



Increase Tiger Numbers in Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Source: DTE

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.

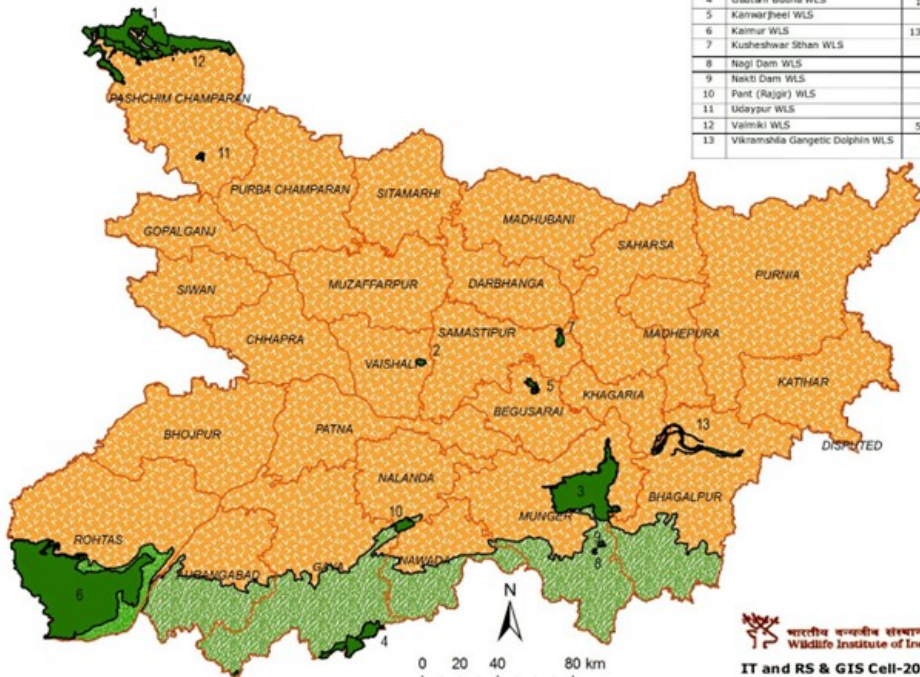
Why Has the Number of Tigers in VTR Increased?

- 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 reserve is dedicated to managing and sustaining the tiger population **by raising awareness among local residents** and monitoring mining activities in and around the area **to minimize human-wildlife conflict**.
- The **NTCA** placed the reserve in the **'Very Good' category**.

What are the Important Facts of Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)?

- 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**.
- Situated in the **Gangetic plains bio-geographic region**, the vegetation of this Tiger Reserve is a combination of **Bhabar** and **Terai regions**.
- 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	Vaishali NP	335.65
2	Baneta S.A.Z.S. WLS	1.96
3	Bhimbandh WLS	681.99
4	Gautam Buddha WLS	138.34
5	Kanwar 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	Vaishali WLS	545.15
13	Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin WLS	50.00



What is the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)?

▪ About:

- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** 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.

▪ Objectives:

- Providing **statutory authority** to [Project Tiger](#) so that compliance of 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.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q1. Consider the following protected areas: (2012)

1. Bandipur
2. Bhitarkanika
3. Manas
4. Sunderbans

Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (b)

Q2. From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link

between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats? (2017)

- (a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- (b) Nallamala Forest
- (c) Nagarhole National Park
- (d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

Ans: (a)

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