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News: Wait for cheetah to get longer

- It could be many months before cheetahs from Namibia make it to India. An expert team of wildlife officials from Madhya Pradesh, the Indian Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India that visited Namibia for a site visit last week is reportedly “satisfied”, but a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the transfer is yet to be signed.

Asiatic Cheetah

- Asiatic Cheetah is also known as **Iranian or Persian Cheetah**.
- Presently, it is found **only in Iran that too around 40-50 individuals**.
- Its habitat once ranged from **Arabian Peninsula to India, but extirpated** from these area.
- IUCN Status: **Critically Endangered**.
- CITES Status: **Appendix I**
- It is a **smaller Cheetah** compared to that of African Cheetah having a cat-like appearance.

African Cheetah

- IUCN Status: **Vulnerable**
- CITES Status: **Appendix I**
- There are about 6500-7000 individuals present.
- Recently, Supreme **Court lifted its 7-year stay on proposal to re-introduce African Cheetah from Namibia to Palpur Kuno Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.**
- Once abundant, **cheetahs were extinct in India since 1952, due to poaching, habitat destruction & reduction in prey (due to their poaching).**
- **India, first approached Iran to relocate Asian Cheetahs,** but the proposal was declined by Iran as the number of Asiatic Cheetah is too low.