a result of **ecological problems** such as deforestation in the catchment area, infestation of water hyacinth, and pollution.
 - The **Montreux Record** is a register of wetland sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference