Bandipur Tiger Reserve

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Conservation*

Why in News?

A team of forest department personnel rescued a 12-year-old female tigress and 5 cubs from the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Mysuru recently.

- Bandipur Tiger Reserve is located in the Chamarajanagar and Mysore districts of ***Southern Karnataka.***
- **Royal Origin -** Established in 1931 by the Maharaja of the Kingdom of Mysore as the *Venugopala Wildlife Park.*
- **Location -** It sits at the tri-junction of ***Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala***.
- It serves as a critical ecological corridor where the Western Ghats meet the Eastern Ghats.
- **Bordered by**
  - Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) to the Northwest (separated by the *Kabini Reservoir*).
  - Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) to the South.
  - Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) to the Southwest.
- **Climate** - It has a typical tropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons.
- **Forest Type -** Scrub-Type Forest, Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous-Type Forest and Southern Tropical Moist Deciduous-Type Forests.
- **Rivers –** It is bound by the ***Kabini River*** in the north and the Moyar River in the south.
- The Nugu River flows directly through the heart of the reserve.
- **Highest Peak -** Himavad Gopalaswamy Betta, a hill located in the park.
- **Flora** - High concentration of valuable timber, including teak (Tectona grandis), rosewood, and sandalwood (Santalum album), alongside giant clumping bamboo.
- **Fauna** - Bengal Tiger (high-density source population), Leopard (holds the

2nd largest population in India after Panna), and Sloth Bear.

- **Project Tiger Genesis-** In 1973, it was selected as one of the *first 9 tiger reserves in India* launched under the flagship 'Project Tiger' initiative.
- **UNESCO Site** - It is part of the larger Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Reference

Deccan Herald | Bandipur Tiger Reserve

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