



Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary to be Declared a Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh's [Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary](#), located near Bhopal, is set to become the state's 8th **tiger reserve**.

Key Points

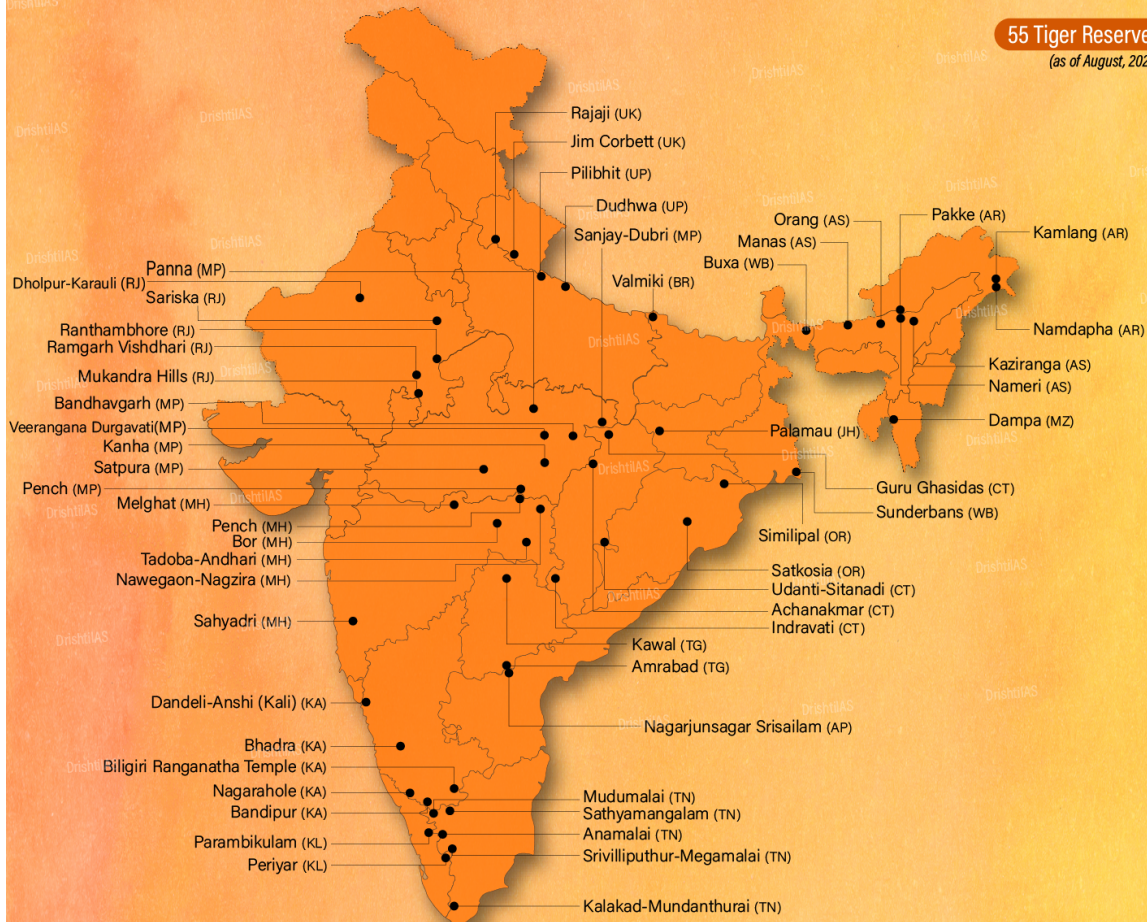
- **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary:** The sanctuary, known for its rich biodiversity and cultural significance, has met all the requirements of the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) and is awaiting final approval at the state wildlife board meeting.
- **Location and Area:** Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary covers approximately **3,500 sq km** in the **Raisen, Sehore, and Bhopal districts**. Of this, 1,500 sq km will be designated as the core tiger area, while 2,000 sq km will serve as a buffer zone.
- **Tiger Population:** The sanctuary is home to about **40 tigers, with an additional 12 tigers** regularly moving within the forest areas near Bhopal.
- **Tourism and Economy:** The designation as a tiger reserve is expected to boost tourism and improve the local economy through increased government funding.
- **Safety Measures:** To prevent tiger deaths due to accidents and poaching, 25 overpasses and underpasses will be constructed, and villages in the core area will be relocated.
- **Biodiversity:** Apart from tigers, the sanctuary supports a variety of **wildlife, including leopards, hyenas, jackals, and various herbivores such as chital, sambar, and nilgai**. It also hosts more than 150 bird species, making it a haven for birdwatchers .
- **Historical and Cultural Significance:** The sanctuary houses the [Bhimbetka rock shelters](#), a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), and several historical landmarks, adding cultural value to the region .

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Tiger Reserves

55 Tiger Reserves

(as of August, 2024)



FACTS

- A State Government, on the recommendation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, notify an area as a tiger reserve.
- Largest Tiger Reserve (Core Area): Nagarjunsagar Srisaillam (Andhra Pradesh).
- Smallest Tiger Reserve (Core Area): Orang (Assam).
- Reserve with Highest Tiger Density: Corbett (Uttarakhand) (All India Tiger Estimation 2018).
- State with Maximum Tigers: Madhya Pradesh (All India Tiger Estimation 2018).



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