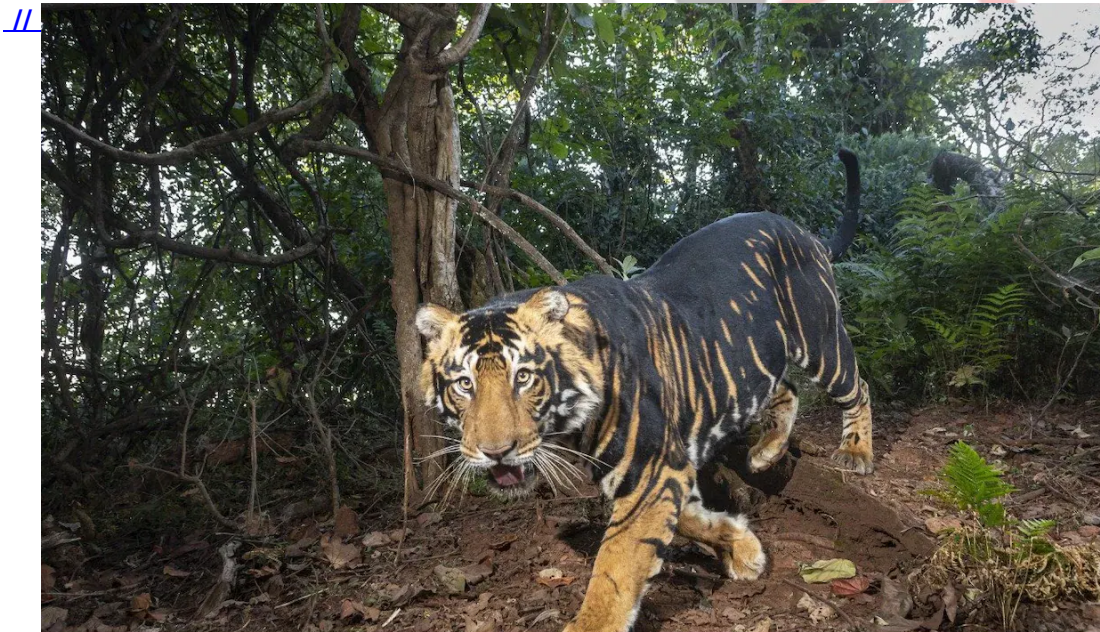




Black Tigers in Similipal Tiger Reserve

The Indian government informed the [Rajya Sabha](#) that there are **10 black tigers (melanistic tigers)** in India, all of which are **exclusively found in Odisha's [Similipal tiger reserve](#)**.

- Black Tigers are not a distinct species but a rare colour variant of [Bengal Tiger](#). The coat colour and patterning of black tigers are due to a single mutation in the **Transmembrane Aminopeptidase Q (Taqqep) gene**. This mutation is called **pseudo-melanism**.
- Similipal Tiger Reserve was designated in 1956, **part of [Project Tiger](#) since 1973**, and declared a [biosphere reserve](#) in 1994.
 - It is part of the [UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves](#) and the **Similipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Reserve** popularly known as [Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve](#).
 - Similipal is rich in wildlife, housing tigers, elephants, different bird and amphibian species.
 - Two tribes, **Erenga Kharias and Mankirdias, inhabit Similipal** and engage in traditional agricultural activities.



Read more: [Black Tigers](#)

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