

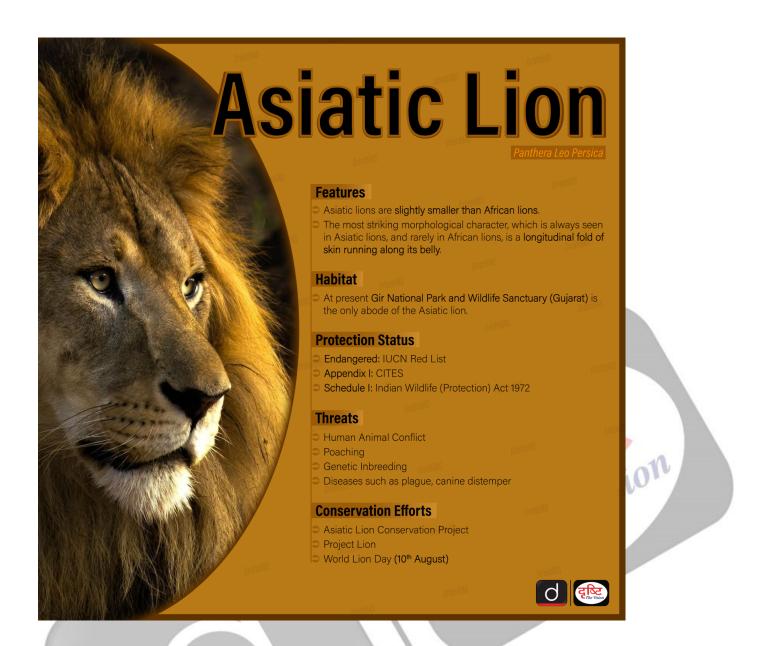
Van Vihar National Park | Madhya Pradesh | 25 Dec 2024

Why in News?

According to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, the <u>Van Vihar National Park</u> in Bhopal will get two <u>Asiatic lions</u> from Gujarat in exchange for two <u>Bengal tigers</u>.

Key Points

- Exchange Between MP and Gujarat:
 - Under an animal exchange programme two tigers have been relocated to the Junagadh zoo.
 - Two pure-breed Asiatic (Gir) lions will be brought from <u>Sakkarbaug Zoological Park</u> in Junagadh to Van Vihar National <u>Park</u> in <u>Bhopal</u> as part of the exchange.
- Van Vihar National Park:
 - It is located on the banks of the Upper Lake in Bhopal, and serves as a vital conservation area in the Madhya Pradesh capital.
 - It has the unique distinction of being a combination of National Park, a Zoo, Rescue Centre for wild animals and Conservation Breeding Centre for selected vital species.
 - It is the only place in central India where its rescue centre harbours a number of Lions and Tigers rescued from the circuses, Sloth Bears rescued from the madaris, Tigers, Panthers and Bears rescued from the zones of human-wildlife conflict.
 - It is also a designated co-ordinating zoo and Conservation Breeding Centre for the Hard Ground Barasingha, the state animal of Madhya Pradesh and two species of Gyps Vultures.
 - It is a natural habitat for a variety of herbivores and carnivores namely, <u>tiger</u>, white tiger, <u>leopard</u>, <u>hyena</u> and <u>sloth bear</u>, <u>chital</u>, sambhar, <u>blackbuck</u>, blue bull, <u>chousingha</u>, <u>common langur</u>, rhesus monkey, porcupine, etc.



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