

## 1. IndiaAI Mission News Pillars: AI Kosha and Common Compute facility

### Introduction

On March 6, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's IndiaAI Mission launched AI Kosha and Common Compute facility.

### What is the IndiaAI Mission?

Union government has announced in March 2024 an IndiaAI Mission with an outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore. The key objectives of the mission were: "Making AI in India and Making AI Work for India".



While the mission works on many interventions and resources for private companies and academia to research and build AI, a key one that has emerged in recent weeks has been the Common Compute facility to provide GPUs to startups that may not be able to buy them independently in a large volume. Thus, Common Compute facility allows startups and academia to access a shared pool of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) to build and run AI models and tools.

### What are GPU?

GPUs, also known as graphics cards, are a key component in many PCs and phones that allow these devices to render images and graphics. However, AI researchers have long used GPUs to run enormously complex calculations involving massive volumes of data.

This is what has enabled firms like Nvidia to foray far beyond video gaming to become an essential component of AI infrastructure around the world. However, GPUs are expensive.

The IndiaAI Mission has started empanelling data centres in India that have GPUs to provide access to their computing resources to startups and researchers. This access will be handled by the mission, which will decide which entities will get how much computing resource access, and for how long.

### **What is AI Kosha?**

AI Kosha is the implementation of another pillar of the mission: the IndiaAI Datasets Platform. One of the main issues with building AI models is that AI requires large data for training purposes. AI Kosha is a national dataset platform that will gather non-personal data from various ministries and departments in order to develop Artificial Intelligence models and tools.

### **What else does the IndiaAI Mission work on?**

The mission has seven pillars overall. While the Common Compute facility and AI Kosha have been under particular focus, there are other aspects that policymakers have targeted.

**AI Safety Institute of India:** One is the AI Safety Institute of India, which is yet to be formally launched. Such institutes are being created or accredited around the world to develop guardrails around unintended consequences of AI deployments, and to study the risks of the mushrooming use of AI across the industry and government. These include everything from making sure that a chatbot doesn't give away a recipe for a bomb (for example), to making sure that specialised AI tools, like those used in biomedical research, are reliable and can "explain" their output.

**IndiaAI Innovation Centre:** IndiaAI Innovation Centre aims to create "domain-specific foundation models"; an application development initiative to help develop use-cases that can be commercialised or put to productive use.

**Futureskills:** Futureskills is an initiative to develop AI labs in smaller cities; and startup financing.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Science & Technology

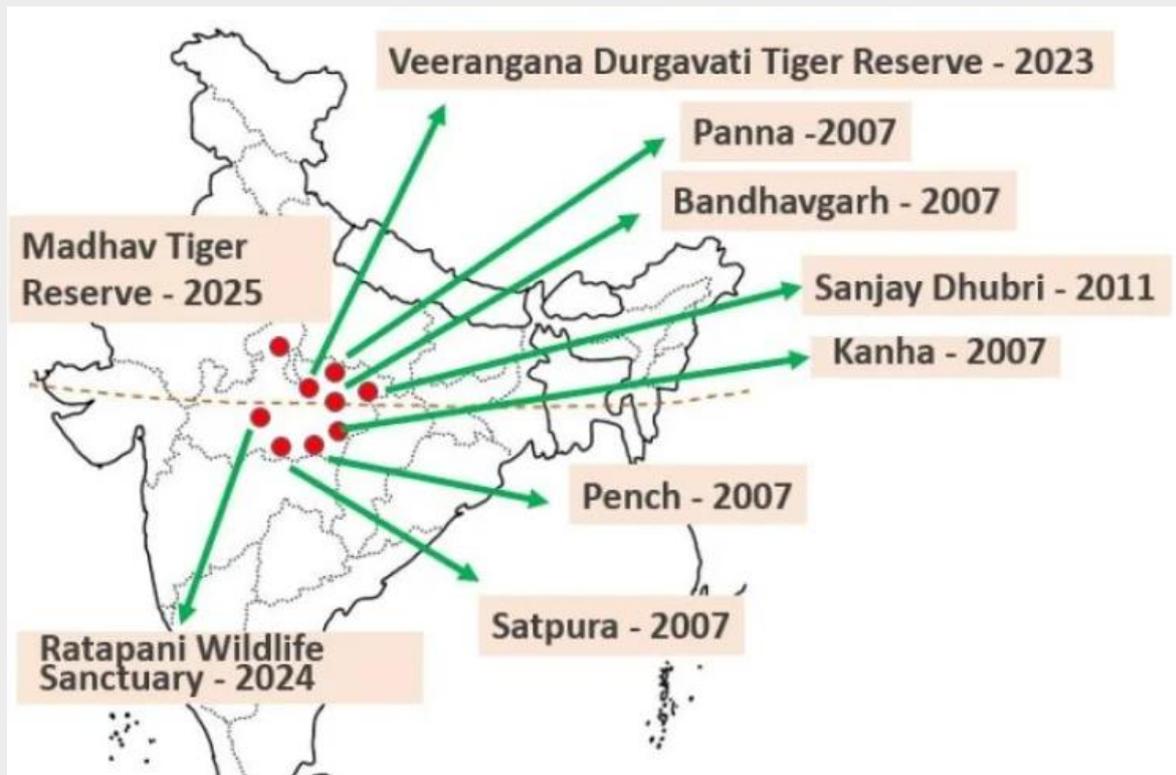
Source: Indian Express

## **2. Madhav National Park becomes India's 58th Tiger Reserve**

### **Introduction**

The Centre declared the Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh as the country's 58th tiger reserve. The newly added Tiger Reserve is also the ninth from the State to get the recognition, highest in any State.

Located in Shivpuri district in the Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh, the reserve has a population of five tigers at present, including two cubs born recently. Three tigers, including two females, were introduced to the Madhav National Park in 2023 as part of the tiger reintroduction project in the State. More tigers are expected to be introduced in the future.



### Past Recognitions

- The Ratapani Tiger Reserve, located in Madhya Pradesh, was recognized as the 57th Tiger Reserve in India.
- In 2024, Dholpur – Karauli Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan has become the 55th Tiger Reserve in India and the Guru Ghasidas Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh has become the 56th tiger reserve in India.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh was the 54th Tiger Reserve in India.
- The Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh had become the 53rd tiger reserve in India.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Environment

Source: The Hindu

### 3. Unique electoral ID numbers being duplicated

#### Introduction

Opposition cited multiple voters with the same Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. The EC responded that irrespective of the EPIC number, a person can cast a vote only at their designated polling stations in their respective States or UTs. The poll body said it would remove these duplications.

#### What is an EPIC card?



The EPIC number is a 10-digit voter ID card number issued by the EC to each voter. The number is a unique alphanumeric code assigned to each registered elector to prevent impersonation. It was introduced in 1993 under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, to enhance electoral transparency. It is assigned via the ERONET digital platform when a new voter registers, after which it is linked to State and constituency data to ensure regional uniqueness. The ERONET is a web-based platform which was developed for election officials, in multiple languages and scripts, to handle all processes pertaining to registration, migration, and deletion of names from electoral rolls. The platform automates the process of electoral roll management.

### What was the EC's response?

The Commission said that the allotment of identical EPIC numbers to some voters from different States or UTs was due to the decentralised and manual mechanism being followed prior to shifting the electoral roll database of all States/UTs to the ERONET platform.

However, it clarified that while EPIC numbers of some of the electors may be identical, the other details including demographic details, constituency and polling booth are different for voters with the same EPIC number. It said that irrespective of the EPIC number, an elector can cast a vote only at their designated polling station in their respective constituency in their State/UT where they are enrolled in the electoral roll and nowhere else. In order to allay any apprehensions, the EC said that it would ensure allotment of unique EPIC numbers to registered electors. "Any case of duplicate EPIC number will be rectified by allotting a unique EPIC number. The ERONET 2.0 platform will be updated to aid and assist in this process".

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: The Hindu

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