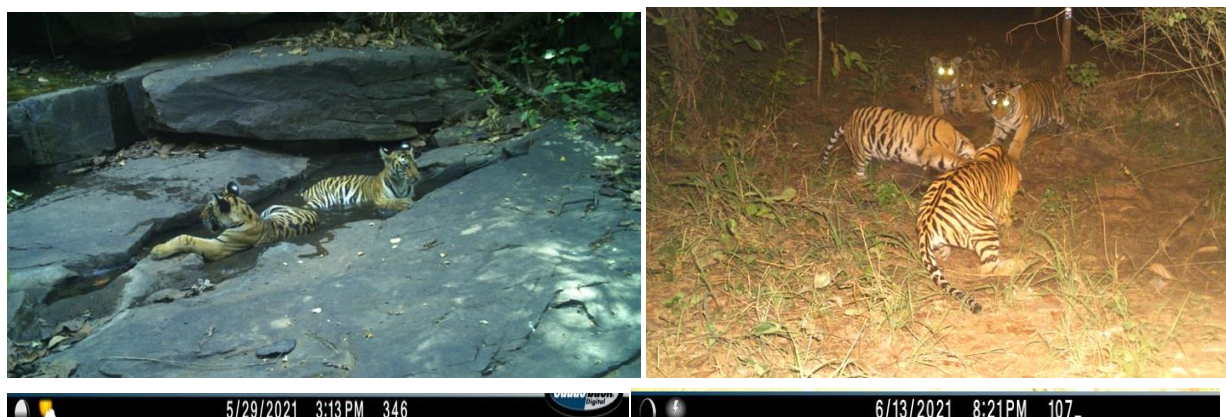


**NEWSLETTER**  
**(15/06/2021)**  
**PART -2**  
**Tigress P213-32, Cubs and Tiger P243**  
**(by - Team of Panna Tiger Reserve)**

**Story goes on...**

**1. Braving the wild:**

A month has passed since the death of tigress P213-32, mother of four cubs. Currently, all her four cubs are healthy and making good in the wild. They don't seem to be stressed, instead they are playful and quite active. All four cubs are staying and roaming together. They now have a territory within which they move. Size of this territory will be just less than 1 square kilometer. We can call it 'Cub's Territory'. Cubs are not seen hunting any live prey till now. They eat if kill is available in their territory. If kill is not inside cub's territory, support from Tiger Reserve management in terms of bringing kill, either of their father P243 or of any other carnivore, inside cub's territory is required. Mostly, cubs start eating in the evening and continue till morning. All four Cubs have put on some weight and looks little bigger in size since last month.



**Picture 1: Braving the wild**

**2. The Father-P243:**

The father, tiger P243, is moving in the area keeping a close vigil over the cubs. Still moving alone without a female. Though he is roaming in large area, he has not remained away from the cub's territory for more than two days. Seems to be a caring father though it has been observed that P243 has not taken cubs with him to the kills he has made at places away from cub's territory. But one incident is important to note. Earlier on 21<sup>st</sup> May, when P243 made a Sambhar kill within the cub's territory, it shared the kill with the cubs as cubs could reach up to the kill. On 6<sup>th</sup> June, P243 made a kill of cow early in the morning near the village little away from cub's territory, but it did not eat it. Cubs did not go to the place of kill as it seemed outside the cub's territory. For the whole day, though

P243 remain in the area but did not eat the kill. A little support was provided from Park management in bringing kill inside cub's territory, and cubs had a feast for next two days. P243 did not bother them but remained in the area. Does it tell something? Was P243 left the kill for cubs to eat? Can't be said for sure but it needs to be further observed.



**Picture 2: Kill of P243 shared by Cubs (21-23/05/2021)**



**Picture 3: Cubs enjoying their meal (06/06/2021)**

### **3. Skill of Hunting:**

Hunting for tiger is an instinct but also require learning of some skills. Normally Tiger cubs begin to hunt with their mother and siblings between eight to ten months of age. The mother is primarily concerned with teaching her cubs how to hunt and protect themselves. As these cubs are now more than eight months old, they seem to have learned the art of opening the kill and eat it. It will be interesting to observe how they learn the skills of hunting prey without their mother. Whether father plays any role in providing training for hunting, let's keep our fingers crossed.

Though an adult leopard and a sloth bear is seen in the area (pictures captured in camera trap), it seems to be no threat to cubs. Perhaps they have learned the art of protecting themselves as no clash between them and leopard has been observed.



**Picture 4: Leopard and Sloth Bear captured in camera trap set up for cubs**

#### **4. Way ahead:**

Next 2-3 months are very crucial for gaining skills for survival and surviving the wild. Currently average weight of a cub is around 50 kg, which ideally should increase to 80-90 kg by the time they complete one year of age. To gain 30-40 kg weight in next 3-4 months, cubs require a kill every fourth day or around 25-30 kills in next 3-4 months. There has to be a fine balance between how much they can get themselves and how much they can be supported for this. It is not only a learning curve for cubs but also for Park Management.

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