

Farming

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TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN OF PENCH

*Tiger Tiger, burning bright, In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye, Could frame thy fearful symmetry?
William Blake....*

Anuradha Thakur
Ph.D. Scholar
Dr. Y.S.P University of Horticulture and Forestry

Far away from the dull and dusky city life, there is a place where the sun shines bright and the birds chirp, the trees dance and the wind blows, such is the life in forests. Forest and animals are interdependent. Animals are the proof of the inevitable bond between nature and humans. Since archaic times, the fable of human-animal interaction has been anything but congruous. Animals play a major role in sustaining all life on earth, by performing and supporting the web of activity in a functioning ecosystem.

In spite of the growing human-animal conflicts and co-existence in the country, forest-dwelling communities revere a tiger and believe it to have divine powers. It is believed that for the forest's healthy existence tiger plays a key role.

Tigers are well-known as umbrella species. The splendor nature of tigers makes them an important champion for nature and the wild. Born in 2005 to T7 known as Badimada and T1, known as Charger, Madhya Pradesh's legendary tigress 'T15 was born. She got her name 'Collarwali' from the tourist who spotted her with the radio-collar. She was one of the few tigers who were radio-collared in 2008. While this distinctive mark about her makes her 'Collarwali', what made her famous was her world record. In her lifetime, 'Collarwali' gave birth to 29 cubs and of them 25 cubs survived with which she got the name 'Mataram', 'Supermom'. With her last breath on Saturday, 15 January 'Mataram' brought an end to an era of tigers in the Pench Tiger Reserve.

As a Contributor

Her contribution in increasing the number of tigers in Madhya Pradesh makes this state earn the title of ‘Tiger State’. Several of her progeny are now maintaining their mother’s legacy. Not just Pench, ‘Collarwali’ also helped in tiger population expansion of Panna Reserve which had once lost all its tigers through her daughter named as T6.

As a protector

Respect is earned so with ‘Collarwali’. She was found to be a highly skilled caregiver and an extremely successful protector of her children. The time when a high number of tiger poisoning cases were found in Pench, ‘Collarwali’ bravely passed through that time by successfully keeping her cubs safe.



‘Collarwali’ will be valued for her extraordinary fearlessness around people. This unique countable big contribution of her makes Pench Tiger Reserve a tourist-friendly park. It was found that she never disappointed the photographers and the tourists with her sightings explained the Bhopal-based wildlife enthusiast and activist.

Known for her countless contribution from increasing the tiger population of different TigerReserves to makingPench Reserve a tourist-friendly place. This super tiger mom ‘Mataram’ will always live through her tales and the legacy she had left behind.

I pay my tribute to this fearless, dominant legend who left her healthy legacy behind. Her roars will never be replaced and will be echoed.