



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

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## Shiva Temple in Ajmer Dargah

### Why in News?

Recently, a **local court in Ajmer ordered notices** to be issued to three parties in connection with a civil suit claiming the **presence of a Shiva temple** within the **dargah of Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti**.

### Key Points

- The suit, filed in September 2024, claims the **existence of a Shiva temple within the dargah** and seeks directions to **resume worship** at the temple.
- Notices have been issued to the **Ajmer Dargah Committee**, the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**, and the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** in New Delhi, requesting their responses.
- **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti:**
  - Moinuddin Hasan Chishti was **born in Sijistan (modern-day Sistan) in Iran** in 1141-42 CE.
  - After Muizuddin Muhammad bin Sam of Ghor had already defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain (1192) and established his rule in Delhi, **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti started living and preaching in Ajmer**.
  - His instructive discourses, full of spiritual insights, soon drew the local populace as well as kings and nobles and peasants and the poor from far and wide.
  - **His shrine in Ajmer** has been visited by rulers like **Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Sher Shah Suri, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, Dara Shukoh and Aurangzeb**.

#### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organisation for the archaeological research and protection of the **cultural heritage** of the nation.
  - **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958** governs the functioning of ASI.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc.
- It was founded in **1861 by Alexander Cunningham—the first Director-General of ASI**. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the “Father of Indian Archaeology”.

## Cultural Links Between Kashmir and Central Asia

### Why in News?

Recently, **Kashmiri artisans reunited with Central Asian master craftspeople** after 500 years at Srinagar’s Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre, celebrating the city’s **‘World Craft City’** recognition.

### Key Points

- **Historical Background:**
  - **In the 15th century, Zain-ul-Abidin**, the Sultan of Kashmir, **introduced Central Asian wood-carving techniques, fostering significant craft exchanges** with Samarkand, Bukhara, and Persia.
    - However, these interactions diminished after his death, nearly ceasing by 1947 due to political border changes.
- **Reviving Lost Crafts:**
  - 17 artisans from **Iran, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Russia** visited Srinagar to revive lost crafts and cultural links. The exchange concluded on 27th November 2024.
  - Srinagar was awarded the **‘World Craft City’** title by the **World Crafts Council (WCC)** in June 2024, highlighting the **city’s deep-rooted craft heritage**.
- **Cultural Exchange Between Kashmir and Central Asia:**
  - Kashmiri artisans and their Central Asian counterparts explored shared roots in **handicrafts**. Central Asian artisans admired the **traditional processes preserved by Kashmiri craftspeople**.
  - Iranian woodcarvers noted the differences in wood carving techniques. Kashmir uses a **chisel and hammer**, while **Iran employs just one chisel for detailed patterns**.
    - It is emphasized that art, not craft, is central to Iranian art forms, highlighting cultural exchanges between the regions.
  - Uzbekistani delegate Aziz Murtazaev acknowledged the craft similarities between Uzbekistan and Kashmir, emphasizing the preservation of traditional techniques.
  - Kashmiri and Central Asian artisans found **common ground in their intricate designs and techniques**, particularly in **suzani and sozni work**, which share similar aesthetics.

Note:

- The **rich history of Kashmiri carpets**, named after Iranian cities, highlights the region's historical ties to **Iran's carpet-making tradition**.

#### Srinagar's Craft

- According to an **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage-Kashmir (INTACH-Kashmir)** report of 2024, Srinagar is one of the **ancient cities of South Asia** with a **continuously recorded history of about 1,500 years**.
  - The INTACH was founded in 1984 in New Delhi with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India. Today, INTACH is recognized as one of the world's largest heritage organisations.
- The city is known globally for the **'Cashmere' brand** and **paisley motif**.
- Crafts such as **Zanjan** and **Filigree** were introduced by **Iranian artisans** five centuries ago.
- Srinagar's **carpet tradition** began in the late **14th century** with **Sufi Saint Sayyid Ali Hamdani**.
- In **2021**, it was recognized as a **UNESCO Creative City** for crafts and folk arts.

## Child Marriage Free India Campaign

### Why in News?

Recently, **Union women and child development minister** launched the **"Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Campaign"** or child marriage free India campaign portal to **help girls achieve their potential** by checking practices such as **child marriages**.

- This campaign targets **seven high-burden states**: West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Focus areas include 300 districts where child marriage rates exceed the national average.
- The goal is to **reduce the prevalence of child marriages to below 5% by 2029**.

### Key Points

- **Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Campaign**:
  - The campaign advocates for **legislative changes to ensure 18 as the minimum age of marriage without exceptions**.

- It provides **legal protection for children** and aims to prevent child marriages effectively.

#### ➤ Role of the Child Marriage Monitoring Portal:

- It will help monitor **Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs)** with better supervision and evaluation.
- User-friendly tools to encourage **reporting by victims and witnesses**.
- **Easy access to information** for better communication and support.

#### ➤ Multi-Pronged Approach to Address Child Marriage:

- Focus areas include:
  - National Education Policy integration.
  - Health, financial security, and safety.
  - Social awareness campaigns.

#### ➤ Citizen Participation and Gender-Inclusive Initiatives:

- Citizens are encouraged to **pledge to prevent child marriages and report cases to authorities**.
- The government has launched initiatives like **Nari Adalats (women's courts)**.
  - A Guide on Gender-Inclusive Communication to address gender biases.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative** that aimed to bring societal change in perceptions toward the girl child.

#### ➤ India's Global Recognition in Reducing Child Marriages

- **India has been globally acknowledged**, with UN reports attributing **South Asia's largest decline in child marriages** to India's efforts.
- In 2006, child marriage rates were **47.4%** and in 2019-21 they are **declined to 23.3%**.
- According to government data, child marriage rates have **declined from 47.4% in 2006 to 23.3% in 2019-21**.

#### ➤ Supreme Court's Role and Recommendations:

- In October 2024, the Supreme Court ruled that **the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** supersedes personal laws.
- Recommendations include:
  - Community-driven approaches and preventive measures.
  - Multi-sectoral coordination and capacity building for law enforcement.

Note:

- **Vision for a Developed India by 2047:**
  - The campaign aligns with the broader goal of creating a developed India by 2047 with girls at the center of women-led development.

#### Betri Bachao Betri Padhao Initiative

- It was **launched in January 2015** with the aim to address **sex selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio** which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- This is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

## Integrated Clean Energy Policy

### Why in News?

The Rajasthan government is set to launch an **integrated clean energy policy**, introducing a range of **new incentives in the energy sector**, including emerging areas like **pump storage, green hydrogen, battery storage, and bio-energy**.

- In Jaipur, the State government signed agreements worth Rs 6.57 lakh crore with investors in the energy sector.

### Key Points

- At the **energy pre-summit**, Chief Minister of Rajasthan stated that the State government aims to make **Rajasthan an energy-surplus State capable of meeting its own energy demands** and assisting others.
- **Transition to Renewable Energy:**
  - The Chief Minister highlighted the new clean energy policy and emphasized Rajasthan's shift to **renewable energy**, leveraging its **world-class solar park with a capacity of 2,245 MW and over 325 days** of annual sunshine.
  - The policy aims to capitalize on Rajasthan's potential in renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hybrid technologies.
- **Pre-Summit and Investment Proposals:**
  - The energy pre-summit was organized ahead of the **Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit-2024**, scheduled for December.

- **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** signed include proposed projects in solar, wind, green hydrogen, hybrid systems, pump storage, battery storage, and **green ammonia**.

### ➤ Job Creation and Economic Impact:

- The investment proposals are expected to generate approximately 70,000 new jobs in Rajasthan through on-ground implementation.

## Core Cold Wave Zone

### Why in News?

The **National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH)**, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has a public advisory on **cold wave conditions** for Rajasthan and 16 other states and Union Territories.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Cold Wave Season and Core Cold Wave Zone:

- A cold wave is a rapid fall in temperature **within 24 hours to a level requiring substantially increased protection to agriculture, industry, commerce, and social activities**.
- The **cold wave season spans from November to March, with December and January** experiencing the most **extreme cold events**.

#### ➤ Affected Regions:

- Telangana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha.

#### ➤ Vulnerable Groups:

- The advisory identifies the following **populations as particularly at risk:**
  - Homeless individuals
  - Elderly people
  - Economically disadvantaged individuals
  - Pregnant and lactating women
  - Children
  - Outdoor workers and farmers
  - Managers of night shelters

Note:

- **Definition of a Cold Wave:**
  - According to **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** Standards:
    - For **plains**, a cold wave occurs when the minimum temperature is  $\leq 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
    - For **hilly regions**, it is defined as a minimum temperature of  $\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- **Potential Health Issues:**
  - **Hypothermia** is caused by prolonged exposure to very low temperatures.
  - **Frostbite** is damage to skin and tissues due to freezing temperatures.
  - **Non-freezing Cold Injuries** are conditions like **Immersion Foot**, resulting from prolonged exposure to cold and wet conditions.
    - In severe cases, cold exposure can lead to fatalities if precautions are not taken.

#### India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**.
- It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India**.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.

## Rajasthan Questions Findings on Parsa Mine Clearance

### Why in News?

Recently, **Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL)** has questioned the legitimacy of a report by the **Chhattisgarh State Scheduled Tribes Commission (CSSTC)**, which found **irregularities in environmental clearances** for the **Parsa coal mine** in the State's Surguja region.

- The **Parsa coal block** is located in the **north central part of the Hasdo-Arand**.

### Key Points

- **Earlier Findings:**
  - According to RRVUNL, in 2023 the **CSSTC, set aside allegations regarding the Parsa mine** following a detailed inquiry by the Surguja district administration.

- In 2024, The Commission recommended **canceling forest clearances for the Parsa mine**, alleging they were obtained using forged gram sabha consent documents.
- RRVUNL countered that the **gram sabha** approval issue is under **judicial review**, with no adverse court observations on alleged irregularities.
- **Role of RRVUNL and Adani Group:**
  - The **Parsa coal mine, allotted to RRVUNL**, is developed and operated by the Adani Group, despite ongoing opposition from activists and sections of local communities.
- **Legitimacy of the Report:**
  - RRVUNL questioned the Commission's report, and stated that the report was based on inputs from a small group of individuals, despite the issue involving thousands of local stakeholders.
- **About Chhattisgarh State Scheduled Tribes Commission:**
  - The Chhattisgarh government **formed the Tribal Advisory Council to recommend policies related to Scheduled Tribes**.
    - Some of the tribes in Chhattisgarh include the **Gonds** of Bastar, **Baiga** tribes, Pahari korwa tribes, Abhuj Maria, Bison Horn Maria, **Muria**, Halbaa, Birhor's tribes, Bhatra, and Dhurva.
  - The **Chief Minister** of Chhattisgarh is the **Chairman of the Council**, and the Minister of Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department is a member.

#### Hasdeo Arand Forest

- Hasdeo Arand, a sprawling forest in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh is known for its biodiversity and its coal deposits**.
- The forest falls under **Korba, Sujapur and Surguja districts** with significant tribal population.
- The **Hasdeo river, a tributary of Mahanadi**, flows through it.
- Hasdeo Arand is the **largest un-fragmented forest in Central India consisting of pristine Sal (Shorea robusta) and teak forests**.
- It is a **noted migratory corridor** and has a significant presence of **elephants**.

Note:



## Avian Botulism in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Centre for Avian Research Institute](#) reported the death of at least 600 migratory birds in Rajasthan.

- **High temperatures and reduced salinity in [Sambhar Lake](#)** likely created conditions that triggered **Avian Botulism**, causing the **mass deaths of migratory birds**.

### Key Points

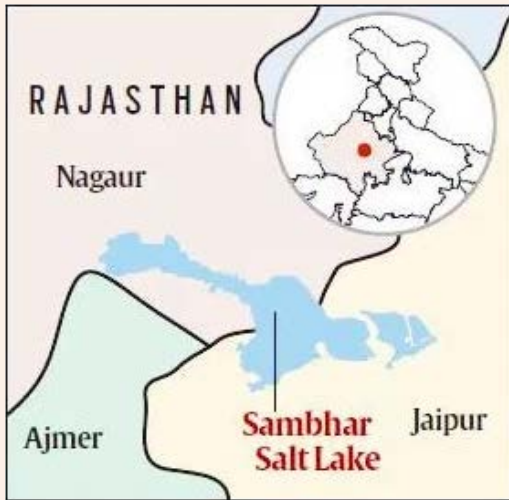
- About Avian botulism:
  - It is a **neuro-muscular illness** caused by **Botulinum (natural toxin)** that is produced by a bacteria **[Clostridium botulinum](#)**.
    - The bacteria is **commonly found in the soil, rivers, and seawater**. It affects both humans and animals.
    - It also needs **anaerobic (absence of oxygen) conditions** and **does not grow in acidic conditions**.
  - It **affects the nervous system** of birds, leading to **paralysis** in their legs and wings.
    - Bacterial spores are widespread in **wetland sediments** and are commonly found in wetland habitats.
    - They are **present in invertebrates** like insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and even healthy vertebrates, including birds.

- The outbreaks of avian botulism **tend to occur when average temperatures are above 21 degrees celsius**, and during **droughts**.
- The **deaths began on 26th October 2024**, and continued for approximately two weeks.
- **Contributing Environmental Factors:**
  - **Jaipur district**, 70 km from Sambhar Lake, **recorded above-average temperatures** throughout October.
  - Sambhar Lake experienced **reduced oxygen levels due to the absence of rainfall**.
- **Vulnerability of Migratory Birds**
  - Migratory birds arrive **weakened from long journeys**, making them more susceptible to diseases.
  - Decaying bird carcasses attract maggots, which further **contaminate the water and infect other birds** or animals.
- **Management and Challenges**
  - Avian botulism **cannot be treated**, but immediate **removal and disposal of affected birds are recommended** to limit the spread.
  - Sambhar Lake **experienced a similar die-off in 2019**, resulting in the deaths of nearly 18,000 birds.
  - **Outbreaks are hard to predict** as they depend on specific environmental conditions aligning, such as a shift from high to low salinity coinciding with the arrival of migratory birds.
- **Global Perspective**
  - **Spores of Clostridium botulinum can survive for years** but produce toxins only under favorable environmental conditions.
  - Similar outbreaks have been observed in **Australia and the United States** during periods of reduced salinity.
  - Globally, **around 57 diseases have been reported among wild birds**, highlighting the broader ecological risks.

### Sambhar Lake

- **Location:**
  - Situated about 80 km southwest of **Jaipur**, in east-central Rajasthan.
- **Features:**
  - It is the **largest inland salt lake in India**. It represents the depression of the **Aravalli Range**.
  - The lake's **salt supply was worked by the Mughal dynasty (1526–1857)** and it was **later owned jointly by the Jaipur and Jodhpur princely states**.

Note:



- **Ramsar Site:**
  - It is a **wetland** of 'international importance' under the **Ramsar Convention**, declared in 1990.
- **Rivers:**
  - It receives water from **six rivers**, namely Samaod, Khari, Mantha, Khandela, Medtha, and Roopangarh.
- **Vegetation:**
  - The vegetation present in the catchment area is **mostly xerophytic type**.
  - Xerophyte is a **plant adapted for growth under dry conditions**.

#### The Central Avian Research Institute of India (CARI)

- It is a **research institute** located at Izzatnagar near Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.
- It was **established in 1979** under the administrative control of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- It **studies poultry science**, including avian genetics, breeding, nutrition and feed technology, and avian physiology and reproduction, for the betterment of the Indian poultry industry.

## International Pushkar Fair 2024

### Why in News?

Department of Tourism and Department of Animal Husbandry of Government of Rajasthan is hosting the annual **International Pushkar Fair 2024**, featuring daily **sports competitions and cultural programs** that delight participants.

### Key Points

- **Sports Activities:**
  - A cricket match was held at the Pushkar fairground between domestic and foreign tourists, promoting mutual trust and friendship among people.
- **Unique Competitions:**
  - The '**Shan-e-Mooch**' (**grandeur of mustache**) **competition** captivated the audience showcasing the pride of the mustache.
  - The '**Safa and Tilak**' **competition** aimed to connect foreigners with Rajasthan's folk culture and to spread awareness about the local dressing culture.

## Sahakar Kisan Kalyan Yojana

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Rajasthan government** introduced the **Sahakar Kisan Kalyan Yojana**, first-ever **interest subvention scheme** for **long-term cooperative agricultural and non-agricultural loans**.

- This scheme aims to **boost farm output and increase farmers' incomes**.

### Key Points

- **About the Scheme:**
  - Under the Sahakar Kisan Kalyan Yojana, **farmers secure loans from primary cooperative land development banks and Central cooperative banks** in Rajasthan.
  - The scheme incentivizes timely loan repayments, offering **lower interest rates through subsidies**.
- **Interest Subsidies:**
  - Farmers will receive a **7% interest subsidy on agricultural loans** if they repay on time.
  - A **5% subsidy** will be provided for timely repayment of **non-agricultural loans**.
- **Purpose:**
  - Farmers often take cooperative loans for **deepening tube wells, drip irrigation, land levelling, greenhouse setup, solar installations, vermicompost production, silkworm rearing, and beekeeping**.
- **Financial Provisions and Interest Rates:**
  - Rs 39.75 crore has been allocated for the interest subsidy.

Note:



- With the subsidy, farmers will pay a reduced interest rate of 4% on agricultural loans and 3.5% on non-agricultural loans.

## Kayakalp Scheme in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

The Rajasthan College Education Commissionerate has instructed 20 government colleges to paint the front facades of their buildings and entry halls orange as part of the **Kayakalp scheme**. The initiative aims to create a “positive environment” within educational institutions.

### Key Points

- **The Kayakalp Scheme:**
  - The Kayakalp scheme, launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, aims to **enhance cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control across public healthcare facilities** in India.
- **New Directive for Government Colleges:**
  - **First Phase:** In the first phase, **two colleges from each division level** are included, totaling 20 colleges.
  - **Objective of Rejuvenation:** The order emphasizes creating a “**positive, clean, healthy, and educational environment**” for students, where they feel encouraged upon entering college campuses.

## Pollution in River Sutlej

### Why in News?

Residents of **Sri Ganganagar district in Rajasthan** are increasingly expressing anger over alleged **pollution in the Sutlej River**, which they **attribute to factories in neighboring Punjab**.

### Key Points

- Markets across Sri Ganganagar district were closed as **residents protested against alleged pollution** in the Sutlej River.
- Despite efforts by the Punjab government to treat the water with **STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) facilities**, the water’s quality remains harmful, allegedly **causing health issues in local communities**.
- **National Green Tribunal Actions:**
  - In 2018, the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** imposed

a **Rs 50 crore fine on the Punjab government** for “**uncontrolled industrial discharge**” into the Sutlej and **Beas rivers**.

- In 2021, the NGT again reprimanded Punjab and directed both Punjab and Rajasthan to submit quarterly compliance reports to the **Union Ministry of Jal Shakti**, detailing measures to curb industrial effluent discharge into the rivers.



- The ancient name of Sutlej River is **Zaradros (Ancient Greek) Shutudri or Shatadru (Sanskrit)**.
- It is the longest of the five tributaries of the **Indus River** that give the Punjab (meaning “Five Rivers”) its name.
  - Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Satluj are main tributaries of Indus.
- It rises on the north slope of the Himalayas in **Lake La’nga in southwestern Tibet**.
  - Flowing northwestward and then west-southwestward through Himalayan gorges, it enters and crosses Himachal Pradesh before beginning its flow through the Punjab plain near Nangal.

Note:

- Continuing southwestward in a broad channel, it receives the Beas River (and forms 65 miles (105 km) of the India-Pakistan border before entering Pakistan and flowing another 220 miles (350 km) to join the Chenab River west of Bahawalpur.
  - Sutlej River meets the Beas River in **Harike in the Ferozpur district before entering Pakistan.**
- The combined rivers then form the Panjnad, the link between the Five Rivers and the Indus.
- **Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project** is located on River Satluj in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh.

## Mahendra Singh Mewar from Mewar Royal Family Passes Away

### Why in News?

Recently, Former Member of Parliament and member of the erstwhile **Mewar royal family Mahendra Singh Mewar** passed away in Udaipur. He was a descendant of **Maharana Pratap**.

### Key Points

- **Maharana Pratap:**
  - **Rana Pratap Singh**, also known as Maharana Pratap, was born on 9th May 1540 in Kumbhalgarh, Rajasthan.
  - He was the **13th King of Mewar** and was the eldest son of **Udai Singh II**.
  - Maharana Udai Singh II ruled the kingdom of Mewar, with his capital at Chittor.
    - **Udai Singh II** was also a **founder of the city of Udaipur** (Rajasthan).
- **Battle of Haldighati:**
  - The **Battle of Haldighati** was fought in 1576 between **Rana Pratap Singh of Mewar and Raja Man Singh of Amber** who was the general of the Mughal emperor Akbar.
  - Maharana Pratap fought a brave war but was **defeated by Mughal forces**.
  - It is said that **Maharana Pratap's loyal horse named Chetak**, gave up his life as the Maharana was leaving the battlefield.

### ➤ Reconquest:

- **After 1579**, the Mughal pressure relaxed over Mewar and Pratap recovered Western Mewar including Kumbhalgarh, Udaipur and Gogunda.
- During this period, he also built a **new capital, Chavand**, near modern Dungarpur.

### ➤ Death:

- He died on 19th January 1597. He was **succeeded by his son Amar Singh**, who submitted in 1614 to Emperor Jahangir, son of Akbar.



### Pratap Gaurav Kendra

- It is a **tourist spot** at **Tiger Hill** in **Udaipur city, Rajasthan**.
- It aims at **providing information about Maharana Pratap** and the historical heritage of the area **with the help of modern technology**.

## New Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- An **expert committee advised urgent habitat conservation and prey base development** before declaring **Kumbhalgarh-Todgarh Raoli sanctuary** as a **Tiger Reserve**.
- The Union government and **National Tiger Conservation Authority** provided in-principle **approval in August 2023**. The committee will continue to define core and buffer areas to safeguard biodiversity.

Note:

# TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) is the National animal of India.

## Subspecies of Tiger

- \* The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- \* The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

## Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas



## Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

- ▣ Found only in 13 Tiger Range countries- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- ◆ As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

## Protection Status

- ▣ IUCN Red List: Endangered
- ▣ CITES: Appendix I
- ▣ WPA 1972: Schedule I

## Threats

- ▣ Habitat loss
- ▣ Poaching and illegal trade
- ▣ Human-Wildlife conflict

## Conservation Efforts

- ▣ International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA): For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- ▣ Tx2 campaign: Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- ▣ National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA): Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- ▣ Project Tiger: Launched in 1973
- ▣ Tiger Census: Every 4 years

## Tigers In India

- ▣ India has the largest population
  - ◆ As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
  - ◆ Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- ▣ Tiger Reserves: India now has 53 tiger reserves
  - ◆ Ranipur in UP is the latest
  - ◆ Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core area)



## Key Points

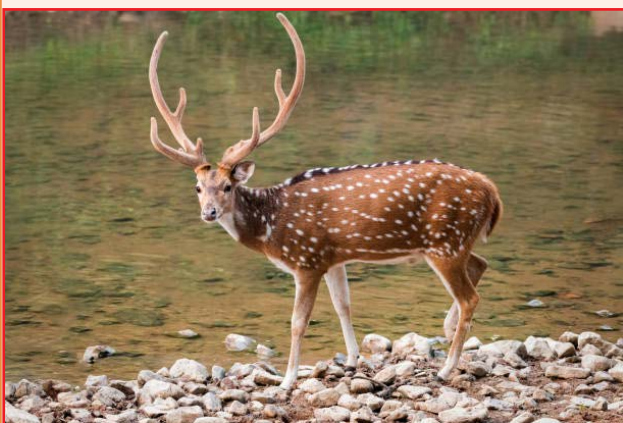
### ➤ Committee's Recommendation:

- Habitat Limitations:
  - The current area lacks the capacity to support a sustainable tiger population. The report suggests adding more areas to the proposed reserve.
- Village Relocation:
  - A strategic, voluntary relocation plan for sparsely populated villages within the proposed reserve area is recommended to secure undisturbed habitats and enhance villagers' quality of life through sustainable resettlement.

Note:

- **Invasive Species Control:**
  - Removing invasive weeds and planting native, palatable grasses are essential to restore suitable habitats for wild herbivores and promote biodiversity.
- **Prey Base Development:**
  - Relocating 1,000–2,000 **spotted deer (chital)** is recommended to **boost prey availability**, benefiting the population of predators.
- **Anti-Poaching and Infrastructure:**
  - Strengthening **anti-poaching** measures, wireless communications, and patrol roads is necessary.
- **Geographic Scope:**
  - The Kumbhalgarh Tiger Reserve would **span approximately 1,397 sq km** across **Rajsamand, Udaipur, Pali, Ajmer, and Sirohi districts** in Rajasthan.

Spotted Deer (Chital)



- The chital, also known as the **spotted deer or axis deer**, is a graceful and elegant herbivore native to the grasslands and forests of **India and Sri Lanka**.
- They prefer open grasslands, savannas, and lightly forested areas.
  - **IUCN Red list:** Least Concern
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule II.

## Missing Tigers in Ranthambore National Park

### Why in News?

According to **Rajasthan's Chief Wildlife Warden**, **tigers** in **Ranthambore National Park (RNP)** have gone missing since 2023.

### Key Points

- Ranthambore National Park is **currently home to 75 tigers, including cubs**, within a 900-square-kilometer area, resulting in **territorial conflicts**.
  - According to a **Wildlife Institute of India study (2006-2014)**, the park can sustainably support approximately 40 adult tigers.
- This recent incident **marks the first instance** of such a high number of tigers being officially **reported as missing in a single year**.
  - Efforts to reduce pressure on the park by relocating villages from **buffer zones have been sluggish**, with the most recent relocation occurring in 2016.
- **Ranthambore National Park:**
  - **Location:**
    - It lies in the eastern part of Rajasthan state in **Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts**, at the junction of the **Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges**.
    - It was **declared a Tiger reserve in 1973**.
  - **Parks and Sanctuaries Included:**
    - It comprises of the **Sawai Mansingh and Keladevi Sanctuaries**.
  - **Vegetation:**
    - The forest type is mainly **tropical dry deciduous** with '**dhak**' (**Butea monosperma**), a species of tree capable of withstanding long periods of drought, being the **commonest**.
  - **Wildlife:**
    - The park is rich in wildlife with **tigers at the apex of the food chain in mammals**.
    - Other animals found here are **leopards**, striped hyenas, common or hanuman langurs, **rhesus macaques**, jackals, jungle cats, **caracals**, **blackbuck**, Blacknaped hare and chinkara, etc.

## SC Guidelines to Eliminate Child Marriages

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Supreme Court** guidelines aiming for the complete eradication of **child marriages**, have provided a significant boost to **civil society groups** in Rajasthan.

Note:

## Key Points

- **Prevalence of Child Marriages in Rajasthan:**
  - According to the **National Family Health Survey-5**, 25.4% of women aged 20-24 in Rajasthan were married before reaching the legal age of 18.
- **Collective Effort to Eradicate Child Marriages by 2030:**
  - The **Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRCA)**, a **non-governmental organization**, emboldened by the SC new guidelines, has pledged to intensify efforts on the ground.
  - They **aim to eradicate child marriages in Rajasthan by 2030** through collective action, including raising awareness in villages.
- **Supreme Court's Guidelines:**
  - The Supreme Court's guidelines place accountability on **village panchayats, school authorities, and child protection officers** for preventing child marriages.
  - The Court advised adopting a **"prevention, protection, and prosecution" model** to implement the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** effectively.
  - In 2024, the Rajasthan High Court mandated that village sarpanches, under the **Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996**, are responsible for restraining child marriages.
    - The court directed the **State government to inform and sensitise village leaders**, emphasizing their accountability if they fail to prevent child marriages in their communities.

### Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006

- The law seeks to prevent child marriages by making certain actions punishable and by appointing certain authorities responsible for the prevention and prohibition of child marriages.
- Definitions under the Act:
  - **"Child"** means a person who, if a **male, has not completed twenty-one years** of age, and if a **female, has not completed eighteen years of age**.
  - **"Child marriage"** means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child.
  - **"Minor"** means a person who has not **attained his majority** under the provisions of the Majority Act, 1875. As per the Majority Act, 1875, **every person domiciled in India** attain the age of majority on his **completing the age of eighteen years**.
- Child marriage is an offence punishable with **rigorous imprisonment**, which may extend to 2 years, or with fine up to Rs.1 Lakh, or both. The offences under the Act are **cognisable and non-bailable**.
- Persons who can be punished under the Law include:
  - Whoever performs, conducts or directs or abets any child marriage.
  - A male adult above 18 years marrying a child (Section 9).
  - Any person having charge of the child, including parent or guardian, any member of an organisation or association, promoting, permitting, participating in a child marriage.



Note:



**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

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