



Melghat Tiger Reserve

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Why in News

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has requested the Union government for considering an alternative alignment for the Akola-Khandwa rail line that passes through the Melghat Tiger Reserve.

Key Points

- **Location:**
 - It lies in Melghat Forests of Amravati district in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra bordering Madhya Pradesh in the North and East.
 - It is a part of the **Satpura-Maikal** landscape.
- **Tiger Reserve:**
 - It is spread over an area of 2768.52 sq km.
 - It is among the first nine places in the country designated as tiger reserves in 1973-74.
 - **Project Tiger** was launched in 1973.
 - It was the first Tiger Reserve to be declared in the State of Maharashtra.
- **Protected Areas within the Reserve:**
 - It consists of Gugamal National Park, Wan, Ambawarba and Narnala sanctuaries.
- **Features:**
 - It is the **Deccan trap** and underlying rock is **basalt** in one form or another.
 - It has various species of mammals including Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Gaur, etc.
 - The forests are of deciduous nature and have been classified as '**dry deciduous forests**'. Most prominent is **Teak**.
 - It forms a very important catchment to **Tapi river** systems.
 - The **Korku tribe** adds to the cultural diversity of the Reserve.

- **Other Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra:**

- **Tadoba-Andhari**
- Pench
- Sahyadri
- Navegaon-Nagzira
- Bor

Source: IE