



# Puducherry ENVIS Hub

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## World Lion Day



## King of the Jungle



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# History of World Lion Day



The World Lion Day was created by Big Cat Rescue, the world's largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to big cats. They choose August 10, because it is a perfect day for people to come together from across the world to give tribute to the mighty lion in as several ways as possible. Even though a fun and exciting occasion for all of us, its foundations are based on a grave matter: the number of lions have dramatically declined to the point where the species wants to be placed on the list of endangered, just like its larger cousin the tiger. Hence World Lion Day is a perfect day to raise awareness about the endangering of Lion animals.

## Why save lions?

Lion is an apex predator and ensures ecological balance as it helps to control the populations of browsers and grazers. Its conservation ensures protection of natural forest areas and habitats and in turn helps in biodiversity conservation. Lions also keep the population of their preys healthy and resilient as they target weakest members of the herd. This indirectly helps in disease control in the prey population. In Gir protected area, many water resources are safeguarded in the lion kingdom.

Lion is also a part of Indian mythology and has been a part of its cultural identity. The local people in Gir and greater Gir region take pride in coexistence with nature and are emotionally attached with lions.

Although lions in wild are restricted only in Gujarat but as part of ex-situ conservation programme, lions are found in all the major zoos of India. Due to its hunting behaviour and its social organization Lions are called the king of the jungle.

## Lion in National Emblem of India

Lion takes its part in the national emblem of India. The emblem is a part of the official letterhead of the Government of India and also you can find it in all Indian currency. It also appears highly on the national passport of the republic of India.

# How to Celebrate the Lion Day



You can change the profile picture pictures of your social media to a lion on that day, draw a sketch, and share with them on social media by using the hashtag [#WorldLionDay](#). Gather your friends and find out who has the loudest roar. You can also like the Facebook page and follow [@BigCatRescue](#) on [Twitter](#) to show your support for World Lion Day. Because the more we spread the word, the bigger the chances of these unbelievable animals gracing our planet forever.



## Facts about Lions

**Simple facts to celebrate the World Lion Day are listed below**

- ✔ Lions live in large groups called pride, similar to wolves.
- ✔ The male lion weighs above 500 pounds and grows up to eight feet in length.
- ✔ Even though the Lions are called “King of the Jungle,” they live only in grasslands and plains – not the jungle.
- ✔ Female lions and their sisters live together for entire life. Their female cubs also stay with pride, even after they are grown, but male cubs must stake out on their own once they reach maturity.



- ✓ Male lions have majestic manes which make them appear as larger and more intimidating. Female lions also attracted to fuller, thicker hairs.



- ✓ The roar of male lions can be heard from up to five miles away, and their roar is the loudest roar of any big cat species. Their roar will help them to find other lions as well as to proclaim their territory.



## Fun Facts for Kids

- ✓ These lions spend about 20 hours a day resting and sleeping. The rest of the day male lions spend patrolling their territories.
- ✓ Asian lions prefer hunting in the nighttime, when it's most easy to catch prey.
- ✓ Lion is the national animal of Singapore, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Bulgaria and other countries.
- ✓ Mane of a lion is a mark of its age: old lions have a darker mane.
- ✓ The largest share of the prey always goes to the male while females eat leftovers.

- ✓ Female lions are highly devoted to their prides. They can leave the pride only in extreme circumstances such as absence of prey to catch and feed their cubs.
- ✓ Old males, that can't hunt anymore or compete with young males of other prides, are excluded from the pride
- ✓ The closest relatives of lions are tigers: without fur, these two look almost the same, and only an expert can distinguish them from one another.





# Asiatic Lion Conservation Project:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India launched the **“Asiatic Lion Conservation Project”** on **20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018** with an aim to protect and conserve the world’s last ranging free population of Asiatic Lion and its associated ecosystem.



## ASIATIC LION or INDIAN LION

**Scientific name :** Panthera leo persica

**Weight :** Male 150-250Kg; Female 120-180Kg

**Length (head and body):** Male 1.7-2.5m; Female 1.4-1.75m

**Length (tail) :** 70-105cm

**Shoulder height :** Male 1-1.23m; Female 80-107cm

**Sexual Maturity :** Male 5 years; Female 4 years

**Mating season :** All year round

**Gestation period :** 100-119 days

**Number of young :** 1 to 6

**Birth interval :** 18-26 months

**Typical diet :** carnivorous

**Lifespan :** 16-18 years

- ✓ The main objective of this project is to work for the conservation of the world's last ranging free Asiatic lion's population and ecosystem associated with it.
- ✓ The Asiatic Lion Conservation Project will strengthen the ongoing measures for conservation and recovery of Asiatic Lion with the help of state-of-the-art techniques, regular scientific research studies, disease management, modern surveillance techniques.
- ✓ It will be supplemented with sufficient eco-development works ensuring a stable and viable Lion population in India.



# Types of Lion:



Persica, known as the Asiatic lion or South Asian, Persian, or Indian Lion, once was widespread from Turkey, across Southwest Asia, to Pakistan, India, and even to Bangladesh. Now around 300 exist in and near the Gir Forests of India.

- ✓ Leo, known as the Barbary lion, originally extended from Morocco to Egypt. It vanished in the wild due to excessive hunting.
- ✓ Senegalensis, known as the West African Lion, is found in Western Africa, from Senegal to the Central African Republic.
- ✓ Azandica, known as the Northeast Congo Lion, is found in the north-eastern parts of Congo.
- ✓ Nubica, known as the East African, Massai Lion is found in east Africa, from Ethiopia and Kenya to Tanzania and Mozambique, a focal population is known as Tsavo Lion.
- ✓ Bleyenberghi, known as the Southwest African or Katanga Lion, is found in southwestern Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Angola, Katanga (Zaire), Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- ✓ Krugeri, known as the Southeast African Lion or Transvaal Lion, is found in the Transvaal region of southeastern Africa, including Kruger National Park, Melanochaita, known as the Cape Lion, became destroyed in the wild around 1860.





# Threats to Lions



- ✓ The Bushmeat trade
- ✓ Human-lion conflict
- ✓ Livestock and human encroachment into lion habitat
- ✓ Loss of habitat connectivity
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Targeted poaching
- ✓ Ceremonial killing



## Other threats:

A range of other threats affect lions and their prey in some places, including: mining in wildlife areas, illegal logging, poorly regulated trophy hunting, and disease.

## Legal Protection Measures of Lions in India

- ✓ Asiatic lion is enlisted as an endangered species in the international union for conservation of nature (IUCN) red list.
- ✓ It is listed in schedule I of wildlife (Protection) act 1972, in appendix I of convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Indian is a signee under CITES, which is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.