India’s Cheetah Population Rises to 62

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

Why is in news?

A two-and-a-half-year-old female cheetah, KOMG 3, brought from Botswana, gave birth to four healthy cubs in the wild.

- With this, ***India’s cheetah population has increased to 62***, including 43 Indian-born individuals.

Key Details

- KOMG 3 is the first female cheetah from Botswana to give birth in India.
- She had spent more than four months in the wild before giving birth under natural conditions.
- This is the second recorded birth in the wild since the reintroduction programme began in 2022.
- The birth marks a milestone in the effort to establish a viable cheetah population in India.

About Project Cheetah

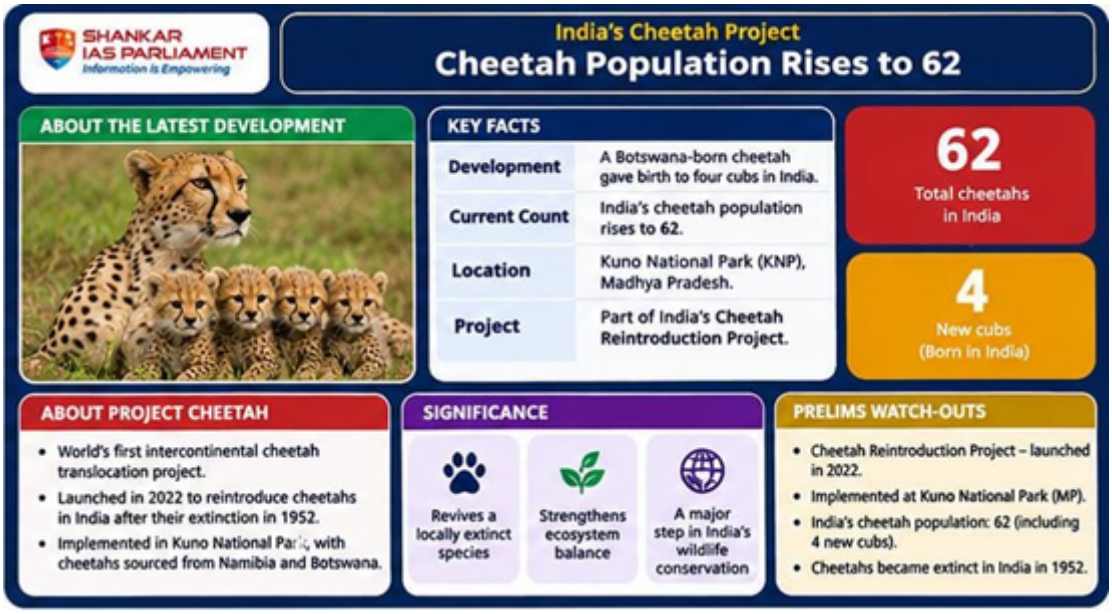
- Project Cheetah was launched on 17 September 2022 to reintroduce cheetahs in India, from which the species had become extinct.
- The first batch of eight cheetahs was brought from Namibia in September 2022; 12 more arrived from South Africa in February 2023.
- Nine cheetahs were brought from Botswana in February 2026.
- Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh is the principal site for the reintroduction programme.

About Cheetah

- Scientific name: Acinonyx jubatus.
- It is the world’s fastest land animal, adapted for high-speed pursuit over short distances.
- Cheetahs are large carnivores belonging to the family Felidae.
- The species is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and is included in Appendix I of CITES.

Significance

- The increase in Indian-born individuals indicates reproduction within the reintroduced population.
- Births in the wild are important for assessing adaptation, survival and progress towards a self-sustaining population.



Reference

[PIB | Botswana-born Cheetah gives Birth to Four Cubs in the Wild]

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering