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Waterholes Revival in Bandipur Tiger Reserve

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Why in News

Prolonged monsoon and unseasonal rains have helped to rejuvenate the waterholes in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka.

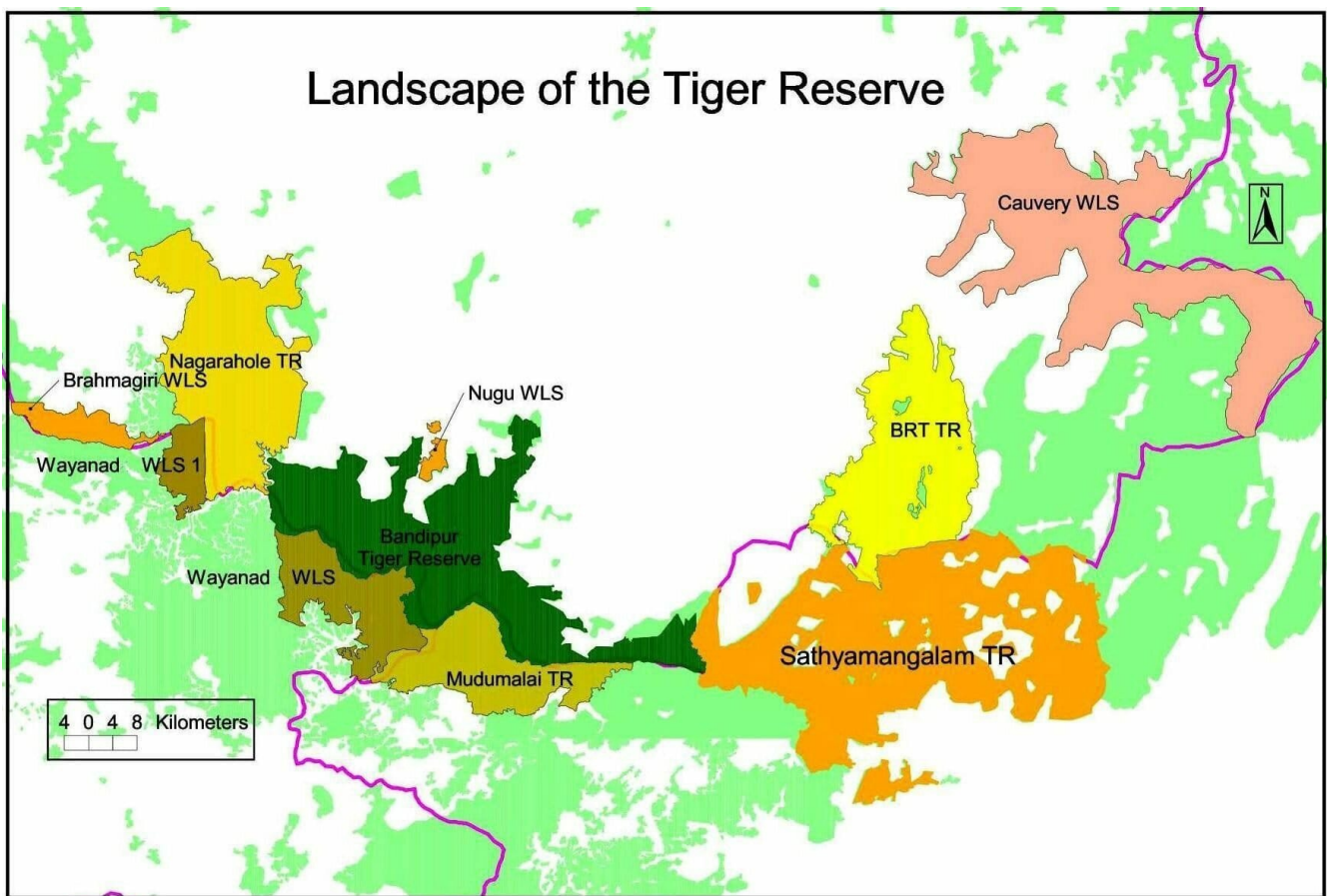
Key Points

- There are **370 big and small waterholes** (a **depression** in which water collects from where animals usually drink) in Bandipur and **85% of them are full**.
- At Bandipur, majority of waterholes dry up by **February and March** leading to severe water stress situation for animals. But this year, it is expected that the depletion of water levels will take a little longer.
- Also, in the areas of water stress, **37 solar-powered borewells** have been arranged that will function to replenish the waterholes periodically to further minimise the water scarcity.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

- **Established in:** **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** was established in **1973** under **Project Tiger**. In **1985**, by including adjacent areas from **Venugopala Wildlife Park**, it was enlarged and named as **Bandipur National Park**.
- **Location:** The Tiger Reserve is situated in **two contiguous districts (Mysore and Chamarajanagar) of Karnataka** and is located at the tri-junction area of the States of **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala**. It forms a part of **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.
- **Ecological Diversity:** Bandipur Tiger Reserve lies in one of the **richest biodiversity areas** of the country. It is surrounded by
 - **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** in the South,
 - **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary** in the South-west &
 - The **Kabini Reservoir** separates the Bandipur and **Nagarahole Tiger Reserve** on the North-west.

- **Biodiversity:** The Reserve is endowed with rich floral and faunal diversity and is recognized as one of the **Mega Biodiversity Areas** in the country. The **Tiger and the Elephants** are the **flagship (iconic or symbolic species** for a defined habitat, issue, campaign or environmental cause) **and umbrella** (species selected for making **conservation-related decisions**) species for the conservation of all the biota that this ecosystem represents.
 - The Bandipur along with Nagarahole, Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam & Wayanad constitutes the **single largest Wild population of Tigers in the world**. This landscape comprises of **21% of the total forested area** of the Western Ghats and holds **one-eighth** of the world's Tiger population (**one-fourth** of India's Tiger population).
 - This Landscape is also home to the **single largest Asian Elephant population in the world** and is part of the **Mysore Elephant Reserve (MER)**.
- **Rivers:** The park is located between the **Kabini river in the north** and the **Moyar river in the south**. The **Nugu river runs** through the park. The highest point in the park is on a hill called **Himavad Gopalswamy Betta**.



Source: TH