



Forest Eagle Owl

Why in News?

The [Pench Tiger Reserve](#) has become a favorable place for a lesser-known group of **forest eagle owls**, also identified as the **spot-bellied eagle owl**.



Key Points

- In Central India, these nocturnal birds have also been reported from Madhya Pradesh Pench and [Kanha Tiger Reserve](#).
- The forest eagle owl, a large bird, is discovered in **dense evergreen and moist deciduous forests** close to water, in **wet temperate, and riparian (adjacent to a water body) forests**.
 - Similar to many other owl species, the spot-bellied eagle owl also makes calls for multiple purposes such as communication, territorial protection, and attracting mates.
- The researchers recorded their calls and analysed the frequency with **Raven Pro software**.
 - Raven Pro is a software program for the **acquisition, visualization, measurement, and analysis of sounds**.

Pench Tiger Reserve

- It is located in **Nagpur District of Maharashtra** and named after the pristine Pench River.
 - The Pench river flows right through the middle of the park.
 - It descends from north to south, thereby **dividing the reserve into equal eastern and western parts**.

- PTR is the **joint pride** of both **Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra**.
 - The Reserve is located in the southern reaches of the Satpura hills in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh, and continues in Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate Sanctuary.
- It was **declared a National Park by the Government of Maharashtra in 1975** and the identity of a **tiger reserve was granted to it in the year 1992**.
 - However, PTR Madhya Pradesh was granted the same status in 1992-1993. It is one of the major Protected Areas of **Satpura-Maikal ranges** of the Central Highlands.
- It is among the sites notified as [Important Bird Areas \(IBA\)](#) of India.
 - The IBA is a programme of Birdlife International which **aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for conservation of the world's birds** and associated diversity.

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