

Deepor beel

August 30, 2021

In news- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary. The notification specified an area “to an extent varying from 294 metres to 16.32 km” as ESZ.

About the sanctuary-

- It is a permanent **freshwater lake**, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River.
- The name Deepor Beel is derived from the Sanskrit word *dipa* which means elephant, *-r* means “of” and *bil* means wetland or large aquatic body in Assamese language, inhabited by elephants.
- It is claimed that Beel was an important dockyard of the Tai-Ahom as well as the Mughals.
- Aquatic vegetation include Giant Water Lily, water hyacinth, aquatic grasses, water lilies and other submerged, emergent and floating vegetation.
- The beel is a natural habitat to many varieties of birds and largest congregations of aquatic birds can be seen, particularly in winter, like Spot-billed pelican, lesser adjutant stork, Baer’s pochard, greater adjutant stork, Siberian crane.
- It is **Assam’s only Ramsar site**.
- Considering the richness of the bird varieties found in the beel, the BirdLife International has declared Deepor Beel as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** with high priority for conservation.

Extra

information- <https://journalsofindia.com/eco-sensitive-zones-esz/>