



Cheetahs in Gandhinagar Sanctuary

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh chief minister announced that **cheetahs would be released soon** in the **Gandhinagar Sanctuary** in Mandsaur district.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister made the announcement on the occasion of **World Tiger Day**.
- On January 26, 2022, the **Indian and South African governments signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to facilitate the relocation of cheetahs.
 - The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes the **restoration of the cheetah population as a priority** for India.
 - This initiative is expected to have **significant and wide-ranging conservation implications**.
 - The primary goals are to **re-establish the cheetah's functional role** within its historical habitat in India and enhance the livelihoods and economies of the local communities.

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:**
 - Notified in 1974, encompassing the districts of **Mandsaur and Neemuch** in western Madhya Pradesh, bordering Rajasthan.
 - The **Chambal River** bifurcates the sanctuary into two nearly equal parts, with the Gandhi Sagar Dam situated within the sanctuary.
- **Ecosystem:**
 - Its ecosystem is characterised by its **rocky terrain** and **shallow topsoil**, which supports a **savanna ecosystem**.
 - This comprises **open grasslands** interspersed with **dry deciduous trees** and shrubs. Additionally, the riverine valleys within the sanctuary are evergreen.
- **Ideal Habitat for Cheetahs:**
 - The sanctuary's resemblance to the **Maasai Mara**, a renowned national reserve in **Kenya** known for its savanna wilderness and abundant wildlife, highlights its suitability for cheetahs.



AFRICAN CHEETAH VS ASIATIC CHEETAH



AFRICAN CHEETAH

- 🐾 **SCIENTIFIC NAME:**
Acinonyx Jubatus
- 🐾 **DISTRIBUTION:**
Across Africa from North-west Africa, East Africa, & Southern Africa
- 🐾 **SIZE:**
Slightly bigger build with sturdier legs and neck
- 🐾 **SKIN:**
Light brown to golden brown fur color, thicker than the Asiatic ones
- 🐾 **IUCN RED LIST STATUS:**
Vulnerable



ASIATIC CHEETAH

- 🐾 **SCIENTIFIC NAME:**
Acinonyx Jubatus Venaticus
- 🐾 **DISTRIBUTION:**
Only 12 Asiatic cheetahs, 9 males, and 3 females are left in Iran
- 🐾 **SIZE:**
Slightly smaller and slender than the African cheetah
- 🐾 **SKIN:**
Buff to light fawn color bordering pale yellow skin, has more fur underbelly and back of neck
- 🐾 **IUCN RED LIST STATUS:**
Critically Endangered

