Reduced Tiger Mortality in 3 Years

Why in News

According to the Ministry of Forest Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the number of tiger deaths in 2019 has **decreased for the first time in three years.**

- The number of tiger deaths recorded in previous years are 122 (2016), 115 (2017), 100 (2018) and 95 (2019).
- Decreasing tiger mortality has emerged parallelly with the increasing numbers of tigers in the country.
  - The **tiger census report (2019),** reported an **increase** in the number of tigers compared to 2014.

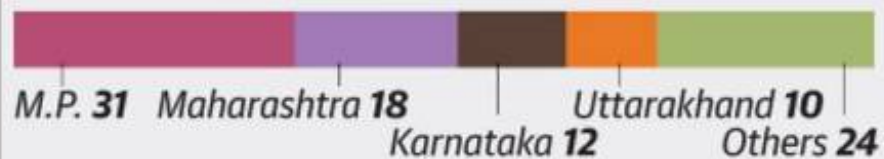## Key Points

Vanishing big cats

Madhya Pradesh recorded 31 tiger deaths in 2019 — the highest in the country, data from the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change shows. A look at the year-wise trend, location and reason for the deaths

A new low
Only 95 tiger deaths were recorded in 2019, lowest in the last three years

Seizure*   Confirmed

2017   2018   2019

* presumed dead on the basis of the body parts seized

State-wise split of deaths in 2019

M.P. **31**   Maharashtra **18**   Karnataka **12**   Uttarakhand **10**   Others **24**

Reasons for deaths in 2019

Poaching **22**   Natural causes **17**   Unknown **56**

- **Numerics:**
  - For 2019, 84 cases of tiger deaths and 11 cases of seizures (a tiger is presumed dead on the basis of body parts seized by authorities) are reported in the country.
  - **Madhya Pradesh,** which has the **highest number of tigers** in the country (526, as per the last census), has recorded the **highest number of tiger deaths (31)** followed by **Maharashtra (18), Karnataka (12) and Uttarakhand (10).**
  - Deaths were also recorded **from non-tiger bearing states like Gujarat,** where a tiger had strayed into the State and died.
- **Reason:**
  - **Poaching** is the **main reason** for tiger deaths in the country followed by other natural reasons.
  - The data on tiger mortality also confirms **22 cases** of poaching in the country.
- **Location:**
  - Tigers are **most vulnerable** when they are **outside reserves** as they are not under surveillance.
  - Almost over **70% of cases** of poaching have been reported **outside tiger reserves.**

- **Use of Technology:**
  The reduced tiger mortalities are due to usage of technology for surveillance, good management of tiger reserves and a lot of awareness and education programmes on tiger conservation.

  M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers-Intensive Protection & Ecological Status) patrolling app is deployed and used in every tiger reserve.

Source: TH