



Missing Tigers in Ranthambore National Park | Rajasthan | 07 Nov 2024

Why in News?

According to **Rajasthan's Chief Wildlife Warden**, [tigers](#) in [Ranthambore National Park \(RNP\)](#) have gone missing since 2023.

Key Points

- Ranthambore National Park is **currently home to 75 tigers, including cubs**, within a 900-square-kilometer area, resulting in **territorial conflicts**.
 - According to a [Wildlife Institute of India study \(2006-2014\)](#), the park can sustainably support approximately 40 adult tigers.
- This recent incident **marks the first instance** of such a high number of tigers being officially **reported as missing in a single year**.
 - Efforts to reduce pressure on the park by relocating villages from **buffer zones have been sluggish**, with the most recent relocation occurring in 2016.
- **Ranthambore National Park:**
 - **Location:**
 - It lies in the eastern part of Rajasthan state in **Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts**, at the junction of the [Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges](#).
 - It was declared a Tiger reserve in 1973.
 - **Parks and Sanctuaries Included:**
 - It comprises of the **Sawai Mansingh and Keladevi Sanctuaries**.
 - **Vegetation:**
 - The forest type is mainly **tropical dry deciduous** with '**dhak**' (**Butea monosperma**), a species of tree capable of withstanding long periods of drought, being the **commonest**.
 - **Wildlife:**
 - The park is rich in wildlife with **tigers at the apex of the food chain in mammals**.
 - Other animals found here are [leopards](#), striped hyenas, common or hanuman langurs, [rhesus macaques](#), jackals, jungle cats, [caracals](#), [blackbuck](#), Blacknaped hare and chinkara, etc.

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)

