



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Manas National Park

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Why in news?

The tiger population in western Assam's Manas National Park, a major wildlife preserve stretching into Bhutan, tripled from 2011 to 2019, a new study has said.

Tiger Population Growth:

- The tiger population in Manas National Park, western Assam, tripled from 2011 to 2019.

Study Source:

- The findings were published in the *Journal of Biological Conservation*.

Reasons for Growth:

- Increased funding, improved protection infrastructure, and a larger staff were key factors.
- Tourism revenue also played a role in supporting growth.

Collaborative Efforts:

- The report highlights the success of collaboration among local communities, government, and conservation agencies in the park's recovery.

Challenges:

- Ongoing issues like poaching and habitat loss remain, requiring continuous management focus.

Tiger Density:

- Tiger density in Manas increased from 1.06 adults/100 km² in 2011–12 to 3.64 in 2018–19.
- There is potential for the density to grow to 8 or more adults/100 km².

Potential for Further Growth:

- The tiger population could double by 2023 if effective conservation measures continue.

2021 Tiger Count:

- 44 adult tigers were photographed in Manas in 2021.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- Manas is one of Assam's two UNESCO World Heritage Sites for tigers, alongside Kaziranga National Park.

Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve:

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1. Location:

- Situated in the foothills of the Himalayas in Assam, India.
- Contiguous with **Royal Manas National Park** in Bhutan.

1. Designations and Recognition:

- **Natural World Heritage Site**
- **Tiger Reserve**
- **Elephant Reserve**
- **Biosphere Reserve**
- **Important Bird Area (IBA)**

1. Historical Significance:

- One of the first reserves included in the **Project Tiger** network in 1973.

1. Conservation Landscape:

- Forms part of a large **tiger conservation landscape**, which includes **Buxa, Nameri, Pakke, and Namdapha Tiger Reserves** in India, and protected areas in **Bhutan** and **Myanmar**.

1. Name Origin:

- Named after the **Manas River**, which itself is named after the serpent goddess **Manasa**.
- The **Manas River** is a major tributary of the **Brahmaputra River**.

1. Flora:

- Vegetation types include:
- **Sal forests (*Shorea robusta*)**
- **Scrub forests**
- **Old plantations (in buffer areas)**
- **Semi-evergreen and mixed deciduous forests**
- **Grasslands and riparian vegetation** (in the core area)

1. Fauna:

- Known for its rare and endangered species, including:
- **Hispid Hare**
- **Pigmy Hog**
- **Golden Langur**
- **Indian Rhinoceros**
- **Asiatic Buffalo**

1. Conservation Importance:

- Critical for protecting a wide range of species and maintaining biodiversity in the region.
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