

Barasingha Population in Satpura Tiger Reserve

Prelims: Current events of national and international relations | Species

Why in news?

A decade after reintroduction, the Satpura tiger reserve's Barasingha population tops around 303, with three population units established across the landscape.

- **Reintroduction programme** - The forest department of Madhya Pradesh launched the reintroduction programme in 2015, bringing animals from Kanha tiger reserve to Satpura.
- **Need for reintroduction** - Disappeared from the Satpura landscape because of habitat loss and hunting.
- **Objective** - To reduce dependence on a single stronghold population in Kanha (principal natural stronghold), the species was reintroduced into Satpura.
- Between 2015 and 2026, approximately 135 barasingha were translocated to the reserve.
- The population has now increased to about 303 animals through successful natural breeding.
- **Initial acclimatisation** - Initially, the animals were kept in a predator-protected enclosure in the Bori landscape to help them acclimatise, breed and adapt before being released into the wild.
- **3 population units** - Bori enclosure, Bori grasslands and Malini grasslands in the Churna range.
- Establishing multiple populations reduces dependence on a single location and creates opportunities for the species to expand across suitable habitats.



- **Next phase** - To link at least six grasslands, allowing barasingha to move between habitat patches in search of seasonal forage, water and breeding grounds.
- It is intended to reduce pressure on individual grasslands as the population grows.
- The next priority was to strengthen habitat connectivity and develop grassland corridors to secure the species' long-term future.
- **Key activities undertaken** - Management measures include
 - Promoting palatable native grasses,
 - Removing invasive weeds, maintaining open grasslands, and
 - Improving water availability.
 - Forest managers are focusing on breeding and fawning areas, where adequate cover and protection are essential for the survival of young animals.
- **Success of the programme** - The initiative starts with simple translocation, but has resulted in the establishment of a naturally breeding and self-sustaining population.
- The success reflects the combined efforts of frontline forest personnel, senior officers, scientific collaborators and communities.
- **Challenges** - To ensure that habitat availability, connectivity and protection keep pace with the growing herd.

Reference

[TOI | Decade after reintroduction, Satpura reserve's Barasingha population tops 300](#)



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