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News: Cheetahs and tigers: the saga of big cats in India

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.