



Sagreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary | Maharashtra | 22 Mar 2025

Why in News?

The Sagreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Sangli district of Maharashtra hosts 536 **sambars** and 295 **cheetals** (spotted deer), making it one of the **most densely populated deer sanctuaries**, especially among **man-made wildlife reserves**.

Key Points

- **Study on Deer Population Density:**
 - Researchers conducted a **study to estimate sambar and cheetal density** using the **line transect method and 27 trap cameras**.
 - This **method was used for the first time** to map the sanctuary area and assess population density.
 - The study found sambar density at 49.5 per square km and cheetal density at 54.15 per square km.
- **Wildlife Diversity in the Sanctuary:**
 - **Deer are the dominant species**, but the sanctuary also hosts **wild boars, monkeys, rabbits, foxes, and peacocks**.
 - **Established in 1985**, the sanctuary spans 11 square kilometers.
 - 50 species were introduced, but some, like the blackbuck, became extinct over time.
- **Translocation Efforts for Ecosystem Balance:**
 - The deer population remains balanced with the available biomass.
 - Authorities are translocating deer to **the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR)** as prey for **tigers**.
 - Tigers will be introduced to STR once a sufficient prey base is established.

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

- **About:**
 - Located in **the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats**, Maharashtra.
 - **Notified in 2010** by **merging Chandoli National Park and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary**.
 - It encompasses **areas around Koyna Dam, Warna River**, and multiple small rivers and streams **originating from the Western Ghats and flowing eastward**.
- **Geographical Features:**
 - The landscape is undulating with steep escarpments along the western boundary.
 - Contains **barren rocky and lateritic plateaus (locally called Sadas)** with sparse perennial vegetation, overhanging cliffs, and fallen boulders covered with dense thorny bushes.
 - The reserve is one of the few areas with climax and near-climax vegetation, facing minimal human disturbance.
- **Vegetation and Biodiversity:**
 - **Forest types:** Moist evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, and dry deciduous forests.
 - **Flora:** Rich in medicinal and fruit-bearing trees, alongside commercial hardwood species.
 - **Fauna:** Home to **tigers, leopards, lesser cats, wolves, jackals, and wild dogs**.
- **Other Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra:**

- [Melghat Tiger Reserve](#)
- [Bor Tiger Reserve](#)
- [Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve](#)
- [Pench Tiger Reserve](#)
- [Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/04-08-2023/maharashtra/print>

