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## King Cobra in Tillari Reserve

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### Why in News

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Recently, a **king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*)**, was sighted in the **recently declared conservation reserve, Tillari**, in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra.

### Key Points

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- **King Cobra:**

- **About:**

- They are **one of the most venomous snakes on the planet and the longest of all venomous snakes.**



- Their venom is not the most potent among venomous snakes, but **the amount of neurotoxin they can deliver in a single bite**—up to two-tenths of a fluid ounce—is **enough to kill 20 people, or even an elephant.**
    - They are **the only snakes in the world that build nests** for their eggs, which they guard ferociously until the hatchlings emerge.

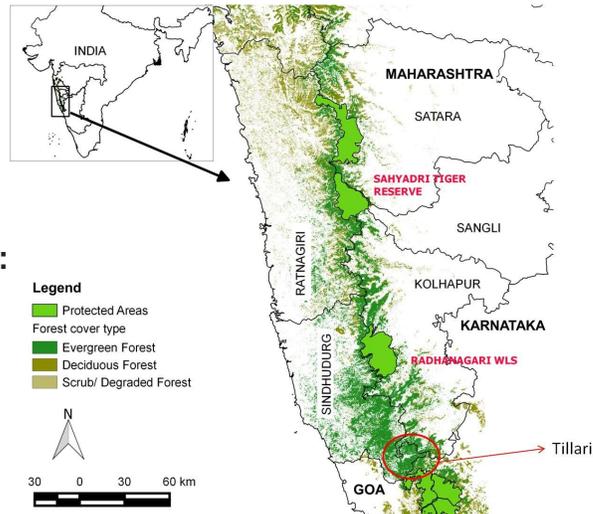
- **Habitat:**

- They live mainly in the **rain forests and plains of India, southern China, and Southeast Asia.**
    - They are comfortable in a variety of habitats, including **forests, bamboo thickets, mangrove swamps, high-altitude grasslands, and in rivers.**

- **Threats:**

They face a variety of **threats stemming from human activities such as:**

- **Deforestation.**
      - **International pet trade.**
      - **Persecution by humans.**
      - **Used for skin, food, and medicinal purposes.**



- **Tillari Conservation Reserve:**

- Tillari is the **seventh wildlife corridor in the state to be declared as a ‘conservation reserve’.**

Tillari is a reserve in **western ghats.**

- The area **covering nine villages in the forest range** is known to serve as a corridor and even as a **habitat for the population of tigers and elephants** moving between the three states of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- It connects **Mhadei sanctuary in Goa** and Bhimgad in Karnataka.
- It has **semi-evergreen forest, tropical moist deciduous forests**, and a number of unique trees, butterflies, and flowers.

### Conservation Reserves in India

- Conservation reserves and community reserves are terms denoting **protected areas of the country which typically act as buffer zones to or connectors and migration corridors** between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests.
- Such areas are designated as conservation areas if they are uninhabited and completely owned by the Government of India but **used for subsistence by communities and community areas if part of the lands are privately owned.**
- These protected area categories were first introduced in the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002 – the amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.**
- These categories were **added because of reduced protection in and around existing or proposed protected areas** due to private ownership of land and land use.
- There are **97 existing Conservation Reserves in India** covering an area of **44483 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 0.14% of the geographical area of the country** (National Wildlife Database, Dec. 2020).

**Source: IE**