



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

MADHYA PRADESH

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Forest Eagle Owl

Why in News?

The **Pench Tiger Reserve** has become a favorable place for a lesser-known group of **forest eagle owls**, also identified as the **spot-bellied eagle owl**.



ABOUT THE BIRD

➤ Spot-bellied eagle owl is bold, and not only hunts small animals but also fairly large-sized mammals like hares, jackals, fawns, Indian flying foxes, giant squirrels, birds and even reptiles. They are mostly observed on Arjun and Banyan trees

➤ Species is distributed across countries like Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. In India, its range spans from the foothills of Uttarakhand to north-eastern India, Gujarat, Western and Eastern Ghats

SPOT-BELLIED EAGLE OWL

Key Points

- In Central India, these nocturnal birds have also been reported from Madhya Pradesh Pench and **Kanha Tiger Reserve**.
- The forest eagle owl, a large bird, is discovered in **dense evergreen and moist deciduous forests** close to water, in **wet temperate, and riparian (adjacent to a water body) forests**.
 - Similar to many other owl species, the spot-bellied eagle owl also makes calls for multiple purposes such as communication, territorial protection, and attracting mates.
- The researchers recorded their calls and analysed the frequency with **Raven Pro software**.
 - Raven Pro is a software program for the **acquisition, visualization, measurement, and analysis of sounds**.

Pench Tiger Reserve

- It is located in **Nagpur District of Maharashtra** and named after the pristine Pench River.
 - The Pench river flows right through the middle of the park.
 - It descends from north to south, thereby **dividing the reserve into equal eastern and western parts**.
- PTR is the **joint pride** of both **Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra**.

- The Reserve is located in the southern reaches of the Satpura hills in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh, and continues in Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate Sanctuary.

- It was **declared a National Park by the Government of Maharashtra in 1975** and the identity of a **tiger reserve was granted to it in the year 1992**.
 - However, PTR Madhya Pradesh was granted the same status in 1992-1993. It is one of the major Protected Areas of **Satpura-Maikal ranges** of the Central Highlands.
- It is among the sites notified as **Important Bird Areas (IBA)** of India.
 - The IBA is a programme of Birdlife International which **aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for conservation of the world's birds** and associated diversity.

Project Cheetah

Why in News?

Recently, a **Kenyan delegation visited India to discuss collaboration on wildlife conservation efforts**, with a particular emphasis on the ongoing **Cheetah Reintroduction Project (Project Cheetah)**.

Key Points

- The delegation presented a draft MoU to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** proposing collaboration.
 - It along with capacity building and knowledge sharing, also included provisions for supplying equipment to Kenyan forest rangers to **enhance field patrolling and wildlife preservation efforts**.
- **Project Cheetah:**
 - The Phase-1 of the project started in 2022, to restore the population of cheetahs, which were declared extinct in the country in 1952.
 - It involves the **translocation of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park**.
 - The project is implemented by the NTCA in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, and **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**.

Note:



- Under Phase-2 of the Project India is considering sourcing cheetahs from Kenya due to similar habitats.
 - Cheetahs will be translocated to **Kuno National Park** and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh).

NOTA Votes

Why in News?

In the recent general elections, Indore registered the highest-ever **NOTA (none of the above) votes** in the country at 2,18,674.

Key Points

- The NOTA option garnered 16.28% of the total vote cast in the Indore Lok Sabha seat.
 - A total of 5,33,705 voters pressed the NOTA (none of the above) option nationally, with the highest number of 2,18,674 such votes being registered in the Indore seat.
 - The 25.27 lakh eligible voters in Indore, 61.75% exercised their franchise. Of them, 13,43,294 ballots were found valid. Of it, 16.28% of the votes went to NOTA. In 2019, Indore recorded a 69% turnout with 5,045 voters opting for NOTA.
- According to a former Chief Election Commissioner, NOTA has a “symbolic” impact and if it gets more than 50% votes in a seat, only then making it legally effective on election results could be considered.

NOTA

- The NOTA option was introduced for the **first time** in the general elections in **2014**.
- NOTA has **no legal consequence** attached to it as even if the highest number of votes in a seat are polled for NOTA, the second most successful candidate wins.
 - In Haryana, NOTA has been treated as a fictional candidate.

Cheetah

Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

- *Acinonyx jubatus jubatus* (African Cheetah)
- *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* (Asiatic Cheetah)

Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

- The “Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India” was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
 - The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

IUCN Red List Status - Vulnerable

African Cheetah

Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin - more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. Year 1952 - Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.

IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered

Asiatic Cheetah



Note:

Reintroduction of Cheetahs in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government has completed preparations at the **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** to become a new habitat for **cheetahs**.

Key Points

- Teams from Kenya and South Africa had earlier visited Gandhi Sagar to assess the conditions for **reintroduction of cheetahs**.
 - Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister chaired a meeting of the **state wildlife board**, during which it was informed that preparations have been completed.
- Prey animals were relocated from **Kanha, Satpura and Sanjay tiger reserves** to Gandhi Sagar.
- Under the ambitious cheetah reintroduction project, **eight Namibian cheetahs**, five females and three males, were released into enclosures at **Kuno National Park (KNP)** in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district on 17th September, 2022.
 - In February 2023, 12 more cheetahs were brought from South Africa.
- During the meeting, the chief minister directed officials to conduct a study on the possibilities of bringing **rhinos** and other rare and endangered wild animals to the forests of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Mandsaur district** is around 270 km from Kuno National Park in Sheopur.
 - The second home for cheetahs is spread over 64 sq km.

Kanha Tiger Reserve

- It stretches over an area of 940 square km in the **two districts - Mandla and Balaghat - of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The present-day Kanha area **was divided into two sanctuaries, Hallon and Banjar**. **Kanha National Park was created in 1955** and in **1973** was made the **Kanha Tiger Reserve**.
 - Kanha National Park is the **largest National Park in Central India**.

Satpura Tiger Reserve

- Satpura Tiger Reserve, is in the **Hoshangabad district** of Madhya Pradesh. Famous as a **tiger conservation center**, this area is also **rich in wildlife and plant diversity**.

- Apart from the tiger, various wildlife including **leopard, Indian bison, Indian giant squirrel, sambar, chital, deer, nilgai, langur, bear, wild boar** are found here.
- It has more than 300 caves of historical and archaeological importance.

Sanjay Tiger Reserves

- Sanjay-Dubri National Park and Tiger Reserve was **established in 1975** to conserve the biodiversity rich forest area of the district. Comprising an **Evergreen Sal forest**.
- The major species found are **tiger, Sloth bear, Chital, Nilgai, Chinkara, Sambar (limited to hilly terrain and in very small number), leopard, Dhole (wild dog), Jungle Cat, Hyena, Porcupine, Jackal, Fox, Indian Wolf, Indian Python Four-horned Antelope and Barking deer**.

Madhya Pradesh to Table Bill to Stop Borewell Deaths

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government is in the **process of drafting a law**, which is believed to be the **first of its kind in India, aimed at preventing fatalities resulting from open borewells**.

- In the last seven months, more than nine such incidents have been documented in MP.

Key Points

- The suggested legislation **will contain specific instructions on preventing such disasters**, how to respond if one occurs, and the process for assigning accountability.
- The bill **calls for identification of open / dry borewells and heavy penalties on those responsible for not filling or plugging them and leaving them as an open hazard**.
- If the borewell is on private land, the land owner will be fined. If it's government land, the **department and officer concerned will be penalised**.
 - The second stage **would be registration of a criminal case in case someone falls into an open borewell**. As of now, the accused is booked for negligence. Under the new law, the **accused will be booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections**.

Note:



- Apart from the land owner or government official, responsibility would also be fixed on the agency that drills the borewell.
- A system would be put in place for **citizens to inform government about open borewells so that preventive action can be taken..**

Cholera Outbreak

Why in News?

Recently, Panic spread through Phoop town in **Bhind district** due to a sudden **cholera outbreak**, resulting in the deaths of three individuals and the illness of around 70 others who drank **contaminated water**.

Key Points

- The residents of the area fell prey to cholera infection after drinking contaminated water supplied through the pipeline.
- According to the sources, the **sewage water entered the drinking water supply pipeline** due to ongoing civil work in the area. The **water turned highly contaminated** with bad odour.
- The District Magistrate stated that the **situation was under control** and the **condition of the patients was stable**.
 - The **pipeline leakages have been fixed**, and **clean/fresh water is now being supplied** to the three wards.
 - A **team of doctors** has also been **deployed to monitor the situation**, including water testing.

Cholera

- **About:**
 - Cholera, a water-borne disease primarily caused by **the bacteria Vibrio cholerae strains O1 and O139**, poses a significant public health challenge worldwide.
 - Strain O1 is the predominant cause of outbreaks, with O139 occurrences being rare and mostly confined to Asia.
 - It is an acute diarrheal illness caused by infection of the intestine.
 - The infection is often mild or without symptoms, but sometimes can be severe.

- **Symptoms:**
 - Profuse watery diarrhoea, Vomiting, Leg cramps
- **Transmission:**
 - A person may get cholera by drinking water or eating food **contaminated with the cholera bacterium**.
 - The disease can spread rapidly in areas with inadequate treatment of sewage and drinking water.
- **Vaccine:**
 - Currently there are three WHO pre-qualified **Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV)**, Dukoral, Shanchol, and **Euvichol-Plus**. All three vaccines require two doses for full protection.

Madhya Pradesh's New Intra-State Air Service

Why in News?

Recently, **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister launched intra-state air service named '**PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva**' by flagging off the first flight under it from Bhopal to Jabalpur.

Key Points

- In Madhya Pradesh, the cities of **Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Rewa, Khajuraho, and Singrauli** will soon be **linked by air travel**.
- As per officials, to enhance the air connectivity, a **50% discount on fares** will be offered for a **period of 30 days**.
- **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB)** will manage the air service. The service is being operated through a **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** with M/s Jet Serv Aviation Private Limited (Flyola).

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model

- PPP is an **arrangement between government and private sector** for the provision of public assets and/or public services. Public-private partnerships allow large-scale government projects, such as roads, bridges, or hospitals, to be completed with private funding.
- In this type of partnership, **investments are undertaken by the private sector entity**, for a specified period of time.

Note:

- These partnerships work well when **private sector technology and innovation combine with public sector incentives** to complete work on time and within budget.
- As PPP involves full retention of responsibility by the government for providing the services, it doesn't amount to privatization.
- There is a well defined allocation of risk between the private sector and the public entity.
- **Private entity is chosen on the basis of open competitive bidding** and receives performance linked payments.
- The PPP route can be an alternative in developing countries where governments face various constraints on borrowing money for important projects.
- It can also give required expertise in planning or executing large projects.

Avian Influenza Crisis Drill

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying** and the **World Bank** recently organized a two-day simulation exercise in Madhya Pradesh to improve readiness for **Avian Influenza** or **Bird Flu**, in light of reported cases nationally and worldwide.

Key Points

- The exercise held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh involved 40 participants from different sectors who **practiced outbreak detection, rapid response strategies, and inter-agency coordination to control the spread of avian flu.**
 - The **drill was conducted in response to the avian flu outbreaks in Kerala** and the increasing global spillover cases affecting non-poultry species such as cattle.
 - The programme involved **interactive scenarios mimicking real outbreak situations** to provide crisis management experience.
- The simulation was led by **Hikuepi Katjuongua, a senior agriculture economist at the World Bank**, and **Frank Wong, an expert from the World Organisation for Animal Health**, with the goal of reducing negative effects on animal and human health.

World Organisation for Animal Health

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** responsible for improving animal health worldwide.
- In 2018, it had a total of **182 Member Countries. India is one of the member countries.**
- It **develops normative documents** relating to rules that Member Countries can use to protect themselves from the introduction of diseases and pathogens. One of them is the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- Its standards are **recognised by the World Trade Organization** as reference international sanitary rules.
- It is headquartered in **Paris, France.**

Avian Influenza

- **About:**
 - Avian influenza, **often referred to as bird flu**, is a highly contagious viral infection that primarily affects **birds**, particularly **wild birds and domestic poultry.**
 - In 1996, highly **pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus** was first identified in domestic waterfowl in Southern China.
 - The virus is named **A/goose/Guangdong/1/1996.**
- **Transmission to Humans and Related Symptoms:**
 - Human cases of **H5N1** avian influenza occur occasionally, but it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person. As per **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, when people do become infected, the **mortality rate is about 60%.**
 - It can range from **mild flu-like symptoms**, including **fever, cough, and muscle aches**, to severe respiratory issues like **pneumonia, difficulty breathing, and even cognitive problems** such as altered mental status and seizures.

Digital Crop Survey

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh Chief minister Mohan Yadav has declared the initiation of the **Digital Crop Survey project** across the state, commencing from the **kharif season.**

- This program will allow farmers to view their **girdawari (regular harvest inspection)** using **advanced technology**, ensuring **quick insurance payments for crop damage** and expediting the process of acquiring **kisan credit cards.**

Note:



Key Points

- The **Digital Crop Survey** initiative will involve young individuals in rural areas, utilizing advanced technology like **geo-fencing**.
 - This efficient method will simplify the process of **capturing crop images in the field**.
 - **Every picture** captured by the surveyor will have **geographical coordinates attached**, ensuring essential field visits and providing photographic proof of the crop conditions.
 - This setup enables farmers to check their land records and address any concerns they may have.
- By incorporating cutting-edge technology, the **project seeks to encourage community engagement**, ensuring widespread participation from the villagers.
 - **Satellite imaging will provide valuable information on potential crops**, allowing for a comparative assessment.
 - Any inconsistencies discovered will lead to necessary actions being taken by government officials.

Kisan Credit Cards

- The scheme was **introduced in 1998 for providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system**, under a **single window** with flexible and simplified procedures to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs like purchase of agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs.
- The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers viz. allied and non-farm activities in the year 2004.
- In the **Budget-2018-19**, government **announced the extension of the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers** to help them to meet their working capital needs.
- Implementing Agencies:
 - **Commercial Banks**
 - **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**
 - **Small Finance Banks**
 - **Cooperatives**

Geofencing

- **Geofencing** means “**security by obscurity**” measure, which allows those running websites to **evade the most direct forms of cyber attacks from abroad** by being fully inaccessible.

- Geofencing makes search engines less effective at indexing searched pages and turning them up in results.

Madhya Pradesh: Tiger State of India

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has the highest **tiger population in the country**. Among approximately 3,800 **big cats** in the wild, **785 of them are in Madhya Pradesh**.

- **Karnataka** for a brief period **between 2011 and 2018 had surpassed Madhya Pradesh** for the most number of tigers.

Key Points

- The **tiger census of 2022** put the population in the country between 3,682 and 3,925, out of which MP tops the list with 785 tigers followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560) and Maharashtra (444) respectively.
- **Jim Corbett National Park** in Uttarakhand tops the list with **260 tigers** amongst all the tiger reserves across the country.
 - **Efforts made by stakeholders including tribals and jungle dwellers besides forest officials** who made remarkable progress has also **led to conservation of big cat species**.
- The **first tiger census was conducted in 1972**, which recorded the tiger population as 1,827.
 - India's tiger population has faced **severe threats due to habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict**.
 - In the early 20th century, India had a robust tiger population, but by the 1970s, their numbers had diminished alarmingly.
- In response, the government launched '**Project Tiger**' **in 1973**, which aimed at creating a network of **tiger reserves** across the country to provide safe habitats for tigers and to curb poaching activities.
 - Maintaining the **ecological balance and biodiversity** of India's forests was also an objective of the project.

Note:

Tiger Reserves

- A protected area designated for the conservation of the **striped big cats (tigers)** is referred to as **Tiger Reserve**. However, a **tiger reserve may also be a national park or wildlife sanctuary**.
 - For Example: The **Sariska Tiger Reserve** is also a **national park**. It is so because the place was originally created as a national park and **later dedicated to tiger conservation**.
- Tiger Reserves are **notified by State Governments** as per provisions of **Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** on advice of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority**.
- Presently, India accommodates a **total of 54 Tiger Reserves** (with the most recent addition being the **Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve**).

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)



Note:

'Emergency' Chapter to be Part of School Curriculum

Why in News?

Recently, **Madhya Pradesh** chief minister Mohan Yadav announced the inclusion of a **chapter on the Emergency** in the **state's school curriculum**.

- The chapter will explain the **"excesses and repression" committed during the Emergency**, which was imposed by the Government of India in **1975**.

Key Points

- The motive behind this step is to **make the present generation aware of the struggle** during the **1975 to 1977 Emergency period**.
- The CM announced several **additional facilities** for **'Loktantra Senanis' (democracy fighters)** who took part in the **struggle against the Emergency**.
 - Democracy fighters will be provided with **air ambulances in case of serious health problems**, and anti-emergency crusaders will receive a **25% discount on fares**.
 - All arrangements will be made to **conduct the final rites** of the 'Loktantra Senanis' **with state honors**. The **amount provided to their families** at the time of the funeral will be **increased from the current ₹8,000 to ₹10,000**.
 - **Employment opportunities** will be made available to the **family members** of the democracy fighters by providing them with the necessary training to set up industries or other business ventures.
- On **June 25, 1975**, then **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi** imposed an **Emergency in the country**, jailing **opposition leaders** and dissidents and effecting **press censorship**. This year observed the **50th anniversary** of the beginning of this period.

Emergency

- **Emergency provisions** are contained in **Part XVIII of the Constitution of India**, from **Article 352 to 360**.
- **National Emergency (Article 352)**
 - This provision empowers the President to declare a state of emergency if he is satisfied that the security of the country or any part thereof is threatened by **war, external aggression, or armed rebellion**.

➤ State emergency (Article 356)

- Article 356 empowers the President to impose **President's Rule** in a state if he is satisfied that the **government in the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution**.
- This provision is invoked in cases of **breakdown of constitutional machinery in a state**, allowing the Union to take over the governance of the state.

➤ Financial emergency (Article 360)

- This provision allows the **President to declare a state of financial emergency** if he is satisfied that the financial stability or credit of India or any part thereof is threatened.

Local Cuisines of Madhya Pradesh to be Showcased

Why in News?

The **Madhya Pradesh tourism department** is organizing a **food festival** at different **tourist locations** where local delicacies will be served to guests.

- This initiative aims to attract tourists to Madhya Pradesh (MP), which is renowned for its **diverse traditional and tribal culinary delicacies**.

Key Points

- Delicacies made from mango, custard apple and traditional dishes like **dal bajha, malwa food, nawabi biryanis and parathas** will be showcased in the food festival.
 - The fest will be held on different dates and will continue throughout the year.
- **Monsoon food festival** will be hosted at Kerwa, custard apple and Biryani fest at Pachmarhi, Malwa food fest at Mandu, sea food at Sailani, desi daal bajha at Ujjain, millets and local delicacies at Gwalior, **street food at Shivpuri** and **Bundeli food at Khajraho** among others.



Note:



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Key Points

Details

Summary

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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