Demand for Declaration of Goa Sanctuaries as Tiger Reserve

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Why in News

Activists and politicians from Goa have demanded that certain areas in wildlife sanctuaries of the state be notified as **a tiger reserve.**

- In 2017, the State government had proposed about 500 sq km area of Mahadayi, Netravali and Cotigao sanctuaries with some part of Bhagwan Mahaveer wildlife sanctuary to be marked as a tiger reserve.
- Recent deaths of four tigers in **Mahadayi wildlife sanctuary** has brought the demand again in the scenario.

Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary

- Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Goa** bounded by Cotigao wildlife sanctuary on the **eastern** side and Bhagwan Mahaveer wildlife sanctuary on the **northern side.**
- It is predominantly **moist deciduous forests** with patches of **semi-evergreen forest** in the valleys.
- It has **two important waterfalls** namely, **Savari and Mainapi**.
- This region supports a rich diversity of flora and fauna and notable among them are Leopard, Giant Squirrel, Mouse Deer, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon and Ceylon Frogmouth.

Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary

- Cotigao Sanctuary is situated in Canacona Taluka, of **Goa.**
- It was established in **1968-69** to protect a remote and vulnerable area of forest lining the Goa- Karnataka border.
- The vegetation is mostly **moist-deciduous type,** interspersed with semi-evergreen and evergreen patches.

Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary

- Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the **Mollem town of Goa.**
- It is one of the **largest wildlife sanctuaries of Goa** and **contains** within it the **Mollem National Park.**
- It was formed to protect the vast biodiversity of the Western Ghat.
- Originally known as the **Mollem Game Sanctuary,** it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in **1969** and **thence renamed** the **Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- The sanctuary is heavily forested and contains tropical evergreen forests, semi-evergreen forests and moist deciduous forests.

Source:IE