



Madhya Pradesh Refuses RTI Info on Project Cheetah

Why in News?

Recently, The **Madhya Pradesh forest department** has refused to provide information under [the Right to Information Act, 2005](#) on **management of cheetahs** brought from Africa and their cubs born in India.

Key Points

- The department cited **Section 8(1)(a)** of the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005** to withhold information in response to a wildlife activist request.
 - They stated that disclosure could prejudicially affect [India's sovereignty](#), integrity, security, strategic, scientific, or economic interests, relations with a foreign State, or lead to the incitement of an offence.
- The state forest department was requested to provide “management correspondence records of the [Cheetah Project in Kuno and Mandsaur](#)”.

Cheetah Reintroduction Project

- The Cheetah Reintroduction Project in India formally commenced on September 17, 2022, to restore **the population of cheetahs**, which were declared **extinct in the country in 1952**.
- The project involves the translocation of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia to **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh.
- The project is implemented by the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) in collaboration with the **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department**, [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#), and cheetah experts from Namibia and South Africa.

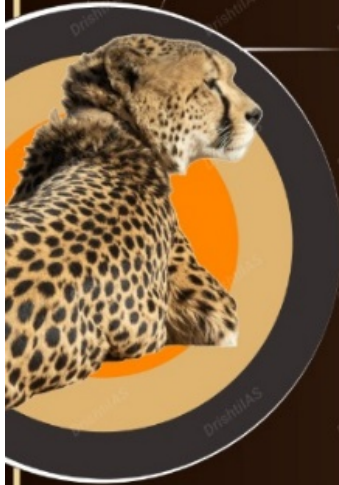
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Cheetah

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



