

Cheetah

Why have African cheetahs been introduced in India?

The goal of the introduction of African cheetahs is to “establish viable cheetah metapopulation in India that allows the cheetah to perform its functional role as a top predator and provides space for the expansion of the cheetah within its historical range thereby contributing to its global conservation efforts

Why did the cheetahs die?

The first cheetah which died is said to have perished due to a renal condition.

Three of the four cubs born in India are reported to have died due to heatwave condition

What has been the impact of the project on the conservation of other endangered species?

Unfortunately, the very highprofile cheetah project has definitely distracted attention and probably also diverted financial resources from much needed conservation projects like the ones for the Great Indian Bustard and the translocation of Asiatic lions, to mention a few. Project

Cheetah has also been called upon as a means to save grasslands and other open natural ecosystems.

The Hindu

Cat and birds

Pet cats hunt birds the most, followed by reptiles, insects, rodents, and amphibians. While dogs also harm wildlife, cats have retained the instinct to hunt through many years of domestication, even if they don't need the skill anymore

Dealing with the cat problem has spiralled into a vicious debate in the West. Animal welfare groups usually advocate the ‘trapneuter return’ policy. This is considered humane because it could improve the quality of a cat's life as well

The ‘State of Indian Birds 2023’ is unambiguous in concluding that India's bird diversity is in peril and ecologists have called for more attempts to quantify risks posed by various threats, including cats.

The Hindu

OTT and TSPs

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) invited responses to a consultation paper it released on a regulatory mechanism for over-the-top (OTT) communication services.

What is the conflict between TSPs and OTTs?

Telecom Service Providers are of the opinion that OTTs should be regulated and charged because they use and thrive on the infrastructure built by operators over the years. Currently, they aren't.

“OTT communications services have led to erosion of revenues for the telcos. These platforms offer users an array of services, sending of Multimedia Messaging Services (MMS), instant messaging to voice and video calls, delivered over the internet.

This circumvents the need for traditional telecom services, particularly voice calls and text messages, leading to a significant reduction in the revenue streams of telecom companies.

OTT communication service providers neither contribute to

the exchequer nor make investments like the TSPs in the spread of network infrastructure in the country.

The OTT communication service providers take a free ride on TSP funded networks without contributing to the setting up and maintaining digital infrastructure for access networks.”

What is the demand?

“There should be a policy framework to enable fair share contribution from large OTT service providers to

telecommunication network operators based on assessable criteria like number of subscribers or data usage. To ensure fairness and compensate for the increased data demands, it is justifiable for OTTs to pay a fair and reasonable fair share charge to TSPs.

The Hindu

Outcome of g20

We are One Earth, One Family, and we share One Future”, they noted. The notion of unity and a shared destiny was aptly stressed to convey the gravity of

the multiple challenges facing humankind today.

The way out for the world is to be driven by the “the philosophy of living in harmony with our surrounding ecosystem.” They worked on harmonising development with environment, stating that “no country should have to choose between fighting poverty and fighting for our planet. These range from securing inclusive growth and accelerating full implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to addressing debt vulnerability, reform of Multilateral Development Banks, and integrating the perspectives of the Global south into the “future G20 agenda.”

The document’s last paragraph reiterates the determination “to steer the world out of its current challenges” and build a bright future. That this will be a long term project was evident

The first ever expansion of G20 membership was imbued with much significance. The document depicts the AU as “a permanent member” even though G20 does not have permanent and nonpermanent members; it

has only members and guests. The admission was agreed in the name of creating a more inclusive world.

G20’s central agenda relating to economic and financial sectors, climate action and energy transitions, implementation of SDGs, technological transformation through Digital Public Infrastructure, reform of

International financial institutions, trade, and taxation, and securing gender equality and empowerment of “all” women and girls is wide ranging, ambitious, and even aspirational view that global challenges of the 21st century can “only be addressed through reinvigorated multilateralism, reforms and international cooperation.” It wants the UN institutions to be “more responsive” to the entire membership.

The need to make the global governance “more representative, effective, transparent and accountable” has been stated clearly. The fact that these formulations have the support of the entire G20 leadership creates a glimmer of hope of some progress in the future, even though realism

demands that the proponents of reform to remain cautious.

The Hindu

Santiniketan

Santiniketan, a town established by Nobel laureate Rabindra nath Tagore, made it to the UNESCO's World Heritage List on Sunday.

Located in West Bengal's Birbhum district, Santiniketan, which means "abode of peace", started taking shape in 1901 and is the place where Tagore laid the foundations of VisvaBharati University.

The Hindu

Island of Lampedusa

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited the Italian island of Lampedusa, which is struggling with a surge in migrant arrivals, and promised a 10point EU action plan to help Italy deal with the situation.

Lampedusa is one of the Pelagie Islands, in the Mediterranean Sea, southern Italy. It's known for its beaches, including the

Spiaggia dei Conigli, with shallow waters and colourful marine life.



The Hindu
