



Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (USTR)

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh's **Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (USTR)** has recorded a remarkable resurgence in wildlife activity, highlighting the **reserve's transformation into a thriving ecological sanctuary**.

Key Points

▪ Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (USTR):

◦ About:

- It is located in the **Gariaband and Dhamtari districts of Chhattisgarh**. It was formed by **combining the Udanti and Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuaries**.
- It is the **source of three major rivers—[Mahanadi](#), Sitanadi, and Udanti—which sustain both Chhattisgarh and Odisha.**
- The reserve's dense forests act like natural sponges, storing rainwater and supporting biodiversity as well as agriculture.

◦ Ecological Diversity:

- It contains various types of **forest crops** mixed with [Sal forest](#).
- The [Asiatic Wild Buffalo](#) is a key endangered species found in the reserve.
- Apart from the tiger, other endangered and rare species include the Indian Wolf, [Leopard](#), [Sloth Bear](#), and Mouse Deer.

◦ Strategic Wildlife Corridor:

- USTR functions as a **key [tiger corridor](#)**, connecting Maharashtra's **Gadchiroli forests** and Chhattisgarh's [Indravati Tiger Reserve](#) with Odisha's Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.
- This linkage **supports genetic diversity and long-range animal movement** across state borders.

▪ Protection Measures by the State Government:

◦ Community-Centric Conservation Model:

- Local communities are playing a crucial role through participatory initiatives such as **Charwaha Sammelans** and the recognition of [Community Forest Resource \(CFR\) rights](#).
- These measures have fostered trust, leading to active local involvement in **curbing poaching, illegal logging, and [forest fires](#)**.

◦ Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation:

- The '**Elephant Alert App**' has become an effective tool for early warning and tracking [elephant](#) movement, thereby reducing [human-wildlife conflict](#).

State PCS Course



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UPPCS

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Note: In 2022, Chhattisgarh became the second state after Odisha to have recognised CFR rights inside a national park i.e., [Kanger Ghati National Park](#).

National Parks & Sanctuaries of Chhattisgarh



Indravati National Park

About:

- It is situated in the **Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh**.
- It was **established in 1981** and **declared a tiger reserve in 1983** under India's **Project Tiger**.
- It is **named after the Indravati River**, which flows from east to west and forms the reserve's northern boundary with Maharashtra.

Vegetation:

- Comprises three major forest types:
 - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest with Teak
 - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest without Teak
 - Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest.

Flora:

- Common tree species include **teak, achar, karra, kullu, shisham, semal, haldu, arjun, bel, and jamun**.

Fauna:

- Hosts one of the last populations of **rare wild buffalo**.
- Other species include **Nilgai, Black Buck, Sambar, Gaur, Tiger, Leopard, Chital, Sloth Bears, etc.**

Community Forest Resource (CFR)

▪ **About CFR:**

- CFR area is **common forest land** that has been traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use by a particular community.
- The **community uses it to access resources available within the traditional and customary boundary of the village** and for seasonal use of landscape in the case of pastoralist communities.
- **Each CFR area has a customary boundary** with identifiable landmarks recognised by the community and its neighbouring villages.

▪ **Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights:**

- CFR rights under Section 3(1)(i) of the [Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers \(Recognition of Forest Rights\) Act, 2006](https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/udanti-sitanadi-tiger-reserve-ustr) (commonly referred to as the Forest Rights Act) provides for **recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage”** the community forest resource.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/udanti-sitanadi-tiger-reserve-ustr>

