



Cheetah Relocation in India

Why in News?

India will be soon releasing cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia into the wild at **Kuno Palpur** in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh.

- It will initiate **India's ambitious plan of transcontinental relocation of cheetahs.**
- The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 and it was declared extinct in the country in 1952.
- The [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) some years back prepared a cheetah reintroduction project.

What are the Key Points Related to Cheetahs?

- **About:**
 - The cheetah is one of the oldest of the big cat species, with ancestors that can be traced back more than five million years to the Miocene era.
 - The cheetah is also the world's fastest land mammal that lives in Africa and Asia.
- **African Cheetah:** [//](#)



- **Scientific Name:** *Acinonyx Jubatus*
- **Characteristics:** They have slightly brownish and golden skin which is thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs.
 - They have much more prominent spots and lines on their face as compared to their Asian cousins.
- **Distribution:** Found all over the African continent in thousands of numbers.
- **Protection:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable.
 - **CITES:** Appendix 1.

- **WPA:** Schedule-2.

- **Asiatic Cheetah:**



- **Scientific Name:** *Acinonyx Jubatus Venaticus*
- **Characteristic:** Slightly smaller than the African Cheetahs.
 - They have pale yellowish fawn coloured skin with more fur under their body, specifically on the belly. Inserting image...
- **Distribution:** Found only in Iran with less than 100 individuals left.
- **Protection:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** critically endangered.
 - **CITES:** Appendix 1.
 - **WPA:** Schedule-2.

What are the Threats?

- Human-wildlife conflict, loss of habitat and loss of prey, and illegal trafficking.
- Deforestation and **agriculture eventually led to less forest land and Cheetah habitat.**
- The advent of climate change and growing human populations have only made these problems worse.

What are the Indian Conservation Efforts?

- The Wildlife Institute of India had prepared a Rs 260-crore cheetah **Re-introduction project** seven years ago.
- This could be the world's first inter-continental cheetah translocation project.
- The Ministry of Environment had in the 19th meeting of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** released an "**Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India**".
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has decided to bring 50 African Cheetah from Namibia within the next 5 years.

What are the Key Points of Kuno National Park?

- Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh is **one the most unique destinations** for all wildlife lovers and enthusiasts.
- It has a **healthy population of chital, sambar, nilgai, wild pig, chinkara and cattle.**
- Currently, the leopard and striped hyena are the only larger carnivores within the National Park, with the lone tiger having returned to Ranthambore earlier this year.

[Source: IE](#)

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