



Reintroduction of Cheetahs in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary | Madhya Pradesh | 12 Jun 2024

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government has completed preparations at the [Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary](#) to become a new habitat for [cheetahs](#).

Key Points

- Teams from Kenya and South Africa had earlier visited Gandhi Sagar to assess the conditions for [reintroduction of cheetahs](#).
 - Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister chaired a meeting of the **state wildlife board**, during which it was informed that preparations have been completed.
- Prey animals were relocated from [Kanha, Satpura and Sanjay tiger reserves](#) to Gandhi Sagar.
- Under the ambitious cheetah reintroduction project, **eight Namibian cheetahs**, five females and three males, were released into enclosures at [Kuno National Park \(KNP\)](#) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district on 17th September, 2022.
 - In February 2023, 12 more cheetahs were brought from South Africa.
- During the meeting, the chief minister directed officials to conduct a study on the possibilities of bringing **rhinos** and other rare and endangered wild animals to the forests of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Mandsaur district** is around 270 km from Kuno National Park in Sheopur.
 - The second home for cheetahs is spread over 64 sq km.

Kanha Tiger Reserve

- It stretches over an area of 940 square km in the **two districts - Mandla and Balaghat - of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The present-day Kanha area **was divided into two sanctuaries, Hallon and Banjar. Kanha National Park was created in 1955 and in 1973 was made the Kanha Tiger Reserve**.
 - Kanha National Park is the **largest National Park in Central India**.

Satpura Tiger Reserve

- Satpura Tiger Reserve, is in the **Hoshangabad district** of Madhya Pradesh. Famous as a **tiger conservation center**, this area is also **rich in wildlife and plant diversity**.
- Apart from the tiger, various wildlife including **leopard, Indian bison, Indian giant squirrel, sambar, chital, deer, nilgai, langur, bear, wild boar** are found here.
- It has more than 300 caves of historical and **archaeological importance**.

Sanjay Tiger Reserves

- Sanjay-Dubri National Park and Tiger Reserve was **established in 1975** to conserve the biodiversity rich forest area of the district. Comprising an **Evergreen Sal forest**.
- The major species found are **tiger, Sloth bear, Chital, Nilgai, Chinkara, Sambar (limited to hilly terrain and in very small number), leopard, Dhole (wild dog), Jungle Cat, Hyena, Porcupine, Jackal, Fox, Indian Wolf, Indian Python Four-horned Antelope and Barking deer**.

Cheetah

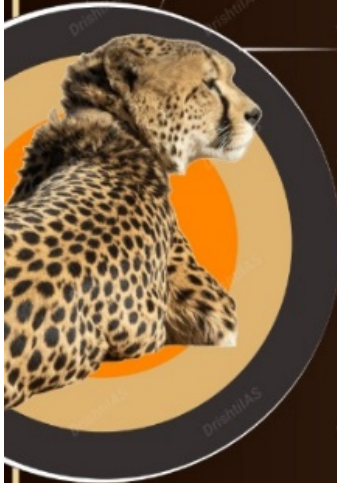
Common Name - Cheetah

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.

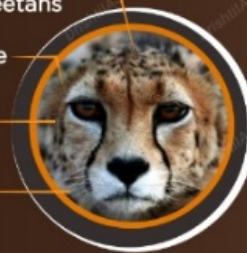


Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

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

