



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY 2023

India home to 75% of the world's tiger population

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) launched for protection of seven Big Cats

(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)

July 29, 2023

“India is a country where protecting nature is part of the culture. This is why it has many unique achievements in wildlife conservation. With only 2.4 percent of the world’s land area, India contributes about 8 percent of the known global biodiversity. India is the largest tiger range country in the world.”

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

International Tiger Day is celebrated each year on July 29 to turn the spotlight on the conservation of tigers worldwide. On this day, nature enthusiasts all around the world engage in conversations about the ecological role, prevalence, and population of tigers. International Tiger Day is an



opportunity to raise awareness about the threats faced by this majestic species and the conservation efforts to protect them.¹

The declaration to celebrate **Global Tiger Day** was taken on **July 29, 2010**, at St. Petersburg, Russia in order to bring all tiger range countries together for increased emphasis on tiger conservation and management globally. Since then, the day is symbolically celebrated as Global Tiger Day. All 13 tiger range countries, including India, adopted the declaration to double the tiger population within 12 years.

Tigers have been on the brink of extinction for the past few decades. Many factors have caused their numbers to fall, including habitat loss, climate change, hunting, and poaching. International Tiger Day aims to bring attention to this fact and try to halt as well as reverse its decline. The objective is to protect and expand their habitats and raise awareness of the need for conservation.

India has only 2.4 percent of the world's land area, but it is home to 8 percent of known global biodiversity. During the last 9 years, India has made significant progress in wildlife and environmental conservation. With a culture that values the preservation of nature, India has seen notable improvements in biodiversity and wildlife conservation.

50 YEARS OF PROJECT TIGER

India has completed half a century of successful in-situ wild tiger conservation under “Project Tiger”. This humongous effort has no parallel in the contemporary global scenario, in terms of its scale and magnitude. The genesis of Project Tiger goes back to the early seventies. On April 1, 1973, it was launched in nine ecological protected areas, spread across the country in nine states, which came to be designated as “Tiger Reserves”.²

Project Tiger was established with the objective of utilizing the tiger's functional role and charisma to garner public support and resources for preserving the representative ecosystems. Since its inception, the project has expanded from **nine tiger reserves to 53 reserves**.



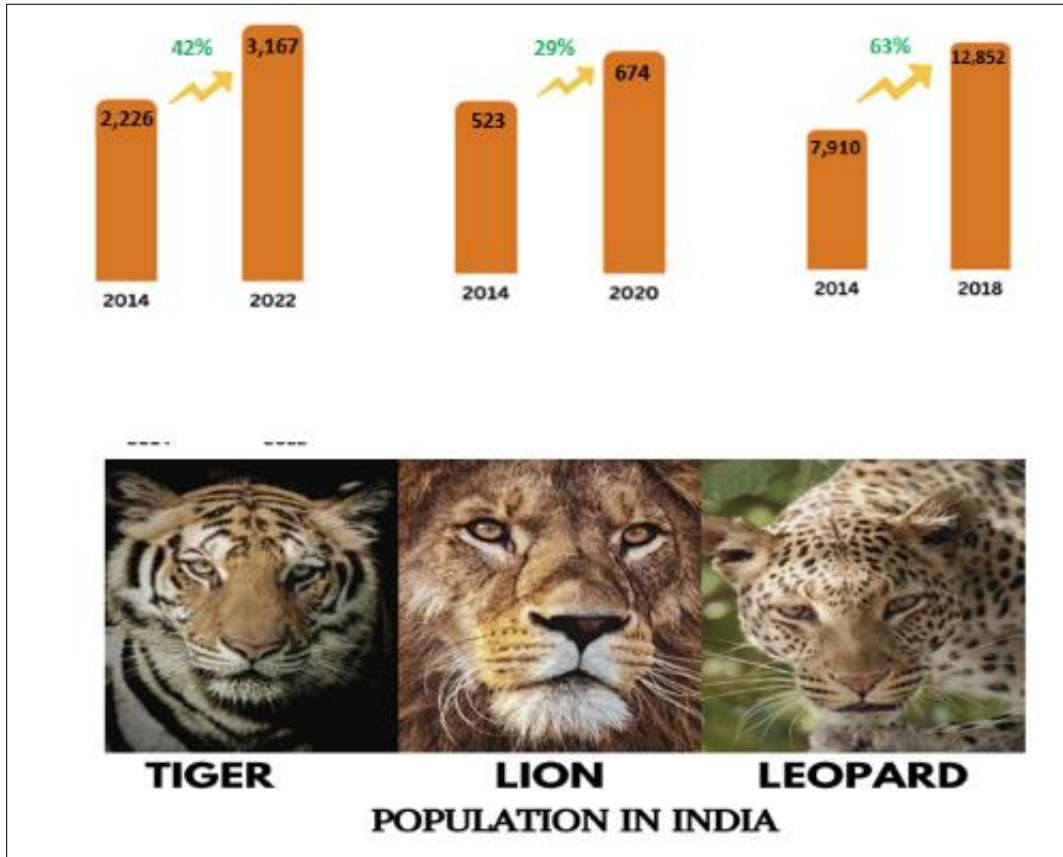
¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1846065>

² https://ntca.gov.in/assets/uploads/Reports/Others/Amrit_kaal_vision.pdf

As of now, the Project Tiger coverage is 75,796.83 sq. km., which amounts to 2.3% of the country's geographic area. It is to be noted that wildlife conservation is a shared responsibility between the Center, States, and civil society.

75% OF WORLD TIGERS IN INDIA

India is home to 75% of the world's tiger population. Recently, a report on the Status of Tigers in India was released, indicating a growth in the tiger population to 3167 from 2226, thus a 42% increase in the number of tigers, since 2014.



STATUS OF OTHER BIG CATS IN INDIA

India currently boasts the highest number of leopards too. The leopard population has increased by more than 60% from 2014 to 2018. India is the only country in the world to have Asiatic lions, whose numbers have also increased in the past few years. To further bolster the conservation efforts, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** for the protection of seven big cats, namely the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.³

³ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1919481>

GLOBAL POPULATION OF TIGERS

After a century of decline, overall wild tiger numbers are starting to tick upward. Based on the available information, tiger populations are stable or increasing in the tiger range countries of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Russia, and China. About **4,500 tigers** remain in the wild, but much more work is needed to protect this species if we are to secure its future in the wild. In some areas, including much of Southeast Asia, tigers are still in crisis and declining in number.⁴

CONCLUSION

The journey to save the tiger from the brink of extinction has been arduous, but India's passion for conservation and love for its wildlife have prevailed. The success of tiger conservation stands as a beacon of hope, inspiring the world to take collective action in safeguarding our planet's biodiversity. As India moves forward, it must continue to foster partnerships and implement comprehensive strategies to ensure that future generations get to witness the grace and grandeur of the majestic tiger.

References:

- PIB Press Release on [From Endangered to Flourishing: India's 9-year Wildlife Conservation Journey](#) dated April 25, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [PM's address at the inauguration Session of Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger in Mysuru](#) dated April 9, 2023.
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- PIB Press Release on [PM lauds the efforts of tiger conservationists on the occasion of International Tiger Day](#) dated July 29, 2022.
- PIB Press Release on [Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra plays host for National Global Tiger Day Celebrations 2022](#) dated July 29, 2022.
- https://ntca.gov.in/assets/uploads/Reports/AITM/Status_Tigers_2022_Summary-1.pdf
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Twitter links:

- <https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1552932436803481600>

NR/HP/RK/PK/JA

⁴ <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/tiger>