

Wayanad wildlife sanctuary

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Why in news?

- The Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS), home to the **largest number of tigers in Kerala**, is losing out on tiger reserve status following resistance by the local people.

About the sanctuary:

- The sanctuary, spread over 344.44 sq km, is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere in the Western Ghats.
- It is contiguous to the tiger reserves of Nagerhole and Bandipur of Karnataka and Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu.



- A recent tiger monitoring programme of the Forest Department found that **75 of the 176 tigers in the State are in the WWS**, which is part of a large forest complex holding the single largest population of tigers in India.
- The sanctuary **comes under Project Elephant**.