

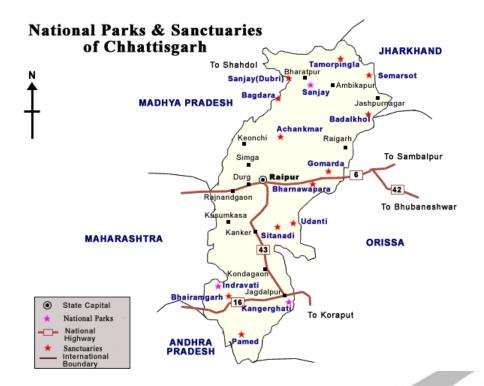
56th Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Recently, <u>Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary</u> in Chhattisgarh has officially been declared as the **56**th <u>Tiger Reserve</u> **of the country.**

Key Points

- About Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve:
 - The Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve spans from Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur districts of Chhattisgarh.
 - Total area is 2,829.38 sq. km, with core tiger habitat of 2,049.2 sq. km and buffer zone 780.15 sq. km.
 - It is the **third-largest tiger reserve in India**, after <u>Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh</u> and <u>Manas in Assam.</u>
- Conservation and Connectivity:
 - It forms a landscape complex of approximately 4,500 sq. km with the <u>Sanjay Dubri Tiger</u> <u>Reserve</u> in Madhya Pradesh.
 - It is connected to <u>Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve</u>, <u>Madhya Pradesh</u> in the west and <u>Palamau Tiger Reserve</u>, <u>Jharkhand in the east</u>.
- Ecological and Faunal Diversity:
 - Located in the <u>Chota Nagpur plateau</u> and partly in the <u>Baghelkhand plateau</u>, the reserve features diverse terrains, dense forests, streams, and rivers, providing critical <u>tiger</u> habitats.
 - Zoological Survey of India documented 753 species:
 - 365 invertebrates (mainly insects).
 - 388 vertebrates, including 230 bird species and 55 mammal species, several of which are threatened.
- Chhattisgarh now hosts **four tiger reserves**, enhancing tiger conservation efforts under <u>National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Project Tiger</u> initiative.



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