



# Tiger Deaths in India

[Source: DTE](#)

## Why in News?

In 2023, India witnessed a disturbing **surge in tiger deaths, reaching a record 204**, as reported by the **Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI)**, a non-profit organisation prompting concerns about conservation efforts for these majestic creatures.

## What is the Status of Tiger Deaths in India?

- **Maharashtra has recorded the highest number of tiger** fatalities with 52 deaths, prompting apprehensions regarding the adequacy of conservation measures in the state.
- **India's top tiger state, Madhya Pradesh**, witnessed 45 deaths, emphasizing the need for enhanced protection. Uttarakhand recorded 26 deaths, adding to the grim statistics.
- Tamil Nadu and Kerala recorded 15 tiger deaths each, reflecting a widespread issue across regions. **Karnataka, with the second-highest tiger population**, reported 13 deaths.
- The tiger population in **India reached 3,167 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018**. This positive trend, however, raises questions about the sustainability of these gains in the face of increasing threats.
- **Natural & other causes**, led to 79 tiger deaths, urging a focus on understanding and addressing these factors for effective conservation.
  - Poaching remains a persistent threat, claiming 55 tigers' lives, necessitating robust anti-poaching measures.
  - Infighting among tigers resulted in 46 deaths, underscoring the significance of habitat preservation.
  - Human-induced threats, such as road incidents, caused 7 tiger fatalities, demanding urgent attention to mitigate [human-wildlife conflicts](#).

# 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)



## Way Forward

- Collaboration among **government agencies, conservationists, and communities** is crucial for effective anti-poaching efforts, utilizing technology and intelligence.
  - Establishing a robust anti-poaching network with law enforcement is imperative.
- Strategies to **mitigate human-wildlife conflict**, especially in areas with roadkill, should be developed.
- Allocate **resources for research on natural causes of tiger deaths**, enhance monitoring, and ensure transparent reporting to adapt conservation strategies to evolving challenges.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

Q. Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under "Critical Tiger Habitat"? (2020)

- (a) Corbett
- (b) Ranthambore
- (c) Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam
- (d) Sundarbans

Ans: (c)

Q. 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)**

**Q. 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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