

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

You will most likely see lemurs in a Hollywood animation movie; singing, dancing and playing pranks. In the wild, they are found only on the island of Madagascar, which, to naturalists has always been a place of intriguing creatures. Many life forms in Madagascar have affinities to lineages found in India (3,800 km away) rather than Africa (413 km). This posed a 'difficult enigma' to naturalists. Zoologist Philip Sclater was perplexed by the presence of lemurs, their relatives, and their fossils in Madagascar and India, but not in nearby Africa or the Middle East. In the 1860s, he proposed that a large island or continent must have once existed between India and Madagascar, serving as a land bridge. Over time, this island had sunk. He called this proposed island Lemuria.

Even as the incessant rain and flash floods have wreaked havoc in Jodhpur city this monsoon, a less known story is unfolding in the villages of western Rajasthan — traditional water harvesting structures brimming with rainwater. Called 'nadis' or talabs (ponds) in these parts, these are shallow depressions across the rural landscape in the arid regions of Jodhpur and Barmer districts. The water collected in these tanks will quench the thirst of people, cattle and wild animals during the dry months. The 'nadis' have been a part of rural life for ages.

With details of about one lakh plant specimens, the Indian Virtual Herbarium, the biggest virtual database of flora in the country, is generating a lot of interest and turning out to be an eye-catching endeavour. While herbarium specimens are considered important tools for plant taxonomy, conservation, habitat loss and even climate change, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently described the Indian Virtual Herbarium as an example of how digital tools can help us connect to our roots.

Researchers have sounded the alarm about the use of machine learning to make predictions on the basis of data patterns. At times, methodological pitfalls could lead to wildly overoptimistic conclusions. A prominent issue is 'data leakage', when information from the data set a model learns on includes data that it is later evaluated on.

Determining the 3D shape of almost any protein known to science will

VIGILANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU

1. The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau conducted lightning inspections at the higher secondary directorate, deputy directorate, and regional offices in the State. Operation Red Tape was conducted by the Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) by following complaints of widespread corruption and irregularities in section handling teacher/ non-teacher appointments.

2. The VACB is the main Government Organisation to fight against corruption among the public servants. Each State in India would have its own VACB, which is formed by the State Governments. Central Vigilance Commission The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. However, the CVC is not an investigating agency.

3. It either gets the investigation done through the CBI or the chief vigilance officers (CVO) in government offices. The CVC was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government. It was established based on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-64). Thus, originally the CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. In 2003, the Parliament enacted a CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC.

4. Functions - The CVC was set up to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance. It advises various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work. The CVC shall have all the powers of a civil court while conducting any inquiry under Section 11 of the Act. In 2004, the CVC has been designated as the agency to act on complaints or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office from whistle blowers under the "Whistle Blowers" Resolution.

5. The "Whistle Blowers" Resolution is the common name for the "Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers" Resolution (PIDPI). The CVC is also empowered as the only designated agency to take action against complainants making motivated or vexatious complaints.

PORCUPINE STRATEGY

1. As the long-range, live-fire drills began with China's Eastern Theatre Command firing several ballistic missiles, Taiwan is "preparing for war without seeking war" using the strategy of "porcupine doctrine". China has launched the aggressive and unprecedented military exercises near Taiwan in response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island that Beijing claims as part of its territory.

2. The "Porcupine doctrine" was proposed in 2008 by the US Naval War College research professor William S Murray. It was adopted by Taiwan in 2017 when Lee Hsi-Ming, then-chief of the Taiwanese military forces, referred to it as the "Overall Defence Concept" (ODC). It is a strategy of asymmetric warfare focused on fortifying a weak state's defences to exploit the enemy's weaknesses rather than taking on its strengths.

3. Asymmetric systems are the ones that are small, numerous, smart, stealthy, mobile and hard to be detected and countered, and are associated with innovative tactics and employments. This strategy is about building defences that would ensure that Taiwan could be attacked and damaged but not defeated, at least without unacceptably high costs and risks.

4. Outer surveillance layer is about intelligence and reconnaissance to ensure defense forces are fully prepared. Behind this come plans for guerrilla warfare at sea with aerial support from sophisticated aircraft provided by the US. Innermost layer relies on the geography (mountainous topography) and demography (urbanised environment) of the island.

5. This would give Taiwan an advantage during an invasion. The ultimate objective of this doctrine is that of surviving and assimilating an aerial offensive well enough to organise a wall of fire that will prevent the Chinese Army from successfully

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soon be as simple as typing in a Google search. Researchers have used the revolutionary artificial intelligence (AI) network Alpha Fold to predict the structures of some 200 million proteins from one million species, covering nearly every known protein on the planet.

A pioneering gene therapy has used CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing to target the root cause of sickle-cell disease caused by a flaw in the body's oxygen-carrying protein, haemoglobin, which affects more than six million people. A clinical trial has already achieved exciting results, but the challenge will be reaching those most in need.

Risk management strategies for floods and droughts may not reduce the effects of unprecedented events, a study in Nature suggests. Researchers analysed a dataset of 45 pairs of flood or drought events that occurred in the same area at different time points. They found the difficulty of managing such extreme events.

Scientists at the University of Bristol have uncovered the deadly workings of a carnivorous plant — Slender Pitcher plant (*Nepenthes gracilis*). The Slender Pitcher plant in the steaming jungles of Borneo has developed one of the most ingenious tricks to help them survive and outcompete their neighbours. Its elaborate cup shaped leaves are equipped with a canopylike hanging lid that turns into a deadly springboard for ants when it is hit by a falling rain drop. The findings (Biology Letters) reveal for the first time how the lethal spring works. The team was surprised to find that the spring is located far down in the back of the tubular pitcher wall.

The Peninsular Rock Agama (*Psammodromus dorsalis*) which is a type of garden lizard has a strong presence in southern India. Habitat loss and other such features of urbanisation have affected the presence of the animal in urban centres. A study carried out by researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, undertook to characterise urbanisation in the region and also to understand where the rock agama reside in and around Bengaluru specifically. The study, published in *Frontiers in Conservation Science*, examined several environmental factors that

invading.

TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EXPORT SCHEME

- 1.The Department of Commerce, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched and is implementing the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) since 2017. Its objective is to assist the Central and State/UT Government agencies in the creation or up-gradation of appropriate infrastructure for growth of exports.
- 2.The scheme can be availed by States through their implementing agencies, for infrastructure projects with significant export linkages like Border Haats, Land customs stations, Quality testing and certification labs, Cold chains, Trade promotion centres, Export warehousing and packaging, SEZs and Ports/airports cargo terminuses.
- 3.Last and first mile connectivity projects related to export logistics will also be considered. Under this Scheme, the following projects will not be considered, Projects where an overwhelming export linkage cannot be established, and Projects which are covered under sector specific schemes like textiles, electronics, IT, and The general infrastructure projects like highways, power etc.
- 4.Grant-in-aid - Under the scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided to Central/State Government owned agencies (or their Joint Ventures with major stake-holding by them). This grant-in-aid will normally not be more than the equity being put in by the implementing agency or 50% of the total equity in the project.
- 5.However, this grant-in-aid can be up to 80% of total equity, in the case of projects are located in North Eastern States, Himalayan States including UT of J&K, Ladakh. Recently, the scheme has been further extended for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

GLASS CLIFF

- 1.The glass cliff is a phenomenon that reinforces stereotypes about women not being ideal in leadership positions. It refers to a situation in which women are promoted to higher positions during times of crisis or duress, or during a recession when the chance of failure is more likely. Although glass cliff mainly refers to the obstacles faced by women, the term also applies to the challenges faced by minorities and other marginalised groups when promoted to leadership roles.
- 2.**Origin - The term 'Glass Cliff' was coined by researchers from the University of Exeter, United Kingdom. These researchers coined this term after studying the disparity between the promotion of men and women in 100 corporate organizations** included in the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) Index.
- 3.They found that women were more likely to be promoted to higher positions mostly When there is an overall market slump or When the company was experiencing turbulence or When there was a decline in performance. By doing this, women were set up for failure, which was likened to standing at the edge of a cliff.
- 4.The 'think crisis think female' theory perceives women to possess the qualities that help them deal with stressful situations better than men. Contrasting this, the 'think crisis think not men' theory explains how women are perceived to be less valuable than men, making it easier for the companies to throw them under the bus.

ELECTRICITY AMENDMENT BILL 2022 TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT IN MONSOON SESSION

- 1.Power minister said that the government is ready with the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022 and will introduce the bill in the ongoing monsoon session of the parliament.
- 2.The Electricity (Amendment) Bill which was recently cleared by the union cabinet is likely to enable competition in retail power distribution. Among other changes, the amendment to the Electricity Act would also allow state electricity regulatory commissions to take up timely revision of tariffs.
- 3.The Bill proposes to amend the Electricity Conservation Act 2001, last amended in 2010, to introduce changes such as

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could affect the presence of the lizard and revealed that they are found mainly in rocky places and warm spots. Thus, the inference is that conservation efforts must point towards retaining rocky patches even while reviving landscapes by planting trees.

National Democratic Alliance candidate and former West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the 14th Vice-president of the country. He secured 528 votes out of the 710 valid votes in the 16th Vice-Presidential election held in Parliament on Saturday.

incentivising the use of clean energy by issuing carbon saving certificates.