



# Government to Re-examine Asiatic Lion Translocation Plan

## Why in News?

The **Indian government** is re-examining the long-standing plan to **translocate Asiatic lions** (*Panthera leo persica*) from [Gir National Park](#) to [Kuno National Park](#).

## What are the Developments Related to Translocation of Asiatic Lions?

- In 2013, the [Supreme Court](#) ordered the government to **translocate Asiatic lions from Gujarat to the Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh. However, the lion translocation remains on paper.
- However, the Centre's 25-year roadmap for Project Lion has **no provision for any translocation outside Gujarat**.
  - Instead, the focus is on assisted **natural dispersal across Saurashtra by 2047**.
- The [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) has recently pointed out that the lion population increased by **29% over the past 5 years**.
  - In view of the recent introduction of cheetahs in Kuno and NTCA is looking for measures to secure the lion's future beyond Gir.

## What are the Key Points Related to Asiatic Lions?

- **About:**
  - The Asiatic Lion (also known as the **Persian Lion or Indian Lion**) is a member of the **Panthera Leo Leo** subspecies that is **restricted to India**.
  - Its **previous habitats consisted of West Asia** and the Middle East before it became extinct in these regions.
    - Asiatic lions are **slightly smaller than African lions**.
- **Distribution:**
  - Asiatic lions were **once distributed to the state of West Bengal in east and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh**, in central India.
  - At present **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** is the only abode of the Asiatic lion.
- **Protection Status:**
  - [IUCN Red List](#): Endangered
  - [CITES](#): Appendix I
  - [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act 1972](#): Schedule I

## Gir National Park

- **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in the **Junagadh** district of Gujarat.
  - It was declared as a sanctuary in 1965 and a national park in 1975.
- The Gir Forests is the largest compact tract of **dry deciduous forests** in the **semi-arid western part of India**.
- Gir is often linked with "**Maldharis**" who have survived through the ages by having **symbiotic relationship with the lion**.

## Kuno National Park

- **Kuno National Park** is a protected area located in the **Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh state in India.**
- It has a healthy population of **chital, sambar, nilgai, wild pig, chinkara and cattle.**

### UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)**

1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (a)**

**Source: IE**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/government-to-re-examine-asiatic-lion-translocation-plan>