



India to Bring Cheetahs from Botswana

Why in News?

To revitalize **the cheetah rehabilitation efforts** in India, eight cheetahs will be brought from Botswana in two phases.

- As per the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#), the process is underway to bring more cheetahs from South Africa and Kenya.

Key Points

- **Rehabilitation of Cheetahs:**
 - [Project Cheetah](#), launched in 2022, is India's ambitious initiative to **reintroduce the extinct species of cheetahs in the wild**.
 - So far, more than Rs. 112 crore has been spent on the project, with **about 67% allocated to cheetah rehabilitation activities in Madhya Pradesh alone**.
 - Cheetahs will be rehabilitated in the [Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary](#) located in Madhya Pradesh.
 - Located near the Rajasthan border, Gandhi Sagar will serve as a second home for the cheetahs, **following the Kuno National Park**.
 - An **inter-state conservation corridor** is being developed through an agreement between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Cheetah

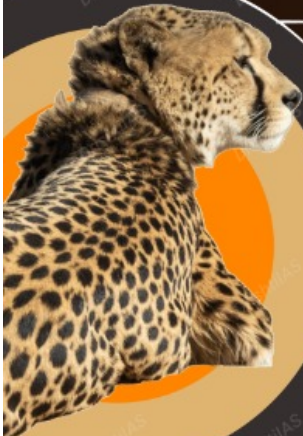
Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

- *Acinonyx jubatus jubatus* (African Cheetah)
- *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* (Asiatic Cheetah)

Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

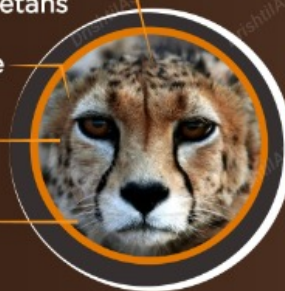


Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

IUCN Red List Status - Vulnerable



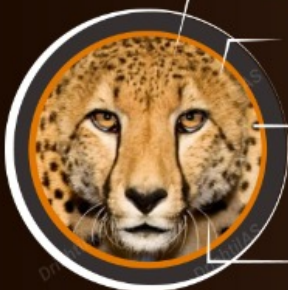
African Cheetah

Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin - more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. Year 1952 - Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.

IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered



Asiatic Cheetah



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Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in **Madhya Pradesh** on the northern border of Mandsaur and Neemuch districts adjoining Rajasthan.
- It is characterized by **vast open landscapes and rocky terrain**.
- The vegetation includes northern **tropical dry deciduous forest, mixed deciduous forest, and shrubland**.
- The sanctuary is **home to various flora**, including Khair, Salai, Kardai, Dhavda, Tendu, and Palash.
- **Its fauna comprises species such as** [chinkara](#), [nilgai](#), [spotted deer](#), [striped hyena](#), [jackal](#), and [crocodile](#).

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- It is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- It was **established in 2005** following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- **It was constituted under the provisions of [the Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#)** (amended in 2006) with the powers and functions entrusted to it, it aims to strengthen tiger conservation.

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