

Two cheetahs move to new home in Madhya Pradesh

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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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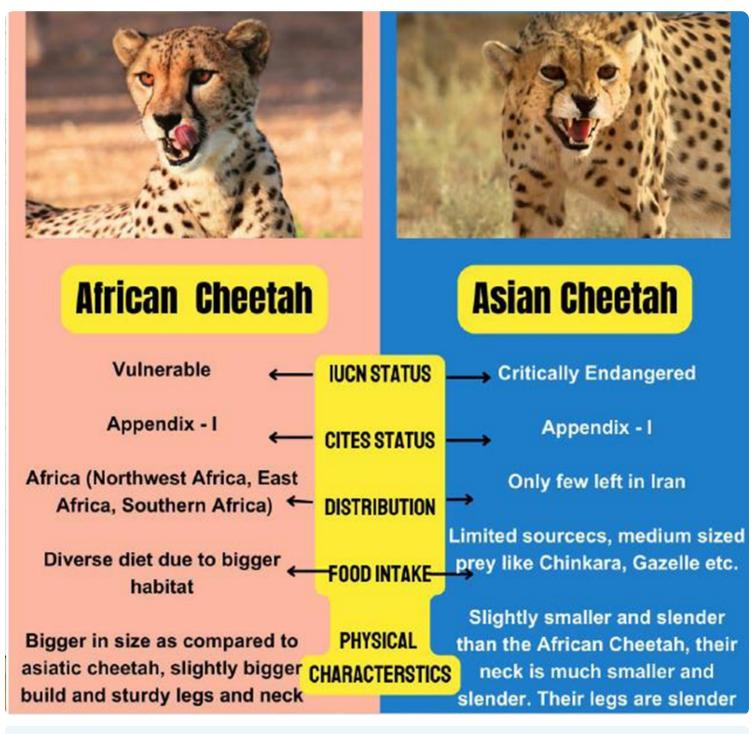
- It was established in 2006 under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- NTCA Composition:

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.



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