



Madhya Pradesh: Tiger State of India

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has the highest [tiger](#) 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 [tiger census of 2022](#) 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.
- [Jim Corbett National Park](#) 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 [ecological balance](#) and [biodiversity](#) 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 [national park](#). It is so because the place was originally created as a national park and **later dedicated to tiger conservation**.
- 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 [Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve](#)).

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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)

