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Tiger Population in Sundarbans Rises

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Why in News

As per the latest census conducted by the **West Bengal Forest Department**, the tiger count in the Sundarbans for **2019-20** has **gone up to 96 from 88 in 2018-19**.

The increase in the number by eight is significant as it is the **highest annual jump** reported from the Sundarbans.

Sundarbans

- Sundarbans is a **vast contiguous mangrove forest ecosystem** in the coastal region of Bay of Bengal spread over **India** and **Bangladesh** on the delta of the **Ganges, Brahmaputra** and **Meghna** rivers.
- The Sunderbans Delta is the only mangrove forest in the world inhabited by tigers.
- Indian Sundarbans constitute over **60% of the country's total mangrove** forest area.
- Indian Sundarbans has been recognised as **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1987 and '**Wetland of International Importance**' under the Ramsar Convention in January, 2019.
- It is home to rare and globally threatened species, such as the Northern River Terrapin, Royal Bengal Tiger, Irrawaddy Dolphin, and the Fishing Cat.
- Estimation of the number of tigers in the Sunderbans has always been a challenge because of the difficult terrain that comprises dense mangrove forests, with creeks and rivulets, and floods twice a day during the high tides.

Source: TH