Tiger Population in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, the <u>tiger</u> population in Uttarakhand has increased at a rate of **314%** between 2006 and 2022. According to the Uttarakhand Wildlife officials, the tiger population density in Uttarakhand is among the highest in the world.

Key Points

- The tiger population which stood at 178 in 2006 rose to 560 in 2022, recording a rise of 314%.
- The increase in the population of wild animals in the state is due to steps taken by the forest department in recent years to improve their habitat conditions.
- A slight increase is also recorded in 2023 in the number of people killed and injured in tiger attacks.
 - The total number of people killed in encounters with animals such as <u>leopards</u>, <u>elephants</u> and snakes besides tigers was 71 in 2021, 82 in 2022 and 66 in 2023.
 - The number of persons injured in <u>man-animal conflicts</u> was 361 in 2021, 325 in 2022 and 317 in 2023.
- There are two tiger reserve in Uttarakhand:
 - Rajaji Tiger Reserve
 - Corbett Tiger Reserve



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

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

Threats_

Habitat loss Poaching and illegal trade

Human-Wildlife conflict

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)
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The Vision

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