India’s cheetah population in 56

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance | Environment*

Why is in news?

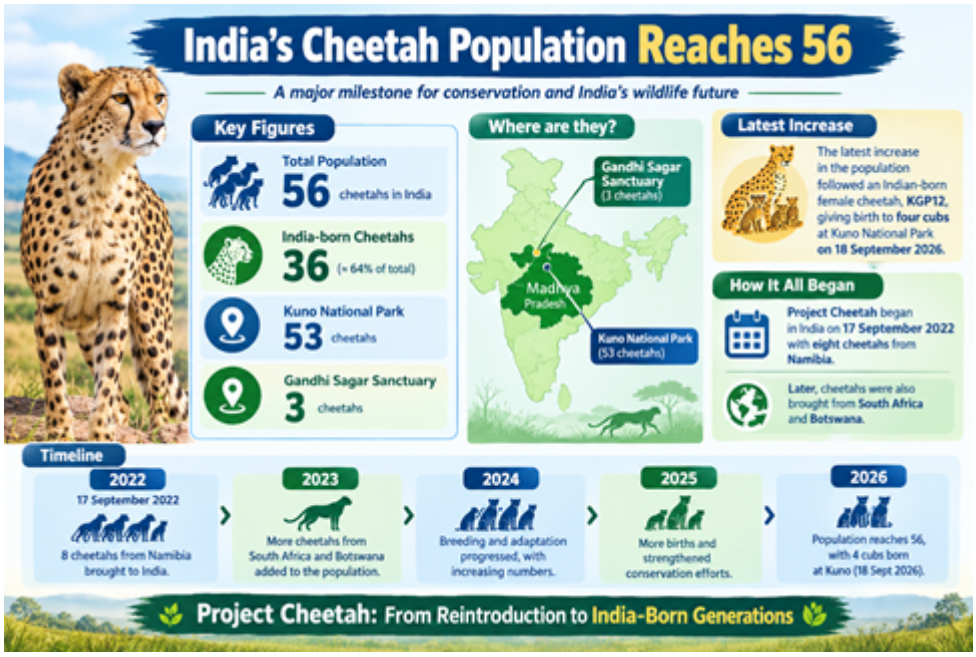
An India-born cheetah has given birth to four cubs in Madhya Pradesh’s ***Kuno National Park*** *(KNP).*

Update

- The latest litter has taken the total population to 56.
- The births mean animals born after the return of cheetahs to India are now themselves producing offspring.
- Of the total 56 cheetahs in the country, 36 are now India-born while 20 are from African nations.
- At present, 53 cheetahs reside in Kuno National Park, while three adults are in the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.
- Earlier in February, nine cheetahs were translocated from Botswana, making it the ***third intercontinental transfer of big cats to India*** from an African nation since the reintroduction programme began.
- This followed transfers from Namibia and South Africa in September 2022 and February 2023, respectively.
- A third home for the cheetahs is being developed at the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, which is part of the ***Rani Durgawati Tiger Reserve*** spanning Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Botswana Cheetah in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary

- Madhya Pradesh’s Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, a second home in the works for cheetahs in India, has a new female cheetah inhabitant.
- The sanctuary, located some 300 km from Kuno National Park, the ground zero of Project Cheetah, already houses two male cheetahs.



Reference

[The Hindu | India's cheetah population in 56]

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