GEOGRAPHY 26 October 2026

Maharashtra Wildlife Board Approves New Sanctuaries and Conservation Reserves

The Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife approved proposals to declare two forest areas as wildlife sanctuaries and 14 areas across seven districts as conservation reserves.

A conservation reserve or wildlife sanctuary is a protected area designated under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to conserve flora, fauna, and their habitats.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife** approved the proposals on **October 26, 2026**.
- **Kolamarka Conservation Reserve** in **Gadchiroli** district, known for its wild buffaloes, was approved for declaration as a wildlife sanctuary.
- Proposals include designating **14 areas** across seven districts as conservation reserves and expanding the **Tansa sanctuary**.
- Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** directed officials to examine compatibility with the **Disaster Management Act** and Forest Department powers.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Wild Life (Protection) Act** was enacted in the year **1972** in India.

Conservation reserves and community reserves in India were introduced through the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act** of **2002**.

Wildlife sanctuaries are established by **State Governments** under Section 26A or **Section 35** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Project Elephant was launched by the Union Government in the year **1992** as a centrally sponsored scheme.

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is chaired by the **Prime Minister** of India under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Article 48A of the **Constitution of India** directs the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Maharashtra Wildlife Board approved sanctuary status for Kolamarka and 14 conservation reserves in October 2026.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for TNPSC Group 1 and 2 questions on Indian geography, environment, wildlife protection acts, and conservation reserves.

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