



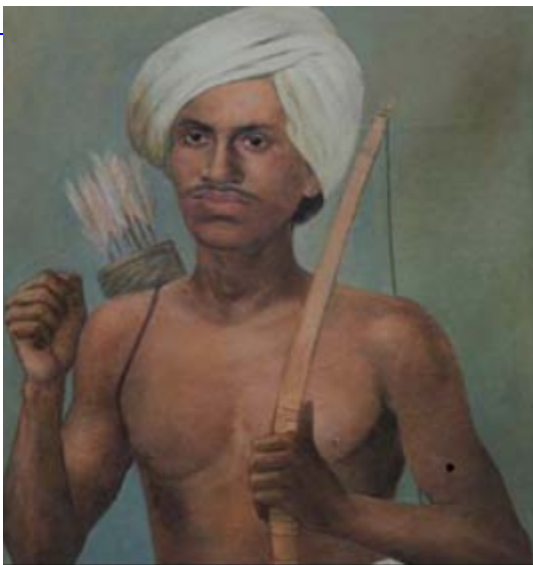
## Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2024 | Jharkhand | 15 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, The Prime Minister paid tributes to [Bhagwan Birsa Munda](#) on his **birth anniversary**, commemorated as [Janjatiya Gaurav Divas \(15th November\)](#).

### Key Points

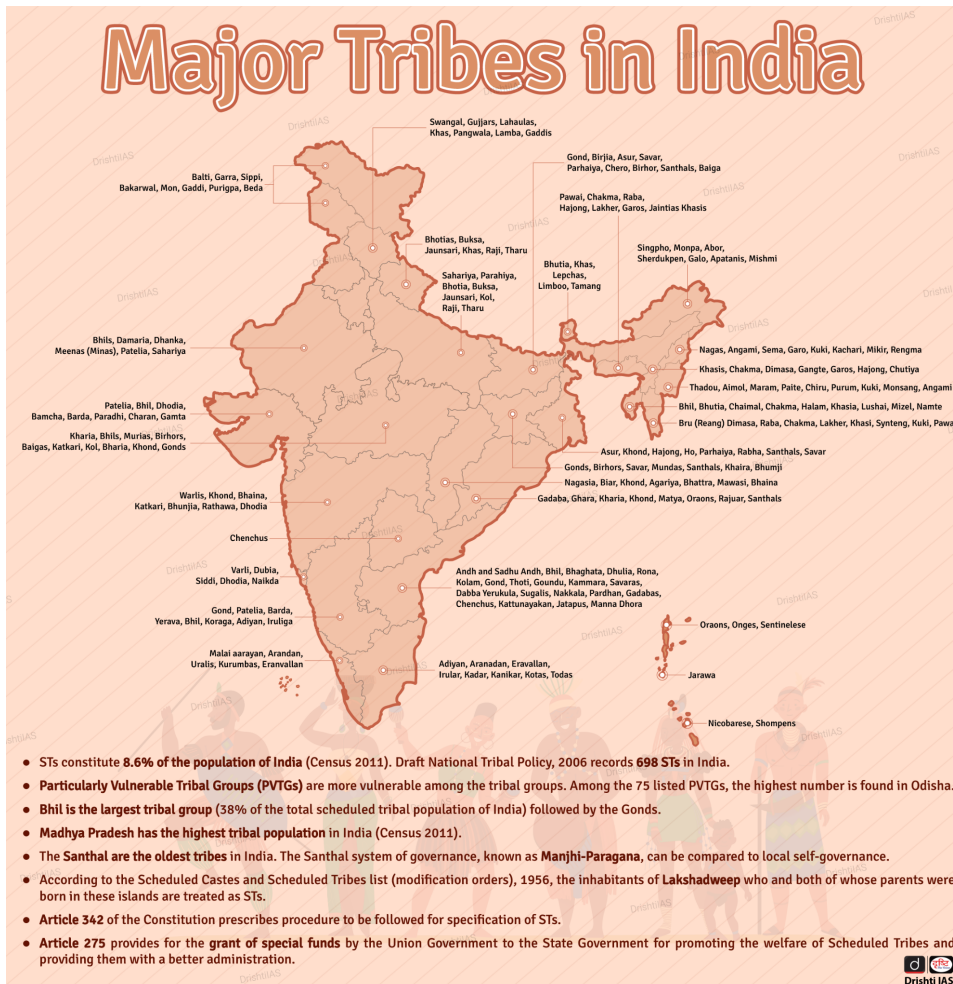
- **About Janjatiya Gaurav Divas:**
  - It is **celebrated every year to recognize the efforts of the tribals in the preservation of cultural heritage** and promotion of Indian values of national pride, valour, and hospitality.
  - **Tribals held several tribal movements** across different regions of India against the British colonial rule. These tribal communities include [Tamars](#), [Santhals](#), [Khasis](#), [Bhils](#), [Mizos](#), and Kols to name a few.
- **Birsa Munda:**



- Birsa Munda born on **15<sup>th</sup> November 1875** was a member of the [Munda Tribe of the Chhota Nagpur Plateau](#).
- He was an **Indian freedom fighter, religious leader**, and folk hero.
- He **spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement during British rule in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century** across the tribal belt of modern-day Jharkhand and Bihar.
  - Birsa was a **close observer of the Sardari Larai movement** in the region in the 1880s, which sought to restore tribal rights through nonviolent means such as petitioning the British government. These demands, however, were ignored by the harsh colonial authority.
- The tribals were **quickly demoted from landowners to labourers** under the zamindari system, which resulted in Birsa taking up the cause of the Adivasis.
- **Birsa Munda went on to form Birsait**, a new religion.
  - The **religion preached the belief in a single God** and urged people to return to their

old religious convictions. People began to refer to him as a cost-effective religious healer, a miracle worker, and a preacher.

- People from Oraon and Munda became convinced Birsaites, and many began calling him '**Dharti Abba, meaning Father of the Earth.**' He brought a fresh perspective to the religious realm.
- Birsa Munda **led the rebellion that came to be known as Ulgulan (revolt) or the Munda rebellion** against the British government-imposed feudal state system.
- He awakened the masses and sowed the seeds of revolt in them against the landlords as well as the Britishers.
- His **struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908** which restricted the passing of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.



## Project Cheetah | Madhya Pradesh | 15 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) have assessed [Project Cheetah](#) in [Kuno National Park](#), Madhya Pradesh, and claim it has been a successful initiative by the central government.

- This has inspired the government to **accelerate plans to implement a similar project** in the [Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary \(GSWS\)](#).

## Key Points

### ▪ Project Cheetah:

- It is a **central government initiative aimed at reintroducing cheetahs**, extinct from India, back into the country to contribute to [global cheetah conservation](#).
  - The **first batch** of cheetahs arrived in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, in **2022 from Namibia**, followed by a **second batch from South Africa in 2023**.

### ▪ Key Outcomes:

- The **mortality rate** among the introduced cheetahs has been **lower than the expected 50%** threshold within the first year.
- **Out of the 20** imported cheetahs, **12 have survived**, indicating a **survival rate of around 60%**, exceeding initial expectations.
- **17 cubs have been born** to the cheetahs introduced in Kuno, with **12 currently surviving**.

### ▪ Wildlife Institute of India:

- It is an autonomous institution under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- It was established in **1982**.
- It is based in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.

## Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary



### ▪ Location:

- **Notified in 1974**, encompassing the districts of **Mandsaur and Neemuch** in western Madhya Pradesh, bordering Rajasthan.
- The [Chambal River](#) bifurcates the sanctuary into two nearly equal parts, with the Gandhi Sagar Dam situated within the sanctuary.

### ▪ Ecosystem:

- Its ecosystem is characterised by its **rocky terrain** and **shallow topsoil**, which supports a [savanna ecosystem](#).
- This comprises **open grasslands** interspersed with **dry deciduous trees** and shrubs. Additionally, the riverine valleys within the sanctuary are evergreen.

### ▪ Ideal Habitat for Cheetahs:

- The sanctuary's resemblance to the **Maasai Mara**, a renowned national reserve in **Kenya**

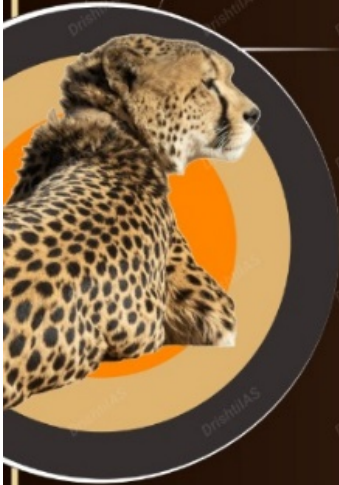
known for its savanna wilderness and abundant wildlife, highlights its suitability for cheetahs.

# 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



# Sukhna Lake Declared Eco-Sensitive Zone | Haryana | 15 Nov 2024

## Why in News?

Recently, [The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change](#), declared an area from 1 km to 2.035 km around the [Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary](#) as an [Eco-Sensitive Zone \(ESZ\)](#) in **Panchkula district, Haryana** for the purpose of **preventing, controlling and abating environment pollution**.

## Key Points

- The **total area of the ESZ** covers a total of **24.60 sq km**.
- **Prohibited and Regulated Activities in ESZ:**
  - Activities are regulated under [the Environment \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#).
  - **Prohibited Activities:**
    - Commercial [mining, stone quarrying](#), crushing units, and new sawmills.
    - Establishing industries causing [pollution](#) (water, air, soil, noise).
    - Use or **production of hazardous substances** and commercial use of **firewood**.
    - **Discharge of untreated effluents** into natural water bodies or land areas.
- **About Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary:**
  - The Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over **25.98 square km** (about 6420 acres), is **under the administrative control of the Union territory of Chandigarh** and shares its **boundaries with Haryana and Punjab**.
  - The sanctuary is located in the [Shivalik foothills](#), which are considered ecologically sensitive and geologically unstable.
  - It is home to at least **seven Schedule 1 animal species of the [Wildlife Act, 1972](#)**, including [leopard](#), [Indian pangolin](#), [sambar](#), [golden jackal](#), [king cobra](#), [python](#), and [monitor lizard](#).
    - The **Schedule 1** species are considered endangered and in need of immediate protection.
  - Besides, there are **Schedule 2** animal species like reptiles, butterflies, trees, shrubs, climbers, herbs, and 250 bird species that inhabit the sanctuary.
    - **In 2020**, the Punjab and Haryana High Court **declared Sukhna Lake a "living entity"** and directed the Environment Ministry to establish at least a 1 km ESZ from the sanctuary's boundary in Punjab and Haryana.



### Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

- The [National Wildlife Action Plan \(2002-2016\)](#) of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** stipulated that state governments should declare land falling **within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries** as eco-fragile zones or **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** under the [Environmental \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#).
- While the **10-km rule is implemented as a general principle**, the extent of its application can vary. **Areas beyond 10 km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs**, if they hold larger ecologically important **“sensitive corridors”**.

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## 150th Birth Anniversary of Birsa Munda | Bihar | 15 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister **launched a commemorative stamp and coin** to mark the **150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary** of tribal icon and freedom fighter [Birsa Munda](#) in Bihar’s Jamui district.

### Key Points

- **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebration:**
  - The Centre declared **November 15**, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, as **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas** in **2021**.
  - The 2024 event also initiates year-long celebrations for the **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Birsa Munda's** birth.
- **Various Projects and Initiatives:**
  - The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for **various tribal welfare projects** totaling over Rs 6,640 crore.
  - The PM also inaugurated **two tribal freedom fighter museums** and **tribal research institutes**.
  - Foundation stones were laid for 1.16 lakh homes under the [Dharti Aaba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Yojana](#) and 25,000 homes under the [Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan \(PM-JANMAN\) scheme](#) for [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#).
  - Approximately **50 mobile medical units** were launched to improve healthcare in tribal regions.
  - 10 [Eklavya Model Residential Schools \(EMRSs\)](#) for tribal students, including hostels across the country were inaugurated.
  - The government has enhanced tribal education through EMRSs, scholarships, and other educational opportunities.
- **Exhibition Honoring Tribal Legacy:**
  - The PM engaged with beneficiaries of welfare schemes and visited an **exhibition honoring the legacy of Birsa Munda and other tribal freedom fighters**.
  - The **exhibition includes artwork from EMRS students and literature on the life and struggles of Birsa Munda**, as well as displays highlighting tribal history and achievements.

## Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

- Originally named the **PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)**, is an umbrella scheme to implement existing schemes across 63,000 Scheduled Tribe-majority villages.
  - Dharti Aaba refers to **Birsa Munda, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century tribal leader and anti-colonial icon from Jharkhand**.
- The initiative aims to **address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood** through 25 interventions implemented by various 17 Ministries and Departments of the Government of India.

## Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

- PM-JANMAN was launched on **15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**, to improve the socio-economic welfare of [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#).
- It is **implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTGs communities.
  - It encompasses various sectors, including safe housing under the [PM-Awas Scheme](#), access to **clean drinking water**, improved **healthcare, education, nutrition**, road and telecommunications connectivity, as well as opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
- The plan also includes the establishment of [Van Dhan Vikas Kendras](#) for **trading in forest produce**, off-grid solar power systems for 1 lakh households, and solar street lights.
- The scheme is expected to **enhance the quality of life and well-being of the PVTGs**, by addressing their multiple and intersecting forms of **discrimination and exclusion**, and by recognizing and valuing their unique and valuable contribution to national and global development.

# Sahakar Kisan Kalyan Yojana | Rajasthan | 15 Nov 2024

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

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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/15-11-2024/print>

