



Date - 23 March 2022

Bihar Diwas

- Bihar is celebrating its 110th foundation day on 22nd March, 2022. This foundation day is known as “Bihar Diwas”.

Bihar Diwas

- This day is celebrated every year on 22nd March. It marks the formation of the state of Bihar.
- On this day, Bihar was carved out of Bengal by the British Government in 1912.

Bihar

- Bihar, which is a state in eastern India, is the third largest state in India by population.
- It is the 12th largest state by area. Its area is 94,163 square kilometers.
- It is bounded by Uttar Pradesh in the west, Nepal in the north, northern part of West Bengal in the east and Jharkhand in the south.
- Its three main cultural regions include Mithila, Magadha and Bhojpur. The official languages of the state are Hindi and Urdu.

History of Bihar

- The region of Bihar in ancient India was known as a center of power, learning and culture.
- The first empire of India, which is called “Maurya Empire”, originated from Magadha.

Training to women farmers

- Women farmers are being trained under the schemes of ‘Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare’ and ‘Ministry of Rural Development’ to acquaint women with the latest technologies in agriculture and allied sectors.
- Under the guidelines of various beneficiary-oriented schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), at least 30% of the agriculture and allied schemes ‘Women Farmers’ are procured by the States and other implementing agencies. Provision has been made to leave.

The following schemes have specific components for the welfare of women farmers:

- National Food Security Mission,
- National Mission on Oilseeds and Palm Oil,
- National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture,
- Sub-Mission for Seeds and Planting Materials,
- Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization and
- Integrated Horticulture Development Mission.

Women Farmers Empowerment Project:

- A specific scheme named ‘Mahila Kisan SashaktikaranPariyojana (MKSP)’ has been launched by the Rural Development Department.
- This scheme is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- This scheme is in force since 2011.

Objective:

- Empowering women by making systematic investments to increase their participation and productivity, while also creating sustainable livelihoods for rural women.

Implementation:

- The program is implemented in project mode through State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) as project implementing agencies.

Need to promote women farmer:

- Women are often denied their rights as agricultural laborers and farmers in India's agricultural assistance system.
- However, rural women are the most productive workforce in the economy of most developing countries, including India, and more than 80% of rural women are engaged in agricultural activities for their livelihood.
- About 20 percent of the livelihood is done by women due to agriculture, women being widowed, abandoned by men or 'male emigration'.
- Most of the women headed households are not able to access extension services, farmer support institutions and production assets like seeds, water, loans, subsidies etc.
- As agricultural workers, women are paid less wages than men.

Cheetah Rehabilitation Action Plan in India

- An action plan is being started by the Central Government to rehabilitate the 'Cheetah', which has become extinct in India after independence.
- In this regard, 'Cheetah Rehabilitation Action Plan in India' has been launched by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under which 50 big cats will be brought to the country in the next five years.
- This action plan was launched in the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

What is 'rehabilitation' and the need to bring cheetahs back to the country?

- 'Reintroduction' of a species means the release of a species into an area where it is capable of surviving.
- 'Rehabilitation of large carnivore species' has been recognized as a strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystems.
- Cheetah, the only large carnivore, has been extinct mainly in India since historical times due to excessive hunting.
- India, at present, is financially able to consider restoring its lost natural heritage for ethical and ecological reasons.

Important facts:

- Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus* – *Acinonyx jubatus*), is one of the oldest of the large cat species. Its ancestors can be traced back to the 'Miocene era', five million years ago.
- Cheetah is also the fastest terrestrial mammal in the world.
- It is listed as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red Listed Species.
- The 'last spotted cat' left in the country died in 1947 in Chhattisgarh. Later, the cheetah was declared extinct in India in the year 1952.
- The Asiatic cheetah is classified as a "critically endangered" species by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to be the only species left in Iran.

Cheetah Rehabilitation Program in India:

- The 'Cheetah Rehabilitation Project' was prepared seven years ago by the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun with an outlay of Rs 260 crore.
- India has planned to resettle cheetahs in the extended 'Kuno National Park' in 'Sheopur' and 'Morena' districts of Gwalior-Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh.
- This is possibly the world's first 'intercontinental cheetah transfer project'.

Cause of Extinction:

- The source of all causes of extinction can be traced to human intervention. Problems such as human-wildlife conflict, habitat loss and lack of animals to hunt as food, and illegal trafficking have led to the extinction of cheetahs.
- Climate change and increasing human population have made these problems worse.
- With a decrease in land available for wildlife, species that require greater territorial range, such as cheetahs, have to compete with other animals and humans and conflict over space.

Supreme Court's decision:

- The Supreme Court, in its 2013 order, quashed plans to settle African cheetahs in India and specifically in the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- The 'Kuno National Park' of Madhya Pradesh has already been identified as a habitat for leopards and tigers, and as per the Supreme Court order, this site has also been earmarked for the relocation of Asiatic lions. Therefore, African cheetahs are not needed to play the role of apex predator in these habitats.
- Last year (2021), the Supreme Court lifted a seven-year-long moratorium on a proposal to introduce African cheetahs from Namibia into Indian habitats.

Swadeep Kumar

Yojna IAS