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## Tiger reserve in India

### Tiger reserve in India

The total no of tiger reserve in country became 54 with addition of one in the Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS) in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh. It will be the fourth in UP and first in the Bundelkhand region of the state.

#### Key Highlights about Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary

- It was founded in 1977 with no resident tiger. However, it is an important corridor for the movement of tigers.
- Some of the species found here are Bear, Black duck, Chinkara Leopard, Wolf, Wild dog, Blue bull, Sambar, Cheetal.

**Other Tiger Reserves in UP:** Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Dudhwa National Park, Amangarh Tiger Reserve

#### Project Tiger

- This tiger conservation programme launched in April 1973 by the Government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure.

- It was aim to ensure a viable population of Bengal tigers in their natural habitats, protecting them from extinction, and preserving areas of biological importance as a natural heritage
- From 9 tiger reserves since its formative years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 54 at present, spread out in 18 of our tiger range states.
- The tiger reserves are constituted on a core and buffer strategy.
- **Core areas** have the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary.
- Whereas, **buffer** areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land, managed as a multiple use area.
- The government has set up a Tiger Protection Force to combat poachers and funded relocation of villagers to minimize human-tiger conflicts.
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority** was established in 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force, to reorganise management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India. It is the overarching body for conservation of tigers in India.

### **National Tiger Conservation Authority**

- Environment Minister is the Chairman of the NTCA.
- Below chairman are eight experts or professionals having qualifications and experience in wildlife conservation and welfare of people including tribals, apart from three Members of Parliament (1 Rajya Sabha, 2 Lok Sabha).
- The Inspector General of Forests, in charge of project Tiger, serves as ex-officio Member Secretary.

### **Functions of NTCA**

- Its main administrative function is to approve the Tiger Conservation Plan prepared by the State Governments and then evaluate and assess various aspects of sustainable ecology and disallow any ecologically unsustainable land use such as, mining, industry and other projects within the tiger reserves.
- As per the WLPA, every State Government has the authority to notify an area as a tiger reserve.
- However, the Tiger Conservation Plans sent by state government need to be approved by the NTCA first.
- Alternatively, Central Government via NTCA may advise the state governments to forward a proposal for creation of Tiger Reserves.