



Campaign to Remove Lantana: Rajasthan

Why in News

A special drive to **uproot the invasive Lantana bushes** in the **Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary** in Rajasthan's Udaipur district has been carried out along with the **plantation of native species** on the cleared patches of land.

- This has helped in **ecological restoration of grasslands and saved biodiversity.**

Key Points



▪ Lantana:

- *Lantana camara* is a small perennial shrub, which forms **extensive, dense and impenetrable thickets.**
- It is **native to Central and South America.**
- It is an **invasive species** which was introduced in tropical regions as an **ornamental plant** (introduced in India in 1807).
- It is generally **deleterious to biodiversity** and is an **agricultural weed.**
- **Impact:**
 - The thickets covered vast tracts of land, **stopping the natural light and nutrition** for other flora and fauna.
 - The **toxic substance in its foliage and ripe berries** affected the animals.
 - With the herbivores not getting sufficient forage, the **prey base for carnivorous animals was declining**, leading to **ecological disturbances in the food chain.**
 - It has also invaded other wildlife reserves, river banks and the **Project Tiger** areas.
 - In some regions, the plant has **invaded pastures** and shrunk the cattle grazing areas, affecting the livelihood of villagers.

▪ Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Location:** Udaipur (Rajasthan)
- **History:** It is a part of **Sajjangarh Palace** (also known as Monsoon Palace) built in 1884.

- The Palace derived its name from Maharana Sajjan Singh, one of the rulers of the **Mewar dynasty**.
- **Area:** 5.19 sq. Km



- **Flora and Fauna:** Animals like chitals, panthers, hares, blue bulls (Nilgais), jackals, wild boars, hyenas, and sambhar.
 - More than 279 Plant Species.
- Famous for **Long-billed vulture**, commonly known as the **Indian vulture**.
 - Scientific Name: *Gyps indicus*
 - **IUCN Red List Status:** Critically Endangered
 - **CITES** Status: Appendix II
 - **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 Status:** Schedule I

Invasive Species

- An invasive species is an organism **that is not indigenous, or native, to a particular area and causes harm.**
- They are capable of causing **extinctions of native plants and animals, reducing biodiversity, competing with native organisms for limited resources, and altering habitats.**
- They can be **introduced to an area by ship ballast water, accidental release, and most often, by humans.**

Source: [TH](#)