

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](#)

