

# International Tiger Day

August 1, 2022

**In news**– International Tiger Day is celebrated on July 29 every year.

## **About International Tiger Day-**

- International Tiger Day was founded in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia to raise awareness about the loss of the tiger population globally.
- On this day, the 13 tiger range countries came together to create Tx2, the global goal to double the number of wild tigers by the year 2022.
- 2022 marks the twelfth International Tiger Day.
- The main aim behind this day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.
- The **theme in 2021 was 'Their survival is in our hands'**. Meanwhile, the theme for 2022 is not yet announced.
- Russia will host the Global Tiger Summit in September 2022.
- The International Tiger Day is observed by several international organizations including – the World Wide Fund for Nature, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and the Smithsonian Institution.

## **Tiger related initiatives by the government-**

- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched in April 1973 by the Government of India.
- The year 2023 will mark 50 years of of the project
- The circumstances that led to Project Tiger and the landmark Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, are rooted in the so-called 'Shikar Era' of the 19th century.
- The tiger is the national animal of India(declared in 1972). India is home to over half of the world's wild

tigers, an estimated 2,226.

- The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) and the Uttar Pradesh Forest department last year bagged the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years.
- India, where most wild tigers live, has recorded a rise in numbers and is celebrating the approval of 14 sites under the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) scheme.
- In India, Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra hosted National Global Tiger Day Celebrations 2022.

### Status of the deadline for doubling tiger population by 2022-

- India has successfully doubled the tiger population ahead of the 2022 target.
- **Nepal has done it according to new figures it released July 29 2022.**
- In fact, it is the four south Asia countries – **India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan – that are now home to 76 per cent of the global tiger population.**
- **Russia too** has not been performing badly. **It is only southeast Asia that has touched rock bottom.**

### Tiger Subspecies-

So far, these four species of tiger, including Bali Tiger, Caspian Tiger, Javan Tiger, and Tiger Hybrids are extinct. Following are subspecies of Tigers:

- **Sumatran Tiger:**
- The Sumatran tiger is a population of Panthera tigris sondaica on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.
- This population was listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- Sumatran tigers are the smallest tiger subspecies.
- **Amur/Siberian Tiger:** Amur tigers (also known as Siberian, Manchurian, Ussurian, or Northeast China

tigers) are the largest of the tiger subspecies.

- **Bengal (Indian) Tiger:** The most numerous of the tiger species, the Bengal tiger is found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.
- **South China Tiger:** Found in central and eastern China, the South China tiger is listed as Critically Endangered on IUCN list.
- **Malayan Tiger:** The Malayan tiger was only identified as being a separate subspecies from the Indochinese tiger in 2004. It is very similar to the Indochinese tiger, but is smaller in size.
- **Indo-Chinese Tiger:**
  - Also known as Corbett's tiger, after British hunter and naturalist Jim Corbett, this subspecies is found in Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand, and Vietnam and formerly in China.
  - They are listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List.
  - Indo-Chinese tigers are a bit smaller and darker than Bengal tigers, with shorter, narrower stripes.
- **Bali Tiger:** One of the three extinct subspecies of tiger, the Bali tiger went extinct in the 1940's.
- **Javan Tiger:** This now-extinct species inhabited the Indonesian island of Java into the 1980's.
- **The Caspian Tiger:** The Caspian tiger (also called the Hyrcanian tiger or Turan tiger) became extinct in the 1970's.

## The tiger

With only 5,000-7,500 tigers in the wild, all of the five existing subspecies are considered endangered. They are the largest of the big cats.

SIBERIAN	BENGAL	INDOCHINESE	SOUTH CHINA	SUMATRA	LIGER
					
Size: 8'½ - 10'½ foot body and tail	Size: 8-9'½ foot body and tail	Size: 8-9 foot body and tail	Size: 7-8 foot body and tail	Size: 7-8 foot body and tail	A cross between a male lion and female tiger, it can be larger than either animal.
Weight: 200-660 pounds	Weight: 300-480 pounds	Weight: 250-400 pounds	Weight: 240-330 pounds	Weight: 190-264 pounds	Weight: 540 to 900 pounds
Range: Primarily Russia	Range: Primarily India	Range: Primarily Thailand	Range: Central and eastern China	Range: Indonesian island of Sumatra	Range: Born only in captivity.
Populations: 303-406 in wild:	Populations: 3,176-4,556 in	Populations: 1,227-1,785 in the	Populations: 20-30 in wild; 47	Populations: 400-500 in wild;	