



International Cheetah Day

Source: [ICD](#)

Every year **4th December** is marked as [International Cheetah Day](#) since **2010**. The day is dedicated to **emphasizing global efforts to prevent the cheetah's extinction and promote its conservation.**

- American zoologist, **Dr. Laurie Marker**, founder of the **Cheetah Conservation Fund** in 1991, designated this day in honor of **Khayam**, a cheetah she raised.
- **About Cheetah:**
 - Cheetahs (***Acinonyx jubatus***) are part of the **felidae family** and are among the **oldest big cat species**, with their ancestry dating back over **5 million years** to the **Miocene era** (geological period from 23.03 to 5.333 million years ago).
 - They are the **world's fastest land mammals**, found in parts of **Africa** and **Asia**.
 - They have vanished from over **75% of their historic range in Africa**, with their population declining by more than 30% in the past two decades.
 - **Namibia** has the **world's largest population** of cheetahs.
 - Under the [Cheetah Reintroduction Project](#), cheetahs were **translocated to India** from **Namibia and South Africa** in 2022 and 2023.

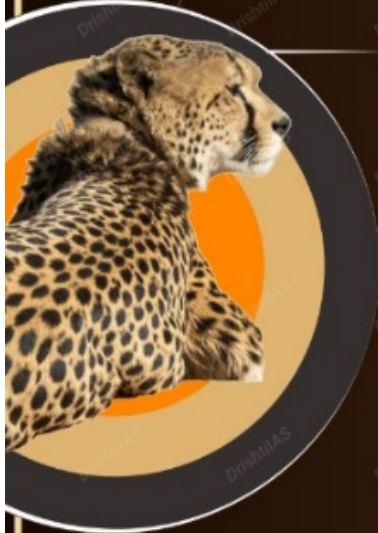
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Cheetah

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



Drishti IAS

Dr
Vision

Read More: [One Year of Project Cheetah](#)

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