World's First Successful Scientific Reintroduction of Tigers

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hosted a national-level workshop, marking 18 years of the historic tiger restoration project in Sariska.

- **Publications Released -** The ministry launched 3 important programmatic documents:
  - *Road Map on Active Management of Tigers in India*
  - *Booklet on Reintroduction and Recovery of Tigers in India*
  - *Annual Report of Project Cheetah (Sept 2024–Dec 2025).*
- **Expanded Network-** India's network of protected tiger reserves has expanded substantially over the past decade, increasing from ***46 to 58 reserves***.

  India has successfully achieved its St. Petersburg Declaration target to double wild tiger numbers.

Sariska Tiger Reintroduction Program

- The Sariska Tiger Reintroduction Programme is widely recognised as the *world's first successful scientific reintroduction* of tigers into a habitat where the species had suffered local extinction.

Critical Lessons in Active Management

- The long-term success of reintroduction in ***Sariska and Panna*** was driven entirely by winning the trust and active support of local communitystakeholders.
- In contrast, the absence of local community alignment led to failure in ***Odisha's Satkosia Tiger Reserve.***
- **Prey Base Augmentation -** Reintroducing large carnivores requires *in situ herbivore translocations.*
- Active management programs are utilizing translocations of ***Gaur and Barasingha*** to build high-density prey setups before carnivore releases.
- **Preparedness of Low-Density Reserves -** Representatives from structurally vulnerable, low-density landscapes presented their ecological baselines to evaluate their readiness for future tiger stocking.
- **Cheetah Cross-Learning -** A special session focused on ***Project Cheetah*** (the world's first inter-continental large carnivore reintroduction), mining operational lessons to guide future domestic wildlife recovery actions.

Reference

DD India | Tiger Re-introduction

SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering