

Wild Buffalo Reintroduction in Madhya Pradesh

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

Why in news?

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh released eight wild buffaloes from a small enclosure into a larger enclosure spread over 17 hectares.

- **About the reintroduction Programme** - The 8 wild buffaloes were brought from Kaziranga National Park in Assam, including six females and two males.
- **Aim** - To strengthen biodiversity conservation and restore the species to its former habitat in Madhya Pradesh.
- After the monsoon season, the animals are expected to move towards the next stage of adaptation to their natural surroundings.
- **Target** - To bring a total of 50 wild buffaloes back to the Kanha region over the next three years.

Indian Wild Buffalo

- **Scientific name** - Bubalus arnee.
- It is also known as the wild water buffalo. The Asian buffalo is an endangered bovid native to the Indian subcontinent and the ancestor of the domestic water buffalo.
- **Distribution** - India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and Thailand. In India, the wild buffaloes are found in Assam and Chhattisgarh.
- **Habitat** - Inhabits wet grasslands, floodplains, marshes, and river valleys with access to wallows and water holes.
- **Size & Weight** - Weighs between 600 and 1,200 kg with massive, crescent-shaped horns spanning up to 2 meters (the longest horns of any bovid).
- **Diet** - They are preferential grazers, feeding mostly on graminoids (grasses) and sedges, though they occasionally raid crops like rice and sugarcane.



- **Conservation Status**
 - IUCN - Threatened.
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** - Schedule I.
- **State Animal** - Designated as the state animal of Chhattisgarh.
- **Threats** - Crossbreeding with domestic buffalo, poaching, shrinkage and destruction of the habitat.

References

1. [AIR | MP begins wild buffalo reintroduction in Kanha after nearly a century](#)
2. [DD News | Wild buffaloes return to MP after century](#)