



DATE: 29 JULY 2026

1 Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR) Project (Source: The Hindu)

The Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR) is an initiative by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

- The project will be implemented over 2025–28

Objectives

- To reduce human–tiger conflicts in non-reserve landscapes by ensuring safe coexistence between people and dispersing tigers.
- To protect tigers that move beyond reserve boundaries due to habitat fragmentation, growing populations, and shrinking corridors.
- To foster a landscape-level conservation approach, balancing ecological sustainability with human safety and livelihoods.

Features

- **Geographical Spread:** Spans 80 forest divisions across 17 tiger-range states (including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu).
- **Smart Surveillance:** Deployment of AI-powered early warning tools, GPS tracking, and camera traps in non-reserve corridors. **Rapid Response Teams (RRTs):** Local youth trained and equipped with rescue units and tranquilization gear to handle sudden conflict events. **Community Outreach:** Introduction of the "Bagh Mitra" (Tiger Friends) public program and eco-awareness modules to secure local habitats



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2 Eco-Sensitive Zone (Source: The Hindu)

As per the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016), issued by MoEFCC, land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

- They act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- **It is notified under the Environment Protection Act 1986 by the Ministry of Environment.**

Regulation of Human Activities

- **Prohibited Activities:** Commercial mining, saw mills, commercial use of wood, etc., apart from regulated activities like felling of trees
- **Regulated Activities:** Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agricultural system, e.g., adoption of heavy technology, pesticides, etc, widening of roads.
- **Permitted Activities:** Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, and organic farming, among others

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3 Brain-Eating Amoeba (Naegleria) (Source: The Hindu)

- It is a free-living amoeba (a single-celled living organism)
- It was first discovered in Australia (1965).
- It is commonly found in warm freshwater bodies (hot springs, rivers and lakes).
- It enters the human body through the nose.
- The infection caused by this amoeba is PAM (Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis), which destroys brain tissues.
- It has a very high mortality rate.
- No vaccine is available, but PAM can be treated with proper drug combinations.

