

Second home for Asiatic Lions - Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, the Gujarat government restructured the Porbandar Forest Division to enhance forest management and develop the **Barda area as a “second home” for Asiatic lions.**



SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT		
Asiatic Lion – Key Facts		
	Scientific name	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>
	Status	Endangered – IUCN Red List
	Natural range in India	Gujarat
	Major population	Gir landscape
	2025 population	891 lions
	2020 population	674 lions
	Population increase	~32% in 5 years
	Distinctive feature	Prominent belly fold ; smaller mane compared with African lions

Prominent belly fold

Barda Landscape

- It has been identified as an alternative habitat, or “second home,” for Asiatic lions.
- **Located in - Gujarat**, near the **Porbandar-Jamnagar region**.

Asiatic lions **naturally returned to Barda after 143 years.**

• Objectives

- Reduce the concentration of lions in the Gir landscape.
- Provide additional habitat for the species.
- Improve long-term conservation and population management.

Restructuring of the Porbandar Forest Division

- **Key measures** - It includes
 - Establishment of **new forest ranges and beats**.
 - Clear allocation of **responsibilities based on geographic areas**.
 - Deployment of two **Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs)**.
 - Consolidation of personnel and equipment resources.
 - Improved patrolling, forest conservation and wildlife-management operations.
- **Key Administrative Changes - Porbandar and Ranavav** have been designated as separate administrative beats.
- The total number of forest ranges has been **increased to seven**.
- All forest ranges will now fall under the jurisdiction of the **Junagadh Wildlife Circle**.
- **Porbandar Range**
 - Comprises 80 villages.
 - Covers an area of 6,840.84 hectares.
- **Ranavav Range**
 - Comprises 27 villages.
 - Covers an area of 13,051.25 hectares.
- An area of 305.94 hectares from Bhatia Range (Jamnagar) has been transferred to Bhanwad Range (Porbandar).
- Kutiyana and Ranavan Social Forestry Ranges have been incorporated under the Porbandar Forest Division.
- **Significance**
 - **Habitat security** - It expands habitat reduces pressure on the Gir region.
 - **Conservation** - It Strengthens landscape-level management and protection.

Reference

[The Print | Second Home for Lions](#)