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News: Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary

- Recently, an adult tigress and three cubs were spotted in the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), Goa for the first time since 2020.

Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary

- Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Northern part of Goa, Sanguem taluka, near Valpoi town.
- It encompasses picturesque waterfalls, including Vazra Sakla Falls and Viridi Falls.
- Mhadei is known for its nesting grounds of critically endangered Long-billed vultures near Vazra Falls.
- Diverse landscape with thick moist deciduous forests and some evergreen species.
- It is also notable for sacred groves protecting rare and indigenous trees.

Flora and Fauna

- Rich biodiversity with Indian gaur, Tigers, Barking deer, Sambar deer, Wild boar, Indian hare, and more.

- Attracts herpetologists due to the presence of various snakes, including the 'big four' venomous snakes which are Indian krait, Russell's viper, Saw-scaled viper and Spectacled cobra.
- Mhadei has been declared as a Designated International Bird Area (IBA) for hosting several bird species like Malabar parakeet and Rufous babbler.
- Represents a crucial habitat for tiger conservation in Goa.

Unique Geographical Features

- Home to the three highest peaks in Goa: Sonsogod (1027 mts), Talavche Sada (812 mts), and Vageri (725 mts).
- Mhadei River, a lifeline of Goa, originates in Karnataka, passes through the sanctuary, and meets the Arabian Sea at Panaji.
- The sanctuary acts as a catchment area for the Mhadei River.
- Recently, the Bombay high court has directed the State government of Goa to declare Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary as a designated Tiger Reserve.