

About Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS):

- It is a designated wildlife sanctuary and tiger reserve situated in Maharashtra.
- It is recognized for its high density of tigers and a diverse ecosystem.
- It provides a less crowded safari experience in comparison to Tadoba.

Location:

- The sanctuary is located in the Pandarkawada area of Yavatmal district, Maharashtra.
- It spans an area of 148.63 square kilometers.
- The sanctuary is named after Goddess Tipai, whose shrine is found in Tipeswar village.

History & Conservation:

- It was established as a Wildlife Sanctuary under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.
- It gained prominence as the residence of Tigress Avni, who inspired the film Sherni, featuring Vidya Balan.
- Since 2010, dedicated conservation initiatives have led to an increase in the tiger population from 3 to 20.

Key Features:

Flora:

- Teak constitutes approximately 60% of the vegetation, while Red Sandalwood makes up around 15%.
- The sanctuary is abundant in Mahua, Achar, Lendia, Tiwas, and approximately 250 species of bamboo.



Fauna:

- It is home to tigers, leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, jackals, chital, sambar, wild boar, and Indian pangolins.
- The sanctuary also hosts 26 species of reptiles and rare mammals such as the Rusty Spotted Cat and the False Vampire Bat.

Avifauna:

- It is a haven for birdwatchers, featuring 256 bird species, including resident, migratory, and rare varieties.
- Notable species include the Painted Francolin, Rain Quail, Lesser Whistling Duck, and Eurasian Wryneck.
- **Butterfly Diversity:** 97 species of butterflies are present, including rare varieties like the Black Rajah and Peacock Royal.
- **Ecotourism Potential:** The sanctuary offers jeep safaris, nature trails, and rural tourism opportunities that support the livelihoods of local communities.