



Bihar Caste Survey to be Put in Public Domain: SC | Bihar | 04 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court asked the Bihar government to **put the break-up of the [caste survey data in the public domain](#)** to enable aggrieved persons to challenge the findings.

- The advocate appearing on behalf of the Bihar government have said that the data, caste wise is already available in the public domain

Key Points

- The panel of justices **declined to provide any assistance to the petitioners who have contested the caste survey** and the verdict of the Patna High Court that supports the Bihar government's decision to carry out such a task.
- The Bihar Caste Survey, 2023 revealed that **[Other Backward Classes \(OBCs\)](#)** and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) **together constitute 63 % of the state's total population.**
 - According to the data released, the **state's total population stood at a little over 13.07 crore**, out of which the **EBCs (36%) were the largest social segment** followed by the OBCs at 27.13%.
- Since the survey data is out, **the authorities have started implementing it in the interim and raised the reservation** for SCs, STs, OBCs, EBCs, and **[Economically Weaker Sections \(EWS\)](#)** to a total of 75% from the existing 50%.

Rahat Vani Center for Early Warning of Disaster | Uttar Pradesh | 04 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the state chief secretary Durga Shankar Mishra inaugurated '**Rahat Vani Center**' (RVC), a **disaster early warning center** as a part of an effort to deal with multi-hazard scenarios in the state.

Key Points

- The RVC's function would be to **prepare and predict warnings**, timely delivery of relief so that compensation to employees could be streamlined.
- The RVC will be **Setup at Lalbagh area in Lucknow**, with a team of **six personnel**.
- It will coordinate with **[India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#)**, Lucknow; **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Pune; **ISRO's National remote sensing applications**; **Indian Institute of Information Technology**, Lucknow; **[National Disaster Management Authority](#)** and

National Institute of Disaster Management to develop a unified disaster risk management stack and efficient technological environment.

- The idea behind RVC is to **alert the general mass about possible natural disasters**, within 30 minutes to one hour prior to its effect. The information will be **disseminated at community level via SMS alert, mobile notification and other ways.**
- **Currently 68 Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) and 132 Automatic Rain Gauge (ARG) stations of IMD provide weather related alerts in the state.**
 - To further strengthen the early warning system, the state government and IMD, are installing five **doppler radars** (long-range weather forecasting and surveillance), 450 AWSs and 2000 (ARG) stations.

Tulsidas's Birthplace | Uttar Pradesh | 04 Jan 2024

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to develop **Rajapur village of Chitrakoot district.**

- It is the **birthplace** of saint and poet **Goswami Tulsidas** who authored **Ramcharitmanas** in the 16th century.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh tourism and culture minister Jaiveer Singh emphasized the significance of Ramcharitmanas as well as its writer whose birthplace is visited by people in large numbers to pay their obeisance.
 - The Ramcharitramanas or Tulsi Ramayana **is a retelling of the epic Ramayana, by Tulsidas in Awadhi language.**
- **Tourism facilities would be developed**, including accommodation and various other provisions to enable digital availability of the Ramcharitmanas.
 - With an expenditure of ₹21 crore, about two-and-a-half acres area near Tulsi Memorial in Rajapur village will go through beautification.
- A park with medicinal plants, dormitory, digital library and interpretation center will be built as well.
- At present, **Uttar Pradesh tops the country in terms of domestic tourism.** Tourist facilities are being continuously developed in the state.

Rising Winter Wildfires | Uttarakhand | 04 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Uttarakhand is **witnessing a rise in winter wildfires**, a phenomenon that usually begins on November 1.

Key Points

- The [Forest Survey of India \(FSI\)](#), which is the **apex body** of the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (**MoEFCC**), has sent **1006 fire alerts to Uttarakhand** from 1st November, 2023 to 1st January 2024. This number is significantly higher than the 556 fire alerts received during the same period in 2022.
 - Wildfires have been **reported in districts**, Uttarkashi, Nainital, Bageshwar, Tehri, Dehradun, Pithoragarh, Pauri, and Almora.
- Nainital experienced heightened forest fires on the first day of the year 2024. Villagers cite the **absence of rainfall or snow in the last three months**, making the region dry, as the reason for the same.
 - The **fires can lead to increased [human-wildlife conflicts](#)**, as animals venture out to the urban landscape to escape fire.
- **Various reasons** such as **controlled burning** by forest staff, agricultural **residue burning** by farmers, **waste burning** by villagers in barren land lead to the incidence of these forest fires.

Cheetah Cubs in Kuno National Park | Madhya Pradesh | 04 Jan 2024

Why in News?

According to the **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, a **Namibian cheetah** named Aasha has given birth to three cubs in [Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park](#).

- This development is termed as **“a roaring success for [Project Cheetah](#)”**.

Key Points

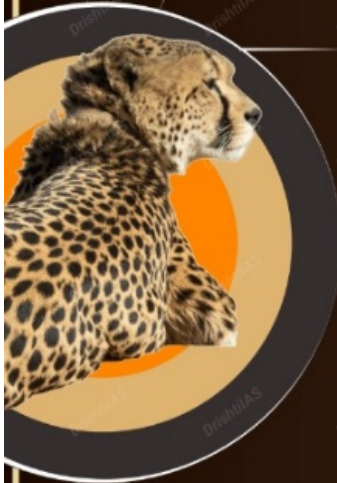
- Kuno National Park which is located in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district is home to several [cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa](#).
- Project Cheetah in India formally commenced on **September 17, 2022**, to restore **the population of cheetahs**, which were declared **extinct in the country in 1952**.
- Government of India has started many [Wildlife conservation](#) projects such as:
 - [Project Tiger](#)
 - [Project Elephant](#)
 - [Project Rhinoceros](#)
 - [Project Crocodile Conservation](#)
 - [Project Vulture](#)
 - [Project Red Panda](#)
 - [Project Gangetic River Dolphin](#)
 - [Project Snow Leopard](#)
 - [Project Great Indian Bustard](#)

Cheetah

Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

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



Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

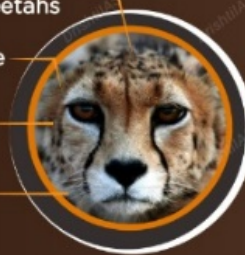
- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have 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

