628 Tigers Died in India
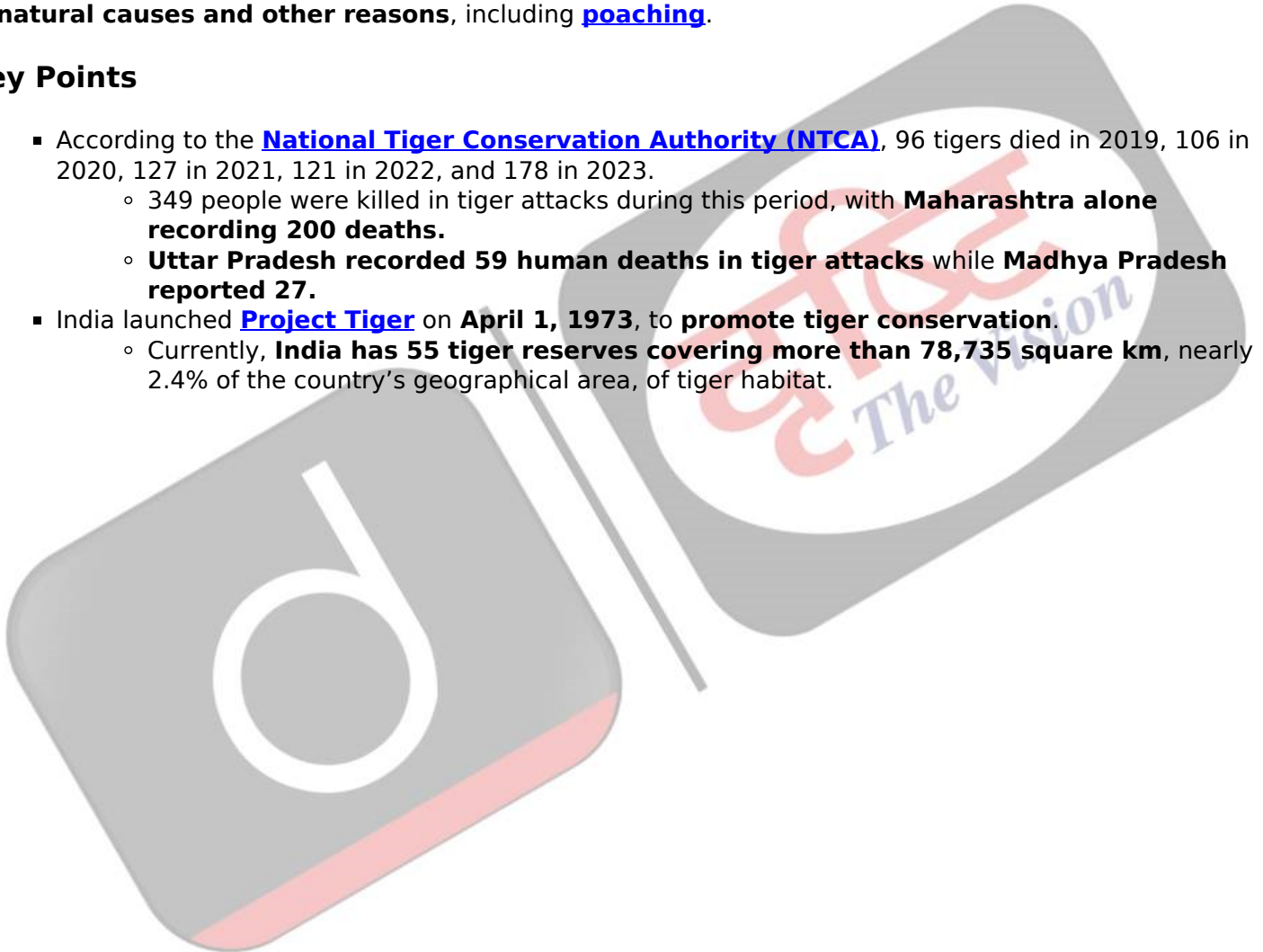
Why in News?

According to government data, a total of **628 tigers died in India during the past five years** due to **natural causes and other reasons**, including **poaching**.

Key Points

- According to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, 96 tigers died in 2019, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022, and 178 in 2023.
    - 349 people were killed in tiger attacks during this period, with **Maharashtra alone recording 200 deaths.**
    - **Uttar Pradesh recorded 59 human deaths in tiger attacks** while **Madhya Pradesh reported 27.**
- India launched **Project Tiger** on **April 1, 1973**, to **promote tiger conservation**.
    - Currently, **India has 55 tiger reserves covering more than 78,735 square km**, nearly 2.4% of the country's geographical area, of tiger habitat.

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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)

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