GEOGRAPHY 08 October 2026

Two Cheetahs Released into MP's Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released two cheetahs, named Vyom and Neera, into the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

An initiative under India's flagship Project Cheetah to expand cheetah habitats beyond Kuno National Park across suitable wildlife reserves.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Two cheetahs named **Vyom and Neera** were released into the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** in Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** officially released the cats on **October 7, 2026**.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve has become the **third cheetah habitat** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The existing cheetah habitats in the state are **Kuno National Park** in Sheopur and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** in Mandsaur.
- This release expands the **geographic distribution** of cheetahs under the national conservation initiative.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Project Cheetah was officially launched in India in **September 2022** to reintroduce the extinct big cat species.

The **Asiatic cheetah** was officially declared extinct in India in **1952** due to over-hunting and habitat loss.

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve was notified in **2023** as the **7th tiger reserve** of Madhya Pradesh.

The African Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) is categorized as '**Vulnerable**' in the **IUCN Red List** of Threatened Species.

The **Wildlife Protection Act** was enacted in **1972** to safeguard wildlife species and establish protected areas in India.

Madhya Pradesh holds the distinction of having the **highest tiger population** in India as per the **2022 Census**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve in MP became India's newest habitat for cheetah reintroduction under Project Cheetah.

Syllabus Relevance: Important for Unit 3 (Geography) topics covering Biodiversity, Tiger Reserves, Wildlife Conservation, and Project Cheetah.

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