



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary Declared as the 8th Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh

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Context:

- The **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary** has been officially declared as the **8th Tiger Reserve** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The state now has eight tiger reserves, with **Kanha, Satpura, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Sanjay Dubri, Panna, and Veerangana Durgavati** being the other reserves.

About Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Location:** Situated in the **Raisen and Sehore** districts of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Major Sites:**
- **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, a World Heritage Site.**
- Other significant sites include **Ginnourgarh Fort, POW camp, Keri Mahadeo, and Jholiyapur Dam.**
- **Flora and Fauna:**
- The sanctuary contains **dry deciduous** and **moist deciduous** forests, with **55% of the area** covered by **teak trees**.
- **Major Wildlife:**
- **Tigers, Leopards, Sloth Bears, Hyenas, Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer,** among others.

Process for Declaring a Tiger Reserve in India:

1. **Proposal Submission:** The state government submits a proposal for the declaration of a tiger reserve.
2. **In-principle Approval:** The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** provides in-principle approval and solicits detailed proposals.
3. **Due Diligence:** The NTCA conducts thorough evaluations.
4. **Final Notification:** After recommendations from the NTCA, the state government notifies the area as a **Tiger Reserve**.

Indian Government's Efforts to Protect Tigers:

1. Project Tiger:

- An ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change** to assist tiger states in conservation efforts.

1. Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS):

- As of December 2023, **23 tiger reserves** in India have received **CA|TS accreditation**, which ensures high standards of tiger conservation.

1. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

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- India has launched the **IBCA**, aimed at securing the future of **big cats** and the **landscapes** they inhabit.

Significance:

- The declaration of Ratapani as a Tiger Reserve reflects India's commitment to protecting its tiger population and the biodiversity of its wildlife sanctuaries.
- Madhya Pradesh continues to be a major hub for tiger conservation in India, reaffirming its title as the “**Tiger State**” of the country.