



Madhav National Park

Why in News?

On 9th March 2025, the Union Environment Minister declared Madhya Pradesh's [Madhav National Park](#) as the country's 58th [tiger reserve](#). It is also the 9th national park in the state to get the recognition.

Key Points

- **Madhav National Park:**
 - Located in **Shivpuri district**, this national park is **part of the upper [Vindhya Hills](#)** and has historically been a hunting ground for the **Mughal emperors and the Maharajas of Gwalior**.
 - It was declared a **national park in 1959**.
 - The park has a rich ecosystem including **lakes, dry deciduous and thorn forests**, where **tiger, leopard, nilgai, chinkara, four-horned antelope** and various kinds of deer are found.
 - It is one of the 32 major tiger corridors in India, managed through the Tiger Conservation Plan under [the Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#).
- **Importance:**
 - This decision will further **strengthen tiger conservation** efforts under [Project Tiger](#) and help India play a leading role in **biodiversity conservation efforts**.
 - This will help in ensuring an increase in the number of tigers and protecting their natural habitat.
- In December last year, [Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Madhya Pradesh was declared the country's **57th tiger reserve** after receiving in-principle approval from **the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

Project Tiger

- **Project Tiger is a wildlife conservation initiative** in India that was **launched in the year 1973**.
- The primary objective of Project Tiger is to **ensure the survival and maintenance of tiger populations in their natural habitats** by creating dedicated tiger reserves.
- Increase in the number of tigers:
 - The **first tiger census in 1972** used the unreliable pug-mark method to count 1,827 tigers.
 - As of 2022, the tiger population is **estimated at 3,167-3,925**, representing a **growth rate of 6.1% per year**.
 - India is now home to **three-quarters of the world's tigers**.

