

- Transboundary Manas Conservation Area wins the TX2 Conservation Excellence Award for 2020.
- » **Details of the TTCA**
  - The Awards celebrate the 10 year anniversary of all 13 Tiger Range countries committing to double the global population of wild tigers by 2022 - a goal called TX2.
  - It is given in **two categories**
    - **TX2 Conservation Excellence Award**
      - The award recognizes a site that has achieved excellence in two or more of five themes:
        - Tiger and prey population monitoring and research (tiger translocation/prey augmentation);
        - Effective site management;
        - Enhanced law enforcement, protection and ranger welfare improvement;
        - Community-based conservation, benefits and human-wildlife conflict mitigation and;
        - Habitat and prey management.
    - **TX2 Award** - It is given for efforts to increase tiger population and includes a financial grant to assist the ongoing conservation efforts.
- » **About TraMCA** (Transboundary Manas Conservation Area)
  - It comprises of 500 sq kms of Manas National Park in Assam and 1057 sq kms of Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan. Manas river flow through both these area and makes both parks an important watershed area.
  - The number of Tigers in the India Manasa increased from 9 in 2010 to 25 in 2018.
  - The number of Tigers in the Bhutan Manasa increased from 12 in 2008 to 26 in 2018.
- » **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve** also won the TX2 award for doubling its Tiger population.
  - It has recorded 65 tigers in 2018 census

## D) NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION EFFORTS: PROJECT TIGER

- It is a tiger conservation programme launched in 1973 by the Government of India.
- **Objectives / Aims**
  - » Ensuring a viable population of Bengal Tigers in their natural habitats and also to protect them from extinction.
  - » Preserving areas of biological importance as a national heritage for the benefit education and enjoyment of people.
  - » **Harmonizing the rights of tribal people** living in and around tiger reserves.
- **Tiger Reserves**
  - » Tiger reserves are the areas that are notified for the protection of the tiger and its prey, and are governed by Project Tiger and administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
  - » Tiger reserves are constituted on a **core/buffer strategy**:
    - The **Core Area** have the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary with an exclusive tiger agenda.
      - These areas are required to be kept inviolate for the purposes of tiger conservation, without affecting the rights of Scheduled Tribes or such other forest dwellers.
    - The **Buffer or peripheral areas** are a mix of forest and non-forest land, managed as a multiple use area with an inclusive people-oriented agenda.