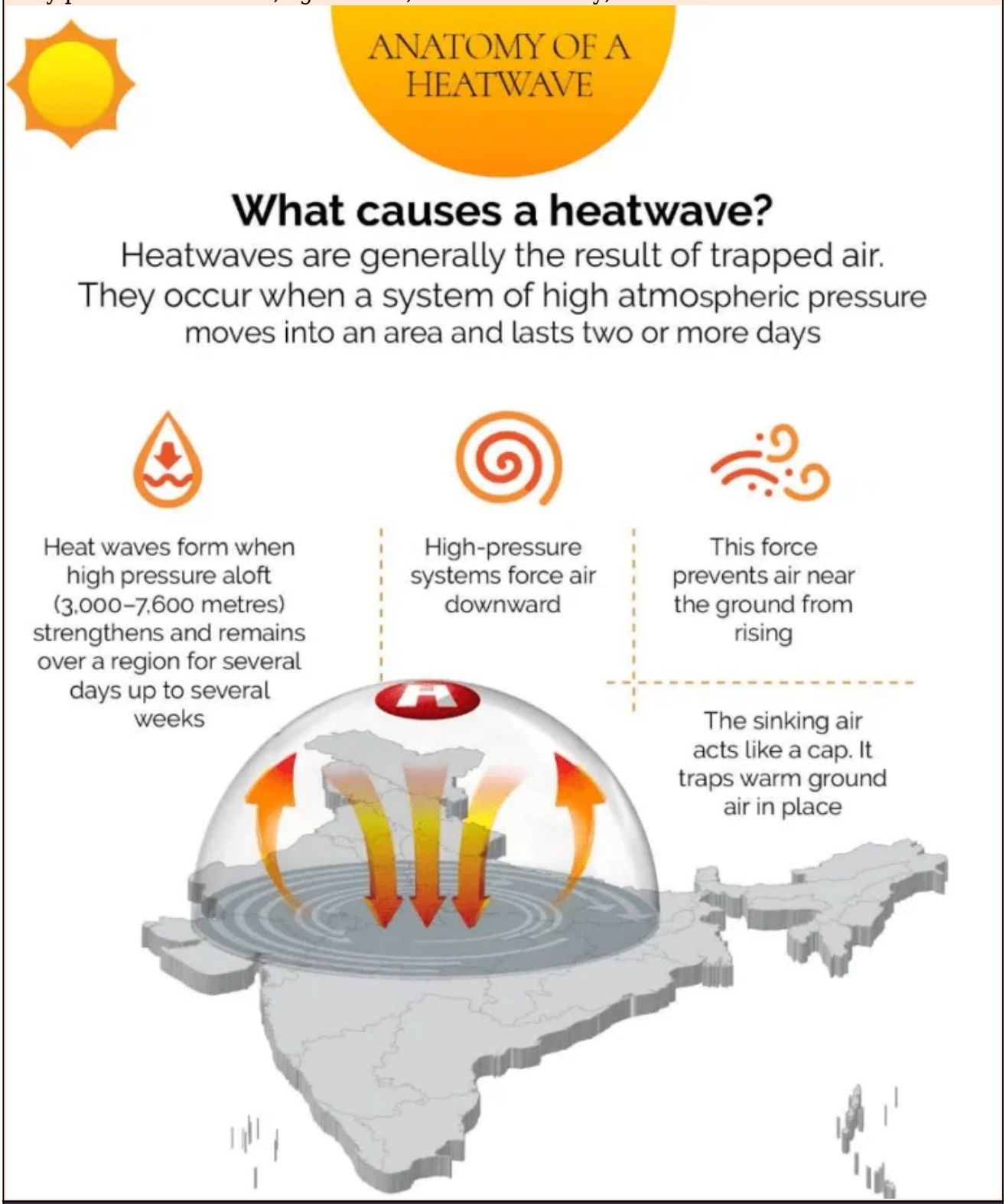
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Geography

Heat Wave

India Meteorological Department (IMD) warns east, central, and northwest India to prepare for more heatwave days, while north India can expect relief with cooler conditions ahead.

- A heatwave is declared when temperatures rise significantly above normal, typically *exceeding 40°C in plains or deviating 4–6°C above normal.*
- IMD classifies heatwaves based on temperature thresholds and duration.
- They pose risks to health, agriculture, water availability, and livelihoods.



Polity & Governance

Telangana Gig Workers Bill, 2026

- **Objectives –** To legally recognize gig workers in platform-based economies.
- To extend social security and welfare protections to this workforce.
- **Institutional Framework**
  - It establishes a *Social Security and Welfare Board* for implementation.
  - It ensures inclusivity with representation of *women and persons with disabilities.*
- **Welfare & Social Security Measures**
  - Aggregators (ride-hailing, delivery platforms, etc.) must *contribute up to 2% of transaction value to a welfare fund.*
  - Fund supports *insurance, pensions, maternity benefits, and other protections.*
- **Worker Protection & Rights**
  - Introduces grievance redressal mechanisms.
  - Safeguards against arbitrary termination or payment stoppages.
  - Mandates transparency in work allocation and payment systems.

International Relations and Issues

India–Russia Relations

India and Russia have built a strong partnership over many years, working together in defence, energy, space, and nuclear fields.

- Russia remains a *key supplier of defence equipment and a major partner in energy security, including oil and nuclear projects.*
- **Multilateral Linkages**
  - Cooperation in *BRICS, SCO, G20, and UN* reflects shared vision of a multipolar world.
  - Platforms enable coordination on governance, economic cooperation, and security.
  - Consultations underscore importance of dialogue in managing geopolitical tensions.

Economy

Nifty 50 Decline

Nifty 50 recorded its worst monthly fall in 6 years, down 11.4% in March.

- **Factors Affecting Markets**
  - **Global drivers –** Oil prices, geopolitical conflicts, inflation, interest rates.
  - **Domestic drivers –** Corporate earnings, fiscal/monetary policy, investor confidence.
  - FIIs flows remain crucial in shaping market direction.
- **Market Trends**
  - Widespread selling pressure: more decliners than gainers.
  - Sectoral indices weakened, especially banking and PSU stocks.
  - Reflects heightened risk aversion among investors.

Fuel Price Ceiling & Fiscal Implications

Rising global crude oil prices due to geopolitical tensions are straining India's fuel pricing mechanism and fiscal management.

- **Fuel Pricing in India**
- Retail petrol/diesel prices depend on *global crude prices, refining costs, taxes, and dealer commissions.*
- Taxes include *excise duty (Centre) and VAT (States),* forming a large share of consumer prices.
- Though deregulated, prices are often influenced by government interventions during volatility.
- **Excise Duty & Fiscal Policy**
  - Excise duty is a central tax on petroleum products.
  - Cutting excise duty lowers fuel prices but reduces government revenue.
  - Fiscal policy must balance revenue collection, expenditure, and economic stability.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)

- **Key players –** IOCL, BPCL, HPCL.
- **Responsible for –** Refining, distribution, and pricing of petroleum products.
- Often absorb short-term losses when consumer prices are not fully adjusted.
- Their financial health is closely tied to global oil trends and government policy decisions.

Six Sigma in Electronics Manufacturing

Electronics & IT Minister noted limited adoption of Six Sigma standards in India's electronics industry.

- A *data-driven quality methodology* aimed at reducing defects and improving efficiency.
- Targets 3.4 defects per million opportunities, ensuring near-perfect production.
- Widely applied in manufacturing and services to boost productivity, consistency, and customer satisfaction.
- **Objective –** To focus is on improving manufacturing quality and global competitiveness.

Environment

Kuno Cheetah Reintroduction

India's cheetah reintroduction programme at Kuno National Park.

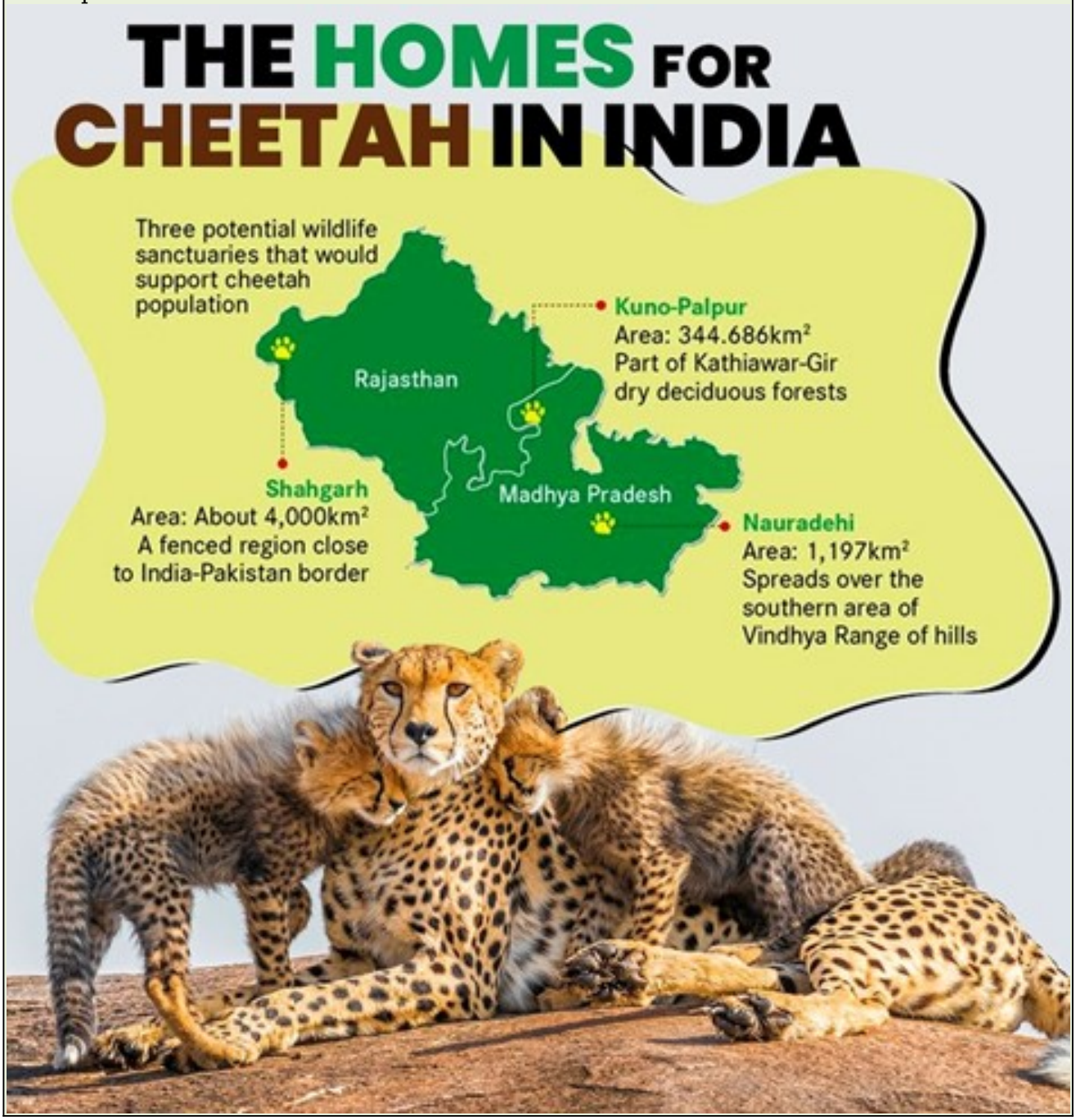
- *World's 1st intercontinental translocation* of a large carnivore species.

Cheetah Reintroduction

- Cheetahs were declared *extinct in India in 1952.*
- Programme reintroduces them from *African populations* to restore ecological balance.
- **Aim –** To revive grassland ecosystems and enhance biodiversity.

Kuno National Park

- **Located in –** Madhya Pradesh, chosen for suitable habitat and prey base.
- Originally prepared for Asiatic lion relocation, with villages relocated and infrastructure developed.



Security

Infiltration & National Security

PM emphasized that infiltration in Assam is not just an electoral matter but a national security and demographic balance concern.

- **Infiltration**
- It refers to *unauthorized entry across international borders*, often driven by economic, political, or environmental factors.
- Particularly relevant in border states like Assam, due to proximity to Bangladesh and porous borders.
- Implications include *security risks, resource distribution challenges, and demographic shifts.*
- **Legal & Institutional Framework**
- Governed by laws such as the *Foreigners Act, 1946.*
- Mechanisms like the *National Register of Citizens (NRC)* used to identify illegal migrants.
- *Border Security Force (BSF)* manages border surveillance and control.
- Policies attempt to balance humanitarian concerns with national security imperatives.

Index

Census 2027 and Changing Rural Landscape

- *India's 1st digital census*, releasing data by 2027.
- **Findings –** It indicates a decline in the number of villages compared to Census 2011.
- Reduction stems from administrative reclassification, urbanization, and merging of settlements into towns.
- **Changing Rural Landscape**
  - Decline in villages reflects urbanization and transformation into census towns/urban agglomerations.
  - Driven by economic development, migration, and infrastructure expansion.
  - Signals structural changes in India's socio-economic fabric.

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