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Male cheetah strays out of KNP for the second time

► Key Facts about Kuno Palpur National Park:

- **Location:** Kuno National Park lies Madhya Pradesh in Central India near the Vindhyan Hills.
- Initially established as a wildlife sanctuary, it was only in 2018 that the government changed its status into a national park.
- Named after the **Kuno River (One of the main tributaries of the Chambal River)** that cuts across it, Kuno is primarily a grassland region.
- **Flora and Fauna:** The protected area of the forest is home to the jungle cat, Indian leopard, sloth bear, Indian wolf, striped hyena, golden jackal, Bengal fox and dhole, along with more than 120 bird species
- Kuno National Park was selected under 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India'.

► Project Cheetah:

- World's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.
- Project Cheetah was **approved by the Supreme Court of India** in January 2020 as a pilot programme to reintroduce the species to India.
- Close to 50 cheetahs will be introduced into the wild over the next five years.



Abul kalam Azad

11th November is observed as **National Education Day** every year since 2008 to commemorate his birth anniversary.

Azad was a brilliant debater, as indicated by his name - "Abul Kalam" which literally means "Lord of Dialogues".

In 1912, he started a weekly journal in Urdu called Al-Hilal which played an important role in forging Hindu-Muslim unity after the bad blood created between the two communities in the aftermath of Morley-Minto reforms (1909).

In 1947, he became the first education minister of free India and remained at this post till his death in 1958. In his tenure, he did tremendous work for the upliftment of the country.

The first IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission were established under his tenure as the education minister.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations, for introduction of Indian culture to other nations.

**NCERT says
reference on
Azad deleted
in 2014-15**

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The reference to freedom fighter and India's first Education Minister Maulana Azad was dropped from the Class II political science textbook in 2014-15, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) said on Monday.

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Following three academics were formed:

Sahitya Academy for development of literature;

Sangeet Natak Academy for the development of Indian music and dance;

Lalit Kala Academy for the development of painting.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was posthumously awarded India's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna in 1992.



Pittas find new haven in Odisha districts

In the first-ever census carried out in Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur, 179 of the nearly threatened birds were counted; information on their distribution, habitat and breeding collected

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

In the first-ever census of mangrove pitta birds carried out in two coastal districts of Odisha, 179 such birds were sighted.

Mangrove pitta birds are a nearly threatened species found in a few pockets of eastern India, including Bhitarkanika in Odisha and the Sundarbans in West Bengal.

The first census of mangrove pitta (*Pitta megharencha*) birds was focused on the mangrove



Place to thrive: Personnel involved in the census inside the Bhitarkanika Mangrove Sanctuary in Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

patches all along the coasts of Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur districts. "The mangrove pitta is found in coastal mangrove forests of India, foraging on the ground and resting on the trees," Gopinath

Sudarshan Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Rajnagar Mangrove Forest Division, said.

Mr. Yadav said information had been collected on the

distribution, habitat and breeding of the birds along the coastal mangroves. "In this exercise, a total of 32 teams were deployed in 32 pre-identified segments. The census was carried out by point count method, either by walking in the forest or using country boats in the creeks. A total of 179 individual mangrove pitta birds were counted. The highest concentration of the birds has been found in the mangroves near the Mahipura river mouth inside the Bhitarkanika National Park," the DFO said.

Mangrove Pitta bird

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The Mangrove Pitta bird (*Pitta megarhyncha*) is a species of bird that can be found in a few pockets of eastern India, including Odisha's Bhitarkanika and West Bengal's Sundarbans.

The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has categorized and evaluated the species and has listed it as "Near Threatened".

Distribution:

India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia.

Importance:

This species is important because it is a bio-indicator of the health of mangrove forests, which are crucial to maintaining ecological balance in coastal areas.

THANK YOU

