



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Two cheetahs move to new home in Madhya Pradesh

Published On: 21-04-2025

Context

• Two cheetahs, Prabhas and Pawak, moved to their new home as **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released them into the **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** on Sunday.

Project Cheetah

- It is an initiative by the Government of India **to reintroduce cheetahs into the wild after they were declared extinct in the country in 1952.**
- Project Cheetah involves importing **cheetahs from Africa** and establishing them in suitable habitats within India, particularly in national parks and wildlife reserves.
- The goal of Project Cheetah is to restore the ecological balance, promote biodiversity, and enhance wildlife tourism and conservation efforts in India.
- For this Project Cheetah, India has partnered with the **Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), an international organisation founded in Namibia** dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild.

Reintroduction

- 'Reintroduction' of a species means **releasing it in an area where it can survive.**
- Reintroducing large carnivores has become a widely recognised strategy for conserving threatened species and restoring ecosystem functions.
- Cheetahs are thought to have vanished from India after **Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya hunted and killed the last three Asiatic cheetahs recorded in 1947.**
- It was **declared extinct by the Government in 1952.**
- Under Project Cheetah, the Prime Minister of India released wild Cheetahs in **Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.**
- The Cheetahs introduced in the Kuno National Park were **brought from Namibia.**
- This is the **world's first inter-continental wild carnivore translocation project.**

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- It is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

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- It was established in 2006 under **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**.

- NTCA Composition:

1Minister in charge of MoEFCC (as Chairperson),

2Minister of State in MoEFCC (as Vice-Chairperson),

3Three members of Parliament, the Secretary (MoEFCC), and other members.

- The Authority lays down **standards, guidelines for tiger conservation** in the Tiger Reserves, National Parks and Sanctuaries.

- The Tiger Conservation Authority would be required to prepare an Annual Report, which would be laid in the Parliament along with the Audit Report.



African Cheetah

Vulnerable

Appendix - I

Africa (Northwest Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa)

Diverse diet due to bigger habitat

Bigger in size as compared to asiatic cheetah, slightly bigger build and sturdy legs and neck



Asian Cheetah

Critically Endangered

Appendix - I

Only few left in Iran

Limited sources, medium sized prey like Chinkara, Gazelle etc.

Slightly smaller and slender than the African Cheetah, their neck is much smaller and slender. Their legs are slender

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