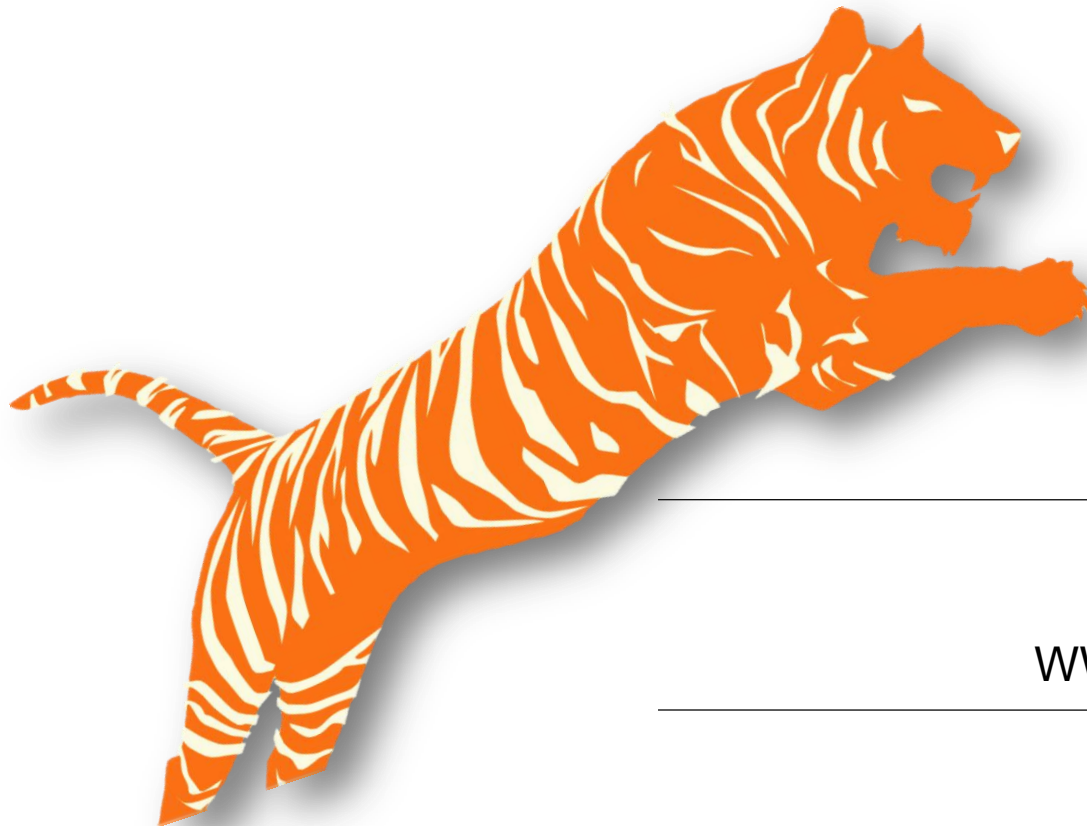




THE NALLAMALAS

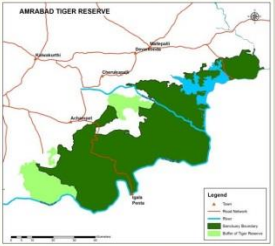


Farida Tampal
State Director
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Introduction


- The State of Telangana is located in East Central Peninsular India.
- It represents the extensive Deccan Bio-Geographic Zone.
- It has the important rivers Krishna that passed through Andhra Pradesh and drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- There are **2 Tiger Reserve** (Amrabad TR and Kawal TR),
3 National Parks and
7 Wildlife Sanctuaries in the State.



AMRABAD TIGER RESERVE

Legend:
Core Area
Buffer Area
District Boundary
Village of Tiger Reserve

District	: Mahabubnagar and Nalgoda
Area	: Core area - 2166.37 Sq. Kms., Buffer area - 445.02 Sq. Kms.
Notified on	: Wildlife Sanctuary - 27-06-1978, Tiger Reserve in 1983
Temperature	: Max: 45°C, Min: 8°C
Rainfall	: Average Rainfall: 900-1000mm
Forest Type	: Southern dry mixed deciduous forest, southern tropical moist deciduous forest types intermingled with scrub, bamboo and grass.
Tribes	: Most Primitive tribes, Chenchu and the Lambadis - the pastoral nomads live here
Indicator species	: Tiger



Uniqueness :
An Important Bird Area (IBA) falling under the criteria: A1, A2 as per the guidelines given by Bird life International.

How to reach :
130 kms. by road from Hyderabad.
Nearest airport : Hyderabad.



ATR

- Situated in the **Nallamalas** - an offshoot of **Southern Eastern Ghats** of Andhra Pradesh, the sanctuary is **hilly terrain with plateaus, ridges, gorges and deep valleys** which **support tropical mixed dry deciduous forests** with an undergrowth of Bamboo and Grass.

- The Project Tiger Circle, Amrabad is located in Nagarkurnool District

- It spreads over Nagarkurnool District and also has the Nagarjunasagar Dam and Nagarjunasagar Forest Division and is headed by the Field Director, Project Tiger Circle, Achampet.

- The Circle consists of (5) Ranges i.e.,

Amrabad Range

Kollapur Range

Lingal Range

Mannanur Range

Achampet Range



Declared as a protected area in 1978, becoming a Project Tiger site in 1983. Today, NSTR remains one of the largest Project Tiger sites in India and the only one in Andhra Pradesh.



Flora of ATR

The tiger reserve harbours endemic species like
Andrographis nallamalayana,
Eriolaena lushingtonii,
Crotalaria madurensis var,
Dicliptera beddomei and
Premna hamitonii

It has been estimated that there are **1581 taxa**
spread over 149 families occurring in Nallamala
which include **29 grass species** and **353 medicinal**
species.



Eriolaena lushingtonii





Flowers of Flame of the Forest/Palash Tree





Fauna of NSTR

80 species of mammals,
303 species of Birds,
54 species of reptiles,
20 amphibians,
55 fishes,
101 Butterflies,
57 species of Moths,
45 species of Coleopterans,
35 species of Odonates and
numerous other forms of insects are found
in the area.

The recent Bio-systematic studies carried out by the scientists of Eco-Research and monitoring laboratories led to the discovery of certain new species which were hitherto not recorded.





Camera trap images of some of the Faunal Species captured at NSTR

On the prowl



Walking in full gait is the Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), the largest remaining species of the genus *Felis*. They are found in all the jungles of India.

They feed on rodents, birds, small mammals. They are in turn predated by Leopard, Mugger, Tiger, wolf; etc

Spotted on the Camera



Caught on the camera is this female *Leopard (Panthera pardus)* with her cub. The cubs remain with their mother for 18–24 months, but they begin to follow the mother on hunts from 3 months of age.

Small is beautiful



This is a rare snap of the elusive Mouse deer, the smallest of the Deer species. Seen moving in the night is the beautiful and shy Indian Chevrotain or Mouse deer (*Tragulus memmina*). They feed on plant matter and are food for Tiger, Leopard , Fox, Jungle cat; etc.

On the march



This image of the The **Indian Crested Porcupine** (*Hystrix indica*), surely brings up a smile on ones face. These nocturnal animals feed on plant matter and use their quills as a means of defence from their predators.

On look out for a challenge



A secretive animal, the **honey badger** (*Mellivora capensis*), is also known as the **ratel**. It is a bold and carnivore with thick skin and ferocious defensive abilities. It feeds on anything from carrion , small rodents, to snakes. It has few natural predators in wild.

King on the move



Snarling at the camera is this beautiful tigress (*Panthera tigris*), the national animal of India. Males are generally heavier and larger than the females. The female tigers weigh around 140-142 kgs in weight.

On the guard



This tigress, mother of two cubs keeps a watch to ensure safety of the young ones. After a gestation period of 16 weeks, 2-4 cubs are born. Sighting of cubs indicates a healthy population of the tigers in the tiger reserve.

Maternal Care



At 8 weeks, the cubs are ready to follow their mother out of the den, although they do not travel with her as she roams her territory until they are older. The cubs become independent around 18 months of age, but it is not until they are around 2–2½ years old that they leave their mother.

Unity is strength



Seen here is a saunder (group) of wild pig, (*Sus scrofa*). A sow (female) is fiercely protective of her young. Wild boars are a very good prey for Tiger, Leopard, Python, Mugger; etc.

Time to feast



Enjoying a feast, are the wild dog, Dholes (Canis lupus), the most beautiful and capable hunters in wild. They live in packs consisting of 5-25 members. Here we can see the pack feeding on a spotted deer.

Watchful and alert – survival of the fittest



Chowsingha or four horned antelope The **Four-horned Antelope** (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), is a small antelope found in open forest in India. The most distinctive feature of the animal is the presence of **four** horns; a feature unique among wild mammals. They are placed under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Rare & Endangered Wildlife of NSTR

Works while you sleep



The **Indian Eagle-Owl** / Great Indian horned owl (*Bubo bengalensis*) is a species of large **horned owl** found in South Asia in the hilly and rocky scrub forests. This large **owl** with the distinctive face, large forward-facing eyes, tuft of feather- like horns and deep resonant call is under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Staring at an uncertain future



The **Great Indian Bustard** (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is a large bird with a horizontal body and long bare legs giving it an ostrich like appearance, this bird is among the heaviest of the flying birds. It is found in grasslands and plains of India. Great Indian bustard is found in Rollpapadu Wildlife Sanctuary in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. It is placed under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Back from the brink of extinction



Extremely rare and critically endangered bird- The **Jerdon's Courser** (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*) is a nocturnal bird endemic to India. The bird was rediscovered after 1848 in 1986 in Andhra Pradesh! It occurs in dry thorn and scrub areas of the Sri Lankamalleswar Sanctuary and the Sri Narsimha Peninsula Sanctuary in the Cuddapah district of A.P.

Lost forever? Hopefully not



White rumped vulture (*Gyps benghalensis*) was a very common sight in India, however their number started declining drastically. Government of India, Initiated a Vulture Conservation Project, in order increase their population. Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, is a vulture breeding site for this project. It is placed under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Measures to boost Tiger population

- NTCA has for the first time placed NSTR under category of “**Good Tiger Reserves**”. The tiger population increased from 60 to 90 as per the All India Estimation.



Chenchu Youth Strengthen Protection in Tiger Reserve

- Chenchus are primitive tribe living in Nallamalai forest tract spread over five districts.
- They have intense knowledge about forest and wildlife.
- **400 Chenchu youth** are engaged by the Forest Department to protect and monitor Tiger and its habitat.



Attending for scat collection



Base camp in the interiors



Conservation breeding & Relocation

- The state has successfully taken-up conservation breeding of herbivores to strengthen the prey base in Tiger habitat.
- Spotted deer have been successfully bred in National Parks and Deer parks and excess population relocated in Srisailam Tiger Reserve and Kawal Tiger Reserve to improve prey base.
- During the last 10 years **over 1000s Spotted deer** were trans-located to tiger habitat.



WWF's Water Management Initiative in NSTR



Water Management Initiative in NSTR



Water outlet from over-head tank flowing into the percolation tank



Sprinkler for raising fodder plot – A new addition to the existing system

Water Management Initiative



Animals visiting percolation tank



Motivation to Tribal Tiger Trackers

CHENCHUS PRIDE SHINES IN EKALAVYA ARCHERY COMPETITION IN NSTR



CRITICAL CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Staff strength & Infrastructure
- Dual responsibility
- Lack of coordination
- Pilgrimage and Temple Tourism
- Townships
- Encroachments
- Cattle
- Timber Smuggling
- Poaching
- Human Wildlife Conflict
- Forest Fire





THANK YOU!