



Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News?

A forest guard spotted a **Eurasian goshawk**, a medium-large raptor, during routine patrolling at [Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary](#), highlighting the region's ecological richness.



Key Points

- **Eurasian Goshawk in Maharashtra:**
 - **About:**
 - The Eurasian goshawk has been recorded in Maharashtra at least three times before.
 - This bird of prey is widely **distributed across Europe, Asia, and parts of North America**.
 - Its Scientific Name is ***Accipiter gentilis***.
 - **Features:**
 - It has relatively **short, broad wings and a long tail**.
 - It is **blue-grey above or brownish-grey** with dark barring or streaking over a **grey or white base color below**, but Asian subspecies in particular range from nearly white overall to nearly black above.
 - Females are significantly larger than males.
- **Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary's Avian Richness:**
 - The sanctuary is renowned for its diverse bird species and serves as an important habitat for avifauna.
 - Among its **most significant discoveries** is the critically endangered [Forest Owlet](#) in

2014.

- **Conservation Significance:**

- [The International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List](#) classifies the Forest Owlet as critically endangered, indicating a high risk of extinction.
- Earlier, researchers believed this species was endemic only to [the Satpura mountain ranges](#) in central India.

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- **Location and Geography:**

- It is situated in **Thane District, Maharashtra**, about 90 km northeast of Mumbai, in the foothills of [the Western Ghats](#).
- [The Tansa and Vaitarna rivers](#) flow through the sanctuary, with the Tansa River dividing it into two parts.

- **Water Resources and Catchment Area:**

- The sanctuary forms the catchment area of Tansa Lake, along with the surrounding **Khardi, Vaitarna, Wada, and Shahapur forests**.
- Tansa, Vaitarna, and Bhatsa reservoirs serve as **major water sources for Mumbai and Thane**.

- **Vegetation and Flora:**

- Features Southern Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest, with patches of **Evergreen forest**.
- Key tree species include **Kalamb, Bibla, Khair, Hed, Teak, and Bamboo**.

- **Fauna and Avian Diversity:**

- Home to 54 species of animals and 200 species of birds.
- Major wild animals include **Panther, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Hyena, and Wild Boar**.
- Hosts two **Critically Endangered** [Gyps vulture species](#) and [the Vulnerable Pallas's Fish-Eagle \(Haliaeetus leucoryphus\)](#).