

Today's Important Questions for UPSC CSE Aspirants (Status of Tigers 2022)

Comprehensive Explanation for Questions:

Inside Story of the News :

- **In 1973, the Project Tiger was established with the objective of utilizing the tiger's functional role and charisma to garner public support and resources for preserving representative ecosystems.**
- Since its inception, the project has expanded from nine tiger reserves covering 18,278 Sq. km to 53 reserves covering 75,796 Sq. km, which account for 2.3% of India's land area.
- Despite this, most tiger reserves and protected areas in India are existing as small islands in a vast sea of ecologically unsustainable land use, and many tiger populations are confined to small, protected areas.
- Although some habitat corridors exist that allow tiger movement between them, most of these habitats are not protected areas, continue to deteriorate further due to unsustainable human use and developmental projects, and thereby are not conducive to animal movement.
- **As tigers inhabit diverse habitats across a vast geographical expanse in India, we have categorized the tiger-bearing habitats into five major landscapes based on biogeography and interconnectivity of the habitats:**
- **1) Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains Landscape, 2) Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats Landscape, 3) Western Ghats landscape, 4) Northeast Hills and Brahmaputra Plains Landscape, and 5) the Sundarbans Landscape.**
- **Each landscape is analyzed as a separate unit, since environmental and habitat covariates differ in their relationship with tiger abundance in each of the landscapes.**
- **Additionally, landscapes are an ecologically holistic entity because they function as a biological unit wherein tiger populations can share common individuals, a common gene pool, and can potentially disperse between populations.**
- **The conservation of tigers in India can be divided into two phases.**
- The first phase starting in the 1970s, involved the enactment of the Wildlife Protection Act and the establishment of protected areas that helped conserve tigers and tropical forest ecosystems.
- The second phase began in the 2005-06, with the government adopting a landscape-level approach and implementing strict monitoring for tiger conservation.
- This resulted in an increase in the tiger population from 1,411 in 2006 to 2,967 in 2018.
- **At the beginning of the first tiger monitoring exercise in 2006, India was divided into 100 Sq.km grid, and since then, this sampling space has remained constant.**
- Each grid was uniquely coded so that subsequent inferences can be compared on the same spatial scale and extent.
- The overall sampled space for Phase I remains constant; what changes within that is camera-trapped space vs. model-predicted space for the tiger population.
- The estimation exercise is carried out in three phases, Phase I entails data collection at beat scale by forest department staff across country covering 10146 grids (of 100 Sq. km) followed by

Phase III where the sampling is done at 174 sites encompassing 32588 locations which resulted in 4,70,81,881 photographs having 97,399 tiger pictures.

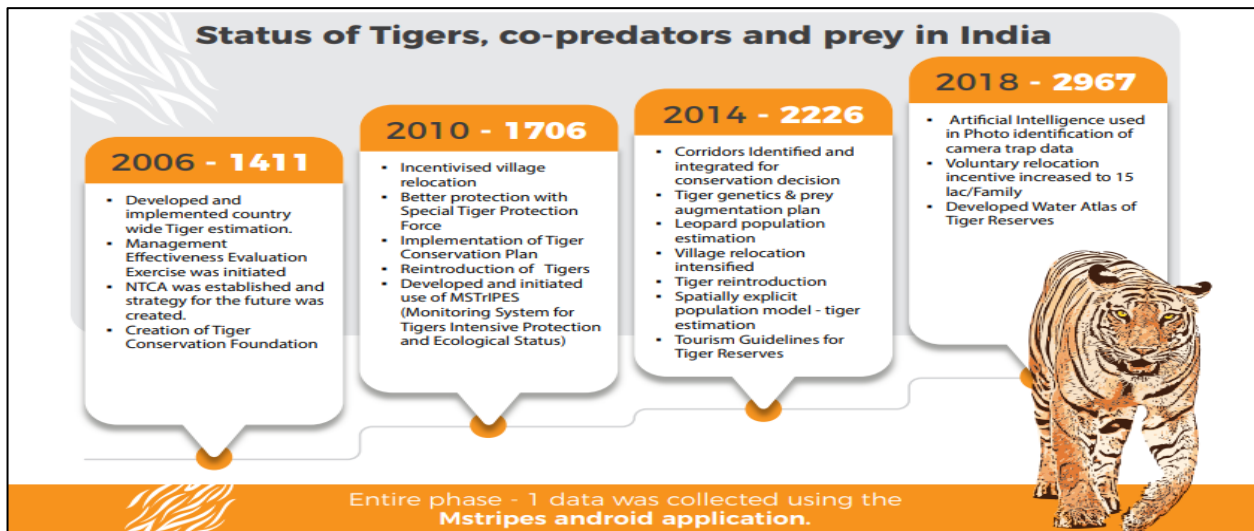
- Phase II is done at Wildlife Institute of India which involves generating landscape level data using remote sensing and secondary data sources. Total man-days in data collection and collation were 6,41,102.
- **Tiger occupancy has increased from 1758 cells of 100 Sq.km in 2018 to 1792 in 2022.**
- The unique tigers photographed in 2022 is 3080, while in 2018 there were 2461 unique tigers captured.
- The minimum estimated population is 3167.
- Population increase is substantial in Shivalik & Gangetic flood plain which is followed by Central India, Northeastern Hills and Brahmaputra flood plains and Sundarbans while Western Ghats population showed decline with major populations being stable.



With a 50 per cent increase in the last four years, Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number (785) of tigers in the country, followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444), according to the data. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Table 3: Estimated tiger numbers in each landscape from 2006 to 2018
(Number in parenthesis are one standard error limits of the mean).

Landscape	Tiger Population Estimate			
	2006	2010	2014	2018
Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains Landscape	297 (259-335)	353 (320-388)	485 (427-543)	646 (567-726)
Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape	601 (486-718)	601 (518-685)	688 (596-780)	1,033 (885-1,193)
Western Ghats Landscape	402 (486-718)	534 (500-568)	776 (685-861)	981 (871-1,093)
North Eastern Hills & Brahmaputra Plains Landscape	100 (84-118)	148 (118-178)	201 (174-212)	219 (194-244)
Sunderbans Landscape	Not Sampled	70 (62-96)	76 (62-96)	88 (86-90)
India	1,411 (1,165-1,657)	1,706 (1,507-1,896)	2,226 (1,945-2,491)	2,967 (2,603-3,346)



Specific Features of "Status of Tigers 2022" :

- When Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the "Status of Tigers 2022" to mark the completion of 50 years of "Project Tiger" in April this year, the government had said there are at least 3167 tigers in India.
- Status of Tiger 2022 is the fifth census of Tigers in India.
- The number of tigers in India has increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022, an annual rise of 6.1 per cent, according to the latest government data released on the International Tiger Day recently .
- With this, India has become home to approximately 75 per cent of the world's tiger population, Union Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey said in Ramnagar while releasing the data for 2022.
- **The Tiger census is held every four years in the country.**
- There are a maximum of 3925 tigers in the country.
- According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the average number of tigers is 3,682 .
- **With a 50 per cent increase in the last four years, Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number (785) of tigers in the country, followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444), according to the data.**
- Under the ambit of tiger conservation, India has not only successfully safeguarded its tiger population, but also has secured the future of all life forms, truly in line with our philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.
- **However, the data shows, states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have recorded a dip in the number of majestic cats in the last few years.**
- Arunachal Pradesh lost around 70 per cent of its tigers — from 29 in 2018 to just 9 in 2022.
- The number of tigers dropped from 28 to 20 in Odisha, from 5 to 1 in Jharkhand, from 19 to 17 in Chhattisgarh and from 26 to 21 in Telangana.
- The count dipped from 6 in 2006 to nil in 2022 in Mizoram and from 10 in 2006 to just 2 in 2022 in northern West Bengal.
- **Nagaland also does not have any tigers now, according to the data.**
- Approximately, 35 per cent of the 53 tiger reserves in India urgently require enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction.

- The number of tigers “within the tiger reserve” is highest in Corbett (260), followed by Bandipur (150), Nagarhole (141), Bandhavgarh (135), Dudhwa (135), Mudumalai(114), Kanha (105), Kaziranga (104), Sundarbans (100), Tadoba (97), Sathyamangalam (85), and Pench-MP (77).
- **Eighteen tiger reserves have less than 10 big cats left.**
- These are Ranipur in Uttar Pradesh; Achanakmar, Indravati and Udanti Sitanadi in Chhattisgarh; Palamau in Jharkhand; Bor and Sahyadri in Maharashtra; Satkosia in Odisha; Mukundara and Ramgarh Vishdhari in Rajasthan; Kawal in Telangana; Kalakad Mundanthurai in Tamil Nadu; Nameri in Assam; Dampa in Mizoram; Pakke, Kamlang and Namdapha in Arunachal Pradesh and Buxa in West Bengal.
- Released in April, the “Status of Tigers 2022” report highlighted both encouraging and concerning trends in tiger populations across various landscapes.
- The tiger population in the forest divisions of the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains landscape has experienced a significant surge: 804 unique tigers have been photographed in these regions, surpassing the estimated 646 population in 2018.
- This increase in tiger numbers has been attributed to photographic evidence showing tigers in new areas of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, raising hopes for range expansion in these regions.
- **The Western Ghats witnessed a decrease in tiger occupancy, except for a few areas like Kali (Anshi Dandeli), where the number of unique tigers remains stable.**
- The report pointed to “increasing human footprint and development” as the primary reasons behind the declining tiger population in the Western Ghats and stressed the need to address the issue of human-mega herbivore and carnivore tensions in this vital biodiversity hotspot.
- **Moving to the Northeastern Hills and Brahmaputra Plains landscape, while the number of distinctive tigers captured on camera decreased to 194 from the estimated 219 in 2018, the report assured that the tiger population in the region is still “secure”.**
- However, due to its small size and genetic uniqueness, intensive conservation efforts are necessary to protect the tiger population from threats such as habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict.
- Central India has seen an increase in the tiger population, with 1,161 tigers photographed compared to the estimated 1,033 in 2018.
- While this expansion of tiger habitats is positive, urgent attention and conservation efforts are required in areas where local tiger populations have become extinct, including reserves like Kawal, Satkosia, and Sahyadri, to prevent the extinction of small populations and mitigate human-tiger interactions.
- In the Sundarbans, 100 tigers were captured on camera in 2022 compared to 88 in 2018.
- To preserve the ecological integrity of the Sundarbans, the report stressed the importance of cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange between India and Bangladesh.

About NTCA :

- **The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.**

- **The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 came into force with effect from the 4th of September 2006, and the NTCA has also been constituted on the same date.**
- This forms one of the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force appointed by the Prime Minister.
- NTCA has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees.
- The 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, providing funding support to tiger range States for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as revealed by the recent findings of the All-India tiger estimation using the refined methodology.
- The ADG (Project Tiger) and its officers also service the NTCA.
- **The Regional Offices of the NTCA have been recently established at Bengaluru, Guwahati and Nagpur, each headed by an IGF and assisted by an AIG.**
- **Objectives :**
 - Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance with its directives becomes legal.
 - Fostering accountability of Center-State in management of Tiger Reserves, by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
 - Providing for an oversight by Parliament.
 - Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves.
- **Power & Functions :**
 - Powers and functions of the National Tiger Conservation Authority as prescribed under section 38 O (1) and (2) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 are as under:
 - The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has been constituted under section 38 L (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - Further, as per the section 38 L, sub section 2 of the said Act, the authority consists of the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Chairperson), the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Vice-Chairperson), three members of Parliament, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and other members.
 - The authority derives its power from section 38 O (1) of WLP, 1972 and functions under the guidance of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members.

Project Tiger :

- **Project Tiger, an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme, The Govt. of India (During Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure) had launched "Project Tiger" on 1st April 1973 in nine reserves of different States Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal over an area of 18,278 sq. km.**
- The country aims to sustain a viable tiger population based on a scientifically calculated carrying capacity of habitats while maintaining a balance between development and wildlife conservation.

- As per National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA) website, Tiger is an umbrella species which ensures viable populations of other wild animals (co-predators, prey) and forest, thereby ensuring the ecological viability of the entire area and habitat, which also ensures the water and climate security of the region.
- Initially, the project covered nine tiger reserves spread over 18,278 sq km. Now, the project includes 53 tiger reserves sprawling over around 75,796 sq km of the region.
- Project Tiger's objective for the next 50 years, the goal would be to have a viable and sustainable tiger population in tiger habitats based on a scientifically calculated carrying capacity.
- **It spread out in 18 of our tiger range states.**
- **The tiger reserves are constituted on a core/buffer strategy.**
- **The core areas have the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary, whereas the buffer or peripheral areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land, managed as a multiple use area.**
- **The Project Tiger aims to foster an exclusive tiger agenda in the core areas of tiger reserves, with an inclusive people-oriented agenda in the buffer.**
- **Project Tiger is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.**

Do You Know about International / Global Tiger Day ?

- Global Tiger Day, commonly referred to as International Tiger Day.
- It observed on July 29 each year,
- It serves as a platform to raise awareness about the endangered tiger species.
- **The day marks the 13th International Tiger Day is celebrated worldwide to promote comprehensive efforts in safeguarding tigers and their natural habitats, fostering harmonious coexistence between humans and these magnificent creatures.**
- **The history of International Tiger Day dates back to the 2010 Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia, where multiple countries, including India, Russia, and China, pledged to protect tigers, according to WWF.**
- **Thirteen tiger range countries collaborated to form Tx2, committed to doubling the tiger population by 2022, coinciding with the Chinese year of the tiger.**
- Since then, this important day has been observed annually, rallying global support for the conservation of these iconic animals.
- The Global Tiger Initiative (GTI), a grouping of nations, international organizations, and conservation organizations committed to tiger conservation, organized the summit, which took place in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- International Tiger Day holds significant importance in raising awareness about the critical issues surrounding tiger conservation.
- Tigers, classified as endangered in various regions, face grave threats to their existence, such as habitat loss and poaching .
- Here are ten key reasons why this day plays a vital role in advocating for tiger protection: Promoting global cooperation , Curbing illegal wildlife trade, Ecological balance, Addressing declining population, Impact of keystone species, Showcasing conservation efforts, Educating the youth, Motivating individuals, Influencing policies and funding & Encouraging responsible tourism.
- **The 29th of July was chosen as International Tiger Day because it represents the halfway point between the first and last days of the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit and the ongoing international campaign to rescue tigers.**

Major landscapes based on biogeography and interconnectivity of the habitats:

Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains Landscape :

- The Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains landscape in India spans across several states and includes five important Tiger Reserves and several other protected areas.
- The Terai region of India holds a significant position for the conservation of tigers, as it hosts several key tiger reserves, including Corbett, Rajaji, Pilibhit, Dudhwa, and Valmiki.
- These protected areas are the only representatives of the rich biodiversity of the Bhabar and Terai regions of the country.
- Unfortunately, this region has undergone considerable change due to anthropogenic activities.
- Another important facet of this landscape is that those tiger reserves located in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are linked through the forests of Nepal, making cross-border cooperation critical to preserve this invaluable natural heritage of both India and Nepal (Qureshi et al. 2006).
- Terai region is part of one of the 200 globally important eco-regions for its intact large mammal assemblages (Olson and Dinerstein 1998).
- The forest patches are connected by means of 13 essential narrow corridors (Johnsingh et al. 2004).
- Notably, emphasis is to be laid on the protected areas in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, which are linked through narrow corridors and require investment to ensure connectivity for the long-term survival of these area.
The landscape is characterized by three geological zones - the Shivaliks, the Bhabar tract, and the Terai plains.
- The Bhabar tract is characterized by seasonal streams and the Terai plains are composed of the floodplains of river Ganga.
- The area supports highly endangered wildlife like Barasingha, one-horned rhinoceros, Bengal florican, Hispid hare, and Hog deer.
- Apart from the tigers, the landscape harbours subspecies of the endangered barasingha and the only surviving population of gaur and wild dog (in Valmiki Tiger Reserve) present in the Indian Terai.
- Amongst the rare and endangered birds, Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) and the swamp francolin (*Francolinus gularis*) are present patchily in the grasslands.
- Hence, the forest tracts of this landscape need to be conserved to continue to harbour its endangered fauna and flora.
- The tiger population in Forest Divisions (territorial forests) of this landscape has seen a significant increase.
- **The Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains landscape has experienced a significant surge: 804 unique tigers have been photographed in these regions, surpassing the estimated 646 population in 2018.**

Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats Landscape :

- The Central Indian landscape has played a prominent role in the history of wildlife in the region, and this is intrinsically entwined to its cultural and ecological evolution.
- Evidence of human habitation in this landscape dates back to the Stone Age.

- Today, the region is home to a diverse range of wildlife, and tiger conservation efforts have been successful.
- However, the region also has the highest level of conflict between tigers and humans, requiring appropriate policies to be developed.
- The landscape of Central India and the Eastern Ghats includes the semi-arid areas of Rajasthan, the central Indian plateau, and portions of the Eastern Ghats in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.
- The Aravalli Range borders the northwest, the Satpura Range borders the south, the Chota Nagpur plateau borders the northeast, and the Odisha hills border the southeast.
- The Sahyadri Mountains in the north connect the Western Ghats and the Central Highlands.
- The Eastern Ghats had historic continuity with Central India forests, but this is now almost lost.
- The Central India landscape is a vast network of protected areas, with around half (25) of the total notified tiger reserves in India and numerous other protected areas that contain extensive tiger occupied forests.
- The region encompasses diverse habitats, ranging from moist to dry deciduous forests, and from valleys to hilly terrains, supporting a rich biodiversity.
- This region has also been the site of numerous reintroductions plans for large mammals.
- Successful reintroduction of tigers has been done in Panna and Sariska, while gaur was reintroduced in Bandhavgarh and Barasingha in Satpura and Bandhavgarh tiger reserves.
- Cheetahs were introduced in Kuno National Park.
- Gandhisagar and Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary have been identified as potential relocation sites for the cheetahs.
- The region is home to the largest population of scheduled tribes who rely on forest lands, and it also has some of the best tiger habitats in India.
- Conservation efforts by the forest departments of Odisha, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh have been successful in protecting the core areas of tiger reserves through incentivized village relocations.
- The forests of this region are under threat from various activities, despite their high biodiversity and conservation significance.
- Two endangered subspecies, the Central Indian Wild Buffalo and Hard Ground Barasingha, are now confined to the tiger reserves in this landscape.
- The tiger landscape is further sub-divided in 13 smaller tiger landscapes:
- Sariska, (ii) Ranthambore-Kuno-Shivpuri-Madhav (iii) Panna-Ranipur (iv) Bandhavgarh-Sanjay-Guru Ghasidas-Palamau, (v) Kanha-Pench-Achanamkmar, (vi) Tadoba-Navegaon-Pench-Bor, (vii) Ratapani Bhopal-Dewas, (viii) Satpura-Melghat (ix), Sunabeda-Udanti Sitanadi, (x) Indravati-Adilabad-Gadhchiroli (xi) Amrabad- Nagarjunsagar Srisailam, (xii) Sahyadri-Radhanagari, and (xiii) Simlipal-Satkosia.
- This region is also having several mines of important minerals, hence mitigation measures like lower mining impact techniques and rehabilitation of mining sites should be done on priority.
- **Central India has seen an increase in the tiger population, with 1,161 tigers photographed compared to the estimated 1,033 in 2018.**

Western Ghats landscape :

- The Western Ghats in India is a region of natural beauty with diverse ecosystems, rivers, and water bodies that support a variety of flora and fauna, including several endemic species.
- The area also has a rich cultural heritage with indigenous communities living sustainably off the land.
- However, the region faces several conservation issues due to human activities, including habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict, and invasive species.
- To address these issues, various initiatives have been implemented, such as habitat restoration, anti-poaching measures, and human-wildlife conflict management.
- A multi-pronged approach balancing the needs of local communities with ecosystem protection and endangered species is necessary for effective conservation in the Western Ghats.
- The Western Ghats is a continuous range of hills that runs parallel to the Arabian Sea coast for about 1600 km, covering an area of about 1,40,000 Sq. km.
- It spans six states in India and contains 12 Tiger Reserves, 20 National Parks, and 68 Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- The Western Ghats are a biodiversity hotspot and home to many endemic plant and animal species, including endangered species like the lion-tailed macaque, the Malabar giant squirrel, and the Nilgiri tahr.
- The region is also a vital source of water for many major Indian rivers, and local communities rely on its forests for food, fuel, and medicinal plants.
- Despite its UNESCO World Heritage Site status, the Western Ghats face several environmental challenges, such as deforestation, habitat loss, and climate change, that threaten the survival of many species and the overall ecological balance of the region.
- The Nilgiri cluster (i.e., Nagarhole to BRT Hills) in the Western Ghats landscape is the largest tiger population in the world and has contributed significantly to colonization of tigers in neighbouring areas (Jhala et al. 2020).
- **The Western Ghats witnessed a decrease in tiger occupancy, except for a few areas like Kali (Anshi Dandeli), where the number of unique tigers remains stable.**

Northeast Hills and Brahmaputra Plains Landscape :

- The Northeast region of India is ecologically significant due to its rich and diverse array of wildlife, with many species that are unique to the region.
- The region's high level of endemism and contribution to the conservation of genetic diversity make it ecologically significant.
- The region is also culturally and aesthetically important, with several indigenous communities and natural beauty that inspires people.
- However, the region is facing threats such as habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict, which require more efforts from the government and non-governmental organizations for long-term conservation.
- The region is home to several populations of tigers, which are threatened by habitat loss, fragmentation and poaching.
- To provide suitable habitats for tigers and other wildlife several Tiger Reserves have been established in Northeast India, such as Kaziranga, Manas, Orang, Pakke, Nameri, Namdhapa,

Kamlang, Dampa, and Buxa, of which only Kaziranga and Manas harbour substantial tiger populations.

- The eastern part of India is a biodiversity hotspot, including the North Bengal dooars, flood plains of Brahmaputra, and Northeastern hill ranges, spread across nine states.
- The region has a high forest cover, with Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Nagaland having the highest percentage.
- However, there are several protected areas, reserve forests, sacred groves, and wetlands that act as a refuge for endangered and endemic species.
- The landscape represents diverse habitats associated with wide altitudinal and climatic variation and has the richest floral diversity in the country.
- The region is also an “Endemic Bird Area” and includes two important tiger conservation units.
- A recent study found that the population of northeast tigers is the most distinct among the Bengal tiger populations.
- **The Northeastern Hills and Brahmaputra Plains landscape, while the number of distinctive tigers captured on camera decreased to 194 from the estimated 219 in 2018.**

Sundarbans Landscape :

- The Sundarbans tigers are recognized for their unique physical attributes, characterized by smaller size and ability to survive in the mangrove ecosystem.
- Situated in the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Sundarbans is a vast mangrove forest that is home to a diverse array of wildlife.
- Throughout its history, the region has encountered multiple threats, including deforestation, hunting, and poaching.
- Despite the conservation efforts undertaken by the Indian government, the Sundarbans confronts various challenges, such as habitat loss and degradation due to human encroachment and sea-level rise, as well as poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
- To preserve the Bengal tiger population in the region, the establishment of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve stands out as a crucial initiative.
- The reserve has implemented a range of measures, including anti-poaching patrols, habitat management, and community engagement, aimed at safeguarding the tiger population.
- Nevertheless, the Bengal tiger in the Indian Sundarbans.
- The Sundarbans is the world’s largest and contiguous mangrove forest, located at the confluence of the Brahmaputra, Ganges, and Meghna rivers in India and Bangladesh.
- It is home to tigers and is a globally recognized priority for tiger conservation.
- The entire landscape covers around 10,000 Sq. km , with only 42% of mangrove habitat being within Indian territory.
- The Sundarbans is also recognized as a wetland of global importance and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- This unique ecosystem is sensitive to changes in siltation and salinity.
- This landscape is a global biodiversity hotspot (Danda et al 2017) and also an Important Bird Area (Islam and Rahmani 2004).
- Other than tigers, fishing cat and leopard cat are also found here.
- Spotted deer, wild pig, and rhesus macaque form the major prey species of the tiger.

- The unique geographic location of Sundarbans makes it vulnerable to climate change and submergence from sea level rise.
- **In the Sundarbans, 100 tigers were captured on camera in 2022 compared to 88 in 2018.**

About Bengal Tiger :

- **The Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), also called the Indian tiger or the Royal Bengal tiger is native to the Indian subcontinent.**
- Although it once roamed a much larger area, the Bengal is currently found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.
- The Bengal tiger is on the endangered list.
- **It's the most well-known breed of tiger and the largest tiger found in the wild.**
- A male Bengal weighs between 397 and 569 pounds.
- The female is smaller, weighing between 220 and 350 pounds.
- It is still the subspecies with the most living individuals left, even with its mere 2,500 adult tiger population.
- **Bengal tigers can be found in alluvial grasslands, rainforests of both the tropical and subtropical kinds, mangroves, deciduous forests and scrub forests.**
- Male Bengal tigers can reach up to 270 to 310 centimeters (110 to 120 inches) while the females reach up to 240 to 265 centimeters (94 to 104 inches).
- The males are also heavier, at 175 to 260 kilograms (390 to 570 pounds), while the females weigh around 100 to 181 kilograms (220 to 400 pounds).
- **The Bengal tiger's appearance is distinguished from other tiger subspecies by its orange coat accented by prominent brownish-to-black stripes; a rare, white-coated variant of the subspecies also exists.**
- The largest male Bengal tigers can grow up to about 3.2 metres (10.5 feet) long (including a 1-metre- [3.3-foot-] long tail) and weigh nearly 295 kg (about 650 pounds).
- Females are smaller, the largest ones measuring about 2.7 metres (9 feet) long and weighing as much as 181 kg (400 pounds).
- **They are solitary hunters, preying primarily on ungulates (including deer and antelope), gaurs, and wild boars (*Sus scrofa*).**

***New Subspecies Classifications :**

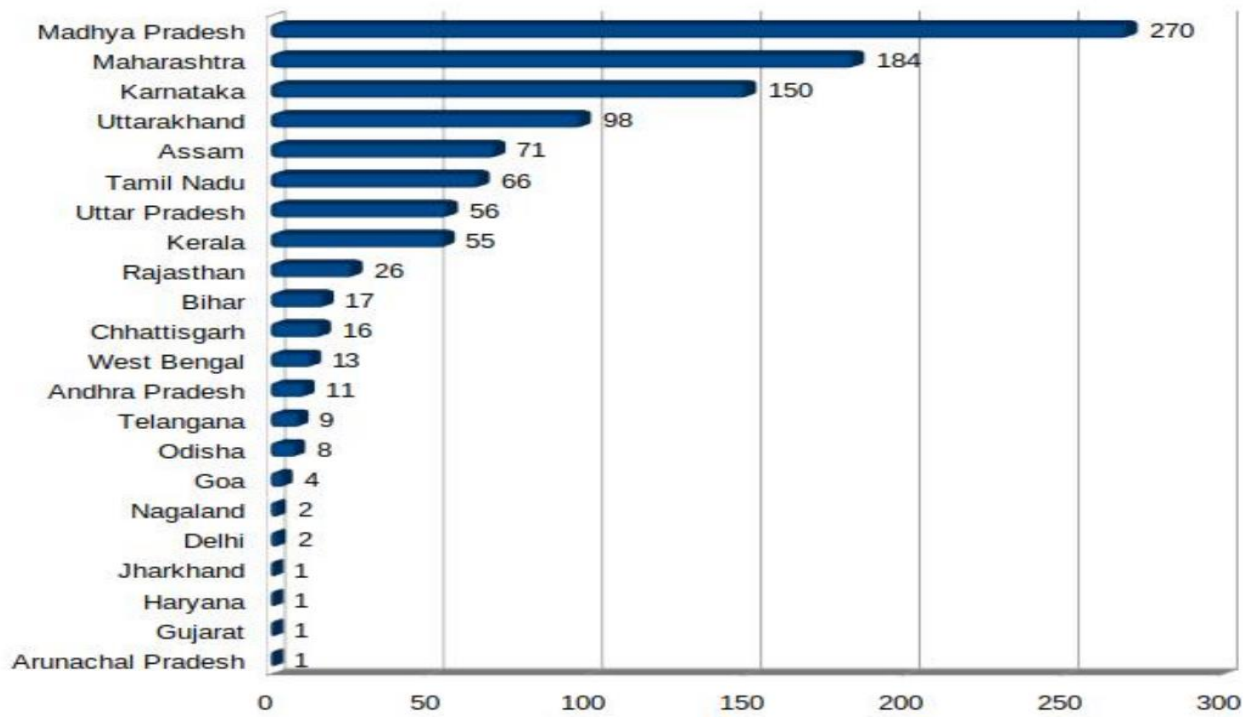
Since 2017, IUCN has recognized two tiger subspecies, commonly referred to as the continental tiger and the Sunda Island tiger. All remaining island tigers are found only in Sumatra, with tigers in Java and Bali now extinct. These are popularly known as Sumatran tigers. The continental tigers currently include the Bengal, Malayan, Indochinese and Amur (Siberian) tiger populations, while the Caspian tiger is extinct in the wild. The South China tiger is believed to be functionally extinct.

Types of Tigers & Other Features

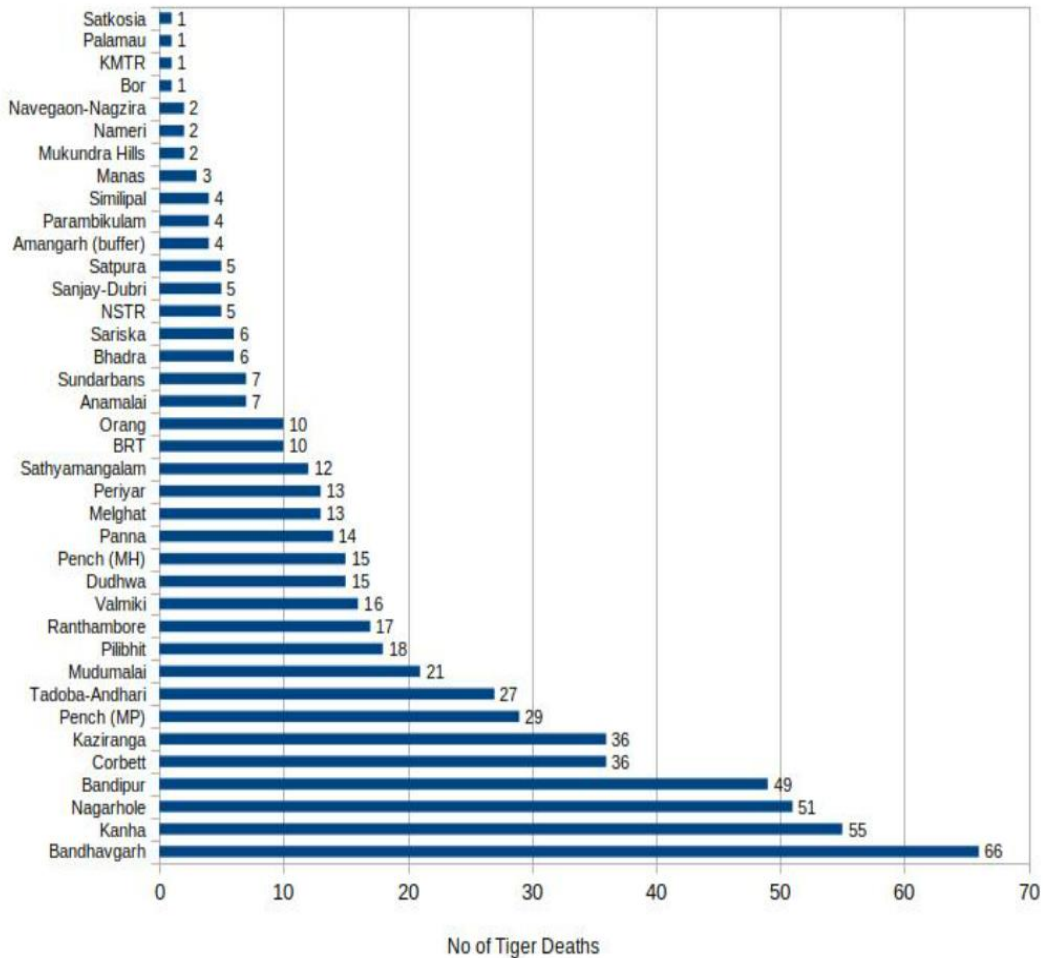
Types of Tigers	Scientific Name	Special Features	Native Place	IUCN Status
Bengal Tiger (Indian tiger or the Royal Bengal tiger)	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	The largest tiger found in the wild;	India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.	Endangered

Siberian Tiger (Manchurian tiger, Korean tiger, Amur tiger or Ussurian tiger)	<i>Panthera tigris altaica</i>		Northern Asia (China, Russia and Korea)	Endangered
Sumatran Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>	Smallest tiger subspecies; It lives only on an island ; It has been isolated from other tigers; It has the darkest coat of all tigers	Indonesian island of Sumatra .	Endangered
Indochinese Tiger (Corbett's tiger)	<i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i>		Southeast Asia (China, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Burma and Vietnam).	Near critically endangered
Malayan Tiger (Southern Indochinese tiger)	<i>Panthera tigris jacksoni</i> and occasionally <i>Panthera tigris malayensis</i>		Southeastern Asia (Burma, Thailand and Malaysia).	Critically endangered
South China Tiger (Chinese tiger, the Xiamen tiger and the Amoy tiger)	<i>Panthera tigris amoyensis</i>		Eastern and central China (the Jiangxi, Guangdong, Fukien and Hunan provinces);	critically endangered
Caspian tiger (Gray tiger; Hyrcanian tiger or Turan tiger)	<i>Panthera tigris virgata</i>		West (Turkey) and south (Iran) of the Caspian Sea and west through Central Asia into the Takla Makan desert of Xinjiang, China.	Extinct
Bali tiger	<i>Panthera tigris balica</i>		Indonesian islands	Extinct
Javan tiger	<i>Panthera tigris sondaica</i>		Indonesia	Extinct

State wise tiger mortality details for the period 2012-2022 (up to July 2022) are given below (includes seizure cases).



Tiger mortality details (reserve wise) for the period 2012-2022 (up to July 2022) as reported by Tiger Reserves / Tiger Range States.



Source : <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/tiger-census-data-india-has-3682-tigers-75-percent-of-global-numbers-8866890/>

; [file:///C:/Users/aniksingh/Downloads/Status_Tigers_2022_Summary-1%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/aniksingh/Downloads/Status_Tigers_2022_Summary-1%20(1).pdf)

; <https://www.livemint.com/news/international/tiger-day-2023-from-history-to-significance-all-you-need-to-know-11690600341051.html>

; <https://www.britannica.com/animal/Bengal-tiger>

; <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/tiger>

; <https://animalsafari.com/9-types-of-tigers-6-endangered-3-extinct/>

& List of Tiger Reserve in India - https://wiienvi.nic.in/database/trd_8222.aspx