



TATHASTU ICS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

S.NO. TOPIC

1.	JAL JEEVAN MISSION REMAINS A PIPE DREAM
2.	PROJECT CHEETAH
3.	SANTHINIKETAN ON UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST

JAL JEEVAN MISSION REMAINS A PIPE DREAM

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- In 2019, Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh had only 1,612 households with tap water access, but by 2023, thanks to the Jal Jeevan Mission, it achieved a remarkable 98% coverage, connecting 1,29,209 rural homes.
- This significant increase in tap connections is unparalleled in India. However, a visit to the villages reveals that being "connected" under JJM doesn't always guarantee a reliable water supply.

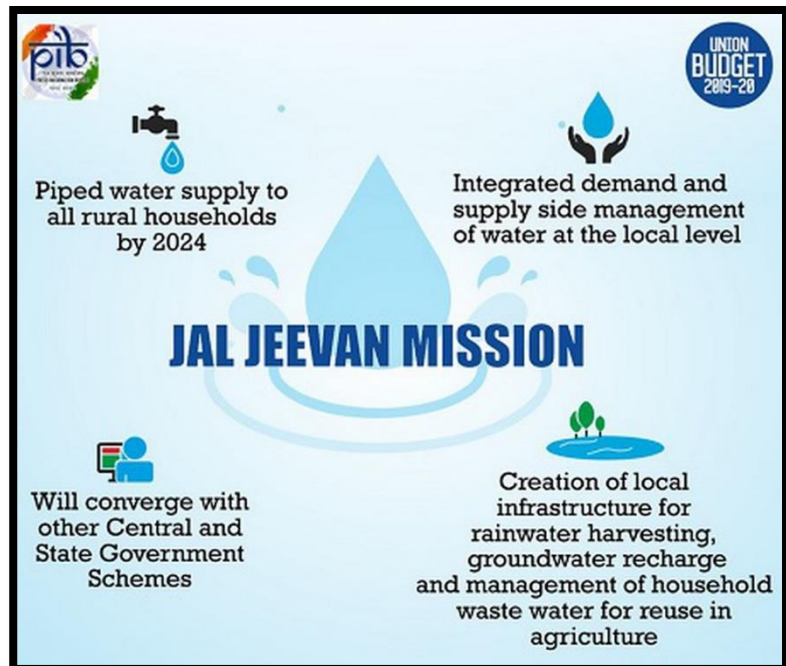
ABOUT JAL JEEVAN MISSION:

- Launched in 2019, the mission's objective is to ensure that every rural household receives 55 litres of water per person per day through **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024**.
- JJM seeks to promote a **collective commitment** to water and operates under the auspices of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **Funding pattern for the scheme:**

- Centrally sponsored scheme (Central and state governments share the funds)
- Centre: State-90:10 for Himalayan and hilly states
- 100% for Union territories
- 50-50 for other states.

➤ **Institutional mechanism:**

- **National Jal Jeevan Mission:** Implementation of JJM and policy guidance
- **State water and sanitation mission:** Implementation at the state level
- **District water and sanitation mission:** Implementation at the district level.
- **Paani Samiti / Village Water Sanitation Committee** - sub-committee of Gram Panchayat (GP): Local community's involvement in planning and implementation with the help of SHGs, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi members.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MISSION:

- Jal Jeevan Mission is a major global **welfare initiative with a budget of INR 3600 billion (US \$ 43.80 billion).**
- By April 4, 2023, **60% of rural households, over 11.66 Crore, have tap water, some regions achieving 100% coverage.**
- Over 8.42 crore rural households, 40 crore people, benefited in three years, exceeding the populations of multiple countries.
- Safe water access **can reduce infant mortality by 30%.**
- It has evolved into a '**Jan Andolan,**' with local communities managing water resources and supply systems for long-term security.



CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MISSION:

- **Discrepancies in official data:**
Official records indicate 100% tap connections in certain villages, but on the ground, villages contradict the claim.
- **Challenges of uneven terrain:**
The difficult terrain in Mahoba makes it challenging to lay pipes, leading to disruptions in water supply
- **Infrastructure issues:**
In Kunata village, many homes lack the necessary pipes and taps, highlighting infrastructure deficiencies.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS FOR ENSURING TAP WATER MANAGEMENT IN INDIA:

INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE
1. JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN	Catch the Rain campaign to conserve rainwater.
2. MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR	The goal is to enhance and restore 75 water bodies within every district.
3. ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA	Sustainable groundwater management.
4. NATIONAL AQUIFER MAPPING AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	Mapping aquifers for groundwater recharge and sustainable use.
5. NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR INTERLINKING OF RIVERS	River linking to ensure water supply to water deficit areas.
6. CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD	scientific guidance for supervising, examining, tracking, evaluating, enhancing, and controlling the nation's groundwater resources.

WAY FORWARD

➤ **Develop adequate infrastructure:**

It is crucial to set up strong systems for maintaining and managing water supply infrastructure.

This involves training and deploying competent personnel and engaging local communities in maintenance efforts.

➤ **Enhance community engagement:**

Foster community engagement in the design, decision-making, and upkeep of water supply systems, while also promoting awareness of the importance of safe drinking water and sanitation practices.

➤ **Enhance funding:**

Secure ongoing and adequate support for the mission, mobilizing financial resources from government allocations and external sources to meet the substantial investment requirements.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC

Consider the following statements:

1. 36% of India's districts are classified as "overexploited" or "critical" by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
2. CGWA was formed under the Environment (Protection) Act.
3. India has the largest area under groundwater irrigation in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- [a] 1 only
- [b] 2 and 3 only
- [c] 2 only
- [d] 1 and 3 only

Answer: Option B

Statement 1 is incorrect: In the most recent report from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), approximately 14% of India's 7,089 groundwater assessment units spread across different states have been classified as "over-exploited," while an additional four percent are categorized as "critical."

Statement 2 is correct: The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) was established in accordance with the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986. This authority was created to regulate and manage the use and protection of groundwater resources in India, ensuring sustainable and responsible groundwater management practices across the country. CGWA plays a crucial role in safeguarding and conserving this valuable natural resource to support various sectors and communities.

Statement 3 is correct: According to a research paper by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the countries with the most extensive areas utilizing groundwater for irrigation, in terms of

absolute land area, include India with 39 million hectares, China with 19 million hectares, and the United States with 17 million hectares.

PROJECT CHEETAH

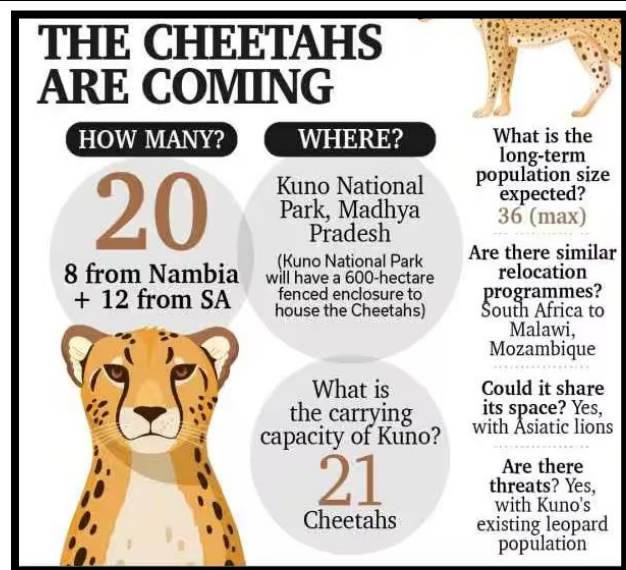
SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- As India's ambitious Project Cheetah, aimed at translocating cheetahs across the continent, marks its second-year milestone on Sunday, the Union government intends to bring in additional cheetahs that lack thick winter fur.

ABOUT PROJECT CHEETAH

- **Project Cheetah** represents India's initiative to relocate cheetahs, marking the **world's first-ever effort** to reintroduce a wild, large carnivore species across continents.
- The project aims to introduce a steady influx of **5-10 cheetahs each year for the next decade.**
- The aim is the ultimate goal to establish a self-sustaining population of these magnificent creatures.
- **Asiatic Cheetahs** were once abundant but became extinct in the country, with the **last one recorded in 1952**
- To revive their presence, the project is **sourcing cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa**, specifically **Southeast African cheetahs.**



➤ AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** serves as the highest authority responsible for overseeing the execution of Project Cheetah.
- It operates under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change.**
- Furthermore, the **Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)** is actively collaborating with the Indian government in their efforts to reintroduce cheetahs in India.

➤ STATUS OF THE PROJECT:

- 20 cheetahs relocated from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- Twenty adult African cheetahs arrived in two batches and underwent extended quarantine.
- Only 12 were released due to delays.
- Five adults have died due to natural causes, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), despite media reports speculating on other factors like radio collars.
- Four adults and three cubs remain unreleased.

- Plans were made for potential winter reintroduction in locations like Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary being considered.

ISSUES WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT:

- **FAULTY LOCATION OF SITES:**
 - Numerous wildlife and conservation specialists argue that Kuno National Park might not be an appropriate environment to support a substantial cheetah population.
- **HABITAT REQUIREMENTS:**
 - The Supreme Court bench raised concerns about the concentration of cheetahs in one specific area.
 - Cheetahs usually need vast territories covering thousands of square miles for unrestricted movement, while Kuno National Park's expected area falls below 500 square miles.
- **EXTENDED PERIODS OF CAPTIVITY MAKING THEM VULNERABLE:**
 - Prolonged periods of quarantine have adversely impacted the cheetahs, affecting their ability to adapt and causing psychological adjustment issues.
- **INCREASED RISK DUE TO RADIO COLLARS:**
 - Tight-fitting collars can lead to pressure-related tissue damage, akin to bedsores, starting with rapid hair loss around the neck.

WAY FORWARD:

- **SCIENTIFIC ANALYAIS:**
Regarding site selection and habitat choices so that they can adapt well to the present environments without any challenges.
- **EFFECTIVE MONITORING:**
Regular checkups so that infections are treated in the early stages.
Ensuring the equipment tied to them is not harming them physically.
- **PREY BASE EXPANSION:** The Kuno National Park has imported 238 chitals, or spotted deer (*Axis axis*), from the state's Pench and Narsinghgarh Wildlife Sanctuaries, and plans to import another 300 deer. This would boost the prey base inside the 500-hectare park.

RELIMS SPECIFIC

CHEETAH- SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Acinonyx jubatus*

- ✓ A big feline species found in Africa and central Iran.
- ✓ The fastest land creature, with the ability to reach speeds between 80 and 98 km/h (50 to 61 mph).
- ✓ It has developed unique features for rapid movement, such as a slender physique, elongated legs, and a lengthy tail.
- ✓ The cheetah's social structure can be categorized into three primary groups: female groups with their offspring, male alliances, and solitary males.
- ✓ While females adopt a nomadic lifestyle as they roam vast territories in search of prey, males tend to be more stationary, establishing smaller territories in regions abundant with prey and proximity to female cheetahs.

TYPES OF CHEETAHS

TYPE	FEATURES	IUCN STATUS
------	----------	-------------

1. AFRICAN CHEETAH	Bigger in size and less slender. Thicker fur coating.	VULNERABLE
2. ASIATIC CHEETAH	Smaller in size Lighter coat and fewer spots More powerful neck and slender legs.	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



*Figure 1*AFRICAN CHEETAH



*Figure 2*ASIATIC CHEETAH

SANTHINIKETAN ON UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- Santiniketan, a place where Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore established Visva-Bharati University over a century ago, has received the honour of being included in UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- This decision was made **during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, which took place in Saudi Arabia.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his joy and pride, describing it as a moment of great significance for all Indians. He highlighted that Santiniketan represents the embodiment of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's visionary ideas and contributes to India's rich cultural heritage.

HISTORY OF SANTINIKETAN:

- **Shantiniketan** is a locality situated within the Bolpur town, part of the Bolpur subdivision in the **Birbhum district of West Bengal, India.**
- This area was initially founded by **Maharshi Devendranath Tagore** and subsequently developed and expanded by his son, Rabindranath Tagore.
- **Rabindranath Tagore's** first encounter with Shantiniketan occurred on January 27, 1878, when he was a youthful 17-year-old.
- In 1888, Rabindranath's father, Debendranath Tagore, made a significant gesture by dedicating the entire property to the establishment of a **Brahma Vidyalaya through** a formal trust deed. This marked the beginning of the institution's journey.
- In **1901**, Rabindranath initiated a **Brahmacharya ashrama** at the location, and it later became known as **Patha Bhavana** from the **year 1925 onwards.**
- In **1913**, **Rabindranath Tagore** achieved international recognition by winning the **Nobel Prize in Literature**, a remarkable achievement that added to the **illustrious legacy of the Tagore family.**
- The Tagore family had long been prominent contributors to the **cultural and social enrichment of Bengal**, spanning various fields of activity.
- In **1921**, Rabindranath Tagore took a significant step by **founding Visva Bharati**, which was later designated as a **central university** and declared **an institute of national importance in 1951.**
- This institution played a pivotal role in fostering education, culture, and art in India.



RABINDRANATH TAGORE AND HIS IDEA OF EDUCATION:

➤ **HOLISTIC EDUCATION:**

- From the moment of its establishment, Santiniketan was thoughtfully shaped by Rabindranath Tagore in accordance with the **ideals of humanism, internationalism,** and a commitment to fostering a **sustainable environment.**

➤ **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION:**

- Tagore aimed to create an educational atmosphere at Santiniketan where students could experience a **sense of freedom,** even within the structured confines of a school.
- He personally understood the **challenges of traditional classroom settings,** having left school due to feeling stifled and unable to think freely within the confines of four walls.



➤ **ARTS AND SCIENCES:**

- **Visva Bharati** University provides a diverse range of academic programs spanning various fields, **including humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, fine arts, music, performing arts, education, agricultural science, and rural reconstruction.**
- Among its academic offerings, the university's art college, known as **Kala Bhavan,** has earned a **global reputation** as one of the premier institutions for art education.

➤ **SPIRITUAL GROWTH:**

- Rabindranath Tagore's educational philosophy emphasized that the purpose of education should be to nurture spiritual growth and cultivate a deep sense of inner harmony in individuals.

➤ **CONNECTION WITH NATURE:**

- The curriculum at Santiniketan included **nature walks and field trips,** and it placed a strong emphasis on observing and **understanding natural phenomena.** Students were actively encouraged to study the life cycles of insects, birds, and plants.
- In addition to conventional subjects, vocational education was also given importance.

➤ **FLEXIBLE CLASSROOM:**

- Adaptable class timetables were designed to accommodate changes in weather conditions and the seasonal festivals that Rabindranath Tagore personally devised for the students.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC

With reference to Madanapalle of Andhra Pradesh, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) Pingali Venkayya designed the tricolour Indian National Flag here.
- b) Pattabhi Sitaramaiah led the Quit India Movement of the Andhra region from here.
- c) Rabindranath Tagore translated the National Anthem from Bengali to English here.
- d) Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott set up the headquarters of the Theosophical Society first here.

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

During a short visit to Theosophical College in Madanapalle, a town located in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, in the year 1919, Rabindranath Tagore translated his Bengali poem, which would later become the Indian National Anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana,' into English. In English, this translation was titled 'Morning Song of India.'