GEOGRAPHY 26 September 2026

Vulture Survey Begins in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

A two-day vulture survey commenced in Kerala's Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary on September 26, 2026, ahead of Wildlife Week.

A collaborative scientific initiative to document the population status, distribution, and conservation needs of ecologically vital scavenger birds.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The survey started on **September 26, 2026**, in the **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary**, Kerala.
- It is jointly organized by the Kerala Forest Department, **WWF-India**, and the **Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology**.
- The primary objective is to map the distribution and assess the population status of **critically endangered** vulture species in the region.
- The exercise is timed ahead of the annual **Wildlife Week** celebrations in Kerala.
- Vultures serve as crucial **ecological scavengers**, preventing the spread of infectious diseases by consuming animal carcasses.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary was established in **1973** and is an integral part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, designated in **1986**, was India's **first biosphere reserve**, spanning Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.

India is home to **9 species** of vultures, of which the White-rumped, Indian, and Slender-billed vultures are listed as Critically Endangered by the **IUCN**.

The Government of India banned the veterinary use of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug **Diclofenac** in **2006** due to its toxicity to vultures.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the **Action Plan for Vulture Conservation** in India **2020-2025**.

In Tamil Nadu, the **Sigur Plateau** in the Nilgiris and the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** serve as major nesting sites for critically endangered vultures.

Tamil Nadu established a State Level Committee for Vulture Conservation (**SLCVC**) in **2022** to coordinate conservation efforts.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986), launched a vulture survey on September 26, 2026.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 3 Geography (Wildlife, Sanctuaries, and Environmental Ecology).

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