Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

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

Why in News?

Despite a decline in local breeding linked to human disturbance and invasive vegetation, Wayanad's vulture population remains stable, with roughly 80 birds recorded in the sanctuary.

- **Location –** Wayanad district, *southern part of the Western Ghats in Kerala.*
- It is an ***integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.***
- **Established in –** 1973.
- **Under –** The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Rivers – *Kabini River*,** a tributary of the Cauvery River, flows through the sanctuary.
- **Vegetation & Flora –** Tropical semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, dry mixed deciduous forests, bamboo forests and marshy grasslands (vayals).
    - **Invasion -** The sanctuary is currently ***battling a massive invasion of Senna spectabilis (a golden-flowered tree).***
- **Fauna –** Asian elephants, Bengal tigers, leopards, gaur, vultures, sambar deer, and the Malabar giant squirrel, etc.

  Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is the only vulture habitat in Kerala, hosting the White-rumped vulture (Gyps bengalensis) and the Red-headed vulture (Sarcogyps calvus) primarily.

- **Tribe –** Several indigenous tribal families live in settlements inside the Sanctuary, such as **Kattunaikar and Paniyar.**
- **Corridor Connectivity –** It is bordered by Nagarhole National Park and Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu).

- **Significance –** Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is noted for its biodiversity and conservation efforts under Project Elephant and Project Tiger.

Reference

TH | Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary vultures

