

## Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary

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### Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary Latest News

Environmentalists recently expressed serious concern over the approval of an eco-tourism resort project on the Surla plateau, stating that the project area falls within a critical tiger habitat within the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary.

### About Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in the northern part of **Goa** in the **Western Ghats**.
- It spreads over an area of 208 sq.km. and derives its name from the **Mhadei river**, which flows across this Sanctuary.
- There are a number of **picturesque waterfalls** within the sanctuary boundaries. The most prominent are the **Vazra Sakla Falls** and the **Virdi Falls**.
- The **three highest peaks of Goa**, **Sonsogod** (1027 m), **Talvche Sada** (812 m), and **Vagheri** (725 m), are located within this Sanctuary.
- **Flora:**

- The sanctuary's dense forests are **predominantly semi-evergreen** and **moist deciduous**, hosting trees like **teak, sal, and bamboo** along with **medicinal plants** and **orchids**.
- The sanctuary is particularly well-known for its **sacred groves** that protect rare and indigenous trees.

- **Fauna:**

- Its fauna includes **Bengal tigers, black panthers**, leopards, sloth bears, gaur (Indian bison), and a variety of deer.
- The sanctuary is a huge attraction for herpetologists since it contains a large variety of snakes, including all of the '**big four**' of **Indian venomous snakes**, which are the **Indian krait, Russell's viper, Saw-scaled viper, and Spectacled cobra**.
- It boasts over **250 bird species**, including the **Malabar trogon, great pied hornbill**, and **Nilgiri wood pigeon**, many of which are **endemic to the Western Ghats**.
- The **cliff face near the Vazra Falls** is notable for being the **nesting grounds of the critically endangered Long-billed vultures**.

**Source:** **TOI**

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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/about-mhadei-wildlife-sanctuary/>

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