



Kuno National Park

Why in News?

On 17th March, 2025 a female cheetah and her four cubs were released in the wild forest of **Kuno National Park (KNP)**, Madhya Pradesh .

- This takes the total number of cheetahs in **KNP** to 26, including 14 cubs born in India.

Key Points

- **Kuno National Park:**
 - **Kuno National Park is a protected area** in Madhya Pradesh , which was given the status of a **[national park](#)** in 2018 .
 - It was established in 1981 as a **[wildlife sanctuary](#)**.
 - **It is spread across Sheopur and Morena** districts of the state .
 - Kuno National Park is the habitat for **[cheetahs](#)** relocated from **Namibia and South Africa**.
- **Cheetah relocation project:**
 - The Cheetah Reintroduction Project in India was formally launched on **17th September 2022, with the aim** of restoring **the population of cheetahs in the country**, which were declared **extinct in 1952**.
 - The project is implemented by **[the National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#)** in collaboration with the **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department , [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) and [cheetah experts from Namibia and South Africa](#).**
- **Importance**
 - **The reintroduction of cheetahs** will strengthen the ecosystem and revive **[the grassland ecosystem](#)**, which will also be beneficial for other species.
 - **[This will help in conserving biodiversity](#)** and establishing balance in **[the food chain](#)** .
 - **The number of tourists will increase and employment opportunities** will be created, thereby boosting the local economy.