

## **Melghat Tiger Reserve (1973-74-2014-15)**

The Government of India in consultation with the State Government and in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force appointed on the matter of Tiger Conservation, by the Indian Board of Wildlife established nine Tiger reserve in the first phase in the country during the year 1973-74. Melghat Tiger Reserve was one of this Nine Tiger Reserve and came in to being on 22.2.1974 initially over an area of 1571.74 Sq. K.m. This was the first Tiger Reserve to be declared in the State of Maharashtra, which subsequently get expanded to 2029.04 Sq. Km.

The Melghat nestling in the Satpuda hill ranges of Forsythls and Dunbar's Central India with vast tracts of inviolate natural forests consisting of unique and representative ecosystems with rich Bio-diversity and varied habitats offered by deep valleys (locally known as Khoras) and high hills (locally known as Ballas), daunted with rivers and nallahs having water all the year round in the "Doh" was the natural choice for the community of foresters in Maharashtra, when it came to choose an area for preserving it for posterity and for ensuring that the 'Tiger' the most magnificent and royal of the wild species, could sustain a viable population and survive for the eternity.

The Management plan for Melghat Tiger Reserve has been sanctioned by the Government for the period 2014-15 to 2023-24. The working in Melghat Tiger Reserve is being carried out as per the sanctioned Management plan.

### **Location**

Situated in the Satpura hill ranges of Central India, Melghat Tiger Reserve lies in Melghat Forests of Amravati district in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra bordering Madhya Pradesh in the North and East. Its area is geographically located as given below.

- Latitude: Between 21° 15' N and 21° 45' N
- Longitude: Between 76° 57' E and 77° 30' E
- Altitude: 312M to 1178 M above MSL.

### **Administrative Set Up**

The entire area of M.T.R. is administratively controlled by Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Project Tiger Melghat, Amravati. The area of M.T.R. is divided in to three Wildlife divisions having headquarterd at Paratwada and Akot. The buffer area of Wan, Ambabarwa and Narnala Sanctuaries and part of Melghat Sanctuary and Gugamal National Park managed by Dy.C.F. Akot and is under the control of Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve. The details of division wise area are given below.

Sr.No	Name of Division	Area in Sq.K.m.	Ranges	Rounds	Beat
1	Sipna W.L.Division,Paratwada	839.09	5	31	96
2	Gugamal W.L.Division, Paratwada.	639.93	3	17	64
3	Akot W.L.Division, Akot.	550.02	4	20	68
<b>Total</b>		<b>2029.04</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>220</b>

**Various Notifications Issued by The Government In Respect of Area of Melghat Tiger Reserve:**

Government of Maharashtra revenue and Forest Department Notification No WLP 1978/10553(a) F-5 Dated 5th September 1985 regarding Melghat sanctuary.

Government of Maharashtra Revenue and Forest Department Notification No. WLP 1086/1806/F-5 Dated 27/11/1987 regarding Gugamal National Parke.

Government of Maharashtra Revenue and Forest Department Notification No. WLP 1992/526/F-5 Dated 15/2/1994 Modified resolution regarding Melghat Sanctuary

Government of Maharashtra Revenue and forest Department Notification no. WLP 10-2000/ CR-41/F-1 Dated 6-11-2000 regarding Final Notification of Melghat Sanctuary.

Government of Maharashtra Revenue and Forest Department Notification No. WLP 1098/CR-135/F-2/ dated 8/8/2000 Final notification on Gugamal Notification Parke.

Government of Maharashtra Revenue and Forest Department Notification No. WLP 10-07/CR.297/F-1 Dated 27/12/2007 declaring the Area of Ambabarwa, Wan, Narnala Melghat Sanctuary & Gugamal National Park as Critical Tiger Habitat (Core)

Government of Maharashtra Revenue and Forest Department Notification No. WLP 10-10/CR.139/F-1 Dated 29/09/2010 declaring the Buffer of above Core.

**Division Wise Area of The Reserve**

Directorate of Melghat Tiger Reserve controls, for administration and technical purposes, 3 Forest divisions.

**The area details of Core and Buffer Zone in Melghat Tiger Reserve are as under:**

Division	Core (Area in ha.)			Buffer (Area in ha.)			Grand Total
	Forest	Non-forest	Total	Forest	Non-forest	Total	
Sipna WL*	47465.02	942.58	48407.6	31879.96	3622.14	35502.1	83909.7
Gugamal WL*	65545.46	1050.24	66595.7	15261.13	2092.96	17354.09	83949.79
Akot WL*	34293.92	753.27	35047.19	0	0	0	35047.19
West Melghat	0	0	0	22046.62	2337.46	24384.08	24384.08

East Melghat	0	0	0	17508.85	4807.98	22316.83	22316.83
Akola	0	0	0	1932.43	15967.48	17899.91	17899.91
Buldhana	0	0	0	3436.5	5910.16	9346.66	9346.66
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>147304.0</b>	<b>2746.09</b>	<b>150050.49</b>	<b>92065.49</b>	<b>34738.18</b>	<b>126803.67</b>	<b>276854.16</b>

\* Marked areas are under administrative control of the Melghat Tiger Project Directorate.

### **No Villages in National Park**

Gugamal National Park has no villages inside and is completely free from all kind of human interferences. As a result this area has become a true representative of a 'nature reserve' where nature is at its best. Unlike other Reserves, an entry of outsider is strictly restricted. Contiguity of forests provides great importance to this area for the long-term conservation goals at landscape level. The remaining core of MTR was containing 31 villages which have to be relocated as per the policy of the Central & State Government under the provision of section 38 (V) of WL (prot.) Act 1972. Out of these; 8 villages have already been relocated till 2011.

The buffer area of MTR contains 118 villages out of which 39 villages are under the jurisdiction of MTR. Remaining is under the jurisdiction of East Melghat, West Melghat, and Akola & Buldhana four Division respectively.

### **Approach**

Melghat is approachable by Road, Rail and Air. Semadoh is the main centre from tourist point of view. Narnala sanctuary is another tourist centre of the MTR with religions as well as historical points of view having a fortress built probably before 600 years ET is easy to approach via Akot in Akolaa District of Maharashtra State.

### **By Road (Semadoh)**

- Nagpur: (160Km) Amravati; (50Km.) Paratwada; (45Km.) Semadoh.
- Nagpur: (110Km.) Warud; (90Km.) Paratwada; (45Km.) Semadoh.
- Amravati : ( 50Km.) Paratwada ; ( 32Km.) Chikhaldara ; ( 25Km.) Semadoh.
- Nagpur: (210Km.) Paratwada ; ( 32Km) Chikhaldara; (25Km.) Semadoh.
- Nagpur : (210Km.) Paratwada ; (45Km.) Semadoh;(13 Km.)Kolkaz
- Akola : (45Km.) Akot ; (22Km) Khatkali ;(58Km.) Harisal.
- Beitul (M.P.): (50Km.) Gudgaon; (50Km.) Paratwada; (45KM) Semadoh.
- Indore (M.P.) : (200Km.) Burhanpur ;(87 Km) Dharni ; (26Km.) Harisal ; (25Km.) Semadoh
- Amravati: (90 km) Akot (18 km) Shahnoor (7 km) Narnala.
- Akola : (45 km) Akot (18 km) Shahnoor (7 km) Narnala

## By Railway

- Badnera Junction (10Km) from Amravati – Mumbai – Nagpur – Kolkata route.
- Akola Junction : Mumbai –Nagpur- Kolkata route
- Khandwa : Mumbai – Bhopal – route
- Betul : Nagpur – Delhi route
- Tukaithad ( Meter Guage ) : Akola- Jaipur routs.

## By Air :

- Nagpur – Mumbai, Delhi- Nagpur, Raipur- Nagpur flights

## Accommodation

- 10 Double-bed Huts at Semadoh interpretation centre
- 64 Bed Dormitory at Semadoh interpretation centre
- **Forest Rest Houses at :** Kolkaz (13 Km.), Raipur(16 Km.) Hatru(36 Km),Chunkhadi (37 Km), Chourakund (37 Km),Tarubanda (37 Km), Dhargad(110 Km), Dhakna (52 Km), Makhala(10 Km), Rangubeli(80 Km), Akot(105 Km). (Distances shown in bracket are from Semadoh)
- Accommodation is available at Shahnoor (Narnala fort) near Akot
- Accommodation is also available at Chikhaldara, Paratwada, Akot, Dharni, Jarida, Amravati etc. (Forest Deptt.,PWD, Private).

## Contact Details

### For reservation

- Semadoh Tourism Complex and Forest Rest House at Kolkas The Reservation for accommodation at the above place is online on the website [www.maharashtratourism.gov.in](http://www.maharashtratourism.gov.in)
- **For Information and other details .** Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve, Camp Amravati-444 602. Fax Nos.(0721) 2551766, Phone No.- (0721) 2662792
- **Deputy Conservator of Forests.** Melghat Tiger Reserve, Sipna Wildlife Division, Timber Depot Road, Paratwada-444805. District- Amravati (M.S.) Phone No.(07223) 220214. ( For Reservation of Rest House at Raipur , Hatru ,Chunkhadi , Makhala , and Rangubeli .)
- **Deputy Conservator of Forests.** Melghat Tiger Reserve, Gugamal Wildlife Division, Timber Depot Road, Paratwada-444805. District- Amravati (M.S.) Phone No.(07223) 222643. ( For Reservation of Rest House at Tarubanda , Dhakna )
- **Deputy Conservator of Forests.** Wildlife Division, Akot, District – Akola (M.S.) Phone No. (07258) 222211. ( For Reservation of Rest House at Dhargad , Akot , Shahanur Sankul , Wan Sankul )

## **Facilities from The Tourist Point of View**

### **• Orientation and Interpretation Centre.**

- Amravati (Information regarding Forests Near by Amravati city and in Amravati District)
- Semadoh (Museum and Interpretation Centre)
- Gullarghat (3 compartment have been kept reserve for growth & development of Medicinal Plants MPCA)
- Harisal (Local Tribal Culture)
- Nature trails – Trekking routes
- Jungle Safari at Semadoh.
- Tourist Guides
- Wildlife film show at Nature Interpretation Centre, Semadoh
- Wildlife museum and Amphitheater at NIC Semadoh. .
- Nature camps, Museum & Amphitheater at Shahnoor NIC (Akot)

## **Fees and Charges**

Visitor entry fee, vehicle entry fee, camera fee, Jungle Tourist Guide fee, Forest Rest House Accommodation charger etc. shall be levied as prescribed by Government time to time Present rate are revised, vide Govt. of Maharashtra letter No WLP-1009/CR-56/F-1 dt. 17/08/2011.

- Double bed suite in Rest House Rs. 400/-
- Tourist Hut at Semadoh Rs. 350/-
- Tourist Hut at Semadoh (A type) Rs. 500/-
- Dormitory at Semadoh Rs. 50/- per bed.
- Jungle Safari Rs. 22/- per head
- Tourist Guide Rs. 110/- per trip.
- Visitor Entry Fee Rs. 22/-per adult, Rs.11/- per Child
- Vehicle Entry Fee Rs. 83/- for Bus\Truck.  
Rs. 55/- for Jeep/Car,  
Rs. 17/- for Motor Cycle.
- Steel Camera (for Indians) Rs. 3/-
- Steel Camera (for Foreigners ) Rs. 9/
- Video Camera (Amateurs Indians) Rs. 6/-
- Video Camera (Amateurs Foreigners ) Rs. 22/
- Video Shooting (Professional ) per day Rs. 16500/-
- Photography (Professional ) per day Rs. 500/

## **Please Remember**

- Reservation for accommodation should be done well in advance
- Driving speed slowly limited to 20 Km/Hour
- No horn should be used within the limit of project area

- Animals have the right of way in the reserve.
- Carry ample drinking water.
- Do not get out of the vehicle at places other than the designated areas.
- Visitors are advised to avoid using perfumes and scented oils as these might distract wild animals.
- Melghat Tiger Reserve Management has the right to close the entry in the Reserve or restrict anybody's entry any time for management and protection purposes.
- Offences in the Reserve are dealt with strictly in accordance with wildlife (Protection) Act,1972. Please do not fall victim to any violation under the Act.

### **Wilderness Wisdom**

#### **Don'ts:**

- Wear white/bright coloured clothes
- Smoke, play transistor or tape recorders.
- Wear chappals or light open sandals.
- Disturb wild animals.
- Move alone in the forest.
- Litter or use plastics.
- Consume alcoholic drinks.

#### **Do's**

- Wear khaki/green coloured clothes
- Observe with binoculars.
- Shoot with cameras.
- Wear Jungle boots.
- Observe silence
- Take assistance of local guides
- Maintain cleanliness, use biodegradable materials.