



Another Cheetah Dies in Kuno National Park

Why in News?

According to the forest officials from Madhya Pradesh, **one more cheetah has died** in the [Kuno National Park](#). The **Preliminary cause of death** seems to be due to **drowning**.

Key Points

- This marks the **death of the eighth cheetah** out of the 20 [relocated from South Africa and Namibia to India](#).
- Most of the **cheetahs are** currently **in special enclosures** and are **expected to be released into the wild starting in October**, once the monsoon season ends.
 - All the **animals are reportedly under surveillance** via radio-collars and their movement is getting tracked.

Kuno National Park

- Kuno National Park which is **located in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district** is **home to several cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa**.
 - [Project Cheetah](#) in India formally **commenced on September 17, 2022**, to restore the population of cheetahs, which were declared **extinct in the country in 1952**.

Radio Collars

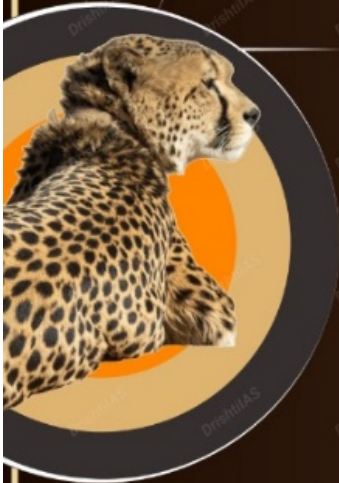
- Radio collars are used to **track and monitor animals in the wild**.
- They consist of a **collar with a small radio transmitter**.
- Collars provide **data on animal behavior, migration, and population dynamics**.
 - They can be combined with GPS or accelerometers for additional information.
- Collars are designed to be **lightweight and comfortable for animals**.

Cheetah

Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

- *Acinonyx jubatus jubatus* (African Cheetah)
- *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* (Asiatic Cheetah)



Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
 - The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter- continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

IUCN Red List Status - Vulnerable



African Cheetah

Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin - more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. Year 1952 - Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.



Asiatic Cheetah

IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered



