

Country's first inter-state translocation of tigers project

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In news

Madhya Pradesh CM wrote to Odisha CM, asking him to ensure that Sundari – a tigress shifted as part of India's first inter-state translocation project in 2018 – is kept in proper care and appropriate environment until the Ghorela centre in Kanha Tiger Reserve is ready to accommodate her.

Why did the translocation project come up?

- In the last 16 years, Odisha's tiger population has reduced by 104 from 132 in 2002 to 28 in 2018.
- In the backdrop of this, NTCA in September-November 2017 had approved a project to augment and recover tiger population in Satkosia tiger reserve (963 sqkm) in Odisha.
- Consequent to this, permission was granted to capture two tigers from tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh. NTCA also took technical help of Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.

Inter-state translocation project in 2018 and the controversy over it

- Mahavir and Sundari were the first pair of tiger and tigress sent to Satkosia from MP's Panna Tiger Reserve and Bandhavghar respectively as part of the translocation project.
- The two states have been at loggerheads over the relocation of Sundari after she killed two villagers living in the peripheral of Satkosia Tiger Reserve in

Odisha a few months after being brought in from Madhya Pradesh.

- Both states then wrote to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), with Odisha urging that Sundari be sent back while Madhya Pradesh remained reluctant.
- This project was suspended by NTCA, a statutory body under MoEFCC monitoring tiger reserves, after it found that “pre-requisite conditions for reintroduction of tigers were not followed”.
- In 2019, Madhya Pradesh finally agreed to take back Sundari following an NTCA order.