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Madhav National Park

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Madhav National Park

A castle built for a king who never came. A hunting ground turned wetland sanctuary. **In 2025, Madhav National Park became India's 58th Tiger Reserve, nearly five decades after its last wild tiger was seen.**



George Castle, built in 1911 inside Madhav National Park for a royal visit that never happened. Photo: Amit Sen, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

At a Glance

Four facts to hold on to.

01
Shivpuri, MP

Entirely inside Madhya Pradesh. Not shared with Rajasthan.

02
58th Tiger Reserve

Declared in 2025.

03
Sakhya Sagar

Ramsar Site since 7 January 2022.

04
George Castle

Built in 1911 for a royal visit that never happened.

Tiger ReserveA protected area managed under Project Tiger, with a core and a buffer.
Ramsar SiteA wetland of international importance.
ShikargahA royal hunting ground.
CorridorA strip of habitat that lets animals move between reserves.

Where and What It Is

Must Know

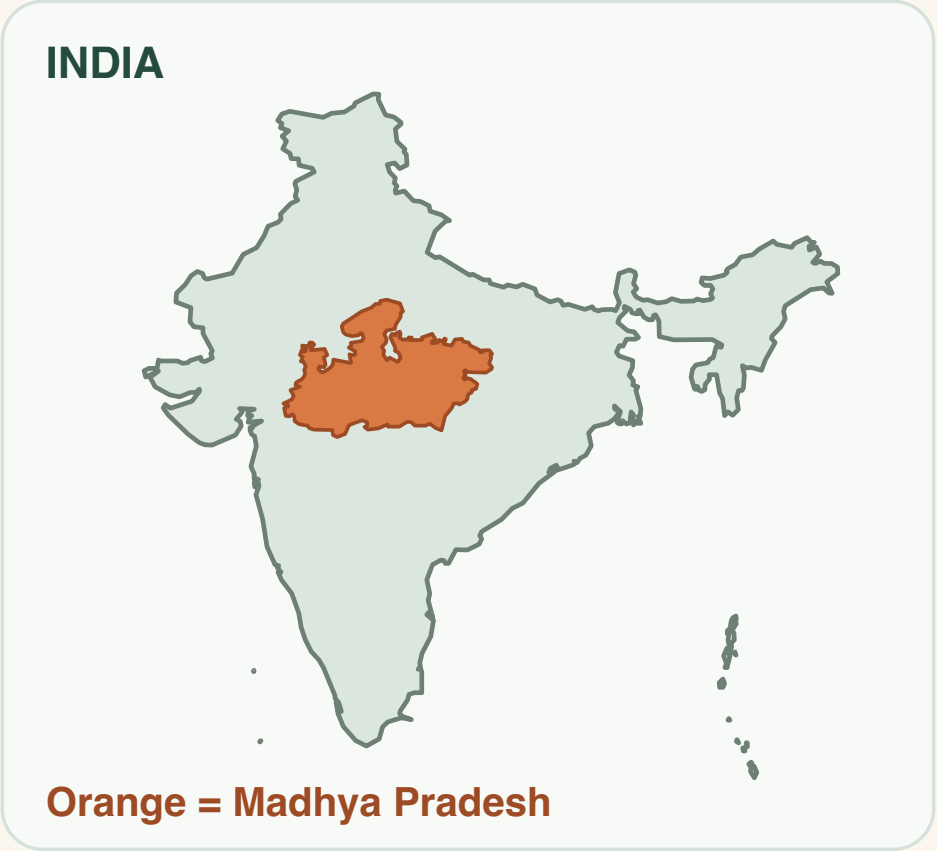
Location and history

- Madhav National Park sits **entirely within Shivpuri district**, in the Gwalior division of Madhya Pradesh. It does not extend into Rajasthan or any other state.

Where is Madhav National Park?

India → Madhya Pradesh → Shivpuri → Madhav National Park

1 · Find Madhya Pradesh in India



2 · Find Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh



Schematic locator. The dot marks Shivpuri town, not the park boundary. Outlines: Natural Earth (public domain). Park location: District Shivpuri, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Diagram: MCQ Questions, CC BY 4.0.

- It began in 1956 as Shivpuri National Park, covering 167 sq km.
- It was renamed Madhav National Park in 1959, after Madho Rao Scindia, a Maharaja of Gwalior.
- The National Park itself covers 354 sq km today.

The 58th Tiger Reserve

- It was declared **India's 58th Tiger Reserve** in 2025. A National Tiger Conservation Authority committee had recommended it in December

2024.

- The reserve covers about 1,651 sq km. That includes a 375 sq km core and a 1,276 sq km buffer. The NTCA register gives the precise figures.

> **Quick check 1.** Madhav National Park sits entirely within Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district and does not extend into Rajasthan. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

The Lakes and the Wildlife

Good to Know

Sakhya Sagar and Madhav Sagar

- Sakhya Sagar was built for Madho Rao Scindia in 1918. It became a **Ramsar Site** on 7 January 2022.
- Madhav Sagar is a smaller reservoir, also built under Madho Rao Scindia. It was formed by damming the Manihar River.
- Together they sustain the park's aquatic and land wildlife.

No tigers for decades, and other wildlife

- Wild tigers were last documented in the park in the late 1970s. The 2025 status followed a long gap, as part of a wider reintroduction and habitat-recovery effort.
- The park hosts chital, sambar, barking deer, nilgai, chinkara, chowsingha, leopards, wolves, and crocodiles.

> **Quick check 2.** Sakhya Sagar, a reservoir inside Madhav National Park, was designated a Ramsar Site on 7 January 2022. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Exam Edge

Previous Year Question

One recent UPSC question tested this park.

> **Quick check 3.** Madhav National Park's area is shared between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

From Royal Hunting Ground to Corridor

Great to Know

George Castle, and a recurring pattern

- George Castle was built in 1911 inside the park to host King George V on a planned visit. The visit never took place. British Army officers and royal hunting parties used it instead.
- The park lies in the Kathiar-Gir dry deciduous forest ecoregion. It has forested hills, grasslands, and lakes.
- Many former royal hunting reserves followed the same path. A princely-state hunting ground became a national park, then a Tiger Reserve. Protection followed privilege.

A corridor, not just a reserve

- Madhav sits between Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, and Kuno and Panna in Madhya Pradesh. The new status aims to strengthen this wider corridor.
- Tiger reintroduction began in 2023 with 3 tigers, including 2 females. By the March 2025 declaration, the population was 6, including cubs born on site.
- An isolated reserve limits genetic diversity. A working corridor lets tigers move between reserves, which supports a healthier regional population.

Think it through: why does Tiger Reserve status matter beyond the park itself?

Tigers in one reserve cannot easily breed with tigers in a disconnected one. That limits genetic diversity. Madhav sits between Ranthambore, Kuno, and Panna. Its new status strengthens it as part of a wider corridor. Animals can then move between reserves over time. That gives a healthier, more resilient regional tiger population. A higher count inside Madhav alone would not do that.

Quick check 4. Tiger reintroduction to Madhav began in 2023 with 3 tigers. By the March 2025 declaration the population had grown to 6, including cubs born on site. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Current Affairs

Current Affairs

58th Tiger Reserve declared (2025)

- On 9 March 2025, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced Madhav as India's 58th Tiger Reserve.
- It became the 9th Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, reinforcing the state's title of "Tiger State".
- A separate state-level inauguration followed on 10 March 2025. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia led it.
- Officials released a tigress into the park, taking its tiger count to 6. One more release was announced for later.

- The Chief Minister also inaugurated a 13 km protective wall around the park.
- Source: News on AIR.

> **Quick check 5.** Madhav National Park's 58th Tiger Reserve declaration and its state-level inauguration ceremony happened on the same day. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Quick Q&A

In which district is Madhav National Park?

Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh.

Which number Tiger Reserve is it?

The 58th, declared in 2025.

Which lake is a Ramsar Site?

Sakhya Sagar.

Who was George Castle built for?

King George V, who never came.

Whom is the park named after?

Madho Rao Scindia.

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Practice MCQs

1. Madhav National Park was declared India's 58th Tiger Reserve in which year?

A. 2023

B. 2026

C. 2021

D. 2025

See answer ↓

2. Which wetland within Madhav National Park was designated a Ramsar Site on 7 January 2022?

A. Bhojtal

B. Sakhya Sagar

C. Madhav Sagar

D. Loktak Lake

See answer ↓

3. Madhav National Park is named after which historical figure?

A. Jiwajirao Scindia

B. Daulat Rao Scindia

C. Madho Rao Scindia

D. Jai Vilas Scindia

See answer ↓

4. George Castle, a landmark inside Madhav National Park, was built in 1911 for the intended visit of which British monarch?

A. King George VI

B. King George V

C. King Edward VII

D. Queen Victoria

See answer ↓

5. Which of the following statements about Madhav National Park's location is correct?

A. It lies entirely within Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district

B. Its area is shared between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

C. It lies entirely within Rajasthan

D. Its area is shared between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **D.**
   The correct answer is **2025**.
   Madhav National Park, in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh, was declared India's 58th Tiger Reserve in 2025 -- the technical committee's recommendation had come in December 2024.
   ↑ Q1

2. **B.**
   The correct answer is **Sakhya Sagar**.
   Sakhya Sagar, a reservoir originally built for Madho Rao Scindia, was designated a Ramsar Site (a wetland of international importance) on 7 January 2022. It sits within Madhav National Park, alongside the smaller Madhav Sagar reservoir.
   ↑ Q2

3. **C.**
   The correct answer is **Madho Rao Scindia**.
   The park is named after Madho Rao Scindia, a Maharaja of Gwalior credited with modernising the state. The park's two reservoirs, Sakhya Sagar and Madhav Sagar, were also built under his patronage, originally in 1918.
   ↑ Q3

4. **B.**
   The correct answer is **King George V**.
   George Castle was built in 1911 to accommodate King George V during an intended jungle visit near Shivpuri. The visit never actually took place, but the castle was later used by British Army officers and royal hunting parties.
   ↑ Q4

5. **A.**
   The correct answer is **it lies entirely within Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district**.
   Madhav National Park sits wholly inside Shivpuri district, in the Gwalior division of Madhya Pradesh. It does not extend into Rajasthan or any other neighbouring state, despite Shivpuri's proximity to the Rajasthan border region.
   ↑ Q5

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** ↑ 1
2. **True.** ↑ 2
3. **False.** ↑ 3
4. **True.** ↑ 4
5. **False.** ↑ 5

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