



Waqf Board Claims Over a Village in Bihar | Bihar | 28 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The Bihar [Waqf Board](#) has **sent notice to villagers in Govindpur village**, demanding they **vacate the land within 30 days**.

Key Points

- After receiving these notices, all **landowners filed a petition** in the **Patna High Court**.
- The High Court stated that the **land has been in the names of the petitioners' descendants since 1910**.
 - [The Waqf \(Amendment\) Bill, 2024](#) was also introduced in the Parliament in August 2024.

Waqf Board

- A Waqf board is a **legal entity** capable of **acquiring, holding and transferring property**. It **can sue and be sued in court**.
- It **administers Waqf properties, recovers lost properties and sanctions the transfer** of immovable Waqf properties through sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease, with at least two-thirds of the board members voting in favour of the transaction.
- [The Central Waqf Council \(CWC\)](#), established in **1964**, oversees and advises state level Waqf Boards across India.
- It is said to be the **third-largest landholder in India** after the Railways and the Defence department.

Key Amendments in Waqf Act (Amendment Bill), 2024

- **Transparency:** The Bill outlines around 40 amendments to the current Waqf Act, including that Waqf Boards **will be required to undergo mandatory verification for all property claims**, ensuring transparency.
 - **Gender Diversity:** **Sections 9 and 14 of [the Waqf Act, 1995](#)** will be amended to modify **the composition and functioning** of the Waqf Board, including the addition of **women representatives**.
 - **Revised Verification Procedures:** New verification procedures will be introduced for Waqf properties to **address disputes and prevent misuse**, with district magistrates potentially overseeing these properties.
 - **Limited Power:** The amendments respond to **concerns about the Waqf Boards' unchecked powers**, which have led to extensive land being claimed as Waqf, causing disputes and misuse claims.
 - For example, in **September 2022, the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board claimed the entire Thiruchendurai village**, which is predominantly Hindu.
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Scholarship to Students of Sanskrit Schools | Uttar Pradesh | 28 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to give **scholarships to all students** studying in over 500 **Sanskrit schools** in the state.

Key Points

- The state also **removed the condition** that their **family income should be less than Rs 50,000 annually**.
- Under this new scheme, a **scholarship of Rs 50 per month** will be given to the children of **class 6 and 7, and Rs 75** to the children of **class 8**.
 - The students of **classes 9 and 10 will get Rs 100 per month** and those studying in **classes 11 and 12 will be given Rs 200**.

Another Cheetah Dies in Kuno National Park | Madhya Pradesh | 28 Aug 2024

Why in News?

According to the forest officials from Madhya Pradesh, **one more cheetah has died** in the [Kuno National Park](#). The **Preliminary cause of death** seems to be due to **drowning**.

Key Points

- This marks the **death of the eighth cheetah** out of the 20 [relocated from South Africa and Namibia to India](#).
- Most of the **cheetahs are currently in special enclosures** and are **expected to be released into the wild starting in October**, once the monsoon season ends.
 - All the **animals are reportedly under surveillance** via radio-collars and their movement is getting tracked.

Kuno National Park

- 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**.

Radio Collars

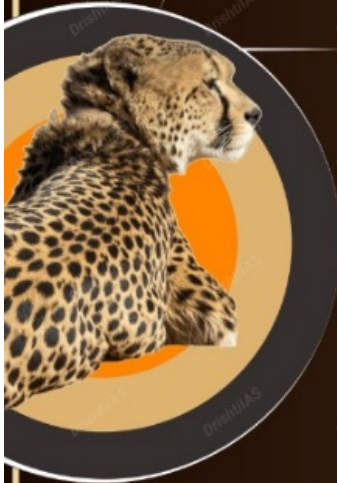
- Radio collars are used to **track and monitor animals in the wild**.
- They consist of a **collar with a small radio transmitter**.
- Collars provide **data on animal behavior, migration, and population dynamics**.
 - They can be combined with GPS or accelerometers for additional information.
- Collars are designed to be **lightweight and comfortable for animals**.

Cheetah

Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

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



Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

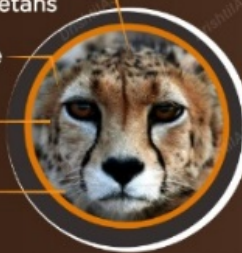
- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have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



Tiger ST-2303 in Jhabua | Haryana | 28 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Tiger ST-2303** has wandered from [Sariska Tiger Reserve](#) to the **dense forests of Jhabua** in Rewari, Haryana.

Key Points

- Jhabua forest, rich in prey like [nilgai](#) and **wild boar**, provides the tiger with an abundant food source and dense cover, making it **challenging for forest officials to capture or relocate him**.
 - The tiger's presence near villages has **raised safety concerns** and fear of potential [human-wildlife conflict](#).
 - **Forest officials are coordinating with counterparts in Rajasthan** to safely return the tiger to Sariska.
- **The Sariska Tiger Foundation** has **urged the Union Minister of Environment to ensure the tiger's return to its original habitat**, amidst concerns of possible relocation to another reserve.
 - This incident highlights the **importance of protecting [wildlife corridors](#) between Sariska and the Haryana [Aravalis](#)** for future tiger migrations.

Sariska Tiger Reserve

- Sariska Tiger Reserve is **located in [Aravali hills](#)** and forms a **part of the Alwar District of Rajasthan**.
- It was declared as a **wildlife sanctuary in 1955** and was **declared as a [tiger reserve](#) later in 1978**, making it a part of India's [Project Tiger](#).
- It **encompasses ruined temples, forts, pavilions and a palace**.
 - **Kankarwadi Fort** is located in the centre of the reserve.
 - It is said that **Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh at this fort** in the struggle for succession to the throne.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT



When encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life

Causes of HWC

- Agricultural Expansion
- Urbanization
- Infrastructure Development
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Populations Growth and Range Expansion

Impacts of HWC

- Grave injuries, Loss of life
- Damage to farms and crops
- ↑ violence against animals

WWF India during 2003-2004 developed the Sonitpur Model by which community members were connected with Assam Forest Dept and given training on how to drive elephants away from crop fields and human habitations safely.

In 2020, the SC upheld Madras HC's decision on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and closure of resorts in the area.

Data on HWC

- Tigers killed 125 humans between 2019 and 2021
- Death of 329 tigers due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes.
- Elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years
- Death of 307 elephants due to poaching, electrocution, poisoning and train accidents

Advisory for HWC Management (Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife)

- Gram Panchayats empowered to deal with problematic wild animals (WPA 1972)
- Compensation against crop damage due to HWC (PM Fasal Bima Yojna)
- Local/State depts. to adopt early warning systems and create barriers
- Paying a part of ex-gratia as interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family

State – Specific Initiatives

- **UP** - Man-animal conflict under **listed disasters** (in State Disaster Response Fund)
- **Uttarakhand** - **Bio-fencing** carried out by growing various species of plants in areas
- **Odisha** - Casting **seed balls** inside different forests to **enrich food stock for wild elephants**



Haryana Plan for Reduction in Farm Fires | Haryana | 28 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The **government of Haryana** has developed a framework to **make use of all the leftover stubble** after the harvesting of **paddy crops**.

- This initiative aims to **reduce the occurrence of farm fires**, which contribute to the hazardous **air pollution** in northern India during the onset of winter every year.

Key Points

- The agriculture department has estimated that **38.8 lakh acres of farmland across Haryana will be utilized for the cultivation of paddy** in 2024. These crops are projected to **generate 81 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of residues**.
 - The residue, or straw, that remains after farmers harvest paddy is what they end up burning to quickly clear the land for another round of sowing.
- The state government is going to introduce **Crop Residue Management scheme** which involves:

- **In-situ stubble management** involves **chopping and mixing stubble** into the soil as [compost](#). To support this, the **government will provide 90,000 machines**, including slashers, and **offer farmers Rs 1,000 per acre as an operational charge**.
- **Ex-situ management** incentivizes the **use of stubble in industries**, such as [biomass](#) for [biofuels](#) or raw material for packaging and cardboard units. This **creates an economic alternative to stubble burning**, as industries purchase crop residues from farmers.
 - The government's plan involves distributing 1,405 baler machines to districts, which will then be provided to farmers.
- This is aimed at making the **collection and storage of crop residues more convenient**. Additionally, officials are working on establishing partnerships with industries to purchase these crop residues.

Stubble Burning

- Stubble (parali) burning is a **method of removing paddy crop residues** from the field to sow wheat from the last week of September to November, coinciding with the withdrawal of [southwest monsoon](#).
- Stubble burning is a **process of setting on fire the straw stubble**, left after the harvesting of grains, like paddy, wheat, etc. It is usually required in areas that use the combined harvesting method which leaves crop residue behind.
- It is a **common practice in October and November across North West India**, but primarily in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Panchayats in Jharkhand Declared TB Free | Jharkhand | 28 Aug 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, a total of **38 panchayats across Jharkhand** have been **declared Tuberculosis (TB)-free** under the [National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme \(NTEP\)](#).

Key Points

- The information was declared by the **State Tuberculosis Cell Jharkhand and the Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH)**.
- The NTEP in Jharkhand aims to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) by the year 2025 through diverse initiatives, including the [Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan](#) and the [adult BCG vaccination program](#).

Tuberculosis

- **About:**
 - Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease **caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.
 - It **commonly affects the lungs**, but can also affect other parts of the body.
 - It is a **treatable and curable disease**.
- **Transmission:**
 - TB is **spread from person to person through the air**. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Common symptoms of active lung TB are cough with sputum and blood at times, chest

pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.

▪ **Vaccine:**

- **Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG)** is a vaccine for TB disease.

Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

▪ **About:**

- It's an initiative of **the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)** to accelerate the country's progress towards **TB elimination by 2025**.

▪ **Objectives:**

- Provide additional patient support to improve treatment outcomes of TB patients
- Augment community involvement in meeting India's commitment to end TB by 2025.
- Leverage [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\)](#) activities.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/28-08-2024/print>

