



FACTS ABOUT TIGERS

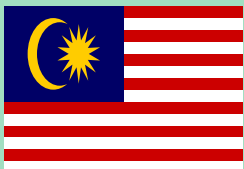
Tigers are the largest members of the cat family and are renowned for their power and strength. They are the national animal of 4 nations of the world.



India



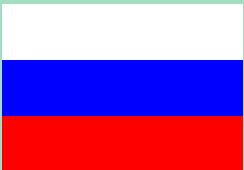
Royal Bengal tiger
Panthera tigris tigris



Malaysia



Malayan tiger
Panthera tigris jacksoni



Russia



Siberian tiger
Panthera tigris altaica



Bangladesh



Royal Bengal tiger
Panthera tigris tigris

Did you Know !

- ◆ The white spot on the back of their ears is called an ocelli...
- ◆ Tigers have antiseptic saliva...
- ◆ Tigers are adept swimmers...
- ◆ There are a greater number of tigers in captivity in the US alone than there are wild tigers left on earth...
- ◆ The collective noun for tigers according to English language is a 'streak' or an 'ambush'. But tigers are naturally solitary creatures.

Range

Historic tiger range ran from Turkey through South and Southeast Asia to the far eastern shores of the continent. Today, they are only found in South and Southeast Asia, China and the Russian Far East.

Behaviour

Tigers occupy a variety of habitats from tropical forests, evergreen forests, woodlands and mangrove swamps to grasslands, savannah and rocky country. They are mostly nocturnal (more active at night) and are ambush predators that rely on the camouflage their stripes provide. Tigers use their body weight to knock prey to the ground and kills with a bite to the neck. They are also very good swimmers and have been known to kill prey while swimming.

Tigers essentially live solitary lives, except during mating season and when females bear young. They are usually fiercely territorial and have and mark their large home ranges.

Reproduction

Mating Season: In tropical climates, mostly from around November to April; during the winter months in temperate regions. However tigers are found to mate in all seasons.

Gestation: 103 days. Litter size: 3-4 cubs.

Cubs follow their mother out of the den at around 8 weeks and become independent at around 18 months of age. They leave their mothers at about 2 ½ years. Mothers guard their young from wandering males that may kill the cubs to make the female receptive to mating.

Global Tiger Day

Global Tiger Day is held annually on July 29 to give worldwide attention to the conservation of tigers. It is both an awareness day and a celebration. It was founded at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010. This was done because at that moment wild tigers were too close to extinction. Many animal welfare organisations pledged to help these wonderful creatures and are still helping to raise funds to reach this goal. The goal of Tiger Day is to promote the protection and expansion of the wild tiger habitats and to gain support through awareness for tiger conservation.

We have lost 97% of all wild tigers in a bit over 100 years. Instead of 100,000, as few as 3000 live in the wild today! A number of Tiger species have already been extinct. Tigers may be one of the most admired animals, but they are also vulnerable to extinction.

At this rate, all tigers living in the wild could be extinct in 5 years!

BASIC FACTS ABOUT TIGERS

The tiger is the largest member of the felid (cat) family. They sport long, thick reddish coats with white bellies and white and black tails. Their heads, bodies, tails and limbs have narrow black, brown or gray stripes. There were once nine subspecies of tigers: Bengal, Siberian, Indochinese, South Chinese, Sumatran, Malayan, Caspian, Javan and Bali. Of these, the last three are extinct, one is extinct in the wild, and the rest are endangered.

Diet

Tigers mainly eat spotted deer, sambar deer, wild boars, Indian gaurs, water buffalo and antelope. Tigers are also known to hunt sloth bears, dogs, leopards, crocodiles and pythons as well as monkeys and hares. Old and injured tigers have been known to attack humans and domestic cattle.

Population

In the early 1900s, there were around 100,000 tigers throughout their range. Today, an estimated total of around 4,000-4,500 exist in the wild. Below is a breakdown of tiger numbers by subspecies.

Tiger Species

Bengal Tiger: Less than 3,000	South Chinese Tiger: Extinct in the wild
Indochinese Tiger: 750-1,300	Caspian Tiger: Extinct
Siberian Tiger: Around 450	Javan Tiger: Extinct
Sumatran Tiger: 400-500	Bali Tiger: Extinct
Malayan Tiger: 600-800	

(Source : Internet)



Editor Speaks...The National Identity from Taj to the Tiger



M.S. REDDY (IFS)
CCF & FD
Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

Global Tiger Day which is celebrated on 29th July is a commemoration of one of our most recognised identities as an Indian, 'The Tiger' India is famous for two Ts. The Taj Mahal & the tiger. One is a symbol of eternal love and remembrance by a king for his beloved wife while the other is the symbol of mystifying royalty and wilderness. One is amongst the 7 wonders of the modern world while the sight of the other mesmerises the man into admiring its raw emotions and power. The Taj Mahal in its purity of colour and beauty of the structure attracts most of the tourists coming from other countries while the Tiger owing to its depleting numbers yet having a captivating look is now the second most sought after entity for tourists. Nevertheless both of them are identified with our big and culturally diversified country, i.e. India.

As a forest officer our roles may be varied with the objective of protecting the green wealth of India but there is no joyous or defining moment than the sighting of the king of the jungle 'The Tiger' in its natural habitat. Being on the top of the food chain it does certainly define a healthy eco system and increases our responsibilities to maintain and improve the habitat for sustaining the royal beast and allow it to breed effectively to increase its numbers. The jungles have to be hence suitable to have a good population of herbivores which are its preys and also sustain parallelly other carnivores who are at the higher rungs of the food chain. It is definitely heartening to see that our wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves of Vidarbha are having a good and growing number of big cats. At the same time it is our duty to protect the interests of the people dependent on the forests for their livelihood since generations, by giving them alternate options and reducing their dependency on the natural resources and products of the forests. It is an uphill task but at Pench we have imbibed in our systems that the only place where success comes before work, is in the dictionary.

We are working towards making the lives of these people from the rural areas better and improve their standard of life. Each youth within the age group of 18 to 30 is motivated to take up jobs in the industrial sector outside the forest areas. The skill trainings and job opportunities are also provided to them in collaboration with various other organisations and institutions in priority and many schemes in this regard are run to benefit the locals. Similarly, the women from these villages are being guided to form self help groups which learn a specialised trade and the foundation helps in providing them with machineries, trainings to run them and finally the market link ups for their products. These are small steps yet path breaking in the sense that such efforts pave the way towards improving socio economic levels of the societies around the forests. We have undertaken extensive microplans in these villages to map each individual and identify areas where the department and the Pench Foundation can work to provide long term solutions.

At the city level our team of dedicated staff from the Forest Department, Pench Foundation and those under the World Bank funded Bio-diversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Project are working hand in hand arduously to provide back up and support to all these activities. We are also having the support of many NGOs and institutions like the BNHS, Sanctuary Asia and WCT, to name a few, who are in true sense the ground level workers for conservation. Our army of school kids, teachers and principals under the Green School Programme from the top most schools in Nagpur are a parallel army of future conservationists and voices for the cause of nature conservation. When I look back and see the effort which goes in to perform these tasks and activities I realise that there is one common binding force, the tiger. Each one of these people is in awe of that animal and in love with it. As an Indian and as an IFS officer it is my honour to serve and protect the identity of our country that is the tiger. After all the years of experience and work in this field I can say that the future of the Tiger can be safeguarded because of the way knowledge and wisdom is now transferred from one generation to the other.

The Poet, William Blake has exquisitely written the poem 'The Tiger' to depict the mystery, the royalty as well as the ferocious nature all fit into one creature. This newsletter also carries that poem and one another written by a little school girl Manodnya as a tribute to the national animal. Let's all join hands together to pledge to save this species from extinction from the face of this earth. We all respect the stripes present in our national flag. Let us all also respect and protect the stripes of the tiger. They are also our pride and identity.





Pench Partners with Students & Teachers of Nagpur Through Green School Programme

Conservation is not an isolated idea and a process limited to only a few people. Conservation begins at each one's home, place of work and even in the schools where a child is shaped into a man. Pench Tiger Conservation Foundation propagates and even executes conservation at various levels in the society. Under the aegis of Mr. M. S. Reddy (CCF & FD- Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra) the foundation has formulated and initiated a 'Green School Programme' which is executed in the schools of Nagpur by the children and staff, in support with the school management as well as the forest department and some NGOs.



Their Goal....

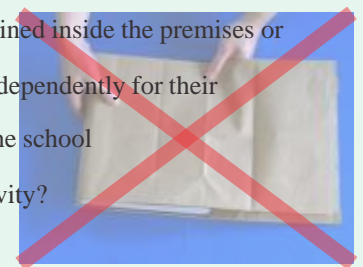
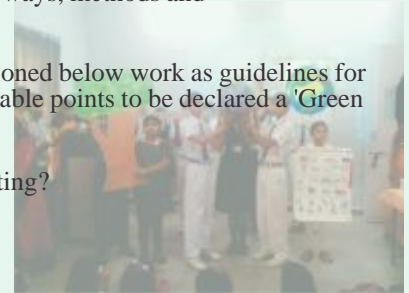
The Green School Programme makes use of natural resources and implements environment-friendly practices with the help of management, teachers and students within schools and outside in the society. It prepares the future soldiers of conservation.

What will the programme do....

- ◆ **Encourage** educational institutions to improve their environmental performance.
- ◆ **Monitor** the existing environmental performance of educational institutions in a participatory and transparent way.
- ◆ **Conduct** and implement practically viable projects and Programs at the school and society involving direct participation of the school students.
- ◆ **Help** school authorities to better govern their own institution as well as pave the way for better government policies.
- ◆ In summary, GSP aims to get educational institutions to **develop** and **implement** on their own ways, methods and practices to **conserve** and **manage** the environment in a better way.

Method: The schools participate in it voluntarily and 25 actionable and audit able points as mentioned below work as guidelines for becoming a 'Green School'. Each year the school must conform to minimum 10 of these 25 actionable points to be declared a 'Green School'. The 25 points and guidelines are as follows;

- ◆ Rainwater harvesting in school. – Is the school implementing and practising rain water harvesting?
- ◆ Recycling sewage/waste water. – Disposal and re-use of waste water by use in garden, etc.
- ◆ Does school have a plant nursery? – Minimum 1000 plants
- ◆ How many numbers of trees does the land school have? – Minimum height 10 feet.
- ◆ Does the school have sources of un-conventional energy in use? – Minimum 2
- ◆ Waste collection-recycle-disposal? – Does the school practice segregating waste as per various categories?
- ◆ Vermi-composting? Does the school have a vermi-compost pit in use?
- ◆ Does the school have Bird Nest Boxes and provision of water for birds in summer?
- ◆ Number of tree Plantations in this year? How many trees / plants has the school planted and maintained inside the premises or outside the school.
- ◆ Study tours to Bio park/National Park/Tiger Reserve? Has the school conducted any of the tours independently for their students?
- ◆ Participation in Eco Ganesha/ Eco Holi/Eco Diwali/ Wildlife week/world forest day, etc. Or does the school independently celebrate these days?
- ◆ Any expert /resource person on wildlife/ environment being invited as guest lecture or for any activity?
- ◆ Active reduction of use of paper by re-usage and recycling.
- ◆ Is the school free of brown paper or laminated plastic sheets used for covering of books?
- ◆ Do students, teachers use cloth bags instead of plastic bags? – Plastic free School (polythene)
- ◆ Does the school have a Nature Club? – Minimum 4 activities independently.
- ◆ Student's participation in any conservation campaigns in the city / village? – Does the school participate in events like Nirmalya Sankalan, cleanliness drives, and signature campaigns in the society on a regular basis?
- ◆ Does the school subscribe for magazines, books on environmental issues, nature, and wildlife? - Minimum 5 subscriptions.
- ◆ Arrange/organise any competition on environment / biodiversity? – Minimum 1 inter- school competition.
- ◆ School decorated with messages- pictures- slogans - news cuttings? Does the school have an Environment news board?
- ◆ Replacing floral bouquets with saplings on all occasions? Has the school stopped using bouquets or flower buds and started gifting saplings?
- ◆ Has the school participated through any faculty or student in any biodiversity or environmental forum outside the school? Paper Presentation/group discussion/model presentation, skits, etc.
- ◆ Involvement of parents in such programmes. (participation of parents in activities listed here)
- ◆ Adoption of any wild animal/bird/ wildlife or biodiversity project in or around city. (Not in any cage in school)
- ◆ Any other innovative method to conserve and protect environment and bio-diversity with good measurable impact.



The movement is turning out to be a revolution in the field of environment and wildlife conservancy as till date 25 top schools as mentioned below have registered for voluntary participation in the Green School Programme. G. H. Raisoni Vidyaniketan, Swami Awadheshanand Public School, Sāndipani High School, Tuli Public School, Dinanath School, The Chanda Devi Saraf School (CDS), Shri Guru Harkishan Public School, Hillfort Public School, Sāndipani School (CBSE), N. K. Academy, Narayana Vidyalayam, J. N. Tata Parsi Girl's High School, MSB Educational Institute, Centre Point School (Amaravati Road Bypass), Centre Point School (Katol Road), Centre Point School (Wardhaman Nagar), Somalwar High School & Jr. College(Nikalas Branch), Jain International School, Modern School (Koradi), G.H.Raisoni Vidyaniketan (State Board), Royal Gondwana Public School, Ira International School, NMC Barrister Sheshrao Wankhede Vidyaniketan, Poddar International School, Priyadarshini Nagpur Public School.

Game Changer....

◆ 25 big schools volunteer.....@ 1000 students per school, then we are creating a small army of conservationists of around 25000 students, some 2500 teachers and around 50000 parents. That's some numbers to chew upon.....

Advantage- Environment & The Winner-All.





Glimpses of Activities in Schools of Nagpur



Saplings given to parents by Swami Awadheshanand Public School

Students learn importance of camera trapping method in tiger conservation

Students learn importance of camera trapping method in tiger conservation

Students of Modern School, Nagpur, were engaged in a workshop to learn about the importance of camera trapping in tiger conservation. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Meyipokym Aier (APCCF WL-East) and Mr. M.S. Reddy (CCF & FD PTR). The students were shown how to set up camera traps and how to use the photographs to monitor tiger populations. The workshop was a great success and the students were very interested in learning about this important conservation method.

Mr. Meyipokym Aier (APCCF WL-East) & Mr. M.S. Reddy (CCF & FD PTR) At the opening of Camera Trap Photography exhibition at Modern School



Painting by Student of Narayana Vidyalayam



Mr. Kalyankumar (CF working plan) and Mr. D.H. Raut (DFO, Ramtek) opening the Camera Trap photography exhibition at Narayana Vidyalayam



Birds Nests setup by G.H.Raisoni Vidyaniketan



Sāndipani School Students enjoying photo exhibition on the occasion of Global Tiger Day.



Vivek Deshpande (Social Mobilizer - BCRLIP) installing eco club members of Sāndipani School.



The Tiger

TIGER, tiger, burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder and what art
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand and what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? What dread grasp
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,
And water'd heaven with their tears,
Did He smile His work to see?
Did He who made the lamb make thee?

Tiger, tiger, burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

William Blake. 1757-1827



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