

Tiger conservation

- Much of the success of wildlife conservation in India has been attributed to the Wild Life (Protection) Act (WLPA).
- We are now losing tigers from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and the Eastern Ghats and from the Northeastern forests.
- With it, we lose genetic diversity unique to these geographical regions, dashing hopes of maintaining long-term population viability and natural recovery.
- A tool that is increasingly being used to thwart this reduction is to reintroduce tigers from central Indian forests, where the populations are thriving, as was done for the Panna and Sariska Tiger Reserves.
- However, if this is done too often, re-introduction will homogenize tiger genetic structure across the country.
- The tiger was considered an “umbrella species”. Saving the tiger meant saving the entire ecosystem.
- Tigers in India occur in a wide range of habitat types, from the evergreen forests of the Western Ghats to the Terai grasslands of the Himalayan foothills; from the tropical dry forests of Rajasthan to the mangroves of the Sundarbans.
- Given the inherent differences in such habitat types, it is inevitable that not all of them will support similar densities of tigers.
- Habitats that boast the highest tiger numbers are typically those with a high prey abundance.
- The most common interventions were to manipulate ecosystems so that they could support the high densities of the tiger’s principal prey species.
- In most cases, this involved improving the habitat for the cheetah, a mixed feeder that thrives in the ‘ecotone’ (a transition area between two biological communities) between forests and grasslands. It also required provisioning water.
- This has resulted in the “cheetalification” of tiger reserves.
- For example, in the Kanha Tiger Reserve, the explosion in the cheetah population resulted in the habitat becoming unsuitable for the



endangered hard-ground barasingha, which depends on tall grass.

- There is no policy framework and incentive for ordinary citizens to aid in conservation be it for tigers or for any other species. As a result, conservation has not reached beyond these PAs.
- In other countries, natural lands are owned or managed by individuals, communities, farmers, ranchers, corporates, charities, and the government.
- Each one of them is incentivized to conserve these lands according to their interests. As a result, several conservation models operate simultaneously.
- Large tracts of forest land are “Reserved Forests” under the jurisdiction of the “territorial” wing of State Forest Departments. Such areas can be co-managed with an inclusive approach which also provides economic benefits for local communities.
- Indeed, in many landscapes, degraded agricultural lands adjoining these forest areas can be restored to enhance connectivity between PAs, and further afield forest patches can act as “stepping stone” reserves for tigers and other large mammal movements in our

increasingly human-modified environment.

THE HINDU

Substack

What is Substack?

- Substack, launched in 2017, is an online publishing platform that lets writers and podcasters publish and share content directly with their target audience.
- The platform allows content creators to generate income directly from subscribers on their terms.
- For readers and listeners, the platform provides an easy way to access content and support individual creators based on users’ needs and preferences.

What are Substack Notes?

- Substack on April 5, three days before Twitter started censoring links, announced it would be launching its short-form content platform called Notes.
- The company shared that Notes will provide users with a platform to post short-form content while using recommendations to drive discovery across the platform.
- Notes will come with features for users to publish brief posts, and quotes along with reactions, images,

and links. Substack says Notes will run on paid subscriptions and not ads, unlike other social media platforms.

THE HINDU

Carbon-free electricity and G7

- Climate and Energy Ministers and envoys from G-7 countries on Sunday committed to work towards ensuring carbon-free electricity production by 2035 and “accelerating” the phase-out of coal.
- This was part of an agreement by the countries at the end of a two-day conference in Sapporo, Japan, ahead of the G-7 summit in Hiroshima this May. A proposal to have a 2030 deadline for phasing out coal.

What is the G7?

- The G7 (Group of Seven) is an organization of the world's seven largest so-called "advanced" economies, which dominate global trade and the international financial system.
- They are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the United States.
- Russia joined in 1998, creating the G8, but was excluded in 2014 for its takeover of Crimea.

- China has never been a member, despite its large economy and having the world's biggest population.
- The EU is not a member of the G7 but attends the annual summit.



THE HINDU

Sudan crisis





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- The fighting is part of a vicious power struggle within the country's military leadership, escalating into violence between rival factions.
- The two men at its center disagree over how the country should transition to civilian rule. Sudan has been run by generals since a coup overthrew the long-standing authoritarian president, Omar al-Bashir, in 2019.
- The fighting is between army units loyal to the de facto leader, Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, a notorious paramilitary force commanded by Sudan's deputy leader, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti.
- The major sticking points are over the plans to incorporate the 100,000-strong RSF into the army, and over who would then lead the new force.

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