# Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve

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

**Why in News?**

*Telangana recently issued orders declaring the tiger corridor area connecting the Kawal Tiger Reserve in the State with the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra as 'Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve'.*

- **Declared under** - Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.
- **Connecting areas -** The area is a critical part of the wildlife corridor connecting Kawal Tiger Reserve with
  - Tadoba, Kanhargaon, Tipeshwar, and Chaprala wildlife sanctuaries in Maharashtra and
  - Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh.
- **Tiger Population** - The presence of resident, breeding tigers in the area and several inter-State tiger dispersal events over the past decade indicate that it is a crucial link for maintaining tiger connectivity.
- **Significance for wildlife -** It is also home to leopard, wild dog, sloth bear, wolf, hyena, honey badger and jungle cat, and supports diverse prey such as gaur, sambar, nilgai, chital, four-horned antelope, muntjac, and Indian gazelle.
- More than 240 bird species have made it home, including the Malabar Pied Hornbills, and Long Billed Vulture for which it is the only nesting site.
- As per the Section 36(A) of the WPA, the ***State government*** may declare any areas owned by it, particularly in areas adjacent to the national parks and sanctuaries and those areas which link one protected area with another, as conservation reserve.
- **Advantages -** It offers significant advantages for wildlife conservation and biodiversity protection, especially regarding tiger connectivity in central India.
- It serves as a crucial corridor, facilitating the movement of tigers and other wildlife between reserves and sanctuaries across states.
- Enhanced genetic diversity, reduced inbreeding, and the long-term survival of tiger populations.

**Reference**

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