



Tiger Census Report

The Prime Minister of India has released the results of the fourth cycle of **All India Tiger Estimation - 2018** on the occasion of **Global Tiger Day-2019**.

- According to results of the [Tiger census](#), the total count of tigers has risen to 2,967 from 2,226 in 2014 — an increase of 741 individuals (aged more than one year), or 33%, in four years.
- India has achieved the target of doubling the tiger count four years ahead of the deadline of 2022.
- This is by far the **biggest increase** in Tiger count in terms of both numbers and percentage (since the four-yearly census using camera traps and the capture-mark-recapture method began in 2006).

Need for Tiger Conservation

- Tigers are at the top of the food chain and are sometimes referred to as “**umbrella species**” that is their conservation also conserve many other species in the same area.
- The Tiger estimation exercise that includes **habitat assessment** and **prey estimation** reflects the success or failure of Tiger conservation efforts.
- More than **80%** of the world’s wild tigers are in India, and it’s crucial to keep **track** of their numbers.

Tigers in India

- India accounts for majority of the 3,500-odd tigers that are scattered among Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand and Vietnam.
- India’s five tiger landscapes are: Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains, Central Indian Landscape and Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats, North-East Hills and Brahmaputra Plains, and the Sundarbans.

Key Findings

- **Top Performers:** **Madhya Pradesh** saw the highest number of tigers (526) followed by **Karnataka** (524) and **Uttarakhand** (442).
 - **Increase in Tiger population:** Madhya Pradesh (71%) > Maharashtra (64%) > Karnataka (29%).

- **Worst Performers:** **Chhattisgarh** and **Mizoram** saw a decline in tiger population.

- **Chhattisgarh** is the only state out of the 20 tiger-bearing states where the 2018- census counted 19 tigers, significantly fewer than the 46 of 2014.
- Decline in Tiger numbers in Chhattisgarh can be attributed to the **law and order** problem as large parts of the state are hit by the Maoist insurgency.
- Greater conservation efforts are needed in the “**critically vulnerable**” **Northeast hills** and **Odisha**.

- **Tiger Sanctuaries:** An evaluation of India's 50 tiger sanctuaries was also released along with the 4th National Tiger Estimation (Tiger census).
 - Madhya Pradesh's **Pench Sanctuary** and Kerala's **Periyar sanctuary** emerged as the best-managed tiger reserves in the country.
 - **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve** in Tamil Nadu registered the "maximum improvement" since 2014.
 - **The Dampa and Rajaji reserves**, in Mizoram and Uttarakhand respectively are at the bottom of the list in terms of Tiger count.
 - **No tiger** has been found in the **Buxa** (West Bengal), **Palamu** (Jharkhand) and **Dampa** (Mizoram) reserves.

Global Tiger Day

- Global Tiger Day was observed for the first time in 2010 at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia when all 13 tiger range countries came together for the first time with the commitment of doubling the number of wild tigers by 2022.
- It is celebrated annually on July 29th.
- Global Tiger Recovery Plan which outlines how each country can contribute to the ambitious goal, known as TX2

Source: IE