

Chhattisgarh's state animal, Wild buffalo, close to extinction

August 30, 2021

In news- The sole female wild buffalo in a conservation centre at Chhattisgarh's **Sitanadi-Udanti tiger reserve** died recently.

More information-

- Chhattisgarh's state animal is on the verge of extinction with less than 20 individuals of the species left in the state.
- The conservation centre had only one female and three males and now no more female wild buffalos are left in the reserve.
- The **reserve is also contiguous to Khariar Forest Division of Odisha State** and acts as Buffer for Sunabeda Wildlife sanctuary.

About Wild water Buffalo-

- The wild water buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*), also called **Asian buffalo**, is a large bovine native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- It has an ash-gray to black skin.
- They are **both diurnal and nocturnal**.
- Both sexes carry horns.
- It is **among the heaviest living wild bovid species**, and is slightly smaller than gaur.
- It is associated with wet grasslands, swamps, flood plains and densely vegetated river valleys.
- It is included in **CITES Appendix III**, and is legally protected in Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Thailand.
- It has been listed as **Endangered** in the IUCN Red List

since 1986, as the remaining population totals less than 4,000 out of which around **91% live in India, mostly in Assam.**

It is largely restricted to in and around Kaziranga, Manas and Dibru-Saikhowa National Parks, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary and Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam, in and around D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary in **Arunachal Pradesh**, in Balphakram National Park in **Meghalaya**, and in **Chhattisgarh** in Indravati National Park and Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary.