



International Tiger Day

Why in News

Recently, at the virtual meeting celebrating [International Tiger Day \(29th July\)](#), Prime Minister of India reiterated India's commitment to ensuring safe habitats for its tigers and nurturing tiger-friendly eco systems.

- Also, at this meeting, **14 Tiger Reserves in India** received the **accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured|Tiger Standards (CAITS)**.

Key Points

▪ Conservation Status of Tiger:

- [Indian Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#): Schedule I
- [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List](#): Endangered.
- [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#): Appendix I.

▪ Significance of Tiger Conservation:

- Tiger conservation is a **symbol of conservation of forests**.
- The tiger is a unique animal which plays a **pivotal role in the health and diversity of an ecosystem**.
- It is a **top predator** which is at the apex of the food chain and **keeps the population of wild ungulates (primarily large mammals) in check**.
 - Thus, Tiger helps in maintaining the **balance between prey herbivores and the vegetation upon which they feed**.
- Therefore, Tiger Conservation is not just about saving a beautiful animal.
 - It is about making sure that **we live a little longer as the forests** are known to provide [ecological services](#) like clean air, water, pollination, temperature regulation etc.
- Further, the significance of Tiger conservation can be reflected by the **Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018' report**.
 - According to the report, the overall leopard population in the tiger range landscape of India in 2018 was estimated at 12,852.
 - This is a **significant increase** from the 2014 figure that was 7,910 in forested habitats of 18 tiger bearing states of the country.
 - The report is a testimony to the fact that conservation of tigers leads to the conservation of the entire ecosystem.

▪ Tiger Conservation Projects in India:

- [Project Tiger 1973](#): Project Tiger is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched in 1973. It provides havens for tigers in the country's national parks.

- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**: It is a statutory body under the MoEFCC and was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

▪ **India's Tiger Conservation Status:**

- India is home to over **70% of the tiger population globally**.
- India is home to **51 tiger reserves** spread across 18 states and the last [tiger census of 2018](#) showed a rise in the tiger population.
- India achieved the target of doubling the tiger population **four years ahead of schedule (2022)** of the [St. Petersburg Declaration](#) on tiger conservation.
- India's strategy of tiger conservation attaches topmost importance to **involving local communities**.



▪ **Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS):**

- **CA|TS** has been agreed upon as an accreditation tool by the [global coalition of Tiger Range Countries \(TRCs\)](#) and has been developed by tiger and protected area experts.
- There are currently **13 tiger range countries** - India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand

and Vietnam.

- CATS is a **set of criteria** which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation.
- It was officially launched in 2013.
- The **Global Tiger Forum (GTF)**, an international NGO working on tiger conservation, and **World Wildlife Fund India** are the two implementing partners of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority** for CATS assessment in India.
- 14 Tiger Reserves which have been accredited are:
 - **Manas, Kaziranga** and **Orang Tiger Reserve** in Assam,
 - **Satpura, Kanha** and **Panna Tiger Reserve** in Madhya Pradesh,
 - **Pench Tiger Reserve** in Maharashtra,
 - **Valmiki Tiger Reserve** in Bihar,
 - **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve** in Uttar Pradesh,
 - **Sunderbans Tiger Reserve** in West Bengal,
 - **Parambikulam Tiger Reserve** in Kerala,
 - **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** of Karnataka
 - **Mudumalai** and **Anamalai Tiger Reserve** in Tamil Nadu.

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