

Bengal Tiger

Picture Courtesy: Dipanjan Naha



Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris tigris*

Family: Felidae

Conservation Status:

Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:

Schedule I (Part I)

IUCN Status: Endangered **CITES:** Appendix I

Length: Male: 270 to 310 cm; Female: 240 to 265 cm including the tail.

Tail Length: 85 to 110 long.

Height: 90 to 110 cm at the shoulders.

Weight: Male: 180 to 258 kg; Females 100 to 160 kg.

Colour: Coat is yellow to light orange with stripes ranging from dark brown to black. The belly and the interior parts of the limbs are white, and the tail is orange with black rings. Owing to a genetic mutation, some individuals exhibit a white coat with dark stripes and blue eyes which is just a genetic variation.

Distribution:

The largest populations of Bengal tigers are in India, but there are some smaller populations in Bangladesh, Nepal

and Bhutan.

Habitat:

The habitat ranges from tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, savannas, temperate forests, and along the base of the Himalayan Mountains.

Diet:

Primarily they feed on wild ungulates and occasionally on domestic livestock, Langur, small mammals and birds.

Foraging Behavior: Stalking predator.

Bengal tigers can ingest up to 40 kg of food on a single occasion, although they usually consume a smaller amount.

Longevity (years): 8-10 years

Threats: Habitat loss, hunting, poaching for illegal trade in high-value tiger products and human-induced habitat destruction leading to human-tiger conflict over the territories.



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