



# NMDC to Extract Diamonds Near Tiger Reserve

## Why in News?

India's [National Mineral Development Corporation \(NMDC\)](#) plans to extract **6,500 carats of diamonds**, valued at **USD 3.4 million**, from **ores** in a mine near [Panna tiger reserve](#).

## Key Points

- **Delays in Mining Operations:**
  - NMDC faced **delays in obtaining environmental clearances**, halting mining at the Panna mine in Madhya Pradesh for over three years due to its **proximity to the tiger reserve**.
  - [The Supreme Court](#) later allowed NMDC to **resume mining operations**, subject to certain guidelines, enabling the company to restart its work at the mine.
- **Diamond Extraction:**
  - Since resuming operations, **NMDC has extracted 3,700 carats of diamonds, valued at USD 1.93 million.**
- **About the Panna Mine:**
  - The Panna mine spans 275.96 hectares (681.91 acres) and began operations in the early 1970s.
  - It is the **only mechanized diamond mine** in India.
- **Diamond Mining in Madhya Pradesh:**
  - Madhya Pradesh is one of [Asia's major diamond mining regions](#).
  - Global and domestic companies have faced challenges in mining diamonds at the **Bunder project**, near the Panna reserve.

## Panna Tiger Reserve

- **About:**
  - Located in [the Vindhyan mountain range](#) in northern Madhya Pradesh.
  - Covers an **area of 542 sq.km.**
  - The **only Tiger Reserve in the Bundelkhand region**.
  - **Declared a Tiger Reserve** by the Government of India under [Project Tiger](#) in 1994.
- **Landscape:**
  - The reserve features a **'Table Top' topography**.
  - It includes **extensive plateaus and gorges**.
  - [The Ken River](#) flows from south to north through the reserve.
  - The area also contains **two-thousand-year-old rock paintings**.
- **Flora:**
  - Dominated by **dry deciduous forests** interspersed with grasslands.
  - In the north, the reserve is surrounded by [teak forests](#).
  - To the east, it is bordered by **Teak-Kardhai mixed forests**.
- **Fauna:**
  - The reserve is home to a significant population of [tigers](#), [sloth bears](#), [leopards](#), and [striped hyenas](#).
  - Other notable carnivores include **jackals, wolves, wild dogs, jungle cats, and the rusty spotted cat**.

- **The Vindhya Hill ranges**, running from NE to SW, help connect the eastern and western populations of wildlife.

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