



## Spot Bellied Eagle Owl

### Why in News?

Recently, **Spot Bellied Eagle Owl (*Bubo Nipalensis*)** was spotted for the first time in [Seshachalam forest](#), and for the third time in **Andhra Pradesh**.

- It was sighted twice earlier at [Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve\(NSTR\)](#).

What is a Spot-bellied Eagle Owl?



- **About:**

- The **Spot-bellied Eagle Owl**, also known as the **Forest eagle-owl** is a large owl species typically found in wooded areas, such as **forests and rocky hillsides**, and are known for

their **distinctive spots on their belly.**

- The spot-bellied eagle-owls are **large, very powerful and bold predatory birds.**

- The bird makes a strange scream similar to humans and it is hence called the '**Ghost of the Forest**' in India.

- **Distribution:**

- These eagle-owl species are distributed in **India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.**

- **Prey:**

- They are known to prey on large birds and also on mammals like [golden jackals](#), **hares, civets and chevrotains.**

- **IUCN and CITES Status:**

- [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red list: "Least Concern".](#)

- **CITES (the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#)) : Appendix II.**

## **Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve**

- The Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Sanctuary was declared officially in 1978 and has been recognized by the Project Tiger in 1983.

- **Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve** is the largest tiger reserve in India.

- In 1992, it was retitled as **Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary.**

- The Tiger reserve is spread over 5 districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The area consists mostly of the **Nallamala Hills.**

- The multipurpose reservoirs- **Srisailem and Nagarjunsagar** are located in the reserve.

- The **Krishna River** cuts the basin of this reserve.

[Source: TH](#)

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