

Wild Buffalo

April 7, 2020

Why in news?

Five female wild buffaloes would be trans-located from **Manas National Park in Assam to Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary in Raipur district, Chhattisgarh.**

About it:

- The wild buffalo (Bubalus arnee), once found in abundance across northeast India extending to northern and central India, now has its last bastions in **some pockets in northeast India and Chhattisgarh in central India.**
- It is mainly found in the **alluvial grasslands, marshes, swamps and river valleys.**
- The estimated population of the wild buffalo in the northeast is roughly around 3000-4000 individuals.
- A Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) survey estimated not more than 50 individuals in **three sub-populations in Indravati National Park, Pamed and Udanti Wildlife Sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh.**
- The **Central India Wild Buffalo Recovery Project** aims to stabilise the wild buffalo population in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh by implementing a number of ex-situ and in situ interventions.
- It is **Chhattisgarh's state animal.**
- IUCN status – **Endangered**

About the translocation:

- The five female wild buffaloes will travel more than **1,500 km crossing five States, the longest such translocation in the country ever.**
- It is **aimed at** reviving the waning population and expanding its territory across States.
- Now only nine buffaloes, including three females are

left in the sanctuary.

- The survival hazard of inbreeding, continuing lineage and increasing male population have necessitated the translocation.