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Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary

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Why in News

The **Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary** will be declared as a **tiger reserve** soon.

Also, with this notification, **Karnataka will have six tiger reserves**, the others being **Nagarahole, Bhadra, and Anshi-Dandeli, Bandipur and Biligiri Ranganatha Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserves.**

Key Points

- Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the **Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka.**
Once notified, Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka will have three tiger reserves. It already has Bandipur and BRT Tiger Reserve within its territorial limits.
- It is spread over **906.18 sq km** – is contiguous to **BRT Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve** and the **Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- The area was declared as Wildlife Sanctuary in 2013.
- It consists mainly of **dry deciduous type degrading to scrub forest** in the fringe areas, and are **interspersed with patches of moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen** and **shola forests** occurring at **varying altitudes.**
- Animals including tiger, elephant, leopard, wild dog, bison, sambar, spotted deer, barking deer, sloth bear, wild boar, four-horned antelope, black-naped hare, common langur, bonnet macaque, honey badger (ratel), varieties of reptiles, birds, etc. are found in the wildlife sanctuary.

Source: TH