**Syllabus subtopic:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

**Prelims and Mains focus:** about the man-tiger conflict in India; about NTCA and its functions

**News:** On Wednesday, two orders issued by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), to capture three different tigers, underscored the urgency of the situation like never before.

**Why?**

- The **impressive growth in the number of tigers** in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra has been punctuated by **growing incidence of man-tiger conflicts** over the past decade and more.

- Chandrapur has a forest area of 5,206 sq km, roughly 45 per cent of the district’s geographical area of 11,441 sq km. The main reason for increasing levels of man-tiger conflict in Chandrapur is its vast human-dominated and fragmented forest landscapes

**What are the rules for capturing/killing of tigers?**

The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** allows the capture or shooting of tigers **only when they cause death or injury to humans**, and in rare cases, for those straying inside human settlements.

**About NTCA**

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change** constituted under enabiling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted
Committees.

**Functions:**

- Ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management
- Preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan
- Laying down annual/audit report before Parliament
- Instituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
- According approval for declaring new Tiger Reserves.