

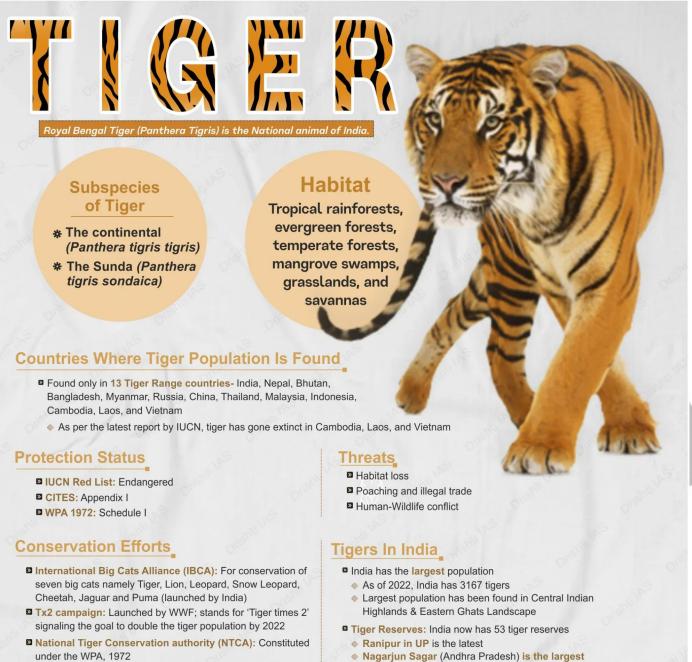
Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

Source: TOI

A tigress and her four cubs were found dead in Karnataka's <u>Male Mahadeshwara Hills (MM Hills)</u> <u>Wildlife Sanctuary</u>, suspected to have been **poisoned** amid escalating <u>human-wildlife conflict</u>.

Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

- About: It is located in Chamarajanagar district, southeast Karnataka, near the Tamil Nadu border, and was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2013.
 - Its topography includes mainly dry deciduous forests, along with patches of moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen, and shola forests at varying altitudes.
- Ecological Importance: It is contiguous with Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger
 Reserve and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka, and Sathyamangalam Tiger
 Reserve in Tamil Nadu, forming a critical tiger corridor between the two states.
 - It is home to **tigers**, **leopards**, **elephants**, apart from a rich density of prey species.
- Tiger Reserve Status: The proposal to upgrade MM Hills to a <u>Tiger Reserve</u> has been pending for nearly 15 years. If approved, Chamarajanagar will become the first district in India to host 3 tiger reserves—Bandipur, BRT, and MM Hills.
 - Karnataka has the second-largest tiger population in India (563 tigers) after Madhya Pradesh (785 tigers).
- Human Settlements: The region is home to two dominant communities: the Soligas, indigenous former hunter-gatherers, and the <u>Lingayats</u>, temple priests from Mysore engaged in temple management.



Project Tiger: Launched in 1973Tiger Census: Every 4 years

 Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core area)



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