



Cat Snake Spotted in Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

The **common cat snake** (*Boiga trigonata*), a rare and minimally venomous species, was recently discovered in Bihar's [Valmiki Tiger Reserve](#).



Key Points

- **About Common Cat Snake:**
 - Also known as **Indian gamma snake**, the common cat snake is a species of **rear-fanged snake** endemic to **South Asia**.
- **Features:**
 - **Thin, long body** with smooth, non-glossy scales.
 - **Greyish-brown dorsal** with **light zig-zag patterns; whitish belly** with tiny spots.
 - Triangular head with a **distinct Y-pattern on top**.
 - **Large golden eyes** with **vertical pupils**.
- **Habitat:**
 - Found widely across the **Indian Subcontinent**.
 - Inhabits dense and open forests, rocky hills, and scrub jungles.
 - Hides in tree holes, crevices, and dense vegetation at low to moderate heights.
- **Venom Characteristics:**
 - **Mildly venomous**, the snake poses no significant threat to humans but impacts small animals.
- **Lifespan:** 12-20 years

- **Diet:** It primarily consists of **small vertebrates**.
- [IUCN Red List](#): Least Concern.

Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)

- The VTR is located in **Bihar's West Champaran district**, bordering Nepal to its north and Uttar Pradesh to its west. It is the **only tiger reserve in Bihar**.
- Situated in the [Gangetic plains](#) **bio-geographic region**, the vegetation of this Tiger Reserve is a **combination of Bhabar and Terai regions**.
- **Wild mammals include** [tiger](#), sloth bear, [leopard](#), wild dog, bison, wild boar etc.
- [Rivers Gandak](#), Pandai, Manor, Harha, Masan and Bhapsa flow through various parts of the reserve.

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