



Project Cheetah Wins Innovative Initiative Award

Why in News?

Project Cheetah has been honored with the prestigious '**Innovative Initiative Award**' at the **3rd Eco Warrior Awards**, which was hosted by the **Indian Forest Service (IFS) Association** and Indian Mastermind in Delhi.

- The award was presented to **Uttam Sharma**, the field director of [Project Cheetah](#).

Key Points

- **About:** The **Eco Warrior Awards** recognize exceptional efforts in conservation and sustainability.
 - The **IFS Association** specifically chose Project Cheetah for its remarkable achievement in **reviving an extinct species in India** and for its commitment to involve local communities in the project's success.
- **Newsletter:** As the project marked its third anniversary, the forest department also released a special newsletter documenting the journey of Project Cheetah from the arrival of the first cheetahs at [Kuno National Park](#) in 2022 to the successful births of cubs and ongoing habitat management efforts.

Project Cheetah

- **About:** Project Cheetah (Cheetah Reintroduction Project) was launched in **2022**, with the aim to reintroduce cheetahs to India (declared extinct in 1952) as part of global cheetah conservation efforts.
- **Implementing Agencies:** [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#), Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, and [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#).
- **Implementation: Phase 1** involved translocating cheetahs from Namibia (2022) and South Africa (2023) to Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
 - Under **Phase-2** of the Project India is considering sourcing cheetahs from Kenya due to similar habitats.
 - Cheetahs will be translocated to Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh).

Cheetah

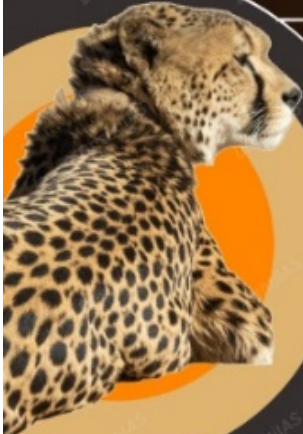
Common Name - Cheetah

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.

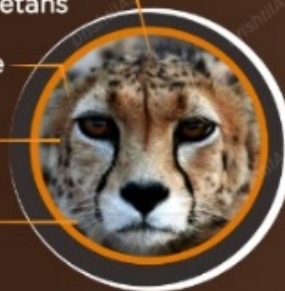


Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

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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