

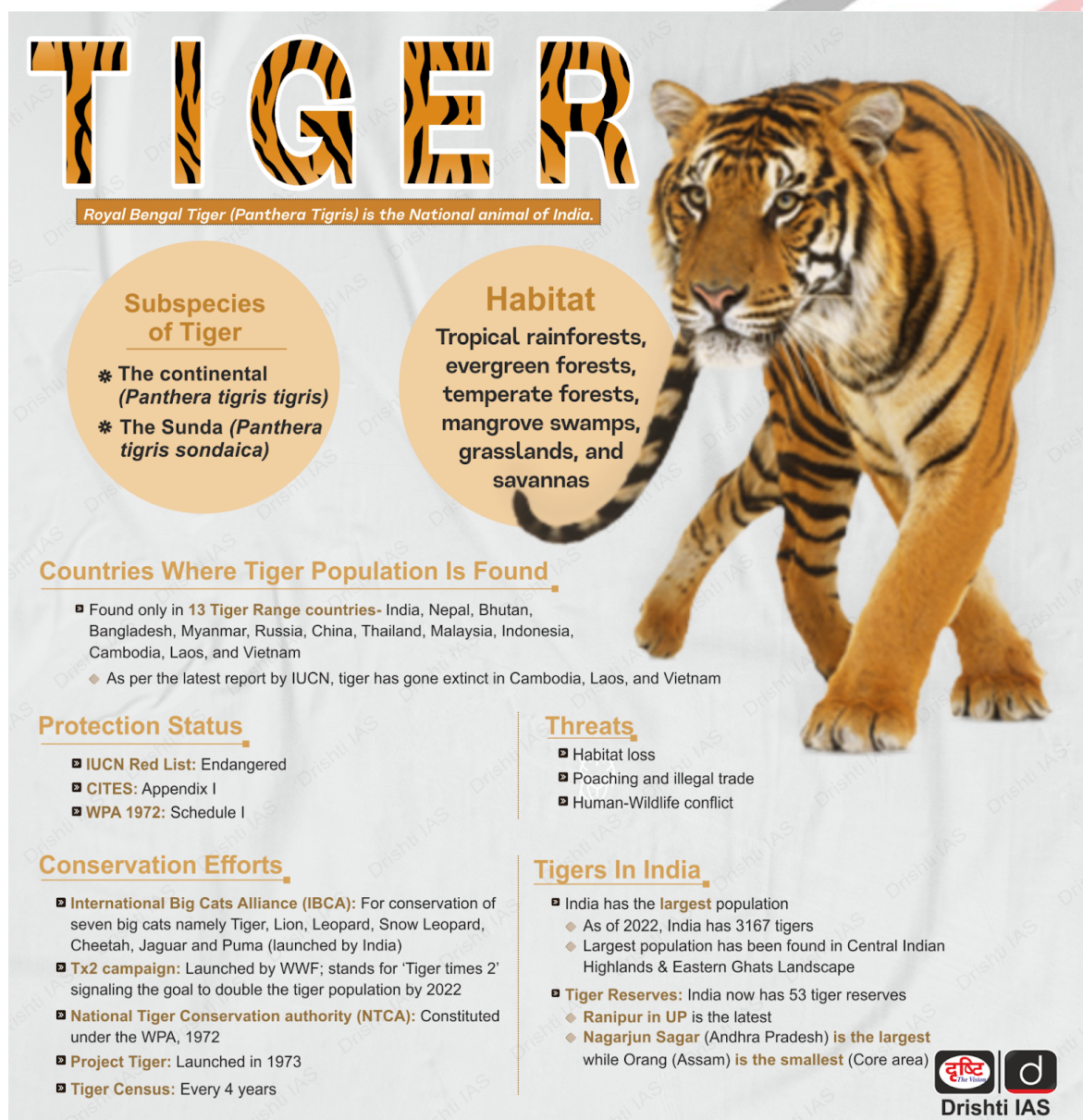


New Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan

Why in News?

An **expert committee advised urgent habitat conservation and prey base development** before declaring **Kumbhalgarh-Todgarh Raoli sanctuary** as a [Tiger Reserve](#).

- The Union government and [National Tiger Conservation Authority](#) provided in-principle **approval in August 2023**. The committee will continue to define core and buffer areas to safeguard biodiversity.



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)

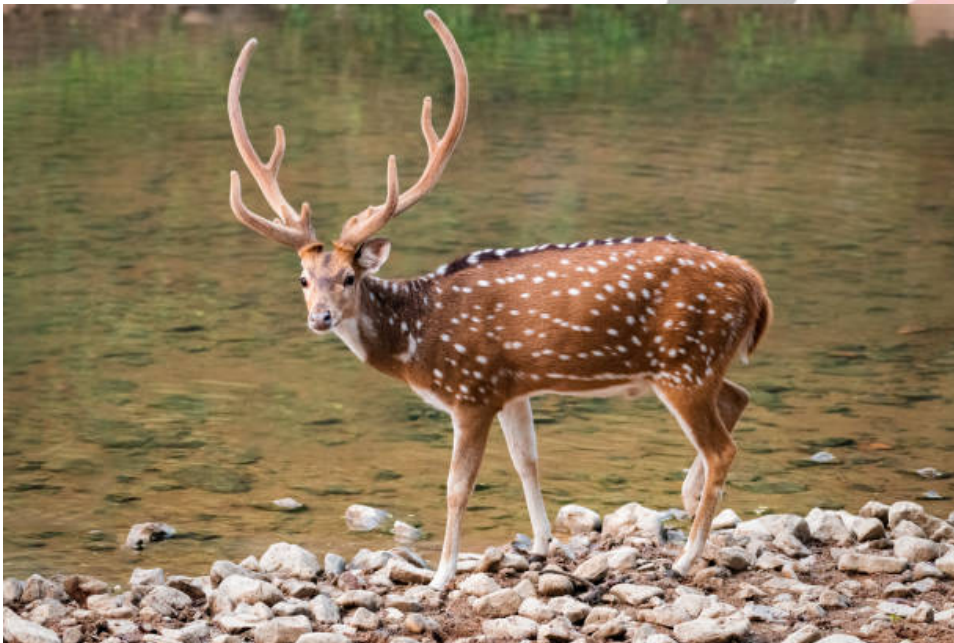
 
Drishti IAS

Key Points

▪ Committee's Recommendation:

- **Habitat Limitations:**
 - The **current area lacks the capacity to support a sustainable tiger population**. The report suggests adding more areas to the proposed reserve.
- **Village Relocation:**
 - A strategic, voluntary relocation plan for **sparsely populated villages within the proposed reserve area is recommended** to secure undisturbed habitats and enhance villagers' quality of life through sustainable resettlement.
- **Invasive Species Control:**
 - Removing invasive weeds and planting native, palatable grasses are essential to restore suitable habitats for wild herbivores and promote biodiversity.
- **Prey Base Development:**
 - Relocating 1,000–2,000 [spotted deer \(chital\)](#) is recommended to boost prey availability, benefiting the population of predators.
- **Anti-Poaching and Infrastructure:**
 - Strengthening [anti-poaching](#) measures, wireless communications, and patrol roads is necessary.
- **Geographic Scope:**
 - The Kumbhalgarh Tiger Reserve would **span approximately 1,397 sq km** across **Rajsamand, Udaipur, Pali, Ajmer, and Sirohi districts** in Rajasthan.

Spotted Deer (Chital)



- The chital, also known as the **spotted deer or axis deer**, is a graceful and elegant herbivore native to the grasslands and forests of **India and Sri Lanka**.
- They prefer open grasslands, savannas, and lightly forested areas.
 - [IUCN Red list](#): Least Concern
 - [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): Schedule II.

