



## Kanha Tiger Reserve

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### Why in News

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A tigress was found dead in the **buffer zone of Kanha tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh.**

### Key Points

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- **Location:** It stretches over an area of 940 square km in the **two districts - Mandla and Balaghat - of Madhya Pradesh.**
- **History:** The present-day Kanha area **was divided into two sanctuaries, Hallon and Banjar. Kanha National Park was created in 1955** and in **1973** was made the **Kanha Tiger Reserve.**

Kanha National Park is the **largest National Park in Central India.**

- **Features:**
  - **Fauna:**
    - The **State animal of Madhya Pradesh - Hard Ground Barasingha (Swamp deer or *Rucervus duvaucelii*)** is found **exclusively** in Kanha Tiger Reserve.
    - Other Species found include **Tiger**, Leopard, Dhole, Bear, **Gaur** and Indian Python etc.
  - **Flora:**
    - It is best known for its evergreen **Sal forests (*Shorea Robusta*).**
    - It is the **first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, “Bhoorsingh the Barasingha”.**
- **Other Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh:**

### Core and Buffer Zone

- For the purpose of management, tiger reserves are constituted on a ‘core – buffer’ strategy.
- In **core areas**, forestry operations, collection of minor forest produce, grazing, human settlement and other biotic disturbances are not allowed and are singularly oriented towards conservation.

- The **buffer zone** is managed as a 'multiple use area' with conservation oriented land use, having the twin objectives of providing habitat supplement to the spillover population of wild animals from the core, apart from facilitating site specific eco developmental inputs to stakeholder communities.

**Barasingha**



**Subspecies:** There are **three subspecies of swamp deer** found in the Indian Subcontinent.

- The **western swamp deer** (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) found in **Nepal**,
- **Southern swamp deer/Hard Ground Barasingha** (*Rucervus duvaucelii branderi*) found in **central and north India** and
- **Eastern swamp deer** (*Rucervus duvaucelii ranjitsinhi*) found in the **Kaziranga** (Assam) and **Dudhwa National Parks** (Uttar Pradesh).

**Source: IE**