



World Lion Day 2025

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, in collaboration with the **Gujarat Forest and Environment Department**, marked **World Lion Day 2025 (10th August)** at the **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Dwarka district, Gujarat**.

- The **event celebrated** the conservation achievements under [Project Lion](#), aimed at **protecting the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*)**.

Key Points

- The **lion population in Gujarat has risen by 32%** since 2020, increasing from 674 to 891, according to the **May 2025 lion population estimate (16th census)**.
- **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary**, part of the larger Gir Lion Landscape, is home to **17 Asiatic lions**.

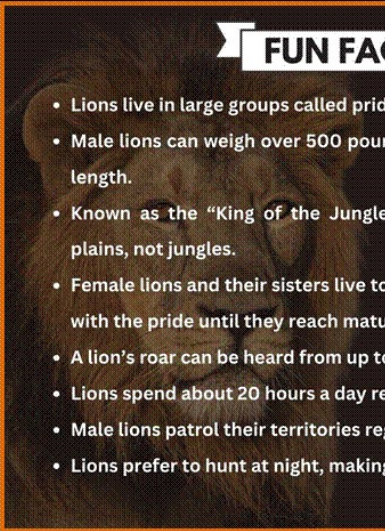
Key Facts About Project Lion

- **Launched:** 2020, to secure the future of Asiatic lions in Gujarat's Gir landscape.
- **Focus Areas:** Habitat improvement, ecosystem health, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.
- **Technologies Used:**
 - **Radio-collaring & Camera Traps:** For monitoring lion movements.
 - **GPS Tracking:** Ensures efficient surveillance of lions and vehicles.
 - **Automated Sensor Grid:** Includes magnetic, movement, and infrared heat sensors for wildlife tracking.
 - **GIS-based Real-Time Monitoring:** Facilitates timely analysis and conservation management.

Key Facts About Lions

- The lion is divided into **two subspecies**: the **African lion (*Panthera leo leo*)** and the **Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*)**.
 - Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Lions are known for their distinctive appearance, including a **tawny coat, a tufted tail, and a prominent mane in males**.
 - They are **social animals and live in groups** called **prides**. A pride typically consists of multiple females, their offspring, and a few adult males.
- **Distribution and Habitat:** Lions are **found in sub-Saharan Africa**, and a small population exists in the **Gir Forest National Park (India)**.
- **Protection Status:**
 - [IUCN Red List](#):
 - **African Lion: Vulnerable (Globally)**
 - **Asiatic Lion: Vulnerable.**
 - **IUCN Green Status of Species Assessment:**
 - **Lions: Largely Depleted category**

- **CITES:** Appendix I for populations of India, all other populations are included in Appendix II.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972:** Schedule I and IV
- **Conservation Efforts in India:**
 - **Project Lion**
 - **Asiatic Lion Conservation Project**

ASIATIC LION Or INDIAN LION		FUN FACTS	
Scientific Name:	Panthera leo persica		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lions live in large groups called prides. • Male lions can weigh over 500 pounds and grow up to eight feet in length. • Known as the "King of the Jungle," lions live in grasslands and plains, not jungles. • Female lions and their sisters live together for life, while males stay with the pride until they reach maturity. • A lion's roar can be heard from up to five miles away. • Lions spend about 20 hours a day resting or sleeping. • Male lions patrol their territories regularly. • Lions prefer to hunt at night, making it easier to catch prey.
Weight:	Male: 150-250 kg Female: 120-180 kg		
Length (head and body):	Male: 1.7-2.5 m Female: 1.4-1.75 m		
Birth Interval:	18-26 Months		
Typical Diet:	Carnivorous		
Lifespan:	16-18 Years		

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