

News from Bandhavgarh N.P.2006

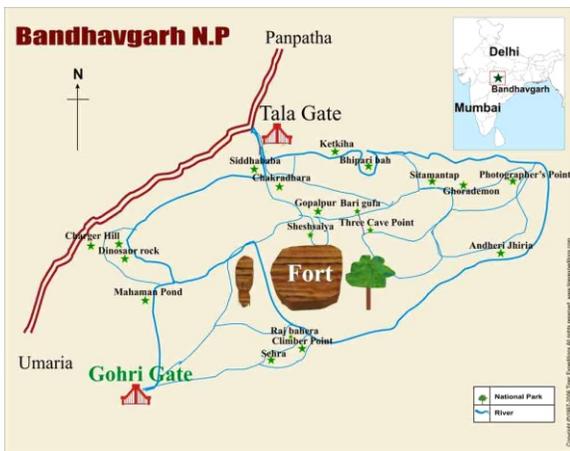
Year 2006 depressing news headlines tell us that the world tiger population is now at its lowest level with about only 5000 tigers left! On an encouraging Note, Bandhavgarh is one of a very few places where tigers give the impression of doing well.



The park has had a successful monsoon, with the water sources sufficiently restocked to last through the hot dry season until next summer. The main meadow sported a growth of tall white-headed grasses, which quickly seeded and began to fade. Towards the end of our visit, the park authorities decided to reopen the fort hill.

Bandhavgarh has always been an excellent habitat of the tiger and is known for its highest density of tiger population in the world. All is well here in Bandhavgarh, B-2 is still The Dominant Male Tiger of the tourism range and he has a large area to cover from Amanala to Thodi via Chakradhara and is seen frequently sitting on

cattle kill's. He is still commander in chief of about 95 Square Kilometers covering 60 Square Kilometers of tourism area called The Tala range and 35 Square Kilometers of Khitauli range and villages around Vanbaye area with 3 females in his home range



Also BONKA(meaning “broken tooth” one of his front teeth is chipped) the other dominant male Tiger in the southern and western areas of the park had left at the back his pug marks symptomatic of that he was Quietly responsible of his region. Bonka is increasingly encroaching onto B2's territory, posing a threat to any cubs that are not his.

The Tigresses with all their cubs are healthy and doing well. This is excellent news of the Tigers of Bandhavgarh

The tiger sighting in the spring & summers of 2007 will be again good because the Jhurjura Cubs, Siddhbaba Cubs now almost 2 years of age so good for interactions & play fighting. Then the Mahaman tigress + 3 cubs will be 15-17 months and Sukhi Patia 3 cubs about 1 year. Well these Chakradhara former cubs stay around for a while and other females like Mahaman Tigress (we photographed mating with Bonka/ Raj on the 7th Nov. on the special permit with dedicated elephant) so she might have cubs soon may be by the end of February . Sukhi Patia Tigress has 3 cubs 12 months old.

The Chakradhara's female four cubs are extremely confident, and they gave us some superb sightings throughout the month. B2 remained elusive, and his area being so large, his patrol patterns have become increasingly random and sightings consequently a matter of pure luck.

