

Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary

August 17, 2020

Why in news?

- The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to declare the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary a tiger reserve.

The wildlife sanctuary

- The sanctuary is spread over 890 sqkm in Bhopal-Reisen forest division of Madhya Pradesh.
- It will be the **seventh tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh**.
- About 40 tigers live in the areas falling in the proposed reserve and it will be one of the bigger reserves in the state.
- It has been a wildlife sanctuary since 1976.
- Two large reservoirs, namely **Barna Reservoir and Ratapani Dam (Barrusot Lake)** are among the major water bodies adjacent to or inside the sanctuary.
- The forest of Ratapani is **dry deciduous and moist deciduous type and bamboo** overlaps the two aforementioned forest types and covers about one quarter of the forest area.
- **Bhimbetka rock shelters are located within this proposed tiger reserve.**