



Buxa Tiger Reserve

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Why in News?

[Buxa Tiger Reserve \(BTR\)](#) in West Bengal witnessed the return of a **tiger** for the second time in two years after a 23-year absence, sparking hope for a flourishing ecosystem and a potential resurgence of tiger populations.

What are the Key Facts About Buxa Tiger Reserve?

▪ About:

- **Buxa Tiger Reserve and National Park** covers 760 square kilometers and is located in North Bengal's Alipurduar district.
- Buxa is a **"low density" reserve** and part of a larger tiger territory that stretches to Bhutan.
- The rivers Sankosh, Raidak, Jayanti, Churnia, Turturi, Phashkhawa, Dima, and Nonani flow through Buxa National Park.

▪ Corridor Connectivity:

- According to the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#), the Reserve has corridor connectivity across the border with the **forests of Bhutan in the North**; linkages with the **Kochugaon forests (Assam)** and [Manas Tiger Reserve \(Assam\) in the East](#); and with the **Jaldapara National Park in the West**.
 - The reserve's connectivity serves as a vital link in promoting the migration and genetic diversity of Bengal tigers.

▪ Flora:

- Prominent tree species include **Sal, Champ, Gamar, Simul, and Chikrasi**, contributing to the reserve's diverse and vibrant ecosystem.

▪ Fauna:

- The primary wildlife species include the [Asian Elephant](#), **Tiger**, [gaur \(Indian bison\)](#), **Wild boar**, **Sambar**, and [Wild dog \(Dhole\)](#).
- **Endangered species** in Buxa Tiger Reserve encompass the Leopard cat, Bengal florican, Regal python, Chinese [Pangolin](#), Hispid hare, and Hog deer.

▪ Conservation Initiatives:

- Introduced **chitals (spotted deer) to enhance the tiger's prey base**, fostering favorable conditions for their return, and showcasing successful conservation efforts.
- Proactive measures have been taken to **expand the grassland**, creating an ideal habitat for tigers and other wildlife.
- Initiatives focus on **reducing human interference**, curbing infiltration, and controlling trespassing to create a harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife.
- **Tiger Augmentation Project** was launched in 2018, this collaborative project involves the state forest department, the **Wildlife Institute of India**, and the NTCA, focusing on monitoring and enhancing the tiger population.

Tiger Reserves

54 Tiger Reserves



FACTS

- A State Government, on the recommendation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, notify an area as a tiger reserve.
- Largest Tiger Reserve (Core Area): Nagarjunsagar Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh).
- Smallest Tiger Reserve (Core Area): Orang (Assam).
- Reserve with Highest Tiger Density: Corbett (Uttarakhand) (All India Tiger Estimation 2018).
- State with Maximum Tigers: Madhya Pradesh (All India Tiger Estimation 2018).



Other Protected Areas in West Bengal

- Gorumara National Park
- **Sundarbans National Park**
- Neora Valley National Park
- **Singalila National Park**
- Jaldapara National Park
- Sundarban Tiger Reserve
- Mayurjharna Elephant Reserve
- Eastern Doars Elephant Reserve

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under “Critical Tiger Habitat”? (2020)

- (a) Corbett
- (b) Ranthambore
- (c) Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam
- (d) Sundarbans

Ans: (c)

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