

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:

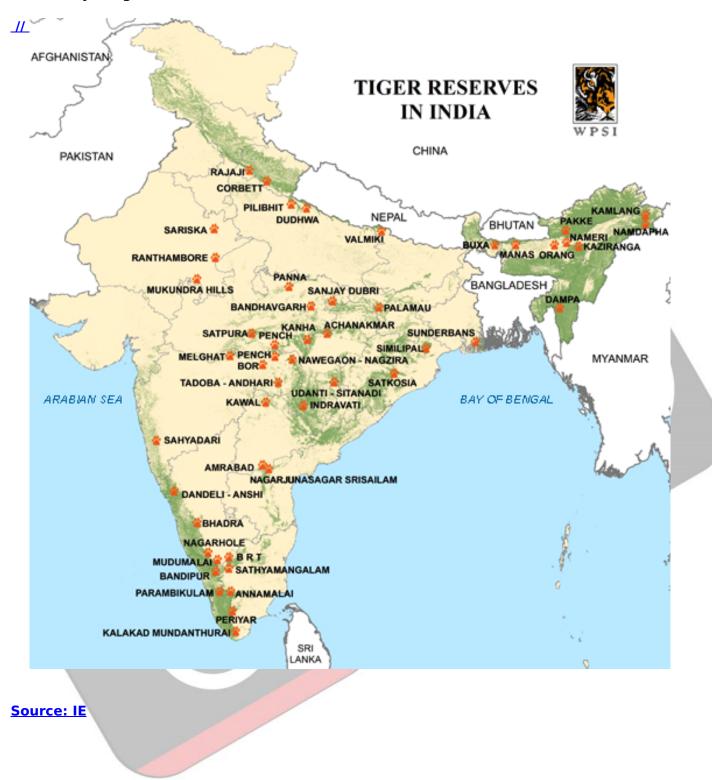
- The green cover is thickly spread throughout the reserve.
- A mixture of Southern dry broadleaf teak forests and tropical mixed deciduous forests is present.
- Shrubs, climbers and trees are also frequently present. Some of them are unique varieties and possess medicinal as well as healing properties.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



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