



43 Tiger Deaths in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

- The deaths of **43 tigers** between **2021** and **2023** were investigated, with **34 deaths** in [Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve](#) and **9** in **Shahdol Forest Circle**.

Key Points

- **Special Investigation Team (SIT) Report:** The SIT, headed by **State Tiger Strike** Force in-charge, 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.

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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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 [Son river](#) (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, leopard, wild dog, wolf** and **jackal**.

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