Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

Recently, a faunal survey in Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary recorded several species for the first time, significantly enriching its biodiversity profile.

- It is ***Kerala's youngest wildlife sanctuary***, known for its rich and diverse fauna.
- **Declared in –** 2020.
- **Declared under –** The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Location –** Located in the Nilambur Forest Division, Malappuram district, Kerala.
- Lies on the western slopes of the Nilgiris.
- **River –** Named after the ***Karimpuzha River, a tributary of the Chaliyar River.***
- **Habitat –** Ranges from low-elevation forests to montane ecosystems, contributing to high species diversity.
- **Topography –** Sharp elevation gradient characterised by steep hills, deep valleys, marshy lands, grasslands, and hillocks.
- **Recent survey Findings –**

Category	Key Species
New Bird Records	• Grey heron, Grey-headed fish eagle, Tawny-bellied babbler, blue rock thrush, yellow wagtail, Eurasian hoopoe, Common hawk cuckoo, Barn owl.

New Butterfly Additions	• Noteworthy records included the – - Black angle, - Common grass dart, - Indian dartlet, - Giant red-eye, Moore's ace, - Malabar flash, - White-tipped lineblue, - Red admiral, - Yellow jack sailor, - Small leopard, - Common sailor, - Black rajah, - Small grass yellow.
New Odonate Records	• Odonata is an order of flying insects that includes the dragonflies and damselflies. • New species recorded include – - *Merogomphus tamaracherriensis,* - *Potamarcha congener,* - *Rhodothemis rufa,* - *Tetrathemis platyptera,* - *Urothemis signata,* - *Ceriagrion coromandelianum,* - *Ceriagrion rubiae*
New Ecological Observation	• First-time observation of ***altitudinal migration of butterflies*** (Examples - Common albatross, Lesser albatross, Plain puffin).

- **Protected Forests –** The sanctuary will comprise the new Amarambalam reserve forest and Vadakkekotta vested forest.
    - **Exception –** The *Manjeri colony of the primitive Cholanaikar tribes* has been exempted from the sanctuary.
- **Ecological Significance –** Forms a critical ecological landscape between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- **Wildlife Connectivity –** It borders the *Mukurthi National Park to the south and the Silent Valley National Park* buffer zone to the northeast.

References

1. TH | Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary
2. The Hindu | Karimpuzha sanctuary comes into being



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