Ivory trade

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About Ivory trade:

- The proposal, to allow a regular form of **controlled trade** in ivory from Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, was defeated at the 19th meeting of the CITES (CoP19) in Panama City.
- India's abstention — a break from its past stand — was in tune with what Namibia had asked for when it agreed **to transfer cheetahs this summer.**

Ivory trade Ban

- The ivory trade was **globally banned in 1989** when all African elephant populations were put in CITES Appendix I.
- **No trade is allowed in species listed in CITES Appendix I** while trade is **strictly regulated in those under Appendix II.**

What is CITES?

- It is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere **voluntarily**.
- It was drafted as a result of a **resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union)**. It **entered into force in July 1975.**
- Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants **does not threaten the survival of the species.**
- Although CITES is **legally binding on the Parties** – in other words they have to implement the Convention – **it does not take the place of national laws.**
- **The CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP** and is located in Geneva, Switzerland. **The Conference of the Parties to CITES is the supreme decision-making body** of the Convention and comprises all its parties.

Source : Indian Express