

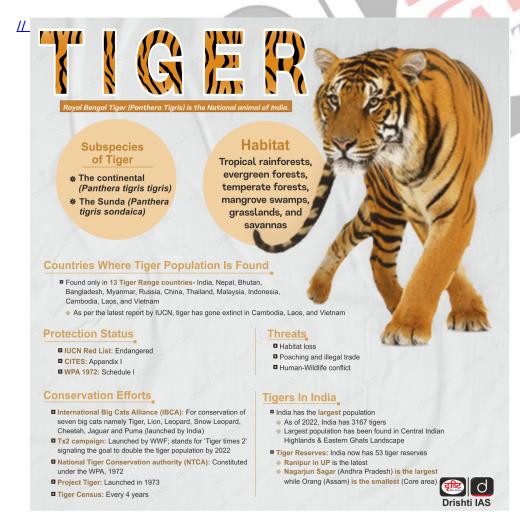
43 Tiger Deaths in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

■ The deaths of **43 tigers** between **2021** and **2023** were investigated, with **34 deaths** in Bandhaygarh Tiger Reserve and **9** in **Shahdol Forest Circle.**

Key Points

- Special Investigation Team (SIT) Report: The SIT, headed by State Tiger Strike Force incharge, submitted its report to the acting Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of the Forest Force (PCCF-HoFF) on July 15.
- Lack of Investigation: The report highlighted insufficient investigation into at least 10 tiger death cases, disinterest by higher authorities and Forest Range Officers, and missing body parts in 10 out of 34 cases.
- Formation of SIT: The SIT was formed on the orders of the state's Chief Wildlife Warden to investigate the high number of tiger deaths.



Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR)

- It is located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh and is spread over the Vindhya hills.
- In 1968, it was notified as a **national park** and in **1993** was declared a tiger reserve- under the **Project Tiger Network** at the neighbouring **Panpatha Sanctuary**.
- It is known for the **Royal Bengal Tigers**. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India as well as in the world.
 - These streams then merge into the <u>Son river</u> (an important southern tributary to the river Ganga).
- The important prey species consists of **chital**, **sambhar**, **barking deer**, **nilgai**, **chinkara**, **wild pig**, **chowsingha**, **langur** and **rhesus macaque**.
 - Dependent upon them are the major predators like tiger, <u>leopard</u>, wild dog, wolf and jackal.

