



Fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh

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Why in News

Recently the '**National Tiger Conservation Authority**' (NTCA) approved the proposal of Chhattisgarh government to declare the combined areas of **Guru Ghasidas National Park** and **Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary** as **Tiger Reserve**.

Key Points

- Situated in the northern part of Chhattisgarh bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, this new tiger reserve will be the **fourth tiger reserve of Chhattisgarh** after **Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar and Indravati Tiger Reserves**.
- The proposal was considered by the 11th Technical Committee of NTCA on September 1 and approved a month later under Section 38K(1) of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The **Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary** was identified in 2011 as part of the **Surguja Jashpur Elephant Reserve**. **Guru Ghasidas National Park** was part of the **Sanjay National Park** in undivided Madhya Pradesh. Both have been in line to be notified as Tiger Reserves since 2011.
- The **constituent units of the new Tiger Reserve** are **Guru Ghasidas National Park** and **Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary** spread over 1,44,000 hectares (1,440 sq km) and 60,850 hectares (608.5 sq km) respectively.
- **Guru Ghasidas National Park** is in **Koriya district**, while **Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary** is in **Surajpur district** in the north-west corner of Chhattisgarh.
- **Guru Ghasidas National Park** was the **last known habitat of Asiatic cheetahs in the country**. Originally part of the **Sanjay Dubri National Park**, Guru Ghasidas National Park was created as a **separate entity in the Surguja region of Chhattisgarh after the formation of the state in 2001**.
- Wildlife experts and activists in the state believe it is important to convert Guru Ghasidas National Park into a tiger reserve, as it connects Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh and provides a corridor for movement of tigers between Bandhavgarh and Palamu Tiger Reserves.