

Madhya Pradesh: Tiger State of India | Madhya Pradesh | 27 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has the highest <u>tiger</u> population in the country. Among approximately 3,800 big cats in the wild, **785** of them are in Madhya Pradesh.

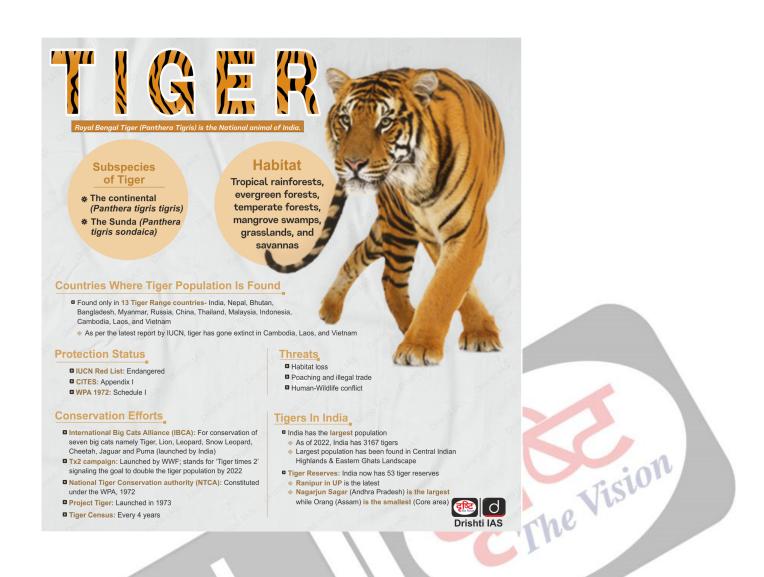
 Karnataka for a brief period between 2011 and 2018 had surpassed Madhya Pradesh for the most number of tigers.

Key Points

- The <u>tiger census of 2022</u> put the population in the country between 3,682 and 3,925, out of which MP tops the list with 785 tigers followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560) and Maharashtra (444) respectively.
- <u>Jim Corbett National Park</u> in Uttarakhand tops the list with 260 tigers amongst all the tiger reserves across the country.
 - Efforts made by stakeholders including tribals and jungle dwellers besides forest officials who made remarkable progress has also led to conservation of big cat species.
- The first tiger census was conducted in 1972, which recorded the tiger population as 1,827.
 - India's tiger population has faced severe threats due to habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict.
 - In the early 20th century, India had a robust tiger population, but by the 1970s, their numbers had diminished alarmingly.
- In response, the government launched 'Project Tiger' in 1973, which aimed at creating a network
 of tiger reserves across the country to provide safe habitats for tigers and to curb poaching
 activities.
 - Maintaining the <u>ecological balance</u> and <u>biodiversity</u> of India's forests was also an objective of the project.

Tiger Reserves

- A protected area designated for the conservation of the striped big cats (tigers) is referred to as
 Tiger Reserve. However, a tiger reserve may also be a national park or wildlife sanctuary.
 - For Example: The Sariska Tiger Reserve is also a <u>national park</u>. It is so because the place was originally created as a national park and <u>later dedicated to tiger conservation</u>.
- Tiger Reserves are **notified by State Governments** as per provisions of **Section 38V of the** Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- Presently, India accommodates a total of 54 Tiger Reserves (with the most recent addition being the <u>Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve</u>).



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