



Keibul Lamjao National Park

Why in News?

Manipur's Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP) residents oppose the site's relocation.

- People argue that the proposed site has **no connection with efforts to save the endangered deer**. On the other hand, the people in surrounding villages have been doing everything possible to protect the deer.

What are the Important Facts about Keibul Lamjao National Park?

- It is the only **floating National Park in the world**, the Keibul Lamjao National Park located on the **Loktak Lake** is the last natural habitat of the 'Sangai' (*Rucervus eldii eldii*), the dancing deer of Manipur.
- This is the **last natural habitat of the brow-antlered deer (Sangai)** the dancing deer of Manipur.
 - In the 1950s, it was believed that the brow-antlered deer (*Rucervus eldii eldii*) had become extinct in the country. However, it was subsequently re-discovered in Manipur.
- Hog Deer, Otter, a host of water fowls and [migratory birds](#) are found here.

What are the Key Points of Loktak Lake?

- Loktak Lake is the **largest freshwater lake in Northeast India** and is famous for the phumdis floating over it.



- Phumdis are the **heterogeneous mass of vegetation**, soil and organic matter at various stages of decomposition.
- This ancient lake plays an important role in the economy of Manipur. It serves as a **source of water for irrigation, drinking water supply** and hydropower generation.
- Considering the ecological status and its biodiversity values, **Loktak lake was initially designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 1990.**
 - Later it was also listed under the [Montreux Record](#) in 1993.
- Human activity has led to severe pressure on the lake ecosystem.

What is Brow Antlered Deer?

- **Common Name:** Sangai, Brow antlered deer, Dancing Deer
- **Scientific Name:** Rucervus eldii
- **About:**
 - The brow-antlered deer, or sangai, is the state animal of Manipur.
 - The animal's **coat is a dark reddish brown during winter** months and it becomes a much lighter shade in summer.
 - Native to Cambodia, China, India, Laos and Myanmar, these animals were earlier spread widely across habitats in south and south-east Asia.
- **Habitat:**
 - The deer's habitat has **varied from shrubland and grassland to dry forests and marshland**, depending on the country they're found in.
 - In India, these animals are **found only in Manipur's famed Loktak lake.**
 - The brow-antlered deer **usually consumes grass.**
- **Threat:**
 - While globally habitat loss has been a grave concern in the conservation of this deer, **hunting is an additional threat in Manipur.**
 - While the habitats have been encroached **for grazing, cultivation, and fish farming,**

the animals are highly threatened by a hydro-electric project in the lake.

▪ **Protection Status:**

- [IUCN Red List](#): Endangered
- [CITES](#): Appendix I
- [WPA 1972](#): Schedule-I



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