



Kuno Cheetah Captured in Rajasthan

Why in News?

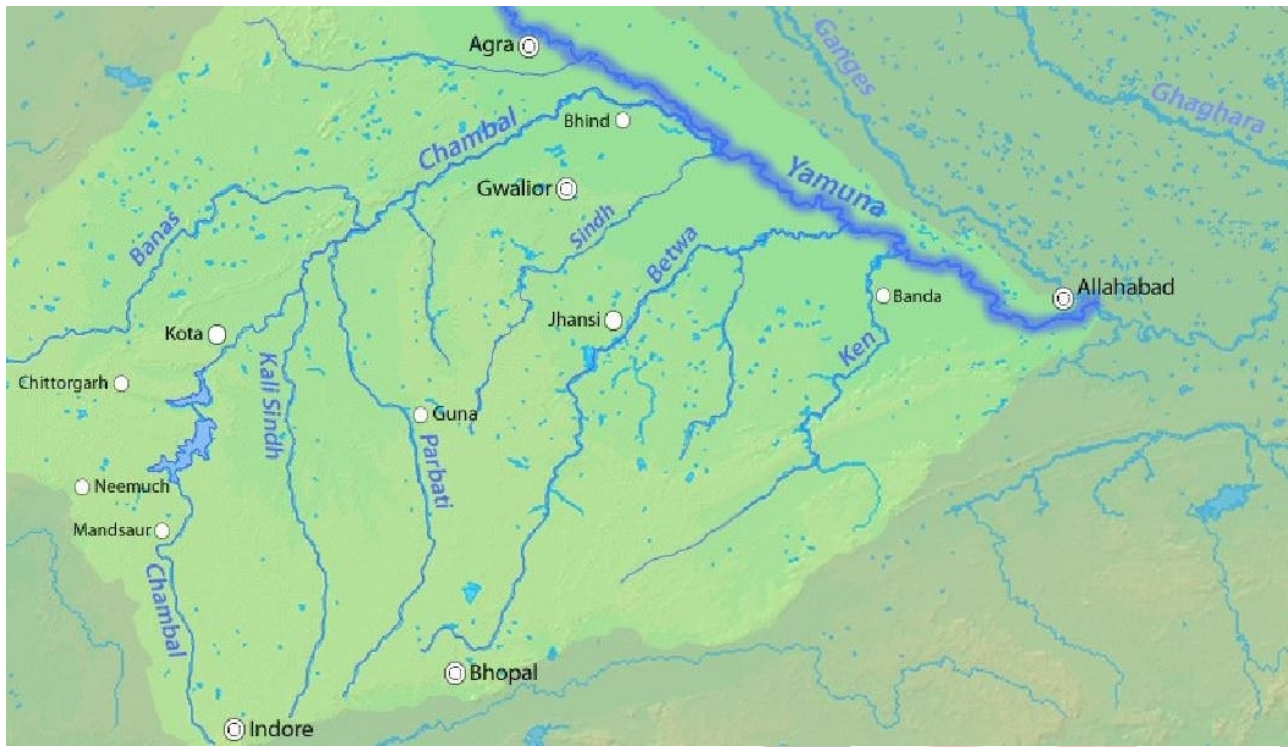
One of the **Cheetahs** from **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh wandered around 50km and ended up in **Karauli, Rajasthan**.

- However, it was tranquilized and safely returned the same evening.

Key Points

- According to **forest department** officials, the cheetah may have followed a route along the **Chambal river**, which flows through Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan's Karauli.
 - Chambal river is one of the most **pollution-free rivers** of India.
 - It's 960 km. long river that originates at the **Singar Chouri peak** in the northern slopes of the **Vindhya** mountains (Indore, Madhya Pradesh). From there, it flows in the **North direction** in Madhya Pradesh for a length of about 346 km and then follows a **north-easterly direction** for a length of 225 km through Rajasthan.
 - It enters UP and flows for about 32 km before joining the **Yamuna River** in Etawah District.
 - It is a **rainfed river** and its basin is bounded by the Vindhyan mountain ranges and the Aravallis. The Chambal and its tributaries drain the **Malwa region** of northwestern Madhya Pradesh.
 - **Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, Parbati.
 - **Main Power Projects/ Dam:** Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, and Kota Barrage.
 - The **National Chambal Sanctuary** is located along river Chambal on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It is known for **critically endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin**.

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Cheetah

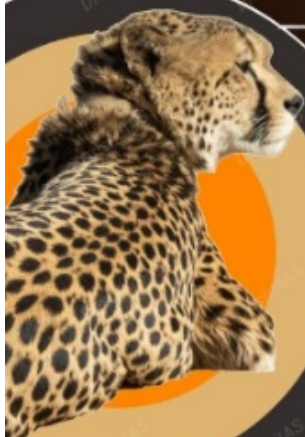
Common Name - Cheetah

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



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Vision

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