

Hippopotamuses to be shifted to lake inside Bannerghatta Park

By Amit S. Upadhye

Dec 13: Now tourists at Bannerghatta Biological Park will have another attraction to look forward to.

The hippopotamuses, which were dwelling in a concrete enclosure, will be shifted to a natural lake.

The park, situated 22 kms from Bangalore is the finest captive breeding centre for endangered species including lion, tiger and elephant. The park houses more than 1,500 animals, birds and reptiles.

B Jairam, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bannerghatta Biological Park, told this paper that Deepakana Kere is being readied for the hippos.

The lake is spread over 10 acres and is home for crocodiles, big fish, and shelters a variety of birds.]

The lake is situated in the Herbivorous Safari Game Round, opposite the Jungle Lodge and Resorts

"Hippopotamus are native of Africa, where they co-exist with other aquatic species and amphibians in

the Nile river. But, since it is a first of its kind experiment, we are shifting crocodiles from Deepakana Kere to another lake inside the park," said Jairam.

"We are studying the possible effects and benefits for the hippos after we shift them into the lake," he added.

The new home will be ready to

house these mammals in March next year. He also said that boards giving details about hippopotamus will also be erected for viewers' benefit.

Principal Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary of Karnataka Forest Department paid visit to the lake and has agreed to shift the hippos.

New arrivals at the park

Baby hippo

Adding another to the family of five hippos, 10-year-old Sita gave birth to a little one on Tuesday around 11 am.

The naming ceremony for the baby hippo will be held on the 11th day, as it is difficult to identify its sex till then.

Doctors said that the baby hippo will not be separated from the mother for three months

Rani the Gaur

Eight-year-old Great Indian Gaur Rani could be the third wife to male Gaur Arjun, who is known for banging Safari vehicles moving in Herbivorous Safari. The park staff has bought Rani from Hulimaane Village in Siddapura Taluk of Uttara Kannada district. Rama Gourya Nayak, a local farmer, had rescued Rani when it was a calf and sheltered it at his house for eight years.



Mamma: One-day-old hippopotamus seen with the mother Sita in Bannerghatta Biological Park on Wednesday. —Express photo