



Mass Vaccination of Stray Dogs in Panna Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

To prevent the spread of [Canine Distemper Virus \(CDV\)](#) infection among wild animals, a **mass vaccination campaign for stray dogs** has been launched in and around [Panna Tiger Reserve \(PTR\)](#), Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- **Canine Distemper Virus (CDV):**
 - It is a **highly contagious and potentially fatal viral infection** affecting a dog's respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems.
 - In 2015, one tiger and two leopards in PTR died due to CDV, highlighting the threat posed by the virus.
 - The aim is to curb the spread of CDV and protect wild animals in and around the reserve.
- **Vaccination Plan:**
 - Approximately 1,150 stray dogs in 36 forested villages in the buffer zone of PTR will be vaccinated.
 - The campaign will be carried out over three and a half months in two phases.
- **Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR):**
 - Panna National Park was **established in 1981**. It has a geographical extension in the **districts of Panna and Chhatarpur**.
 - This national park was declared as **Tiger Reserve in the year 1994** by the Central Government.
 - [UNESCO](#) designated the **Panna Tiger Reserve as a Biosphere Reserve on August 25, 2011**.
 - PTR **now houses 62 tigers and over 500 leopards**, making it critical to safeguard them from infections.
 - **Tiger Reintroduction:**
 - PTR became famous for **successfully reintroducing tigers** after poaching wiped out the population in 2009.
 - The Panna Tiger Project began with three relocated tigers: two tigresses from [Bandhavgarh](#) and [Kanha National Parks](#) and a male tiger from [Pench National Park](#).
 - Between 2009 and 2015, three additional tigresses and one male tiger were relocated to PTR from other national parks in Madhya Pradesh.
 - The tiger population in PTR has grown from zero in 2009 to 62 in 2024.

Kanha National Park

- It stretches over an area of 940 square km in the **two districts - Mandla and Balaghat - of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The present-day Kanha area **was divided into two sanctuaries, Hallon and Banjar. Kanha National Park was created in 1955** and in **1973** was made the **Kanha Tiger Reserve**.
 - Kanha National Park is the **largest National Park in Central India**.

Pench National Park

- 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.

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