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## Illegal Sand Mining | Madhya Pradesh | 06 May 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, a police officer was hit by a tractor transporting **illegally mined sand in Madhya Pradesh**.

### Key Points

- The **illegal sand mining** is rampant in Madhya Pradesh, with hundreds of dumpers transporting sand from the banks of the **Son river**.
- Sand mining is the **removal of primary natural sand and sand resources** (mineral sands and aggregates) from the natural environment (terrestrial, riverine, coastal, or marine) for extracting valuable minerals, metals, crushed stone, sand and gravel for subsequent processing.
- This activity, driven by various factors, poses serious **threats to ecosystems and communities**.

### Son River

- The Son River, a **perennial river in central India, is the Ganges' 2nd-largest southern tributary**.
- Originating near **Amarkantak Hill in Chhattisgarh**, it flows through Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, forming waterfalls at the Amarkantak plateau.
  - It merges with the Ganges near Patna, Bihar.
- Tributaries include Ghaghar, Johilla, Chhoti Mahanadi, Banas, Gopad, Rihand, Kanhar, and North Koel River.
- Prominent dams include the **Bansagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh** and the **Rihand Dam** near Pipri in Uttar Pradesh.

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## Kuno Cheetah Captured in Rajasthan | Madhya Pradesh | 06 May 2024

### Why in News?

One of the [Cheetahs](#) from [Kuno National Park](#) in Madhya Pradesh wandered around 50km and ended up in **Karauli, Rajasthan**.

- However, it was tranquilized and safely returned the same evening.

### Key Points

- According to **forest department** officials, the cheetah may have followed a route along the [Chambal river](#), which flows through Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan's Karauli.
  - Chambal river is one of the most **pollution-free rivers** of India.

- It's 960 km. long river that originates at the **Singar Chouri peak** in the northern slopes of the **Vindhya** mountains (Indore, Madhya Pradesh). From there, it flows in the **North direction** in Madhya Pradesh for a length of about 346 km and then follows a **north-easterly direction** for a length of 225 km through Rajasthan.
- It enters UP and flows for about 32 km before joining the **Yamuna River** in Etawah District.
- It is a **rainfed river** and its basin is bounded by the Vindhyan mountain ranges and the Aravallis. The Chambal and its tributaries drain the **Malwa region** of northwestern Madhya Pradesh.
- **Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, Parbati.
- **Main Power Projects/ Dam:** Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, and Kota Barrage.
- The **National Chambal Sanctuary** is located along river Chambal on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It is known for **critically endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin.**





# Cheetah

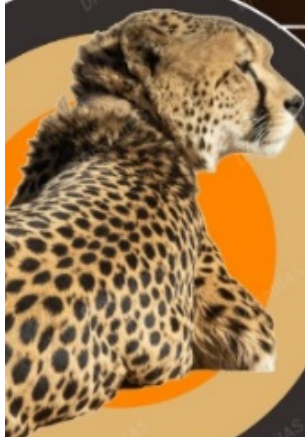
**Common Name** - Cheetah

**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.

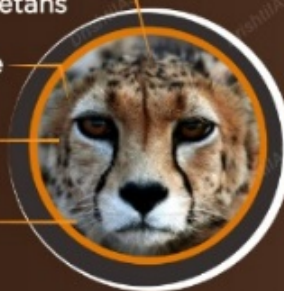


Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

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



Drishti IAS

Dr  
Vision

