



# International Tiger Day 2025

[Source: IE](#)

## Why in News?

[International Tiger Day](#) (also known as **Global Tiger Day**) on 29th July raises awareness about tiger (*Panthera tigris*) conservation and also highlights the **Amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*)**, the world's largest wild cat.

## History of International Tiger Day

- Global Tiger Day was instituted at the **2010 Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, Russia** where 13 tiger-range countries, including India, Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, and Bangladesh came together in response to the sharp decline in tiger populations.
  - The summit launched the **Tx2 initiative**, aiming to double the wild tiger population by 2022.

## How has India Contributed to the Conservation of Tigers?

- **Need for Conservation:** In the early 1900s, India had around 1 lakh tigers. By 1972, the number had dropped sharply to just 1,827.
  - Alarmed by this, India launched [Project Tiger](#) in 1973 to protect Bengal tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*) and their habitats.

## Project Tiger

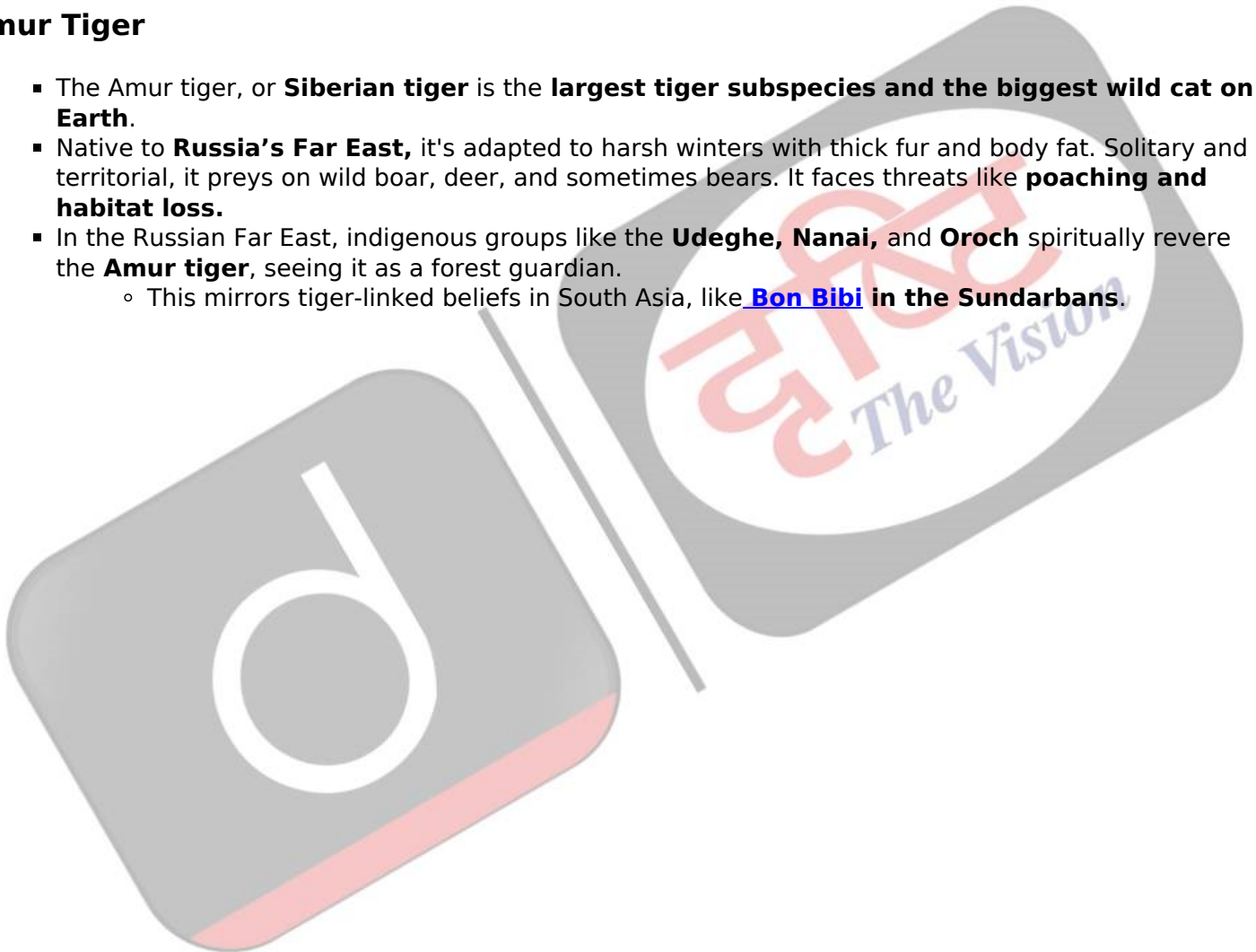
- **About:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, provides **60% Central Assistance to most states for non-recurring expenses and 50% for recurring costs**, with states matching the rest.
- **Primary Aim:** Ensure a viable population of Bengal tigers in natural habitats.
- **Key Steps Taken:** Establishment of **tiger reserves** with a **core-buffer** strategy to **protect habitats in core zones** while allowing sustainable human activities in buffer zones.
  - The [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) set up under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, oversees Project Tiger and conducts the **national tiger census every four years (last census done in 2022)**.
- **Progress:** Launched in 1973 with 9 reserves, Project Tiger now covers over 50 reserves across 18 states, spanning about 2.2% of India's land.
  - Tiger numbers rose from 1,827 in 1973 to an estimated 3,682 (avg) with an upper limit of 3,925 as per 2022 data.
    - **Madhya Pradesh has the largest tiger population**, followed by Karnataka, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra.
    - Reserves with the highest tiger numbers are **Corbett** (Uttarakhand), **Bandipur** (Karnataka), **Nagarhole** (Karnataka),

and **Bandhavgarh** (Madhya Pradesh).

- **Nagarjunsagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (Andhra Pradesh)** is the largest tiger reserve in India
  - India now hosts around 75% of the world's tiger population. The population has **more than doubled in the last two decades**, with a growth rate of **6.1% per year**.
  - The Project Tiger and Project Elephant Scheme has been merged from FY 2023-24 and is now **known as Project Tiger & Elephant**.
- **Iconic Figures:**
  - **Machhli (T-16)** a famous tigress from **Ranthambore**, often called the '**Queen Mother of Tigers**' and '**Tigress Queen of Ranthambore**.' She became the **poster face of Project Tiger**.
  - **Kailash Sankhala**, known as the **Tiger Man of India**, was the first director of Project Tiger.
- **Cultural Significance:** The **Royal Bengal Tiger** is **India's national animal** and is deeply rooted in Indian mythology and pride.

## Amur Tiger

- The Amur tiger, or **Siberian tiger** is the **largest tiger subspecies and the biggest wild cat on Earth**.
- Native to **Russia's Far East**, it's adapted to harsh winters with thick fur and body fat. Solitary and territorial, it preys on wild boar, deer, and sometimes bears. It faces threats like **poaching and habitat loss**.
- In the Russian Far East, indigenous groups like the **Udeghe, Nanai**, and **Oroch** spiritually revere the **Amur tiger**, seeing it as a forest guardian.
  - This mirrors tiger-linked beliefs in South Asia, like [Bon Bibi](#) in the Sundarbans.



# 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

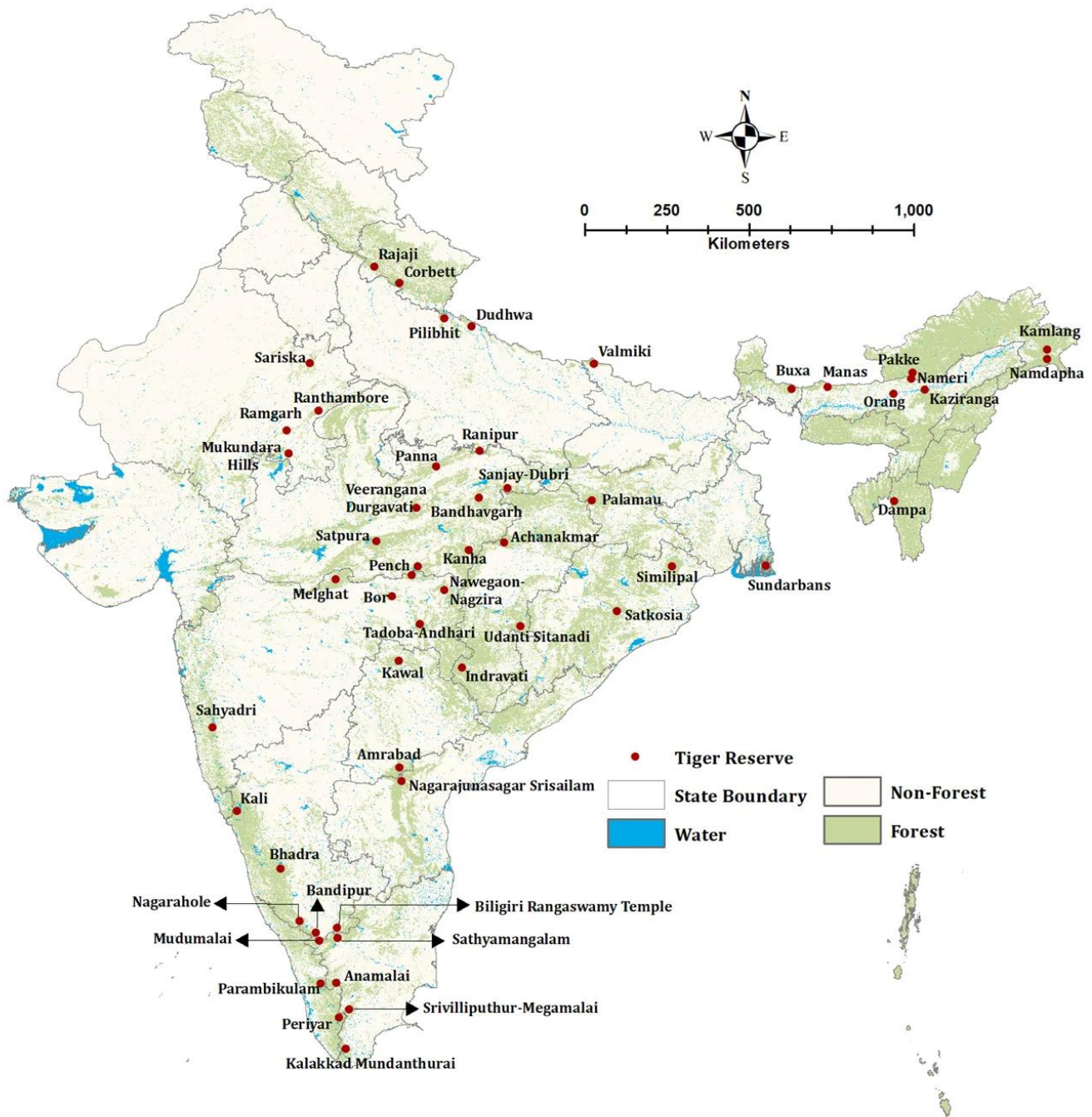
- International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):** For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- Tx2 campaign:** Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- National Tiger 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 58 tiger reserves



# Tiger Reserves in India



## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year 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-Srisailem
- (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)**