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Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve

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Why in News

- According to the **fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation** (AITE), there has been an increase in the number of tigers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The number of tigers in the **Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve** (NSTR) in Andhra Pradesh has gone up, reversing the steady decline in their number over a period.

The **Tiger Conservation Foundation (TCF)** has drawn up an action plan to double its efforts to facilitate the proliferation of the big cats in the largest tiger reserve in the country.

- NSTR is the **largest tiger reserve** in India.
- **Historical Background:** It was notified in the year of 1978 and came under the protection of **Project Tiger** in 1983. In 1992, it was retitled as **Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Geographical Aspects:**
 - The Tiger reserve is spread over 5 districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The area consists mostly of the **Nallamala Hills**.
 - The multipurpose reservoirs- **Srisaillam and Nagarjunasagar** are located in the reserve.
 - The **Krishna river** cuts the basin of this reserve.
- **Ecological Diversity:**
 - **Fauna:** It is home to a vast variety of wild animals. In addition to the Bengal Tiger, which is the apex predator, many other species like leopard, rusty-spotted cat, pangolin, Mugger Crocodiles, Indian Rock Python, and innumerable varieties of birds are found here.
 - **Flora:** Variety of forests ranging from southern tropical dry mixed deciduous forest till southern thorn forest. A wide variety of shrubs and bamboo thickets also grow in this area.



Project Tiger

Project Tiger is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change launched in 1973 to provide central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves in India. The project is administered by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

Source: TH