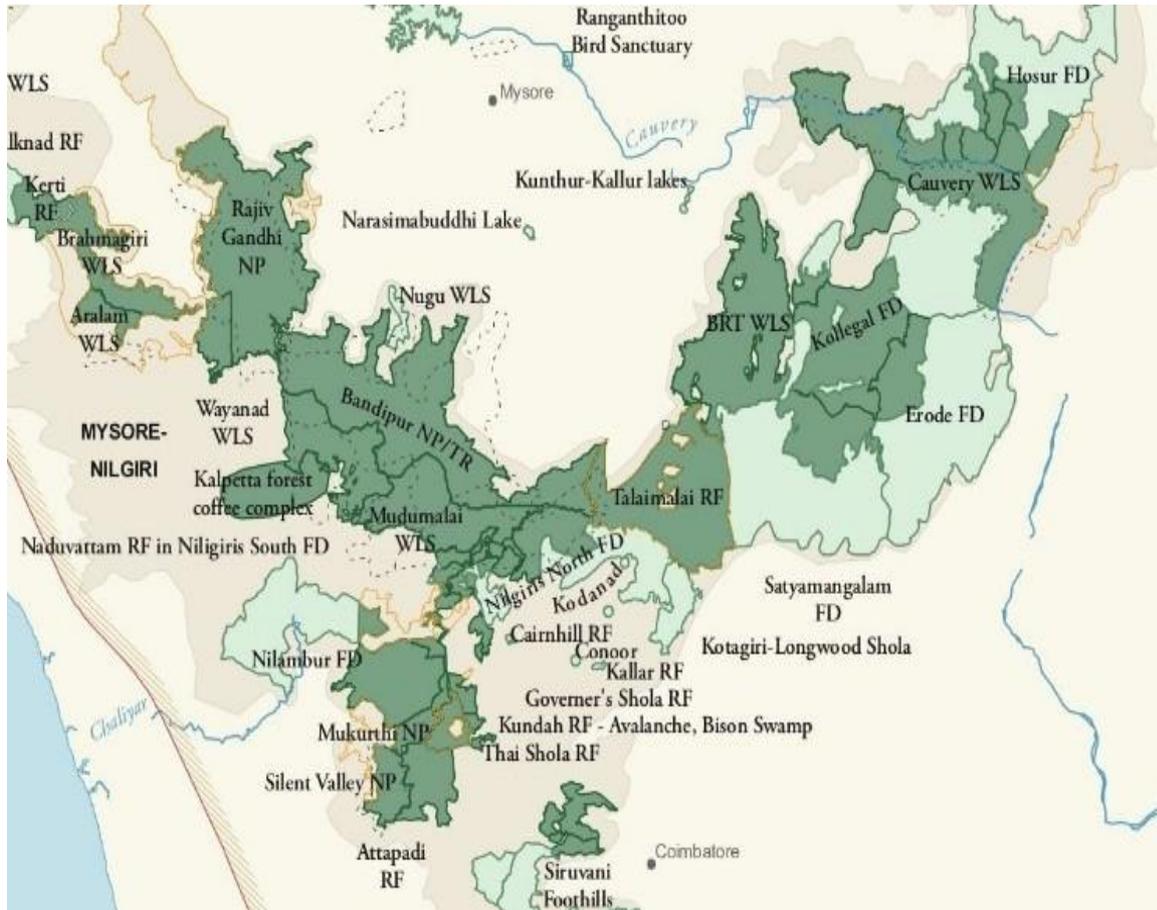




Place in News - Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS)

Context: Two tiger cubs were discovered deceased in the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) located in Karnataka, while their mother tigress remains unaccounted for.



About Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS):

- A designated protected area in Karnataka, established in 1987 under the Wildlife Protection Act, which was subsequently expanded to cover over 1,027 km² in 2013. It serves as a crucial habitat for tigers and elephants.

Location:

- Situated across the Mandya, Chamarajanagar, and Ramanagara districts of Karnataka.
- It is positioned along the Cauvery River and shares borders with the Dharmapuri forests of Tamil Nadu.



- Functions as a wildlife corridor connecting Bannerghatta National Park, BRT Tiger Reserve, and MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

Key Features:

- **Climate:** Semi-arid, receiving rainfall from both the southwest and northeast monsoons.
- **Landscape:** Comprises dry deciduous forests, thorny woodlands, riverine areas, and evergreen sholas.
- **Tourist attractions:** Hogenakkal Falls, Mekedatu, and Sangam.

Flora:

- **Predominant tree species:** Terminalia arjuna, Syzygium cumini, Hardwickia binata, Albizia amara, and Tamarindus indica.
- The combination of deciduous and evergreen plant life promotes biodiversity resilience.

Fauna:

- **Key species:** Tiger, Asian elephant, leopard, dhole, and sloth bear.
- **Additional mammals:** Sambar, spotted deer, barking deer, wild boar, chevrotain, and macaques.
- **Endangered species:** Grizzled giant squirrel, smooth-coated otter, and hump-backed mahseer fish.
- **Birdlife:** More than 280 species, including the white-rumped vulture, Nilgiri wood-pigeon, and yellow-throated bulbul.

Significance:

- **Ecological Role** – Preserves genetic connectivity for large carnivores across the Western and Eastern Ghats.
- **Water Security** – Safeguards the catchment area of the Cauvery River, essential for the drinking and irrigation requirements of South India.