

**56th TIGER RESERVE: ENVIRONMENT**

NEWS: 56th Tiger Reserve of the country notified in Chhattisgarh

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve, India's 56th and third-largest tiger reserve, spans 2,829 sq.kms in Chhattisgarh, enhancing tiger conservation and biodiversity. It forms a crucial ecological corridor linking Sanjay Dubri, Bandhavgarh, and Palamau Tiger Reserves.

Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve**Overview:**

- **Notification:** Declared the **56th Tiger Reserve of India** in Chhattisgarh.
- **Size:** Covers **2,829.38 sq.kms**, making it the **third-largest tiger reserve in India**.
- **Significance:** Boosts tiger conservation efforts and enhances biodiversity protection in Central India.

Geographical Location:

- **Districts Covered:** Spread across **Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur** districts in Chhattisgarh.
- **Core Area:**
- Spans **2,049.2 sq.kms**.
- Includes **Guru Ghasidas National Park** and **Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Buffer Zone:** Covers **780.15 sq.kms**.

Ecological Connectivity:

- Part of a landscape complex linked to:
- **Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve** (Madhya Pradesh).
- **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** (West).
- **Palamau Tiger Reserve** (East).

Biodiversity:

- **Total Species Recorded:** 753 species, including:
- **Birds:** 230 species.
- **Mammals:** 55 species.
- **Notable Fauna:** Threatened species critical to ecosystem health.



General Information on Tiger Reserves in India

Definition:

- Protected areas established for tiger conservation and habitat protection.

Legal and Administrative Framework:

- Governed by the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- Managed by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

Zoning:

- Core Zone:** Strictly protected, no human interference allowed.
- Buffer Zone:** Limited human activities permitted for sustainable coexistence.

Importance:



- Conserves tigers and associated species.
- Maintains ecological balance by protecting forest ecosystems.
- Promotes eco-tourism, benefiting local communities.

Prominent Tiger Reserves in India:

- **Jim Corbett (Uttarakhand):** Oldest tiger reserve.
- **Sundarbans (West Bengal):** Known for mangrove ecosystems.
- **Ranthambore (Rajasthan):** Famous for tiger sightings and fort ruins.

Tiger Reserves in Chhattisgarh

Achanakmar Tiger Reserve:

- Located in Mungeli district and parts of Madhya Pradesh.
- Part of the **Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve**.
- Declared a tiger reserve in 2009 under Project Tiger.

Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve:

- Named after the **Udanti** and **Sitanadi rivers**.
- Features **Sal forests**, a major forest type in the region.

Indravati Tiger Reserve:

- Located in Bijapur district.
- Named after the **Indravati River** forming the northern boundary.

Home to the **endangered wild water buffalo**, a key species in the reserve