**Number of lions in Gir touches 650**

The number of lions in and around Gir and other areas in Gujarat has touched 650. This is a record number since 1936 as per available records. The population also includes 180-odd cubs between one and two years of age.

The number is based on a count conducted by the forest department in July earlier this year in areas that included the Gir National park and others in Amreli, Bhavnagar and Gir-Somnath districts.

The 2015 census had put the lion number in Gujarat at 523