



Counting the Tigers

Why in news?

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The tiger census found that the tiger count in at least two of Assam's four reserves has registered a growth.

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Where the survey was conducted?

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The survey has been conducted in four tiger reserves in Assam:

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1. Manas National park

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2. Orang national park

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3. Kaziranga national park

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4. Nameri national park

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What are the key findings of the survey?

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- Manas National Park has recorded the presence of 30 tigers,

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- Orang National Park has put the figure at 28.

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- Kaziranga National Park is expected to cross the 140-mark.

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- There is a big jump from 14 from the last survey.

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How does Ministry of Environment and Forest count the tigers?

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- Counting of tigers in India is done in three phases. This method was created by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) & Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun & is being followed uniformly across the country.

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- Phase 1: Ground survey data at the beat level was collected by field personnel in a standardized protocol after training.

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- Phase 2: Statistical and satellite data were analysed by the Wildlife Institute of India in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

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- Phase 3: The camera trapping procedure was conducted by research biologists.

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- Then through a mathematical model, statistical computation is done so as to check & balance all the errors in the three phases by comparing various figures obtained during the 3 phases.

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- Then by statistical computation, the ground survey data, Habitat Character Data & Relationship Equation (Tiger Density to Habitat Characters and Ground Survey) is computed together. This gives us the estimation of Tiger Population.

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What are the steps taken globally for tiger conservation?

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- There is a consortium known as The Tiger Range Countries (TRC) there are the countries where tigers still roam free.

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- The TRCare: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam and North-Korea.

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- Last year India Inaugurated Tiger conservation Summit for the TRC.
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- More than 700 tiger experts, scientists, managers, donors and other stakeholders participated in the summit and discussed the issues related to tiger conservation.
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Source: Indian Express

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