Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the challenges involved in wildlife reintroduction programmes in India, with particular reference to cheetah conservation. Suggest measures to strengthen the protection of reintroduced species.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Project Cheetah; habitat suitability; prey availability; human-wildlife conflict; poaching and firearm injuries; veterinary monitoring; inter-agency coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

Wildlife reintroduction can help restore ecological functions and rebuild populations of species that have disappeared from their former ranges. India's cheetah reintroduction programme, centred on Kuno National Park, represents an important conservation initiative.

Key challenges

Reintroduced animals may face habitat constraints, inadequate prey, disease, environmental stress and conflict with nearby communities. Poaching and firearm injuries highlight the risks of inadequate protection beyond designated reserve boundaries. Monitoring animal health and survival also requires specialised veterinary expertise and reliable data.

Measures to strengthen conservation

First, forest departments should improve intelligence-led patrolling, surveillance and enforcement against illegal hunting. Second, radio-collar monitoring and veterinary response systems should enable rapid intervention when animals move beyond protected areas.

Third, landscape-level planning must secure suitable habitat, prey populations and wildlife corridors. Local communities should participate through awareness programmes, livelihood support and fair compensation for verified losses. Finally, central and state agencies should coordinate investigations, publish transparent monitoring reports and adapt management plans to scientific evidence.

Conclusion

Successful cheetah conservation requires more than releasing animals into the wild. Long-term habitat protection, effective law enforcement, scientific monitoring and community participation are essential for establishing a sustainable population.

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