

## MP Launches 'Rewilding' Initiative

## Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh, known as the <u>'Tiger State,'</u> has launched a groundbreaking initiative called 'Rewilding' under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav.

## **Key Points:**

- **About:** The 'Rewilding' initiative focuses on the reintroduction of key species into their natural habitats and aims to become a model for wildlife conservation in India.
  - It involves reintroducing both predator and prey species that are vital to the ecosystem but are missing from forests.
  - In their absence, the food chain breaks down and the natural life cycle collapses, disrupting ecological balance.
- Objective:
  - To restore the **balance** to wildlife ecology.
  - To revive extinct and endangered species.
  - To promote biodiversity.
- Implementation: The Forest Department has created a phased rewilding plan to reintroduce <u>swamp deer</u> and other species, focusing on restoring the entire forest ecosystem, including <u>grasslands</u>, riverscapes, and supporting habitats.
  - The mission is being supported by the <u>National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)</u>, the Forest Research Institute, and international experts.
  - Tribal and rural communities are also being engaged, creating opportunities for <u>eco-tourism</u> and livelihoods alongside wildlife protection.
- Significance: Rewilding plays a pivotal role in combating <u>climate change</u>, as it enhances carbon storage, reduces <u>carbon footprints</u>, and <u>conserves</u> vital resources like water and soil, thereby protecting natural ecosystems.
  - Beyond ecological benefits, rewilding significantly boosts wildlife tourism, contributing to the local economy, while preserving natural cycles untouched by human intervention.

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