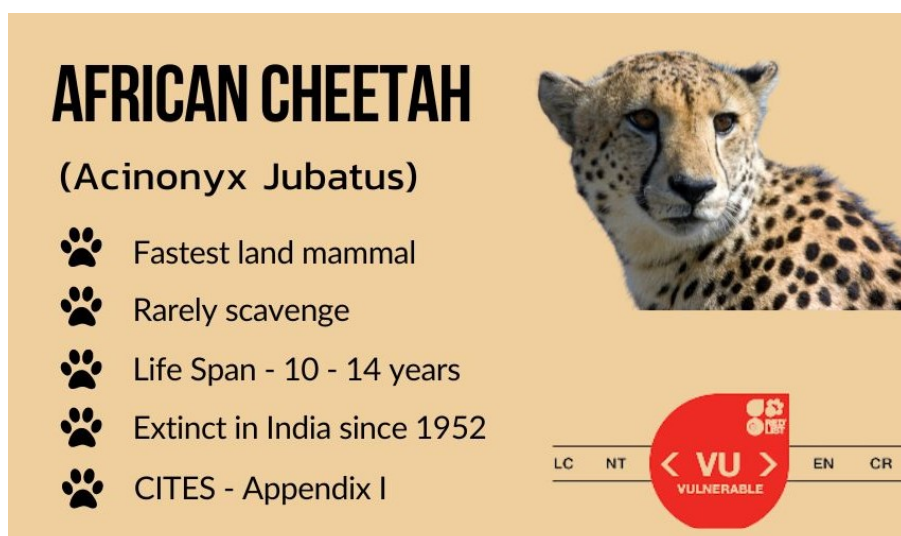


## Year End Review: Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change- Part-2

To know about, Part-1, click [here](#)

### 1. Cheetah Reintroduction in India

- In India, the cheetah was found from Jaipur and Lucknow in the north to Mysore in the south, and from Kathiawar in the west to Deogarh in the east.
- The cheetah was officially declared extinct by the Indian government in **1952**.
- **Reasons for extinction**
  - Over-hunting
  - Decimation of its relatively narrow prey base species
  - Loss of its grassland-forest habitat
- A plan to reintroduce cheetahs in India was endorsed in 2009 but it was shot down by the Supreme Court in 2013.
- The idea was revived in 2017 by the Narendra Modi government, and the SC cleared the move in 2020 “on an experimental basis”.
- **Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh** was found to be ready to receive the cheetah immediately, as it had already been prepared for the translocation of Asiatic Lion.
- **Need for reintroduction-** The main objective is
  - To restore India’s historic evolutionary balance
  - To develop a cheetah metapopulation that will help in the global conservation of the animal
- As it is a **flagship species**, the conservation of the cheetah will revive grassland-forests habitat, much like Project Tiger has done for forests.



**AFRICAN CHEETAH**  
(Acinonyx Jubatus)

- Fastest land mammal
- Rarely scavenge
- Life Span - 10 - 14 years
- Extinct in India since 1952
- CITES - Appendix I

LC NT **< VU >** EN CR  
VULNERABLE

### 2. Ramsar Sites

- Recently, India added 10 wetlands to the **List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)** within the framework of Ramsar Convention.
- This takes the total number of Ramsar Sites in India to **75**, the highest in Asia.
- The network of Indian Ramsar Sites currently covers approximately **8%** of the known wetland extent of the country.
- India ratified the Ramsar Convention in **1982**.
- **Keoladeo National Park** (in Rajasthan) and **Chilika lake** (in Odisha) were the first two sites to be placed on the Ramsar list by India.

| <b>List of 10 new wetlands of India added to the Ramsar Sites list</b> |                |
|--|----------------|
| Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary   | Tamil Nadu     |
| Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve                                       |                |
| Vembannur Wetland Complex  |                |
| Vellode Bird Sanctuary   |                |
| Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary  |                |
| Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary                                    |                |
| Nanda Lake   | Goa            |
| Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary   | Karnataka      |
| Sirpur Wetland   | Madhya Pradesh |
| Satkosia Gorge   | Odisha         |

- **Ramsar Convention** - It is one of the oldest inter-governmental accords that was signed in **1971**.
- **Aim** - To preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- **Three pillars of the Ramsar Convention**
  - Wise use of wetlands
  - International Cooperation
  - Wetlands of International Importance - Designation and Management
- The convention does **not directly bind** on the nation, but countries formulate policies based on it.
- The Ramsar sites are grouped into three categories.
  1. Marine and Coastal Wetlands
  2. Inland Wetlands
  3. Human-made Wetlands

| <b>Government Initiatives for Wetland Conservation</b>  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems</b> - To assist state governments in preparing and implementing integrated management plans for Ramsar sites and other priority wetlands.</li> <li>• <b>Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017</b> - Accords legal protection to Ramsar sites.</li> <li>• <b>Sahbhagita Guidelines</b> - Outlines an “all of society” approach and governance framework for wetlands conservation in the country.</li> </ul> |

### **3. Ban on identified Single Use Plastics**

- Since July 1, 2022, India has banned the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution,

sale, and use of single-use plastics with low utility and high littering potential as per the [Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021](#).

- Thickness of plastic carry bags to be increased from 50 microns
  - to 75 microns from 30th September, 2021
  - to 120 microns from the 31st December, 2022
- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022**- The guidelines provide a framework to
  - Strengthen the circular economy of plastic packaging waste,
  - Promote the development of new alternatives to plastic packaging
- To develop alternatives to single use plastics **“India Plastic Challenge - Hackathon 2021”** was organized by MoEFCC, for start-ups and students of colleges and universities.
- **Prakriti - Messenger of the Earth** was launched as a mascot of sustainability and protection of environment spread awareness amongst general public.
- The Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic packaging focuses on ‘mindful consumption’ through reuse and sustainable plastic packaging.

*Bangladesh became the first country to ban thin plastic bags in 2002.*

#### 4. TX2 International Award

- Tigers are apex predator in the ecosystem.
- India harbours **more than 70%** of the global tiger population and has honour of the largest tiger range country in the world.
- There are **53 tiger reserves** in the country.
- **TX2 Global Commitment** - The TX2 goal is a global commitment to double the world's wild tigers by 2022.
- The goal has been set by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) through the Global Tiger Initiative, Global Tiger Forum and other platforms.
- Tiger Conservation awards includes
  - **TX2 Award** - For achieving remarkable and measurable increase in tiger population since 2010.
  - **Conservation Excellence Award** - For achieving excellence in two or more of these five themes in tiger conservation.
- The TX2 award for the year 2021 was bagged by the **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve**, Tamil Nadu for its role in increasing the tiger population from 25 individuals (2011) to 80.

#### Reference

[PIB | Year End Review: Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change](#)



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*