

### KANGER VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Around 200 bird species were documented during the Kanger Valley Bird Survey in state's first-ever systematic inter-state bird survey.



#### About:

- It is located in the state of **Chhattisgarh**. The name of Kanger Ghati National Park is derived from the **Kangar river**, which flows in its length.
- Kanger Valley got the **status of a national park in the year 1982**.
- Kanger Valley National Park is a **typical mixed humid deciduous type of forest**, in which the Sal, Saugan, teak and bamboo trees are available in abundance.
- The most popular species in this area is **Bastar Maina** (The state bird of Chattisgarh). Bastar Maina, is a type of Hill maina (*gruncula Dhariosoa*), which is capable of emulating the human voices.
- **This National Park is home to three exceptional caves** – famous for their amazing geological structures of **Kutumbar, Kailash and Dandak**- Stellagmites and Stalactites. National Park is known for the presence of **underground limestone caves with dripstone and flowstone**.
- **Tirathgarh Waterfall** is located in Kanger Valley National Park.

### STARTUPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION (SIPP) SCHEME.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently announced that IP facilitator charges have increased by almost 50% for patent filing under the SIPP scheme.



#### About:

- For patents, the fee for application and filing has been increased to INR 15K from INR 10K. For trademarks and designs, the fee has been increased to INR 3K from INR 2K.

- SIPP scheme launched by Government of India, facilitates the start-ups to file applications for patents, designs and trademarks through registered facilitators in appropriate IP offices by paying only the statutory fees.
- **Who can apply?** Any Start-Up certified by the **Start-up Certification Board** as having an innovative business.
  - For this purpose, Start-up means an entity, incorporated or registered in India **not prior to seven years** (in the case of Startups in the Biotechnology sector, the period shall be up to ten years), with **annual turnover not exceeding INR 25 crores** in any preceding financial year, working towards innovation, development, deployment or commercialization of new products, processes or services driven by technology or intellectual property.
  - provided that **such entity is not formed by splitting up, or reconstruction, of a business already in existence.**
  - provided also that an **entity shall cease to be a Start-up if its turnover for the previous financial years has exceeded INR 25 crore** or it has completed 7 years from the date of incorporation/registration.
  - provided further that a Start-up **shall be eligible for availing the benefits of this scheme only after it has obtained certification** from the Start-up Certification Board.
- **Appointment of Facilitators:** For effective implementation of the scheme, facilitators shall be empanelled by the Controller General of Patent, Trademark and Design (CGPDTM). The CGPDTM shall regulate conduct and functions of empanelled facilitators from time to time.

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## COS MAY GET ALL APPROVALS WITH ONLY PAN ON NEW PORTAL

### **In News:**

- From next year businesses may just need to fill in their PAN (Permanent Account Number) details on the “national single window system” (NSWS) portal to get approvals for new projects, buying land, licence renewals and subsequently to file all returns.

### **About National Single Window System:**

- The National Single Window System (NSWS) is a digital platform to guide a person in identifying and applying for approvals according to his/her business requirements.
- The aim of the NSWS is to serve as a digital platform that acts as a guide for investors to identify and to apply for approvals as per their business requirements.
- **Objectives –**
  - To establish a single-window mechanism by integrating the services provided by various Central Ministries, Departments, and State Governments;
  - To provide a one-stop-shop for procuring pre-establishment and pre-operation approvals and permits required to establish a business in India;
  - To provide efficient, convenient, transparent, and integrated electronic service to investors, industries, and businesses;
  - To provide a uniform and seamless experience to the business user.
- **Working –**
  - The NSWS brings together several State Governments, Central Ministries, and Departments onto one platform.
  - It provides a one-stop solution to investors to apply for approvals and registrations required during the pre-establishment and pre-operation stages of setting up a business in India.
  - Filling the PAN (Permanent Account Details) number will auto populate the required forms and only current figures will need to be entered.
- **Implemented by –**
  - **Invest India**, under the guidance of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), manages the NSWS.

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## [TECHNOTEX 2023](#)

India's premier show on Technical Textiles - 'Technotex 2023'  
will be held in Mumbai from 22nd to 24th February 2023.

About:



- The event is being organized by the **Ministry of Textiles** in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce Industry, under **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**.
- Technotex 2023 offers a good opportunity for Startup Entrepreneurs who represent the fastest-growing category worldwide.
- The Government is making all efforts to promote Technical Textiles and has undertaken various initiatives in this direction, such as creation of **PLI scheme, HSN Codes, National Technical Textiles Mission**.

## What are Technical Textiles?

- Technical textiles are defined as **textile materials and products used primarily for their technical performance** and functional properties rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics.
- As a component or part of another product, they are used to enhance the strength, performance or other functional properties of that product.
- These products are broadly classified into **12 different categories-** Agrotech, Oekotech, Buildtech, Meditech, Geotech, Clothtech, Mobiltech, Hometech, Sportstech, Indutech, Protech, Packtech.
- Technical textile **accounts for approximately 13% of India's total textile and apparel market and contributes to India's GDP at 0.7%.**

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## INTERNATIONAL CHEETAH DAY

**International Cheetah Day and Wildlife Conservation Day celebrated at National Zoological Park recently.**



### About:

- December 4 is marked as International Cheetah Day every year. The day is dedicated to encouraging people worldwide to help this animal win the race against extinction.

- **American zoologist Dr Laurie Marker** is credited with creating International Cheetah Day. Dr Marker founded the **Cheetah Conservation Fund in 1991** and she designated December 4 as International Cheetah Day in 2010.

## Cheetah

- It is one of the oldest of the big cat species, with ancestors that can be traced back more than five million years to the **Miocene era**.
- **Namibia has the world's largest population of cheetahs.**
- The **fastest land animal in the world**, a cheetah can reach **112km/hin** just three seconds.
- In 1952, the **Indian government officially declared the Cheetah extinct** in the country. The cheetah is the **only large carnivore to have gone extinct in India**, primarily due to hunting and habitat loss.
- **All cheetah subspecies are listed as vulnerable by the IUCN, except the Northwest African and Asiatic cheetah** which are **critically endangered at present**.

## Difference between Cheetah and Leopard

- **Cheetahs are commonly misidentified as leopards, and vice versa**, since both big cats have prominent yet similar dark spots on their bodies.
- **Cheetahs boast a pair of dark-coloured curved lines** running between their nose and cheeks, while leopards don't have any unique face markings.
- **The spots on their bodies also differ:** the cheetah's fur is covered with round or oval-shaped spots, whereas the leopard has distinctive spots on its fur called 'rosettes', resembling the shape of a rose.
- **A cheetah is slender, lighter and taller than a leopard**, and it also has semi-retractable claws, allowing for swift movements when chasing prey at high speeds. Leopards, on the other hand, are shorter but bulky and powerful big cats with retractable claws, making them excellent tree climbers.
- **Vocally, cheetahs chirp almost like a bird, while leopards roar like other big cats.**

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[NATIONAL BAMBOO MISSION \(NBM\)](#)

The Union Agriculture Minister had approved the formation of an Advisory Group for streamlining the development of the Bamboo sector.



#### About:

- Restructured National Bamboo Mission approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 25-04-2018. It mainly focuses on the development of a **complete value chain of the Bamboo sector** to link

growers with consumers

- The Restructured National Bamboo Mission is a **centrally sponsored scheme (CSS)**.
- **Aim:**
  - The Mission envisages promoting holistic growth of bamboo sector by adopting an area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.
  - Under the Mission, steps have been taken to increase the availability of quality planting material by supporting the setting up of new nurseries and strengthening of existing ones.
- **Objectives:**
  - To **increase the area under bamboo plantation in non forest Government and private lands** to supplement farm income.
  - To **improve post-harvest management** through establishment of innovative primary processing units near the source of production.
  - To **promote product development** keeping in view market demand, by assisting R&D, entrepreneurship etc.

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## STUBBLE BURNING COUNT DOWN 31.5% FROM LAST YEAR

#### In News:

- Stubble burning in Delhi's neighbouring states has dropped by 31.5% this harvest season compared with last year, according to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

- The Commission was set up for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas for better co-ordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index.

## **In Focus: Stubble Burning**

### **Why Farmers opt for Stubble Burning?**

- **Rice and wheat** straws left in the field, after combine harvesting, are generally burnt by the farmers to facilitate seed bed preparation and seeding.
- Farmers find this method as quick and cheap compared to other practices for crop residue management.
- Since input costs of farming is going up day by day, farmers are not willing to further invest in equipments useful for crop residue management.
- Happy Seeder (a tractor-operated machine for in-situ management of paddy stubble) continues to be an expensive method for majority of farmers.

## **Impact of Agriculture Fire**

- **Environmental Pollution**
  - Agriculture fires are a major contributor to air pollution in north India in October-November.
  - Pollutants from these fires spread across the region, triggering smog and extreme air quality situations.
  - An increase in the concentration of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 and PM 10 in the atmosphere is observed in these months.
- **Harmful to the health of soil**
  - Burning of crop residues removes huge amount of nutrient and organic carbon content from the soil.

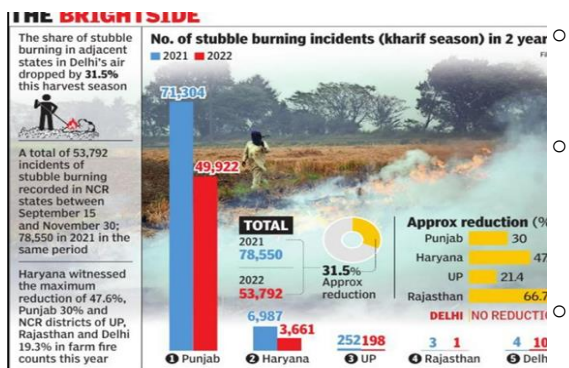
## **Steps Taken by the government to tackle this issue**

- **Taken by Centre**

- A Central Sector Scheme on ‘Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi was approved.
- Farmers are being provided 50 percent of the cost of machinery/equipment as financial assistance for the purchase of such machinery.
- The central government has released Rs 3,062 crore to the governments of Punjab, Delhi and states in NCR during the five-year period from 2018 to 2023 towards effective management of stubble.
- Profit from the left-over biomass is shared with farmers.
- **Pusa Decomposer by Indian Agricultural research Institute (IARI)**
  - The Pusa decomposer is a bio-enzyme developed by IARI to decompose crop residue.
  - It decomposes stubble within 20-25 days after spraying and turn it into manure, improving the soil quality.
- **Taken by State Governments and Other agencies**
  - States governments and other agencies are sensitising farmers on healthier practices.
  - In July 2022, the Punjab government had proposed to provide a cash incentive of Rs 2,500 per acre to farmers for not burning stubble.
  - It also decided to provide non-fiscal incentives to these industries in terms of availability of Panchayat land for storage of paddy straw with lease agreement upto 33 years.

## Key highlights

- **Statistics**



- Haryana saw the maximum reduction at 47.6%, followed by Punjab at 30%.
- The biggest drop in Haryana was reported from Fatehabad district while in Punjab, the sharpest dip was in Ludhiana.
- The NCR districts of UP, Rajasthan and Delhi recorded a 19.3% drop in farm fires.



- **Reasons behind the positive result this year**

- Optimum use of crop residue management machines for in-situ management of stubble;
  - A significant increase in ex-situ application of stubble, like using it for co-firing in thermal power plants and industrial boilers or generation bio-ethanol production.
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## INTEGRATING TRIBAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS: KEY TO MAKE INDIA A 'KNOWLEDGE SUPERPOWER'

### **Context:**

- Recently, President Droupadi Murmu addressed a National Workshop on ‘**Janjatiya Anusandhan – Asmita, Astitva evam Vikas**’, held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- While addressing the workshop, she said that the knowledge of tribal communities needs to be included in the Indian Knowledge System (IKS).
- This knowledge of tribal communities will play an important role in making India a “knowledge superpower”.

### **Steps taken by the govt to preserve/promote tribal knowledge system**

- **Tribal Research Institutes (TRI)** have been set up across the country with an objective to act as a think tank and become repository of information on tribal communities.
  - Under the scheme “**Support to TRIs**”, ministry provides funds to TRIs for undertaking studies and documentation on life and culture of tribal communities including tribes of North East.
  - **Documentation** for research of Indigenous practices by tribal healers, medicinal plants, Adivasi Languages, etc.
- **Digital repository** (<https://repository.tribal.gov.in/>) has been developed by Ministry of Tribal Affairs to preserve and promote rich tribal cultural heritage.
- **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** is a pioneering initiative of India to protect Indian traditional medicinal knowledge and prevent its misappropriation at International Patent Offices.

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is now pushing for the “re-documentation” of the cultures and social practices of tribal societies in India.
- The existing scholarly literature is heavily reliant on the body of knowledge created by colonising governments.

## Significance

- **Contemporary knowledge of nature**
  - Due to continued closeness to forests, tribal knowledge system possesses rich knowledge of nature.
  - This knowledge can contribute to environmental assessments and sustainable ecosystem management.
    - For example, the sustainable production and consumption of indigenous and traditional food has invaluable benefits for natural resources and ecosystems.
    - It contributes to a sustainable and healthier diet, and helps mitigate climate change.
    - They know which plants to use to build houses, to make tools and weapons, for fuel, for lashing and tying, for basketry, for making temporary hammocks, for dyes, poisons, body paints, perfumes, hallucinogenic drugs and more
- **Contribution to Modern Medicine**
  - From centuries Indigenous people have been using several plants for combating disease which have found wide acceptance in traditional medicinal use.
    - Eg., Plants like Bauhinia purpurea, Jatropha curcus, etc. are conserved as used in muscular pain, cure of fever, headache, and body swelling.
- **Conservational aspect**
  - The ethnic people of India have played a vital role in preserving bio-diversity of several virgin forests and have conserved several flora and fauna in sacred groves of tribals.
  - Tribals are **experts in animal behavior**.
- **Disaster reduction**
  - Traditional knowledge had helped to save ancient tribes on India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands from the worst of the tsunami in 2004.

- Their folklore talks of huge shaking of ground followed by high wall of water.
- When the earthquakes struck, the Onges moved to higher ground deep inside their forest and escaped the fury of the waves.
- **Promotion of integrated learning**
  - Tribal knowledge systems are stored in songs, stories, drama, folklores etc. Hence, it promotes integrated learning for the community.
  - Due to their mode, these knowledge systems are non-exclusionary and marked by equity.
- **Remarkable Sex ratio**
  - They have the remarkable sex ratio and almost nil rape cases in there society.

### **Indian Knowledge System (IKS)**

- The IKS is an innovative cell under the Ministry of Education at All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. It was established in Oct. 2020.
  - It is established to promote interdisciplinary research on all aspects of IKS, preserve and disseminate IKS for further research and societal applications.
  - It will actively engage in spreading the rich heritage of our country and traditional knowledge in different field.
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