

## Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary to be Declared a Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh | 11 Oct 2024

## Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh's <u>Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary</u>, located near Bhopal, is set to become the state's 8<sup>th</sup> **tiger reserve.** 

## **Key Points**

- Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary: The sanctuary, known for its rich biodiversity and cultural
  significance, has met all the requirements of the <u>National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)</u> and
  is awaiting final approval at the state wildlife board meeting.
- Location and Area: Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary covers approximately 3,500 sq km in the Raisen, Sehore, and Bhopal districts. Of this, 1,500 sq km will be designated as the core tiger area, while 2,000 sq km will serve as a buffer zone.
- Tiger Population: The sanctuary is home to about 40 tigers, with an additional 12 tigers regularly moving within the forest areas near Bhopal.
- **Tourism and Economy**: The designation as a tiger reserve is expected to boost tourism and improve the local economy through increased government funding.
- Safety Measures: To prevent tiger deaths due to accidents and poaching, 25 overpasses and underpasses will be constructed, and villages in the core area will be relocated.
- Biodiversity: Apart from tigers, the sanctuary supports a variety of wildlife, including leopards, hyenas, jackals, and various herbivores such as chital, sambar, and nilgai. It also hosts more than 150 bird species, making it a haven for birdwatchers.
- Historical and Cultural Significance: The sanctuary houses the <u>Bhimbetka rock shelters</u>, a <u>UNESCO World Heritage Site</u>, and several historical landmarks, adding cultural value to the region.

