



Uttarakhand to Translocate Four Tigers to Rajasthan | Uttarakhand | 30 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttarakhand government has agreed to translocate four tigers to Rajasthan following a request from the authorities.

Key Points

According to guidelines of the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#), the tigers to be sent to Rajasthan will not be captured from the protected forest area but from the [buffer zone](#).

- A similar request for the **relocation of three tigers to Odisha** has also been received and it is under consideration.
- The requests from the Rajasthan and the Odisha governments for the translocation of tigers were received following the successful operation of the **tiger relocation project** in Uttarakhand under which four big cats were translocated from the [Corbett Tiger Reserve](#) to [Rajaji Tiger Reserve](#).

TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is the National animal of India.

Subspecies of Tiger

- ✦ The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- ✦ The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

- ▣ Found only in 13 Tiger Range countries- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- ◆ As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

Protection Status

- ▣ IUCN Red List: Endangered
- ▣ CITES: Appendix I
- ▣ WPA 1972: Schedule I

Threats



- ▣ Habitat loss
- ▣ Poaching and illegal trade
- ▣ Human-Wildlife conflict

Conservation Efforts

- ▣ International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA): For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- ▣ Tx2 campaign: Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- ▣ National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA): Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- ▣ Project Tiger: Launched in 1973
- ▣ Tiger Census: Every 4 years

Tigers In India

- ▣ India has the largest population
 - ◆ As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
 - ◆ Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- ▣ Tiger Reserves: India now has 53 tiger reserves
 - ◆ Ranipur in UP is the latest
 - ◆ Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core area)

 
Drishti IAS

National Tiger Conservation Authority

- It is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.
- It was established in **2005** following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- It was 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.

Rajaji Tiger Reserve

- It is located in **Haridwar (Uttarakhand)**, along the foothills of the Shivalik range. It is part of **Rajaji National Park**.
- Rajaji National Park was established in the year 1983 after amalgamating three sanctuaries in the Uttarakhand i.e., Rajaji, Motichur and Chila.
- It was **named after the famous freedom fighter C. Rajgopalachari**; popularly known as "Rajaji".
- It was declared a **Tiger Reserve** in 2015 as the 48th tiger reserve of the country.

Indian Railway & Uttarakhand Tourism Launches Manaskhand Express | Uttarakhand | 30 Mar 2024

Why in News?

The **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board**, along with the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC)**, has introduced a new tourist train called the "**Manaskhand Express**" to promote the hidden gems of the **Kumaon Region** in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- The "**MANASKHAND EXPRESS - BHARAT GAURAV TOURIST TRAIN**" is a special 10 Nights/11 Days tour.
- This unique journey is designed to showcase the divine beauty and cultural richness of Uttarakhand's Devbhoomi, known for its **spiritual significance and heritage sites**.
- **Departing on 22 April 2024**, the tour offers a comprehensive exploration of various destinations across Uttarakhand.
 - The train's **boarding and deboarding stations** include Pune, Lonavala, Panvel, Kalyan, Nashik, Jalgaon, Bhusawal, Khandwa, Itarasi, and Rani Kamlapati, ensuring accessibility for travelers from different regions.
 - Some of the highlights of the tour include visits to Champawat/Lohaghat to explore Baleshwar, Tea Gardens, and Mayawati Ashram, **paying homage at Nanda Devi & Kainchi Dham - Baba Neem Karoli Temple**, and seeking blessings at Nanakmatta Gurudwara - **Khatima & Naina Devi - Nainital**.
 - Additionally, participants will have the chance to discover the spiritual aura of **Jageshwar Dham & Golu Devta - Chitai** and visit **Haat Kalika Temple & Patal Bhuvneshwar**.