

## Five more cheetahs to be released into wild at Kuno

They will be released into 'free-roaming conditions' before the onset of monsoon in June; twenty big cats have been brought from Namibia and South Africa since September 2022, two have died

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

**F**ive more cheetahs – three females and two males – will be released from the acclimatisation camps to "free-roaming conditions at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh before the onset of monsoon in June, the Union Environment Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

The statement was based on a report submitted by an expert committee to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which is the nodal body for Project Cheetah. The committee members visited the KNP on April 30 and reviewed the current status of Project Cheetah.

Twenty cheetahs have been brought from Namibia and South Africa since September 2022 as part of a translocation programme to reintroduce the wild cat into Indian habitat. As part of their acclimatisation, the animals were housed in special enclosures. However, two of



**No boundaries:** Four cheetahs have been released into the wild so far, and one of them even ventured outside the national park. PTI

them died – one of kidney infection and the other of heart failure, following a strenuous hunt.

### Long-term plan

The long-term plan to acclimatise the animals to Indian conditions is to gradually release them into the wild – though all the animals are radio-collared and the Madhya Pradesh State wildlife officials are tracking their movement – and keep adding more animals from Africa until a sizeable self-sustaining population is established

in a decade or so, while accounting for natural mortality and acclimatisation-related challenges.

So far, four of the cheetahs have already been released into the wild – with one of them even ranging outside the Kuno National Park and venturing into farms in Uttar Pradesh. It had to be tranquillised and returned to the sanctuary.

The remaining cheetahs, the statement said, would remain in the acclimatisation camps for the duration of the monsoon season (June-September).

After September, when the monsoon ends, more animals would be released into the KNP or surrounding areas in "a planned manner" to the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh. The cheetahs would be allowed to move out of the KNP and not necessarily recaptured unless they venture into areas where they are in "significant danger," the statement added.

### Concern over space

Independent experts have raised concerns that the cheetahs had on average too little space and limited access to prey at the national park, and this would pose considerable problems for their eventual flourishing in India.

One of the scientists, who was associated with the study, told *The Hindu* that available space at the KNP – about 1,00,000 sq. km. in the park and 6,00,000 in the landscape surrounding the park – was adequate for 21 cheetahs. At present, there are 18.

## What are the regulations to curtail misleading food ads?

What are the stipulations under the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising & Claims) Regulations, 2018?

Saptaparno Ghosh  
Sumeda

### The story so far:

**I**n April 29, the Advertisement Monitoring Committee at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) flagged 32 fresh cases of food business operators (FBOs) making misleading claims and advertisements. As per the regulator, the count of such offences has shot up to 170 in the last six months.

### What are the regulations?

There are varied regulations to combat misleading advertisements and claims, some are broad, while others are product specific. For example, FSSAI uses the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising & Claims) Regulations, 2018 which specifically deals with food (and related products) while the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)'s regulations cover goods, products and services. Further, the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable

Television Network Rules, 1994 stipulate that advertisements must not imply that the products have "some special or miraculous or supernatural property or quality, which is difficult of being proved." The FSSAI seeks that the advertisements and claims be "truthful, unambiguous, meaningful, not misleading and help consumers to comprehend the information provided". The claims must be scientifically substantiated by validated methods of characterising or quantifying the ingredient or substance that is the basis for the claim.

**Product claims suggesting a prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of a disease, disorder or particular psychological condition is prohibited unless specifically permitted under the regulations of the FSS Act, 2006.**

### When can a product be referred to as 'natural' and 'fresh'?

A food product can be referred to as 'natural' if it is a single food derived from a recognised natural source and has nothing added to it. It should only have

been processed to render it suitable for human consumption. The packaging too must be done sans chemicals and preservatives. Composite foods, which are essentially a mixture of plant and processed constituents, cannot call themselves 'natural', instead, they can say 'made from natural ingredients'.

'Fresh' can be used for products which are not processed in any manner other than washing, peeling, chilling, trimming, cutting or irradiation by ionising radiation not exceeding 1 kGy or any other processing such that it remains safe for consumption with the basic characteristics unaltered. Those with additives (to increase shelf life) may instead use 'freshly frozen', 'fresh frozen', or 'frozen from fresh' to contextualise that it was quickly frozen while fresh.

### What about 'pure' and 'original'?

'Pure' is to be used for single-ingredient foods to which nothing has been added and which are devoid of all avoidable contamination, while unavoidable contaminants are within prescribed

controls. 'Original' is used to describe food products made to a formulation, with a traceable origin that has remained unchanged over time. They do not contain replacements for any major ingredients. It may similarly be used to describe a unique process which has remained unchanged over time, although the product may be mass-produced.

### What about 'nutritional claims'?

Nutritional claims may either be about the specific contents of a product or comparisons with some other foodstuff. Claims of equivalence such as "contains the same of (nutrient) as a (food)" or "as much (nutrient) as a (food)" may be used in the labelling provided that it gives the equivalent nutritional value as the reference food. According to Manisha Kapoor, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary General at the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), most complaints of misleading ads were related to the nutrition of a product, its benefits and the ingredient mix not being based on adequate evidence.

"A lot of claim data is to be based on technical data. For example, if you say, that there is Vitamin D in my product, we need evidence to substantiate that there indeed is Vitamin D in your product," she says, adding, "then if you claim that Vitamin D in your product can also help reduce fatigue, improve stamina or another claim like that – then there needs to be enough literature to substantiate that the ingredient does what is being stated".



# NGT orders removal of some tourist facilities from boating site in Mudaliarkuppam

The area reportedly falls within the CRZ 1B and is a 'no development zone'; the TTDC did not obtain the necessary approvals from the State Coastal Zone Management Authority

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

**T**he Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered the removal of some tourist facilities, including the toilets, at the boating site in Mudaliarkuppam as the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Limited (TTDC) had not taken necessary approvals from the State Coastal Zone Management Authority (SCZMA).

The TTDC had begun constructing thatched huts, toilets and compound walls along the banks of the Tazhuthali Kuppam estuary, near Odalur lagoon, in the area between the waterbody and the sea. The area reportedly falls within the Coastal



**Protected spot:** The petitioner told the tribunal that the area is ecologically sensitive as it is an important Olive Ridley turtle nesting site. FILE PHOTO

**Regulation Zone (CRZ) 1B** and is a "no development zone", where tourism-related activities are not permitted.

Kannappan, a resident of Tazhuthali Kuppam,

filed a petition before the NGT stating that a branch of the Buckingham Canal separates from the estuary towards Marakanam, and the area is ecologically sensitive as it is an important

**Olive Ridley turtle nesting site.** He said the fishing community, which used larger nets, required the entire beachfront for their trade and it cannot be converted into a tourist spot.

The SCZMA had told the tribunal that the facilities were constructed by the TTDC without CRZ clearance under the CRZ Notification, 2011. The NGT on April 28, however, said the existing thatched huts with concrete flooring could remain but further huts or permanent structures could not be put up. Any intended construction or activity could be done only after getting the appropriate clearance from the SCZMA and within the permitted zones as per the CRZ Notification, 2011, the NGT added.

## TNCF and CM's Trophy launched at a gala event

The foundation will channelise and utilise contributions from the corporates and the public for the development of sports and sportspersons in the State

Sports Bureau  
CHENNAI

**T**he Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation (TNCF) was officially launched, and the Chief Minister's Trophy 2023 logo, mascot, and theme song were unveiled at The Leela Palace here on Monday.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was the chief guest, Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin presided over while Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was the guest of honour at the launch.

The CM's Trophy logo is the tamil word 'Tamil Nadu' with embedded illustrations of persons playing various sports and a chess horse. It comes with the slogan 'Kalam Namathae! (The field is ours!)'. The mascot is the humanoid Nilgiri Tahr 'Veeran'.

TNCF will be a registered company that will channelise and utilise contributions from the corporates and the public for the development of sports and sportspersons in the State.

Before the TNCF initiative took shape, Udhayanidhi had visited Odisha and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Odisha government.



Grand beginning: CM M.K. Stalin with Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and M.S. Dhoni at the launch of TNCF and CM's Trophy 2023 programme on Monday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

dum of Understanding (MoU) with the Odisha government.

"Odisha is called the pioneer of sports activities. For the first time in the State, an MoU has been signed with another State for promoting and sharing sports training and infrastructure.

"I assure you that the TNCF will take all the efforts to make TN a sports powerhouse of the Indian subcontinent," he said.

He added that TNCF has so far received ₹23 crore and ₹50 lakh in donations from the State government and various companies.

CM Stalin hoped that Dhoni would continue to play for CSK and added that he wanted the State to produce more Dhonis in cricket and all other sports. Stalin also said that he would personally donate ₹5 lakh to TNCF.

Thangam Thennarasu, TN Minister for Industries,

Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, TN Minister for School Education, Dayanidhi Maran, MP - Chennai Central, Dr. V. Irai Anbu, Chief Secretary to TN government, Atulya Mishra, Additional Chief Secretary to TN government - Youth Welfare and Sports, J. Meghanatha Reddy, Member Secretary - Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), and N. Ramachandran, SDAT Vice Chairman were also present.



# High Court does not have power to direct changes to Scheduled Tribes List: CJI

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

Even as the Manipur government and the Union government claimed that the State was returning to normalcy, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday asked why a 23-year-old Constitution Bench judgment which clearly held that no court or State had the power to “add, subtract or modify” the Scheduled Tribes List was not “shown” to the Manipur High Court in the first place.

Chief Justice Chandrachud orally said a High Court does not have the power to direct changes to the Scheduled Tribes List. “It is a Presidential power to designate a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe,” he observed.

Violent clashes and



It is a Presidential power to designate a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe

**D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**  
Chief Justice of India

deaths followed in the days after a Single Judge Bench of the Manipur High Court, on March 27, directed that the State government “shall consider the case of the petitioners for inclusion of the Meetei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list, expeditiously, preferably within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order”.

“It is not open to State governments or courts or tribunals or any other authority to modify, amend or alter the list of

Scheduled Tribes specified in the notification issued under clause (1) of Article 342,” the Constitution Bench in *State of Maharashtra versus Milind* had held in November 2000.

It had held that a notification issued under clause (1) of Article 342, specifying Scheduled Tribes, can be amended only by law to be made by Parliament.

The Constitution Bench had held that the Scheduled Tribes Order “had to be read as it is”.

“The Scheduled Tribes Order must be read as it is. It is not even permissible to say that a tribe, sub-tribe, part of or group of any tribe or tribal community is synonymous to the one mentioned in the Scheduled Tribes Order if they are not so specifically mentioned in it,” the Bench had drawn the line.