

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 30, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ Kodaikanal's famous hill garlic (malai poondu) – gets the Geographical Indication (GI) tag

- ✓ The garlic, which is a pungent, raindrop-shaped bulb, is an agricultural product unique to the hillstation of Kodaikanal in Dindugul district
- ✓ Known by its scientific name 'Allium Sativum', it is usually white or pale yellow and each bulb weighs 20-30g on an average.
- ✓ The antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of the 'poondu' are attributed to the presence of higher amount of organosulfur compounds, phenols and flavonoids compared to other garlic varieties
- ✓ The high content of organosulfur compounds gives it a strong smell and pungent taste.
- ✓ GI application for the hill garlic was made by the department of biotechnology of Kodaikanal-based Mother Teresa Women's University and Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology in June 2018
- ✓ Uniqueness of this garlic is attributed to the soil condition, hill altitude and the climatic conditions (temperature, humidity, rainfall) prevailing in the regions of Kodaikanal
- ✓ Kodaikanal villagers totally depend on garlic for almost all common ailments like headache, asthma, tiredness, body pain, indigestion and other gastrointestinal problems, etc.
- ✓ Poondu Laegiyum, a medicinal paste prepared using garlic, is traditionally given to mothers after child birth.
- ✓ It is also given to kindle appetite and reduce weight.
- ✓ Poondu rasam is a kind of soup prepared traditionally in the villages of Kodaikanal region using garlic for relieving body pains, digestive problems and for general body health
- ✓ In India, garlic is planted as both kharif (June-July) and rabi (October-November) crop and it depends on the regions.

- ✓ It is planted as a rabi crop in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Bengal and hilly regions.
- ✓ It is both kharif and rabi crop in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ But Kodaikanal Malai Poondu is cultivated twice in a year - in September-October and in April-May.
- ✓ Other garlic varieties cannot tolerate extreme cold or hot climate conditions, whereas Kodaikanal Malai Poondu grows in cool climate between 11°C to 20°C.
- ✓ With the addition of garlic, the total number of GI tagged TN products has gone up to 28, including seven farm products such as Madurai jasmine, The Nilgiris tea and Erode turmeric
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is now behind only Karnataka (42) and Maharashtra in the number of GI products
- ✓ A GI tag indicates that the product originates from a definite territory in India and has unique characteristics or quality.
- ✓ Having a GI tag prevents unauthorised use of a registered Geographical Indication by others, boosts exports of Indian Geographical indications by providing legal protection and also enables seeking legal protection in other WTO member countries.
- ✓ Some of the examples of Geographical Indications in India include Basmati Rice, Darjeeling Tea, Kancheepuram silk saree, Alphonso Mango, Nagpur Orange and Kolhapuri Chappal.

◆ **The final draft of the Chennai City Development Plan – is ready with an allocation of ₹ 23,185 crore over the next 5 years - to bridge the gap in physical and social infrastructure**

Vision 2038

The final draft of the Chennai City Development Plan outlines a 20-year plan of action for the city, involving an expense of **₹23,185 crore**

FOCUS AREAS

Education



- Schools owned by Chennai Corporation caters to 7% of student population in the city
- The city needs to develop 154 additional schools with 3056 classrooms in 20 years for 20.37 lakh students by the year 2038
- Currently, the city has 15.16 lakh students enrolled in schools

Roads



- Total bed capacity in city hospitals is 11,806 and 2,743 additional beds are required
- 5,624 km of roads have been developed in the city
- Road length is expected to increase by 12% in the city by 2038
- Added areas such as Sholinganallur, Perungudi and Ambattur will get 360 km of new roads
- Road density will increase from 13.1 (2017-18) to 14.7 (2038), increasing the area under roads to 11.4%
- The city will have 100% energy-efficient street-lights on all roads

Health



- Chennai is the health capital of the country, fast becoming the destination of choice for people the world over with its excellent facilities, competent specialists and good nursing care
- 152 hospitals registered with GCC, with 14% run by the government

Solid waste management



- SWM operation is partly privatised in city and 3 of the 15 zones have privatised waste collection
- The civic body is planning to privatise waste management in all the 15 zones

Parks and playgrounds



- Chennai's open space is just 8% of its total area, which is much lower compared to other cities
- There has been a decrease in the number of playgrounds from 264 to 212 in the last decade owing to development.
- No amenities have been reported in 263 parks and only 2 parks have toilet facilities for the disabled
- With an increase in area by 25.71 sq km by 2038, without altering the existing open spaces, total area under open spaces will be 60.31 sq. km, i.e. 14% of the total area

Stormwater drainage



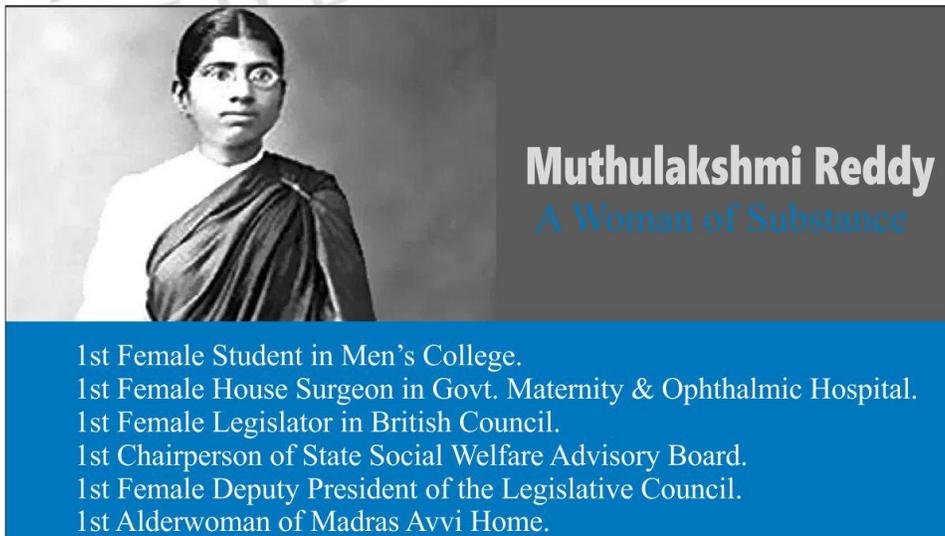
- Only 1,854 km of stormwater drains have been constructed
- Under Chennai Mega City Development Mission, 790 km of drains were constructed after 2011
- City needs 4,459 km of stormwater drains to reduce inundation by 2038

Long-term capital investment plan for Greater Chennai Corporation area

- Roads and allied infrastructure **₹7,894 cr**
- Stormwater drains **₹10,141 cr**
- Parks and playgrounds **₹2,510 cr**
- Health and family welfare **₹988 cr**
- Education **₹830 cr**
- Solid waste management **₹821 cr**

- ✓ The final draft, prepared using data from various civic agencies, points to gaps in infrastructure including road, solid waste management facilities, stormwater drains, schools, parks, playgrounds and hospitals.
- ✓ Development of stormwater drains is expected to receive the highest priority in the next five years in various parts of the city.
- ✓ According to data compiled for the plan, 5,237 km of road network in the city have 1,854 km of stormwater drains, accounting for 33% of coverage
- ✓ The city needs 4,459 km of stormwater drains to reduce waterlogging and mitigate flooding in many areas during the northeast monsoon
- ✓ The goals include removal of illegal sewerage connections in stormwater drains, covering open drains to avoid mixing of sewerage, desilting and beautification of natural drains, linking of waterbodies in Kosasthalaiyar basin to reduce waterlogging in north Chennai, water recharging through the stormwater drain system, coordination between officials developing roads and drains and precast technology for drain project for fast construction
- ✓ The capital investment plan for the period 2018-2038 in the city proposes allocation of 44% of funds for stormwater drains, 34% for roads and footpaths, 11% for parks and playgrounds, 4% for education, 4% for hospitals and 3% for solid waste management
- ✓ In 2017-2018, the civic body spent 65% funds for stormwater drains, 22% for roads, 9% for parks and playgrounds, 0.5% funds for hospitals, 0.9% for schools and 1.5% for solid waste management.

◆ **Government hospitals in Tamil Nadu - will celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy on July 30 as 'Hospital Day' every year.**



- ✓ The objective was to showcase the facilities, achievements, new initiatives and lifesaving surgeries performed in hospitals
- ✓ Funds have been allocated for every government hospital for the celebrations, enabling hospital staff to take part in the celebrations with their families.

NATIONAL

◆ **In a first, the road transport ministry - has issued a draft norm to make buses disabled-friendly**

- ✓ The ministry has made various features mandatory for buses to obtain fitness certificate
- ✓ As per the draft regulations, buses with more than 13 seats will require to have provisions for ramp for wheelchairs, their locking system and other features to meet the requirement of physically challenged persons
- ✓ Buses and commercial vehicles need to renew their fitness certificate annually
- ✓ According to the draft notification, the buses would need to have features including priority seat, signs, hand-held rails to provide as priority seats, walkers, handrail and stanchions
- ✓ In another related move, the transport ministry has come out with the draft rule to allow vehicle and automobile accessories manufacturers to etch Microdots on any vehicle or component for tracing them
- ✓ The microdots shall comply with AIS 155 requirements, if affixed
- ✓ The microdots and adhesive become a permanent fixture/ affixation which can't be removed without damaging the asset itself.

◆ **Ministry of Culture – has decided to allow 10 monuments in the country to remain open from sunrise to 9 pm every day.**

- ✓ The chosen monuments include Safdarjung and Humayun's Tombs in Delhi, the Rajarani Temple in Bhubaneswar, the Dulhadev Temple in Khajuraho, Shekh Chilli's Tomb in Kurukshetra, the group of monuments at Pattadakal in Karnataka, Gol Gumbaj in Karnataka, the group of Temples in Maharashtra (Markanda), Man Mahal in Varanasi, and Rani ki Baav in Patan, Gujarat

◆ **Rajya Sabha – approves the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2019**

- ✓ The amendments give Committee of Creditors of a loan defaulting company explicit authority over the distribution of proceeds in the resolution process and fix a firm time-line of 330 days for resolving cases referred to the IBC.
- ✓ The amendment now equates distribution of amounts under a resolution plan with the manner it's allowed in case of liquidation, maintaining the hierarchy of lenders
- ✓ The proposed amendments are aimed at ensuring greater clarity in the debt resolution process by removing grey areas.

◆ **Rajya Sabha - unanimously passed the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019 on July 29**

- ✓ The bill is meant to check proliferation of Ponzi schemes and protect investments made by the poor.
- ✓ Lok Sabha had earlier passed the bill on July 24.

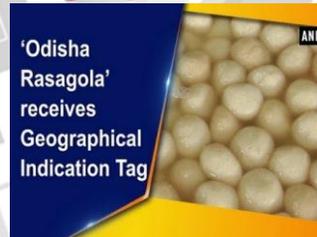
◆ **Union minister of state for personnel Jitendra Singh - unveiled the digital version of IAS Civil List 2019**

- ✓ For the first time, the new civil list includes photographs of each of 5,104 IAS officers serving as on January 1, 2019.
- ✓ It is uploaded on website of the department of personnel and training (DoPT)
- ✓ The IAS civil list contains vital information in respect of officers in respect of their batch, cadre, present posting, pay scale, qualification and superannuation date, with their overall cadre strength with search features

◆ **The Lok Sabha - passed the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 (NMC) on July 29**

- ✓ The bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956
- ✓ It seeks to replace the Medical Council of India with a new body
- ✓ The bill also has a provision for making national standards in medical education uniform by proposing that the final year MBBS exam be treated as an entrance test for PG (called as National Exit Test – NEXT) and a screening test for students who graduate in medicine from foreign countries.
- ✓ A motion for consideration of the Bill was passed by 260-48 votes after a division of votes was sought and the Bill was then passed by a voice vote

◆ **Odisha Rasagola – gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag recognition**



- ✓ Henceforth, the Odisha Small Industries Corporation Limited (OSIC) will be the registered holder of Odisha Rasagola's GI tag
- ✓ It will enjoy all legal and intellectual protection available for the product, whose uniqueness to Odisha, its proof or origin and antiquity tied to boundaries of Odisha, all been accepted by the Government of India's GI Registry
- ✓ OSIC has named all the 30 districts in Odisha as geographical areas entitled to use the GI tag
- ✓ Odisha Rasagola is also associated with the world-renowned Puri Jagannath Temple
- ✓ As per the rituals of "Niladri Bije", the Rasagola bhoga is traditionally offered to Devi Lakshmi on behalf of Shree Jagannath
- ✓ Odisha Rasagola is a sweet from the state of Odisha, made up of Chhena (cottage cheese), cooked in sugar syrup, which is very soft to feel, juicy and non-chewy in consistency and can be swallowed without teeth pressure
- ✓ Colour development of Odisha Rasagola is very specific, where without addition of external colour, various intensity-coloured rasagolas are prepared using the principle of caramalization of sugar with specific methods of preparation.

- ✓ Generally, Odisha Rasagola are white in colour with round shape (non-spherical) but off white rasagolas in various shades are prepared by cooking rasagola at 110 degrees C for about 40 minutes in which caramalization of sugar takes place giving the off white colour
- ✓ The impact of evolutionary process and technology infusion over hundreds of years has led to developing a unique rasagola called 'disha Rasagola'
- ✓ Both Odisha and West Bengal have been contesting the origin of the rasagola
- ✓ West Bengal earlier got the GI tag for Rasgulla in 2017
- ✓ The reference of Rasagola is found in the late 15th Century, Odia Ramayana written by Balaram Das
- ✓ Balaram Das's Ramayana is known as Dandi Ramayana or Jagamohana Ramayana as it was composed and sung at the Jagamohana of the Puri Temple

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Saudi Arabia - bans the recruitment of foreign workers in certain hospitality jobs by the end of year**

- ✓ The decision, announced in a Labour Ministry statement, will apply to resorts, hotels rated three stars or higher, and hotel apartments rated four stars or higher.
- ✓ Positions that must be filled by Saudis range from front-desk jobs to management.
- ✓ Other jobs that will be restricted to nationals include restaurant host and health club supervisor.
- ✓ Among the exceptions are drivers, doormen and porters
- ✓ The decision will be enforced from an Islamic calendar date likely to correspond with Dec 29.

COMMITTEES

◆ **The National Commission of Minorities (NCM) - has refused to entertain a plea to declare Hindus a "minority community" in those States where they do not form a majority of the population.**

- ✓ A report of its sub-committee, which was approved and adopted by the NCM on July 26, said the role of the minorities commission was not to declare new minority communities but to, instead, work and ensure the progress and development of minorities and protect their religious, cultural and educational rights
- ✓ The NCM formed a sub-committee of George Kurian, Manjit Singh Rai and Atif Rasheed, which met five times between February and April to deliberate on the issue.
- ✓ As per the commission, the NCM has no such jurisdiction to declare minorities, which lies only with the Central Government

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ India - has recorded its highest ever rise, at 33%, in the numbers of Tigers in the country

- ✓ The numbers, which stood at 2,226 in 2014 increased to 2,967 in 2018, making it home to 75% of the global tiger population.



- ✓ The jump in numbers means India has achieved its target of doubling the tiger count four years ahead of 2022
- ✓ The goal was set nine years ago, with the 2006 count of 1,411 taken as the base
- ✓ Prime Minister, Narendra Modi released the tiger census report on the International Tiger Day
- ✓ The worldwide population of wild tigers stands at 3,890 with Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, Bangladesh and Bhutan being other key countries contributing to the remaining 25% count
- ✓ On the down side, the report also noted how three (Buxa, Dampa and Palamau) out of the 50 tiger reserves in the country did not record a single tiger.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is home to 264 tigers, an increase of 15% compared to the 2014 assessment
- ✓ Karnataka and Kerala have seen a 29% and 39% increase in tiger population.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu saw tiger population double between 2006 and 2010
- ✓ All the four tiger reserves in Tamil Nadu have been ranked “very good” in the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) rating done for all the 50 tiger reserves in India.
- ✓ The three tiger reserves — Mudumalai (MTR), Anamalai (ATR) and Sathyamangalam (STR) — were already in the 'very good' category
- ✓ Kalakkad Mundanthurai tiger reserve (KMTR) has also shown improvement and has been upgraded from 'good' to 'very good'
- ✓ The proposal for the fifth tiger reserve, linking Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary in Theni district with Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary in Virudhunagar district, is awaiting the government's approval
- ✓ While the Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of tigers, the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu registered the “maximum improvement of more than 30%” since 2014
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh's Pench sanctuary and Kerala's Periyar sanctuary emerged as the best managed tiger reserves in the country

- ✓ The Dampa and Rajaji reserves, in Mizoram and Uttarakhand respectively, were left at the bottom of the ladder with a score of 42.97% and 44.53% respectively.

The big cat count

The table shows the tiger population in India since the first tiger census in 2006. The Central India and Eastern Ghats landscape has seen the highest increase in tiger population since the 2014 cycle

Landscape	2006	2010	2014	2018
Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains	297	353	485	646
Central India and Eastern Ghats	601	601	688	1,033
Western Ghats	402	534	776	981
North East Hills and Brahmaputra	100	148	201	219
Sundarbans	NA	70	76	88

3.81 lakh sq. km. — Forests surveyed for tiger signs
5.23 lakh km — Foot surveys
5.94 lakh — Man-days effort
76,651 Photographs of tigers

While tiger occupancy has increased in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, it has seen a sharp decline in Chhattisgarh since 2014 and has stagnated for Odisha



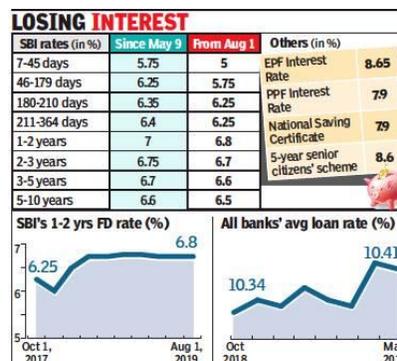
A white tiger at Alipore Zoo in Kolkata • ASHOK BHAUMIK

- ✓ On the whole, the Western Ghats cluster comprising reserves in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka scored an average of 81%.
- ✓ The fourth cycle of the national tiger status assessment of 2018-19 was released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
- ✓ India's national tiger assessment, conducted once in every four years since 2006, is considered the largest biodiversity survey being carried out anywhere in the world

ECONOMY

◆ The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) – announces a sharp reduction in fixed deposit rates, leading to lower lending rates

- ✓ The reduction is in the range of 50-75 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point)
- ✓ It has been attributed by the bank to the “falling interest rate scenario and surplus liquidity”



- ✓ Rates have been revised for both retail as well as bulk deposits above ₹2 crore, and will come into effect from August 1.
- ✓ For the longer time deposits, there is a reduction of up to 20bps in the retail segment and 35bps in the bulk segment.
- ✓ Interest rates have been reduced by 50-75bps for time deposits with shorter tenors of up to six months
- ✓ Earlier last week, Bank of Baroda had cut its FD rates and had also brought down its savings account rates by 25bps to 3.25%
- ✓ With this reduction, most private and public sector banks are expected to announce a reduction in deposit rates
- ✓ SBI, which has the largest branch network at 22,010, controls more than a fourth of retail banking activity in India.

SPORTS

◆ Australia women's cricket allrounder Ellyse Perry - became the first player to reach the rare milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the T20 internationals

- ✓ Former Pakistan allrounder Shahid Afridi (1416 runs and 98 wickets) currently stands closest to achieving the feat

MOST RUNS & WICKETS IN T20I

PLAYER'S NAME	MATCHES	RUNS	WICKETS
Ellyse Perry (Aus)	104	1005	103
Shahid Afridi (Pak)*	99	1416	98
Shakib Al Hasan (Ban)	72	1471	88
Nida Dar (Pak)	96	1086	88
Stafanie Taylor (WI)	97	2844	84

Shahid Afridi retired from international cricket in 2017



- ✓ Among the women cricketers the closest to Perry are Pakistan's Nida Dar (1086 runs and 88 wickets)

◆ World Championship silver medallist Anjum Moudgil – breaks world record (finals) to win the women's 10m air rifle gold of the Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial Masters shooting competition at the Dr Karni Singh Range in New Delhi

- ✓ World number eight Anjum shot 253.9 in the finals, a full point ahead of India teammate and world number one Apurvi Chandela's mark of 252.9, set at the New Delhi World Cup stage earlier this year.
- ✓ Anjum has secured a Tokyo 2020 Olympic quota in the event
- ✓ The Chandigarh girl, who is a sub-inspector with Punjab Police, will represent India at the World Police Games in Chengdu, China, starting from August 5
- ✓ Thereafter, she will participate in the Rio World Cup in Brazil, which will start from August 18.

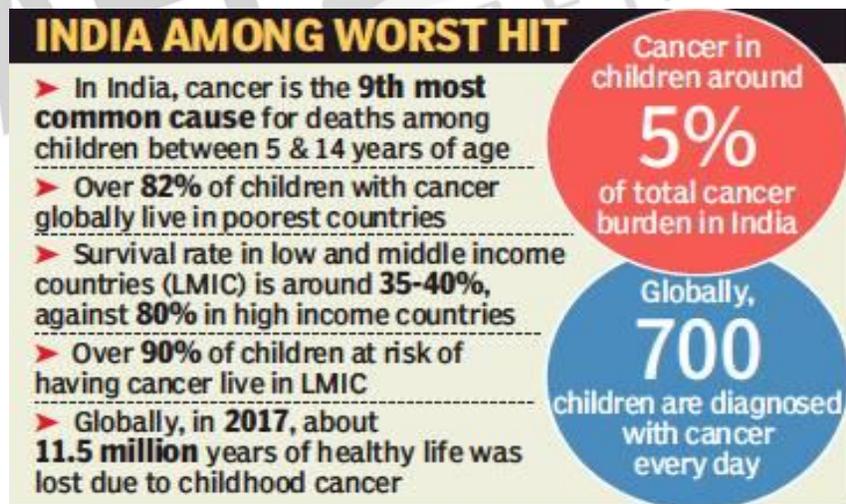
- ✓ Mehuli Ghosh secured silver in the event with a shot of 253
- ✓ Elavenil Valarivan won silver in junior section with a score of 252.4

◆ **Indian Para-shooters Rahul Jakhar and Manish Narwal – win Gold and silver medal respectively with new World records (finals) at the men's 10m air pistol podium of the Para World Cup in Osijek, Croatia**

- ✓ Jakhar clinched gold after shooting 240.1, erasing Chinese shooter Chao Yang's record of 238.6 set in UAE earlier this year
- ✓ Narwal, 17, finished with silver with a score of 236.7, bettering his own junior finals World Record of 236.6, again shot in UAE in February.
- ✓ Incidentally, Jakhar's 240.1 is good enough to win a silver at the shooting Nationals in normal category
- ✓ In the last edition of the Nationals, the gold was won at 241.1 by Omprakash Mitharwal, while the silver went to Saurabh Chaudhary at 238.9

GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE STUDY – A REPORT

◆ **Children from low-income and middle-income countries such as India - are four times more likely to die of cancer than those in high-income countries**



- ✓ This has been published as part of the first Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study in Lancet Oncology, which assesses childhood and adolescent cancer in 195 countries.
- ✓ Statistics from India suggest that barely 35% of children with cancer survive for more than five years.
- ✓ In contrast, 80% of paediatric cancer patients in high-income countries do so
- ✓ It added that India, China, Pakistan, Indonesia and the US were countries with the highest burden of paediatric cancer.

- ✓ The Lancet study, in fact, points out that 82% cancer cases come from the poorer countries.
- ✓ The GBD-Lancet study was conducted by St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, and University of Washington in Seattle, and funded by Bill & Melinda Gates and others

4th NATIONAL TIGER ESTIMATION (TIGER CENSUS) – A REPORT

In 1973, when Project Tiger was launched, there were only nine tiger reserves in the country. Now, there are 50, covering an area of 72,749 sqkm. Our tiger count has shot up too, according to the latest census – from 2,226 tigers in 2014 to 2,967 in 2018, a 33% jump. Since 2006, when the four-year tiger census began, the big cat population in India has been growing at a steady clip of 6% per year. The best performers were Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. However, the drop in tiger population in Odisha and Chhattisgarh is a matter of concern

A LOT WENT INTO THE SURVEY

3,81,400 sqkm
of forests surveyed for tiger signs and prey estimation

5,22,996 km
covered on foot surveys

3,17,958 habitat plots sampled for vegetation and prey dung

26,838 camera trap locations in 141 sites

1,21,337 sqkm covered by camera traps

3,48,58,623 wildlife photographs of which 76,651 were of tigers and 51,777 were of leopards

5,93,882 man-days spent

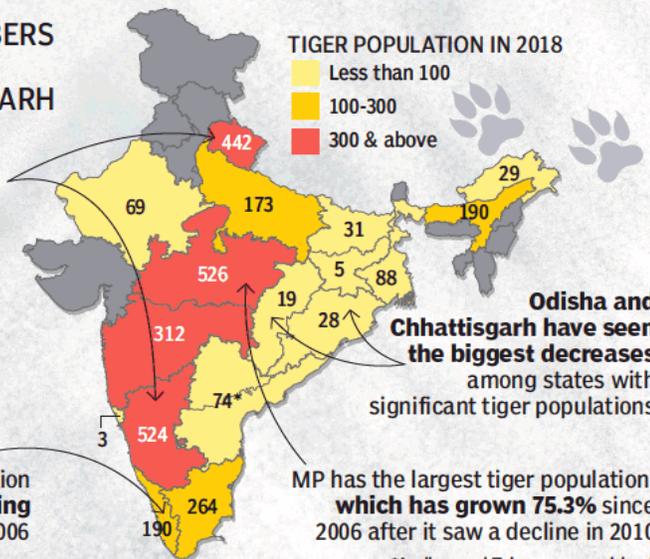
National Tiger Conservation Authority conducted the survey with state forest departments and conservation NGOs



TIGER NUMBERS SUFFER IN ODISHA, C'GARH

Karnataka and Uttarakhand have the second and third largest populations with **each growing 80.7% and 148.3%** since 2006

Kerala saw the greatest population **increase, growing at 313%** since 2006



Odisha and Chhattisgarh have seen the biggest decreases among states with significant tiger populations

MP has the largest tiger population, which has grown 75.3% since 2006 after it saw a decline in 2010

*Andhra and Telangana combined

STATES WITH LARGEST POPULATION INCREASE

State	2006 pop.	2018 pop.	Change
Kerala	46	190	+313%
TN	76	264	+247.4%
Bihar	10	31	+210%
Maharashtra	103	312	+202.9%
Assam	70	190	+171.4%

STATES WITH LARGEST POPULATION DECREASE

State	2006 pop.	2018 pop.	Change
Mizoram	6	0	-100%
Odisha	45	28	-37.8%
Chhattisgarh	26	19	-26.9%
Andhra & Telangana	95	74	-22.1%

 A total of **2,461** individual tigers over one year old were **photo-captured**

In 2010, at the St Petersburg Tiger Summit, world leaders **committed to doubling tiger numbers by 2022**. The tiger population of **India is the largest for any country, accounting for over 80% of the global population of 3,159** adult free-ranging tigers

Source: Status of Tigers in India – 2018