



# Irregularities in Hasdeo Mining Clearance | Chhattisgarh | 07 Nov 2024

## Why in News?

The [Chhattisgarh State Scheduled Tribe Commission \(CSSTC\)](#) has identified irregularities in the **environmental clearance process** for the [Parsa coal mine](#) located in Surguja, Chhattisgarh.

- CSSTC has recommended the **revocation of forest clearance** for this [mining project](#), situated in **Hasdeo, a biodiversity-rich region**.

## Key Points

- **About CSSTC:**
  - 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, BisonHorn Maria, Muria, Halbaa, birhors tribes, Bhatra, and Dhurvaa.
  - The **Chief Minister** of Chhattisgarh is the **Chairman** of the Council, and the Minister of Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department is a member.
- **Findings of the CSSTC:**
  - **Irregularities in Environmental Clearance:** The Commission discovered that the **environmental clearance** for the Parsa coal mine, mandated to be obtained only with gram sabha consent, was **secured using forged documents**.
  - **Alleged Misuse of District Administration:** The Commission's letter stated that the mining company allegedly manipulated district officers and employees to obtain environmental clearance and permission for forest land diversion for the coal mine.
    - The Commission highlighted that such actions infringe on the rights of gram sabhas, recognised as autonomous entities under the [Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution](#).
  - **Complaint from Tribal Villages:** The Commission's **investigation was prompted by a complaint in 2021** from 41 residents of Salhi, Hariharpur, and Fatepur villages, alleging that forged gram sabha documents had been used for the project.
- **Demand for Cancellation and Legal Action:**
  - Following the CSSTC report, the [Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan \(CBA\)](#), which leads **anti-mining protests in Hasdeo**, called for the cancellation of the mine's forest and environmental clearances.

## 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**.



## New Industrial Policy 2024-30 | Chhattisgarh | 07 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government approved '**New Industrial Policy 2024-30: Incentives for Industries**' that will seek to promote sectors ranging from [food processing](#) to IT and IT-enabled services.

### Key Points

- **New Industrial Policy Provisions:**
  - The new industrial policy introduces several **incentives to promote investment**, such as, [Interest subsidy](#), [Capital cost subsidy](#), Stamp duty and Electricity duty exemption, [Value-added tax \(VAT\)](#) reimbursement.
  - **Additional Subsidies and Exemptions** are:
    - Mandi duty exemption
    - Employment subsidies for employing persons with disabilities (Divyang)
    - Subsidies for environmental projects
    - Transport subsidies
    - Reimbursement of net [State Goods and Services Tax \(SGST\)](#)
  - The policy places strong emphasis on generating employment opportunities within the state.
- **Investment Promotion in Nava Raipur (Atal Nagar):**
  - **Allocation of land at concessional rates for IT, healthcare, and educational institutions** were announced as **special provisions for Strategic Development** to

boost investment and job creation in Nava Raipur (Atal Nagar).

- **Revival of the Mukhyamantri Tirth Darshan Yojana:**
  - The [Mukhyamantri Tirth Darshan Yojana](#), which was suspended in 2019, will be reintroduced. The scheme provides free travel to religious sites outside the state for eligible groups:
    - Senior citizens aged 60 and above
    - Differently-abled individuals
    - Widows and abandoned women
- **Implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:**
  - The Cabinet has decided to implement [the NEP 2020](#) in the state, aiming to provide students with a **modern, flexible, and high-quality education system**.
  - Additional resources will be allocated to **enhance research and innovation**, with a focus on building a more skilled workforce to meet industry needs.

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## MP-Rajasthan Joint Panel on Cheetah Conservation | Madhya Pradesh | 07 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Following recent incidents of [cheetahs](#) from Madhya Pradesh straying into Rajasthan, a **joint corridor management committee** has been established by both states to support cheetah conservation.

### Key Points

- **About the Joint Corridor Management Committee:**
  - The committee will assess suitable areas for the future relocation of cheetahs from **Madhya Pradesh's** [Kuno National Park \(KNP\)](#) and [Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary](#).
    - Recommendations will include habitat improvements, particularly for the pre-augmentation base.
  - The committee will evaluate options for joint tourist routes, potentially covering border areas like the [National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary](#), KNP, and [Ranthambore National Park](#).
- **Cheetah Reintroduction Project in KNP:**
  - As part of the reintroduction project, **eight cheetahs from Namibia were brought to KNP** in September 2022, followed by twelve cheetahs from South Africa in February 2023.
    - The initiative **aims to restore the cheetah population**, which was declared extinct in India in 1952.
  - However, since its inception, the **project has faced numerous challenges**, including the deaths of many adult cheetahs and the mortalities of cubs reported over the past two years.
    - As of now, **KNP is home to 24 cheetahs**, including cubs.

### Kuno National Park (KNP)

- KNP which is **located in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district** is home to several cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa.
- It was initially established as a **wildlife sanctuary in 1981** and later **designated as a national park in 2018**.



# Cheetah

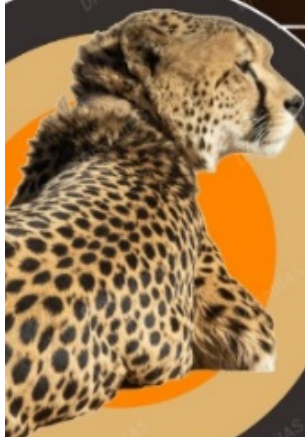
**Common Name** - Cheetah

**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.

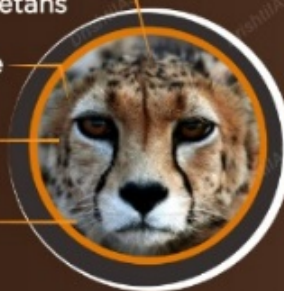


Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

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



Drishti IAS

Dr  
Vision

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## Missing Tigers in Ranthambore National Park | Rajasthan | 07 Nov 2024

### 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.



# 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)



## Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project | Uttarakhand | 07 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Government of India** and the [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#) signed a **USD 200 million loan** to **enhance urban services in Uttarakhand**, including water supply, sanitation, and urban mobility.

- The [European Investment Bank](#) is co-financing the project with a **USD 191 million parallel investment** to further support [urban infrastructure](#) enhancements.

### Key Points

### ▪ Objectives of the Project:

- The project aligns with India's urban development agenda and Uttarakhand's goals to improve urban services, aiming for greater livability and sustainability in cities.
- It will **focus on building climate- and disaster-resilient urban infrastructure** to safeguard Uttarakhand's population from risks like [floods and landslides](#).

### ▪ Initiatives Included under the Project:

#### ◦ Key Upgrades in Haldwani- Economic Hub of Uttarakhand:

- In Haldwani, **climate-resilient roads** will be developed, along with an intelligent traffic management system, CNG buses, and electric bus pilots.
- The project includes **constructing stormwater and roadside drains** and implementing an **early warning system** for improved flood resilience.
- A **green-certified administrative complex** and bus terminal will enhance public service delivery.

#### ◦ Water Supply and Sanitation Improvements in Four Cities:

- In Champawat, Kichha, Kotdwar, and Vikasnagar, the project aims for 100% water service coverage, installing climate-resilient pipelines, tubewells, new reservoirs, and a water treatment plant.

- Sanitation coverage will be increased through sewage treatment facilities.

#### ◦ Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Opportunities:

- The project will provide skill training for women such as bus driving, ticketing, and managing electric charging stations.
- The project will train women, including those from vulnerable households, in operating and managing water and sanitation services.

## Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ADB is a multilateral development bank **established in 1966** with a mission to **foster economic growth and cooperation** in the **Asia-Pacific Region**.
- It is **headquartered in Manila, Philippines**, and has **69 members**.
- It is **governed by a board of governors** and funded through member contributions, retained earnings from lending, and loan repayments.

## European Investment Bank (EIB)

- It was **established in 1958** and is the **lending arm of the European Union**.
- It is one of the biggest multilateral financial institutions in the world and one of the **largest providers of climate finance**.
- Since **1993, EIB has been supporting India's evolving green ambitions** by investing in sustainable urban transport and renewable energy.