Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary

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

Why in News?

Recently, the Arunachal Pradesh government has permitted the capture of a tiger after it fatally attacked a police head constable inside Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary.

- **Location –** ***Lower Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh.***
- **Establishment –** 1980
- **Under –** The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Altitude –** 400 m to 3568 m.
- **Vegetation –**
  - Tropical Evergreen Forests (up to 900 m)
  - Sub-Tropical & Temperate Forests (900–1800 m)
  - Temperate Broadleaf Forests (1800–2800 m)
  - Temperate Conifer Forests (2800–3500 m)
- **Rivers –** It includes perennial rivers, namely the ***Deopani, Diphu, and Ahupani, Enjopan and Jowe,*** which are part of the Brahmaputra River System.
- **Lakes –** Sally Lake and Mehao Lake.
- **Flora – Trees –** Hollock, Khokan, Mekai, Simul, Titachampa, Gamari, Albizia, Magnolia, Ficus.
- **Bamboo & Canes –** *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, *Phyllostachys bambusoides*, other cane varieties.
- **Medicinal plants –** Coptis teeta (endemic) and *Taxus baccata.*
- **Orchids –** Rich diversity of orchid species.
- **Fauna – Mammals –**Tiger, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Hoolock Gibbon, Elephant, Gaur, Sambar.
- **High-altitude mammals –** ***Red Panda, Musk Deer, Mishmi Takin, Serow, Goral, Snow Leopard.***
- **Birds –** ~200 species, including Hornbills and Pheasants.
- **Reptiles –** King Cobra, Python, Pit Viper.
- **Tribal Influence –** Area predominantly inhabited by *the Idu Mishmi and Adi tribes.*
- **Significance –** It is a high-priority site for biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Himalayas.
- The sanctuary's habitat remains mostly intact, with *about 70% mixed forest coverage.*

References

1. NewsHub | Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary

