



Pench Tiger Reserve: Maharashtra

Why in News

Recently, a female cub of 'man-eater' tigress Avni has been released into the wild in the **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) of Maharashtra.**

Key Points

▪ About:

- It is located in **Nagpur District of Maharashtra** and named after the pristine **Pench River.**
 - The Pench river flows right through the middle of the park.
 - It descends from north to south, thereby **dividing the reserve into equal eastern and western parts.**
- PTR is the **joint pride** of both **Madhya Pradesh** and **Maharashtra.**
 - The Reserve is located in the southern reaches of the Satpura hills in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh, and continues in Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate Sanctuary.
- It was **declared a National Park by the Government of Maharashtra in 1975** and the identity of a **tiger reserve was granted to it in the year 1998-1999.**
 - However, PTR Madhya Pradesh was granted the same status in 1992-1993. It is one of the major Protected Areas of **Satpura-Maikal ranges** of the Central Highlands.
- It is among the sites notified as **Important Bird Areas (IBA) of India.**
 - The IBA is a programme of Birdlife International which **aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs** for **conservation of the world's birds** and associated diversity.

▪ Flora:

- The green cover is thickly spread throughout the reserve.
- A mixture of **Southern dry broadleaf teak forests** and **tropical mixed deciduous forests** is present.
- Shrubs, climbers and trees are also frequently present. **Some of them are unique varieties and possess medicinal as well as healing properties.**
- **Bamboo plantations** are also present nearby the water banks.

▪ Fauna:

◦ Mammals:

- These include - sloth bear, jackal, nilgai, wild dog etc.

◦ Birds:

- This comprises peafowl, magpie robin, pintail, drongo, unia, myna etc.

▪ Major Tiger Reserves of India:



Source: IE

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