



Cub Dies in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park | Madhya Pradesh | 06 Aug 2024

Why in News?

A **five-month-old cheetah cub**, born to the **African cheetah Gamini**, died at [Kuno National Park](#) in Madhya Pradesh.

- **Kuno National Park** now has **13 adult cheetahs** and **12 cubs** remaining.

Key Points

- The five-month-old cheetah cub, whose health suddenly deteriorated and was found dragging its hind portion due to a fractured vertebral column, has died; **the cause of death will be confirmed after an autopsy.**
- **Kuno National Park:**
 - **Kuno National Park**, located in **Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur** district is home to several cheetahs translocated from **Namibia** and **South Africa**.
 - It is named after the **Kuno River**, one of the main tributaries of the [Chambal River](#), which **flows through the area.**

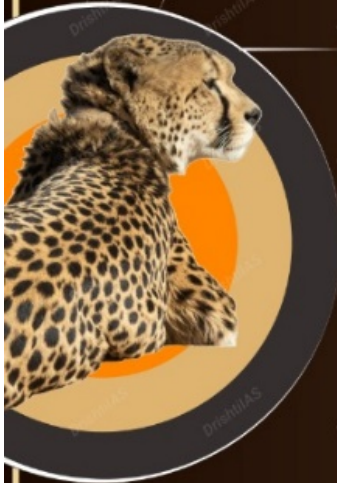
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Cheetah

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.

IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered



Asiatic Cheetah



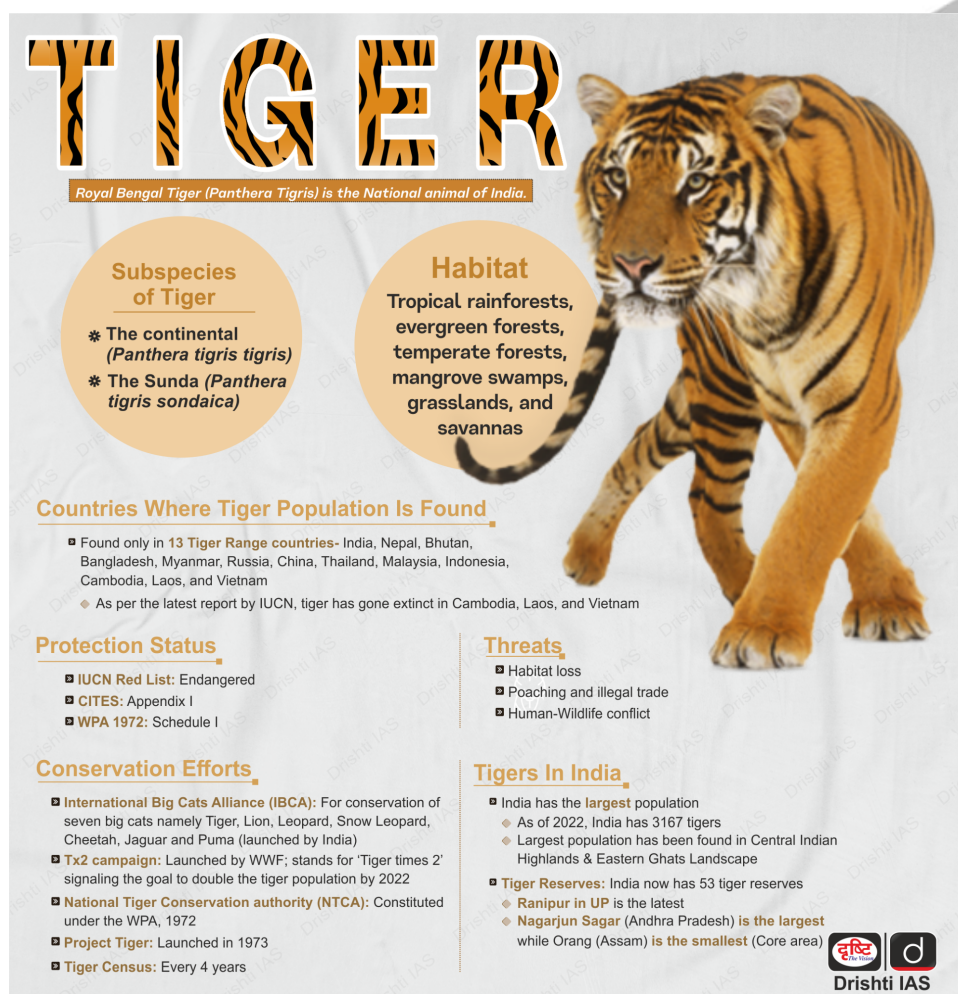
43 Tiger Deaths in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | 06 Aug 2024

Why in News?

- The deaths of **43 tigers** between **2021** and **2023** were investigated, with **34 deaths** in [Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve](#) and **9** in **Shahdol Forest Circle**.

Key Points

- **Special Investigation Team (SIT) Report:** The SIT, headed by **State Tiger Strike Force** in-charge, submitted its report to the acting Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of the Forest Force (PCCF-HoFF) on July 15.
- **Lack of Investigation:** The report highlighted **insufficient investigation** into at least 10 tiger death cases, disinterest by higher authorities and Forest Range Officers, and missing body parts in 10 out of 34 cases.
- **Formation of SIT:** The SIT was formed on the orders of the **state's Chief Wildlife Warden** to investigate the high number of tiger deaths.



TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is the National animal of India.

Subspecies of Tiger

- * The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- * The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

- Found only in 13 **Tiger Range countries**- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- ◆ As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

Protection Status

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- WPA 1972: Schedule I

Threats

- Habitat loss
- Poaching and illegal trade
- Human-Wildlife conflict

Conservation Efforts

- **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):** For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- **Tx2 campaign:** Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- **National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA):** Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- **Project Tiger:** Launched in 1973
- **Tiger Census:** Every 4 years

Tigers In India

- India has the **largest** population
 - ◆ As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
 - ◆ Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- **Tiger Reserves:** India now has 53 tiger reserves
 - ◆ **Ranipur in UP** is the latest
 - ◆ **Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh)** is the largest while **Orang (Assam)** is the smallest (Core area)

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Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR)

- It is located in the **Umariya district of Madhya Pradesh** and is spread over the **Vindhya hills**.
- In 1968, it was notified as a **national park** and in **1993** was declared a tiger reserve- under the **Project Tiger Network** at the neighbouring **Panpatha Sanctuary**.
- It is known for the **Royal Bengal Tigers**. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India as well as in the world.

- These streams then merge into the [Son river](#) (an important southern tributary to the river Ganga).
- The important prey species consists of **chital, sambhar, barking deer, nilgai, chinkara, wild pig, chowsingha, langur** and **rhesus macaque**.
 - Dependent upon them are the major predators like **tiger, leopard, wild dog, wolf** and **jackal**.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/statepcs/07-08-2024/madhya-pradesh/print>

