



A Rise in Tiger Numbers in Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

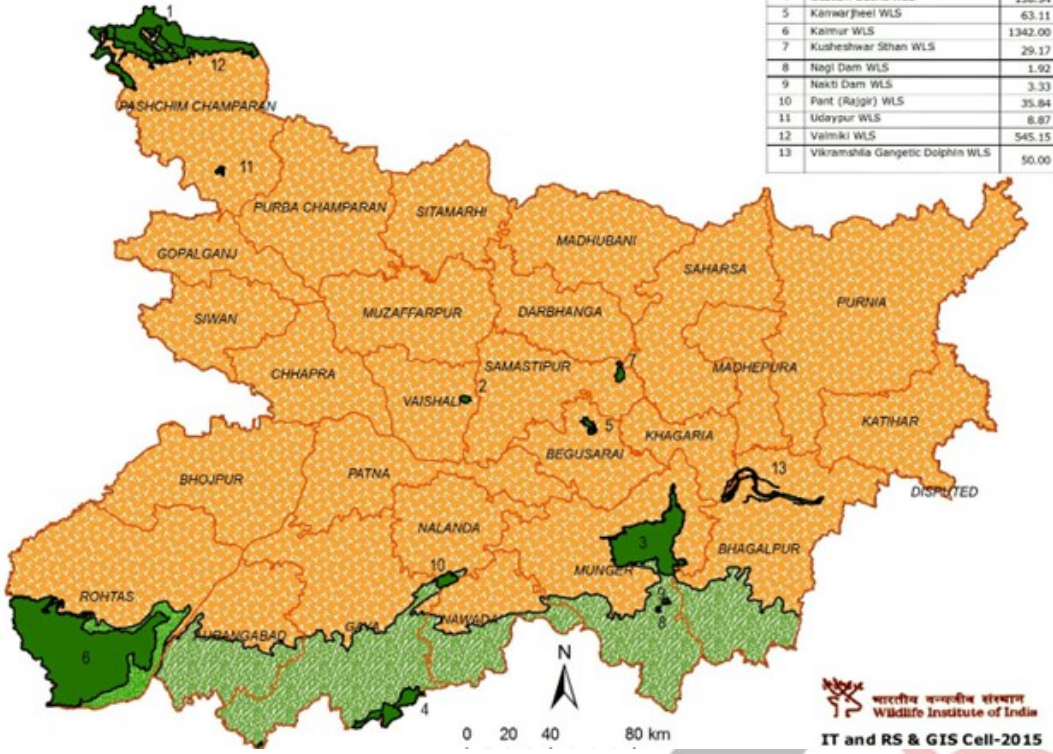
Recently, the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) had officially announced the increase in [tiger](#) population in Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR).

- It **witnessed the growth in the number of big cats from 31 (2018) to 54 (2023)**.
- The Bihar government is **waiting to obtain NTCA approval for declaring Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as the state's second [tiger reserve](#)** after VTR.

Key Points

- A total **ban on sand and stone mining** inside VTR, and strict restrictions on mining in its eco-sensitive zone, helped increase grassland cover.
- An **increase in grassland cover** thus helps in supporting the prey population, in turn increasing the chances of the carnivores' survival.
- The VTR is the **only tiger reserve in Bihar**, which forms the easternmost extent of the Himalayan Terai forests in India.
 - The VTR is **located in Bihar's West Champaran district**, bordering Nepal to its north and Uttar Pradesh to its west.
- According to the Forest Survey of India Report 2021, **85.71% of its total area is covered by forest cover**.
- Wild mammals **found in the forests of Valmiki Tiger Reserve include** tiger, sloth bear, leopard, wild dog, bison, wild boar etc.
- **Rivers Gandak, Pandai, Manor, Harha, Masan and Bhapsa** flow through various parts of the reserve.

1	Valmiki NP	335.65
2	Bareilly S.A.Z. S. WLS	1.96
3	Bhimbandh WLS	681.99
4	Gautam Buddha WLS	138.34
5	Karnar Jheel WLS	63.11
6	Kaimur WLS	1342.00
7	Kusheshwar Sthan WLS	29.17
8	Nagi Dam WLS	1.92
9	Nakti Dam WLS	3.33
10	Pant (Rajgir) WLS	35.84
11	Udaypur WLS	8.87
12	Valmiki WLS	545.15
13	Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin WLS	50.00



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