

30 – 07 – 2023

News: International Tiger Day

- Recently the latest Tiger Survey Reports were released on the occasion of International Tiger Day.

Recent Tiger Survey Reports

- More than 80% of the world's wild tigers are in India, and it's crucial to keep track of their numbers.
- Recent tiger census released in 2023 shows that, the number of tigers in India has increased from 2967 in 2019 to 3682 in 2023.
- Highest number of tigers is found in Madhya Pradesh with 785 individuals followed by 563 in Karnataka, 560 in Uttarakhand and 444 in Maharashtra.
- Nearly a quarter of the tigers were reportedly outside protected areas.
- India's tigers are largely concentrated in 53 dedicated tiger reserves spread across 75,796 square km, spanning about 2.3% of India's total land area.
- The reserves with the most number of tigers were the Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, which reported 260 animals, followed by Bandipur (150), and Nagarhole (141), both in Karnataka.

- Central India, the Shivalik Hills, and the Gangetic plains witnessed increases in tiger population, particularly in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra.
- Certain regions, such as the Western Ghats, experienced localised declines, needing targeted monitoring and conservation efforts.
- Some States, including Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh, have reported “disquieting trends” with smaller tiger populations.

Royal Bengal Tiger

- Royal Bengal Tiger is also known as Bengal Tiger and Indian Tiger.
- Tigers are solitary animals. They have characteristic black stripes on their orange colour coat. However, there are white tigers with bright white colour fur and black stripes.
- They are excellent hunters and have the ability to run, climb trees, jump and swim.
- Tiger is the biggest of all big cats living in the world. An average adult tiger usually weighs around 300 kg.
- CITES protection: Appendix I.
- Wildlife protection act: Schedule I.

- IUCN Red list: **Endangered**.
- It is distributed over India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.
- Threats faced by the Tiger include poaching, Habitat destruction, Prey loss and Human conflict.
- Conservation programs include **Project Tiger, Tiger census, MsTripes, TX2 Goal, Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) awards** and Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP by IUCN).
- The Tiger Census is **conducted every 4 years (Quadrennial)** by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- Government recently proposed to **merge the Elephant Census and Tiger Census**.
- Tiger was included in the **"Not all animals migrate by choice"** campaign by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).

International Tiger Day

- Global Tiger Day, often called **International Tiger Day**, is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July.
- It was **created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia**.

- The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.
- The Heads of the Governments of Tiger Range countries at St. Petersburg, Russia, had resolved to double tiger numbers across their global range by 2022 by signing the St. Petersburg declaration (or simply called T*2) on tiger conservation.
- During the same meeting it was also decided to celebrate 29th July as Global Tiger Day across the world, which is since being celebrated to spread and generate awareness on tiger conservation.
- There are currently 13 tiger range countries - India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is constituted under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (amended in 2006).
- It was established in 2005 December following the recommendations of Tiger Task Force.

- It was an **executive body** and later given statutory status after the amendment of Wildlife Protection Act in 2006.
- NTCA along with **Wildlife Institute of India**, in collaboration with state forest departments **conduct the Tiger Census once in 4 years**.
- It also **conducts the leopard census once in 4 years**.
- NTCA is headed **by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.