



Tiger Deaths in India

[Source: DTE](#)

Why in News?

In 2023, India witnessed a disturbing **surge in tiger deaths, reaching a record 204**, as reported by the **Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI)**, a non-profit organisation prompting concerns about conservation efforts for these majestic creatures.

What is the Status of Tiger Deaths in India?

- **Maharashtra has recorded the highest number of tiger** fatalities with 52 deaths, prompting apprehensions regarding the adequacy of conservation measures in the state.
- **India's top tiger state, Madhya Pradesh**, witnessed 45 deaths, emphasizing the need for enhanced protection. Uttarakhand recorded 26 deaths, adding to the grim statistics.
- Tamil Nadu and Kerala recorded 15 tiger deaths each, reflecting a widespread issue across regions. **Karnataka, with the second-highest tiger population**, reported 13 deaths.
- The tiger population in **India reached 3,167 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018**. This positive trend, however, raises questions about the sustainability of these gains in the face of increasing threats.
- **Natural & other causes**, led to 79 tiger deaths, urging a focus on understanding and addressing these factors for effective conservation.
 - Poaching remains a persistent threat, claiming 55 tigers' lives, necessitating robust anti-poaching measures.
 - Infighting among tigers resulted in 46 deaths, underscoring the significance of habitat preservation.
 - Human-induced threats, such as road incidents, caused 7 tiger fatalities, demanding urgent attention to mitigate **human-wildlife conflicts**.

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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)



Way Forward

- Collaboration among **government agencies, conservationists, and communities** is crucial for effective anti-poaching efforts, utilizing technology and intelligence.
 - Establishing a robust anti-poaching network with law enforcement is imperative.
- Strategies to **mitigate human-wildlife conflict**, especially in areas with roadkill, should be developed.
- Allocate **resources for research on natural causes of tiger deaths**, enhance monitoring, and ensure transparent reporting to adapt conservation strategies to evolving challenges.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under "Critical Tiger Habitat"? (2020)

- (a) Corbett
- (b) Ranthambore
- (c) Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam
- (d) Sundarbans

Ans: (c)

Q. Consider the following protected areas: (2012)

1. Bandipur
2. Bhitarkanika
3. Manas
4. Sunderbans

Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (b)

Q. From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats? (2017)

- (a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
(b) Nallamala Forest
(c) Nagarhole National Park
(d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

Ans: (a)

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