

Saraswathi Wildlife Sanctuary

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

The sanctuary recently gained prominence following the development of Nakshatra Vatika (Constellation Garden) in its Pehowa region.

- It is Located in Kaithal district of **Haryana**.
- It is also known as Seonsar Forest.
- **Geography** - It is associated with the mythical **Saraswati River**.
- It holds the distinction of being the 3rd-largest forest in the state, right after Kalesar National Park and Morni Hills.
- It lies in the **Shivalik foothills of the Himalayas**.
- **Establishment**- Declared as a wildlife sanctuary in the year 1982.
- It is officially designated as a Conservation Reserve on **October 11, 2007**.
- **Archaeological Finds** - Excavations within the sanctuary have unburied ancient rectangular bricks belonging to the **Kushan and Gupta periods**, proving human habitation dating back over 1,500 years.
- It also houses a 400-year-old **Mughal-era water well** built using small lakhauri bricks.
- **Flora**- Dominated by tropical dry deciduous forests.
- Common tree species include sal, shisham, arjun, and khejri.
- It also features scrub forest and grasslands.
- **Fauna- Mammals** - Leopards, jackals, wild boars, rhesus macaques, nilgai, barking deer.
- **Birds** - Peafowl, hornbills, and other native and migratory birds.
- **Reptiles**- Various snakes and lizards.
- **Threats** - Human encroachment, illegal logging, poaching, and habitat fragmentation.
- Efforts are ongoing for conservation and anti-poaching activities by forest department.

Reference

[Times of India | Saraswathi Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

