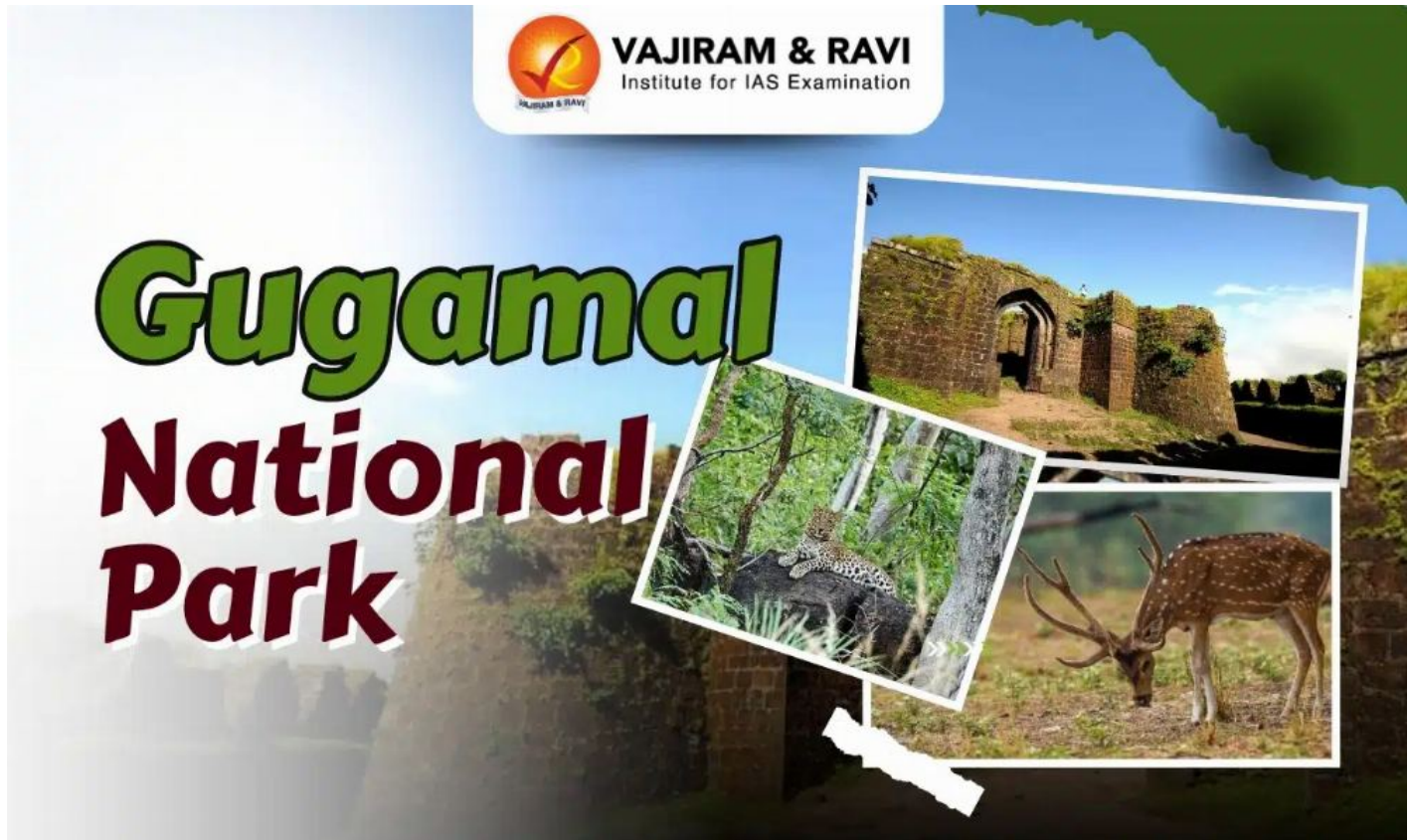


Gugamal National Park, Location, Wildlife, History, Geography

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Gugamal National Park is a **protected forest area** located in the state of **Maharashtra**. It is known for its **natural beauty**, **forest landscapes**, and **rich wildlife**. The park is part of a larger **conservation area** and provides a safe habitat for many **animals, birds, and plant species**. Being surrounded by **hills and greenery**, it plays an important role in maintaining **ecological balance** and supporting **biodiversity**.

Gugamal National Park

- **Gugamal National Park** is an important **protected forest area** located in the **Amravati district of Maharashtra**, forming the core zone of the **Melghat Tiger Reserve**.
- It lies in the **Satpura Range of hills**, which adds to its rich natural beauty and ecological importance.
- The park covers an area of about **361.28 sq. km** and is known for its **diverse wildlife, forest ecosystems, and scenic landscapes**.
- Being part of a major tiger reserve, it plays a key role in **wildlife conservation and biodiversity protection**.

Gugamal National Park History and Significance

- Gugamal National Park was established in **1974** and later became an important part of the **Melghat Tiger Reserve**.
- The **Melghat Tiger Reserve** was among the **first tiger reserves in India** under **Project Tiger (1973-74)**.
- The park is named after the **Gugamal Range**, a hill range that runs through its core area.
- It plays a significant role in **protecting endangered species**, especially the **Bengal Tiger**, and preserving the ecosystem of central India.

Gugamal National Park Geography and Physical Features

- The park is located in the **Satpura hills**, featuring **rugged terrain, forests, valleys, and plateaus**.
- Several rivers and streams flow through the park, making it a crucial **water catchment area**.
- Major rivers include the **Tapti River** (forming the northern boundary) and others like **Sipna, Gadga, Dolar, Khandu, Khapra, and Wan rivers**.
- These water bodies support wildlife and maintain the **ecological balance of the region**.

Gugamal National Park Flora (Vegetation)

- The vegetation is mainly **tropical dry deciduous forest**, adapted to the region's climate.
- Dominant trees include **Teak (Tectona grandis), Ain, Tendu, Kusum, and Indian Gooseberry**.
- **Bamboo forests** are widely spread and play an important role in the ecosystem.
- The park also has **orchids, Strobilanthes plants, and medicinal plants**, which are important for both ecology and local communities.
- This rich vegetation provides **food, shelter, and habitat for wildlife**.

Gugamal National Park Fauna (Wildlife)

- Gugamal National Park is home to a wide variety of wildlife, making it an important biodiversity hotspot.
- Major animals include **Bengal Tiger, Indian Leopard, Sloth Bear, Gaur (Indian bison), and Wild Dogs (Dholes)**.
- Other mammals such as **Sambar, Chital (spotted deer), Barking deer, Nilgai, Wild Boar, and Langurs** are commonly found.
- The park also supports species like **Striped Hyena, Flying Squirrel, and Four-horned Antelope**.
- Birdlife is rich, including species like **Crested Serpent Eagle, Paradise Flycatcher, Hornbills, and Owls**.
- Reptiles such as **Indian Python, Cobra, Monitor Lizards, and Crocodiles** are also present.

Tribal Communities

- The region around the park is home to indigenous tribes like the **Korku Tribe** and the **Gond Tribe**.

- These communities have a deep connection with the forest and possess **traditional knowledge of plants and wildlife**.
- Their lifestyle and culture are closely linked to the **natural environment of the park**.

Gugamal National Park Conservation Efforts

- Gugamal National Park is a key part of the **Melghat Tiger Reserve**, helping in the protection of **tigers and other endangered species**.
- It contributes to maintaining the **ecological balance** and preserving the **Satpura ecosystem**.
- The park also acts as an important **water catchment area** for the **Tapti River basin**.
- Continuous conservation efforts ensure the **survival of wildlife and sustainability of natural resources**.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/gugamal-national-park/>

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