Efforts to Rescue Tigress | Uttarakhand | 09 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, two cages have been put up in the **Surai range of Terai East Forest Division** to **rescue** an elusive **tigress** who has been moving for a year with a wire stuck around the lower part of its stomach.

- The **Surai range** of the forest division is **adjacent to the Semal Kuan forest area** in the **Mahof range of the** Pilibhit Tiger Reserve of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- In January 2023, the tigress was seen by a patrol team in the forest and a **wire noose was wrapped around its stomach near its hind legs.**
- To monitor the tigress, **camera traps were installed** on the spot and continuous photographs of the tigress were seen in 26 out of 35 camera traps.
- The **monitoring report** of the tigress was **sent to Uttarakhand Wildlife Warden and** National Tiger Conservation Authority, on which a joint team was formed and the process of capturing the animal was started.

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

- It is **situated in the Pilibhit district and Shahjahanpur District of Uttar Pradesh**, forming part of the Terai Arc Landscape, in the upper Gangetic Plain Biogeographic Province.
- The **northern edge of the reserve lies along the Indo-Nepal border** while the southern boundary is marked by the river Sharada and Khakra.
- The **habitat is characterized by Saal Forests**, tall grasslands and swamp maintained by periodic flooding from rivers.
- The **Sharda Sagar Dam** extending up to a length of 22 km (14 mi) is on the boundary of the reserve.
- It was **designated as a Tiger Reserve in 2014.**

Action Plan to Make Uttarakhand a Major Destination for AYUSH | Uttarakhand | 09 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami reviewed **the Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH)** Education Department and directed the officials to work with an **effective action plan to make the state a major destination in the field of**

AYUSH and wellness.

Key Points

- According to an official release, to **promote the production of herbs** in Uttarakhand proper arrangements for **collection and marketing should be made in coordination with the AYUSH Department, Horticulture and Forest Corporation.**
  - The Chief Minister also instructed to bring a **new yoga policy** to **make Uttarakhand** the **best yoga destination** in the world and emphasized on **special efforts to promote Panchakarma.**
  - To promote the field of AYUSH, arrangements for a **proper platform will be done for marketing herbal products.**
  - To provide information related to **AYUSH to school students**, it is instructed to ensure its **arrangement in all schools** and to expedite the effective implementation of the AYUSH policy.
  - The **establishment of wellness centers, certification of AYUSH services** and arrangement for **training of AYUSH doctors and pharmacists through** renowned **AYUSH experts** will help in connecting AYUSH medicine with the public.
- The **AYUSH policy** includes the promotion of the **production of high-quality Ayurvedic herbs,** mandatory adherence to **international standards of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP)**, use of the latest **drone-based technology**, the establishment of **cold storage on** Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode**,** and **regulation of vendors of medicinal plants**.
  - In collaboration with leading manufacturers and reputed marketing agencies in the state,Uttarakhand will establish an **online platform to bring together buyers** (farmers, local suppliers) and drug manufacturers, 'Assured Buy-back' scheme for medicinal plants.
  - **Capital assistance** of up to 10% **for all AYUSH manufacturing units,** encouragement to **establish common testing laboratories** at 2-3 important places in the state for **quality assessment of AYUSH products,** mandatory to obtain **AYUSH Premium Mark,** and **Standard Mark for AYUSH products** has been done.
- Through the State Tourism Policy, 2023, up to **50% capital assistance** will be provided **to wellness resorts, Ayurveda/Yoga/Naturopathy resorts** and **5% financial assistance to wellness centers, Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy resorts** to be established in Category B and Category C areas.
- To promote AYUSH education, a provision has been made to provide an incentive amount of up to **Rs 15 lakh to the AYUSH colleges** that meet the standards set by the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).**

Tiger Population in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 09 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the tiger **population in Uttarakhand** has **increased at a rate of 314%** between 2006 and 2022. According to the Uttarakhand Wildlife officials, the **tiger population density in Uttarakhand is among the highest in the world.**

Key Points

- The **tiger population** which stood at **178 in 2006** rose to **560 in 2022**, recording a rise of 314%.
- The **increase in the population** of wild animals in the state is **due to steps taken by the forest department** in recent years to improve their habitat conditions.
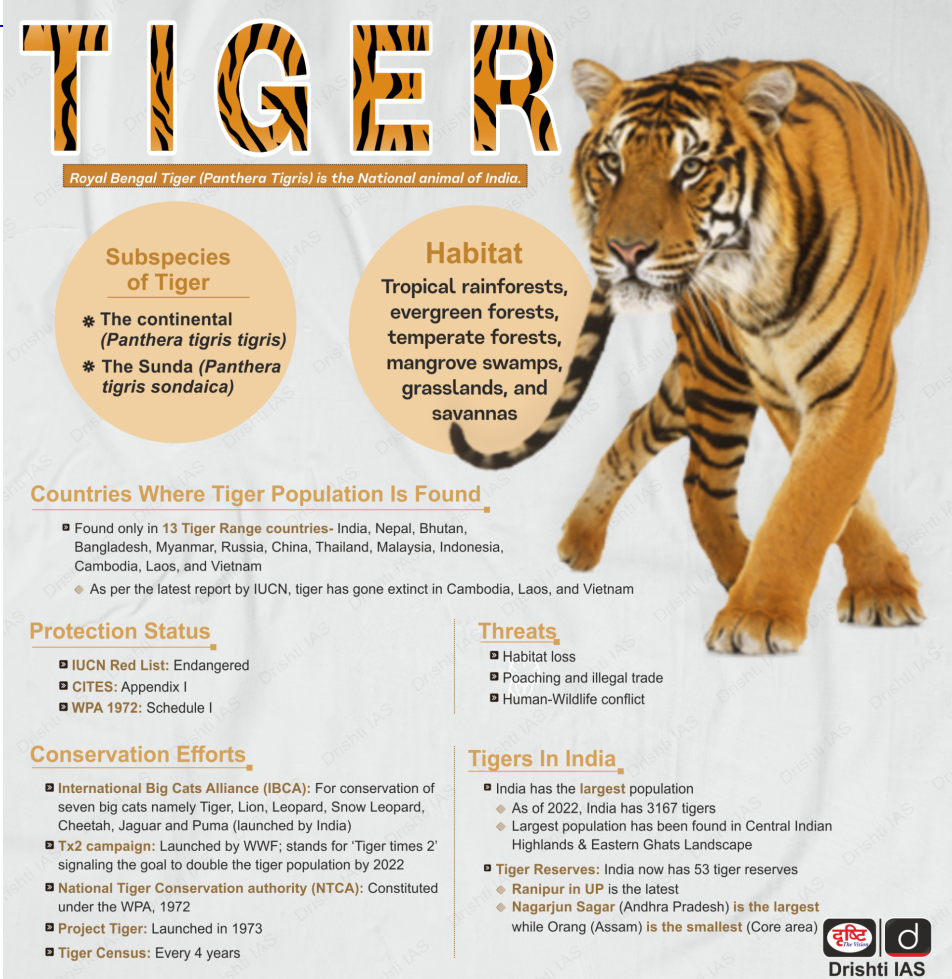- A **slight increase** is also recorded in 2023 **in the number of people killed and injured in**

tiger attacks.
- The total number of people killed in encounters with animals such as **leopards**, **elephants** and snakes besides tigers was 71 in 2021, 82 in 2022 and 66 in 2023.
- The number of persons injured in **man-animal conflicts** was 361 in 2021, 325 in 2022 and 317 in 2023.

- **There are two tiger reserve in Uttarakhand:**
  - **Rajaji Tiger Reserve**
  - **Corbett Tiger Reserve**

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TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera Tigris) is the National animal of India.

Subspecies of Tiger
- ❋ The continental *(Panthera tigris tigris)*
- ❋ The Sunda *(Panthera tigris sondaica)*

Habitat
Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found
- Found only in **13 Tiger Range countries-** India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
  - As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

Protection Status
- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **WPA 1972:** Schedule I

Threats
- Habitat loss
- Poaching and illegal trade
- Human-Wildlife conflict

Conservation Efforts
- **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):** For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- **Tx2 campaign:** Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- **National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA):** Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- **Project Tiger:** Launched in 1973
- **Tiger Census:** Every 4 years

Tigers In India
- India has the **largest** population
  - As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
  - Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- **Tiger Reserves:** India now has 53 tiger reserves
  - **Ranipur in UP** is the latest
  - **Nagarjun Sagar** (Andhra Pradesh) **is the largest** while Orang (Assam) **is the smallest** (Core area)

Drishti IAS

Aadhar Seeding for NREGS Card Holders | Bihar | 09 Jan 2024

Why in News?

By mid-January 2024, Bihar is expected to complete the process of linking **Aadhar** cards of all job card holders under **MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme).**

- It is part of the Centre's directive to states to implement Aadhar-based payment of wages to beneficiaries under the scheme.

Key Points

- The Centre had made **AePS (Aadhar enabled Payment System)** mandatory for all job card holders under **MGNREGS from January 1.**
- It means **payments as wages** to beneficiaries for their work would be made **directly into their bank accounts linked and verified through their Aadhar number** after due mapping by **National Payments Corporation of India (NCPI).**
- **In Bihar,** the total number of **job card holders under MNREGA is 1.80 crore,** of which **1.52 crore have their bank accounts linked with their Aadhar** (unique identification) numbers.
  - Of these around **96 lakh active workers** (who have been working regularly), around **94 lakh have their bank accounts linked with Aadhar** while **79.63 lakh are eligible for payments under AePS.**
- In the **current fiscal year** (2023-24), Bihar has **generated 15.64 crore mandays** (a day regarded in terms of the amount of work that can be done by one person within this period) so far **against the sanctioned 17 crore under the scheme,** which is meant to provide at least 100 days of work to unskilled rural workers in a year.
  - A proposal for grant of another **8 crore mandays for work generation in this fiscal would be sent by Bihar to the ministry of rural development.**

Aadhar

- It is a **12-digit individual identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India** on behalf of the Government of India.
  - The number serves as **proof of identity and address, anywhere in India.**
- The Aadhaar number is unique for each individual and will **remain valid for life time.**
  - Establishes identity of individuals on the basis of demographic and biometric information.
- It will **help the residents to avail various services** provided by banking, mobile phone connections and other Government and Non-Government services in due course.

Moradabad's Brassware Industry | Uttar Pradesh | 09 Jan 2024

Why in News?

The construction of the **Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh** has revived **Moradabad's brassware industry,** due to a surge in **demand for religious idols,** particularly those of Lord Ram.

Key Points

- Moradabad was established in **1600 by Murad**, the **son of the Mughal Emperor** Shahjahan, as a result, the city came to be known as Moradabad.
- It is renowned for **brass work** and has carved a niche for itself in the handicraft industry throughout the world.
  - The brassware is **exported to countries like the US, Britain, Canada, Germany, the Middle East and Asia.** Therefore **Moradabad is also called "Brass City" or Peetal Nagri.**
  - **Brass, an alloy of copper and zinc,** holds historical and enduring **significance due to its remarkable hardness and workability.**
- In the **1980s,** the industry diversified with the **introduction of various metal wares such as brass, iron, and** aluminum. This expansion brought **new technologies like Electroplating, lacquering, and powder coating to Moradabad's art industry.**
- **Moradabad Metal Craft (Word Mark)** has a **geographical indication (GI) tag.**
- Under **'One District One Product Programme' (ODOP)**, Uttar Pradesh government encourages

indigenous and specialized products and crafts.

Main Objectives of One District One Product Programme' (ODOP) of UP

- **Preservation and development of local crafts / skills** and promotion of the art.
- **Increase in the incomes and local employment** (resulting in decline in migration for employment).
- Improvement in **product quality and skill development.**
- Transforming the products in an artistic way (through **packaging, branding**).
- To connect the production with **tourism** (Live demo and sales outlet – gifts and souvenir).
- To resolve the issues of economic difference and regional imbalance.
- To take the concept of **ODOP** to **national and international level** after successful implementation at State level.

List of ODOP Products in Uttar Pradesh		
Sr. No.	**Districts**	**Products**
1.	Agra	Leather Products and All Handmade Products Manufactured through Stone & Marble
2.	Amroha	Musical Instruments and Readymade Garments
3.	Baghpat	Home Furnishings
4.	Bareilly	Zari-Zardozi and Bamboo Products & Goldsmith Industry
5.	Gorakhpur	Terracotta and Readymade Garments
6.	Lucknow	Chikankari & Zari Zardozi
7.	Mahoba	Gaura Stone Craft
8.	Mirzapur	Carpets and Brass Industry
9.	Siddharthnagar	Kala Namak Rice
10.	Varanasi	Banarasi Silk Saree