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**News:** Increase of tiger numbers in Valmiki Tiger Reserve

- Recently, the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** officially **announced the increase in tiger population in Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR).**
- It witnessed the **growth in the number of big cats from 31 (2018) to 54 (2023).**

## **Valmiki Tiger Reserve**

- Valmiki Tiger Reserve is located at the **India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar.**
- It forms **the easternmost limits of the Himalayan Terai forests in India.**
- Situated in the Gangetic Plains bio-geographic zone of the country, the forest has a combination of **bhabar and terai tracts.**
- Valmiki National was established in **March 1994 under Project Tiger.**
- The wildlife found in the forest of National Park are the **Bengal tiger, Indian rhinoceros, black bear, Indian sloth bear, otter, Indian leopard, wild dog, buffalo, and boar. Also, Indian flying foxes** can be sighted here.
- The Reserve has rich avifauna diversity. Over 250 species of birds have been reported.
- **'Tharu'**, a scheduled tribe, is the dominant community in the landscape of the Valmiki National Park.

- Recently, 150 vultures were seen in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), which has prompted a vulture conservation plan in the protected region of VTR.
- Recently, Valmiki Tiger Reserve was accredited with Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) for its excellence in Tiger conservation.