



Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/karlapat-wildlife-sanctuary-odisha

Why in News

Recently, **six elephants died of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) in Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary** located in Odisha's Kalahandi district.

Key Points

Haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS)

- **About:**
 - It is a disease which infects animals that come in contact with contaminated water or soil by a **contagious bacteria (*Pasteurella multocida*)**.
 - In this disease the respiratory tract and lungs of the animals are affected, leading to **severe pneumonia**.
- **Affected Animals:**
 - It mainly affects water buffalo, cattle and bison with a high mortality rate in infected animals.
 - Recently, around 40 buffaloes had succumbed to the infection in Odisha's Kendrapara.
- **Season:**

The disease generally spreads in the period right before and after the **monsoons**.

- **Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary**

- **Location:** It is spread over 175 square kilometre area in Odisha's Kalahandi district.
- **Vegetation:** Dry Deciduous Forest.
- **Fauna:**
 - **Mammals:** Elephant, Leopard, Gaur, Sambar, Barking deer, Indian wolf, Malbar giant squirrel, Pangolin, etc.
 - **Birds:** Peacock, Hornbill, Red jungle fowl, etc.
 - **Reptilians:** Mugger, crocodile, monitor lizard etc.
- **Flora:** Sal, Bija, Bamboo, medicinal plants, etc.
- **Water Body:** Phurlijharan waterfall is located within the sanctuary.

- **Major Protected Areas in Odisha:**

- **National Parks:**
 - **Bhitarkanika National Park:** It is home to the largest congregation of the endangered **SaltWater Crocodile** in the country.
 - **Simlipal National Park:** It derives its name from the **abundance of Semul or red silk cotton trees** that bloom abundantly in the locality.
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:**
 - **Badrama WLS:** It is characterized by the presence of **Moist Sal Forests**.
 - **Chilika (Nalaban island) WLS:** Asia's largest and world's second-largest lagoon. Recently, direct sightings of school of Irrawaddy dolphins has been reported here.
 - **Hadgarh WLS:** **Salandi river passes** through it which is home to mugger crocodiles.
 - **Baisipalli WLS:** It is a sal dominated forest with a significant number of tigers, leopards, elephants, herbivores like **Chousingha**.
 - **Kotagarh WLS:** It consists of dense deciduous forests with grasslands.
 - **Nandankanan WLS:** First in the world to breed White tiger and Melanistic tiger.
 - **Lakhari Valley WLS:** The Lakhari Valley Sanctuary is a dwelling place of a large number of elephants.
 - **Gahirmatha (Marine) WLS:** It is a mass nesting spot in Indian Ocean region and the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha. **The Olive Ridley turtles** travel across the South Pacific to breed on the coast of Gahirmatha

Source:IE