

Data protection bill

- India's digital economy is set to reach a whopping \$1 trillion by 2026.
- People are going digital rapidly for everything from shopping and socializing to education and government services.
- In India, for example, we already have sectoral regulations regarding data protection such as the Reserve Bank of India's directive on the storage of payment data and the National Health Authority's Health Data Management Policy.
- These are the result of extensive industry consultations and expert input. Neglecting these regulations and establishing a new framework would undermine the considerable effort invested in their creation.



- The DPDP Bill, therefore, must serve as the minimum layer of protection, with sectoral regulators having the ability to build on these protections.
- This framework will be especially useful in India where not all regulators may have the same capacity.
- Data protection is a complex subject and we must create room for sectoral experts to weigh in to safeguard the interests of citizens more effectively.

THE HINDU

No confidence motion against the speaker

- According to Parliament rules, a no-confidence motion can be introduced only in the Lower House and has to be supported by at least 50 Lok Sabha MPs to be considered.
- Once it is introduced, the Speaker can allot a date for discussing the motion but within 10 days from the date of introduction.

- Such a motion, however, needs the signature of at least 50 MPs and a 14-day notice.
- One of the grounds on which the party will move the motion will be the lack of the President's assent which according to Article 103 (1) of the Constitution should have been sought before the disqualification, sources added.
- The article states that the decision to disqualify an MP lies with the President. Section (2) of the same article says that the Election Commission must be consulted before the President takes a call on disqualification.

THE HINDU

Lion in Kuno

- Introducing lions from Gir in Gujarat into Kuno National Park may create tension between the pride and the cheetahs imported in the past few months from Namibia and South Africa.
- Since 2018, dozens of lions have died from diseases, including canine distemper, opening up a frightening possibility of loss when confined to a single location.
- Establishing an additional free-ranging wild lion population in Kuno is of paramount importance and

roadblocks, if any, must be transparently addressed.

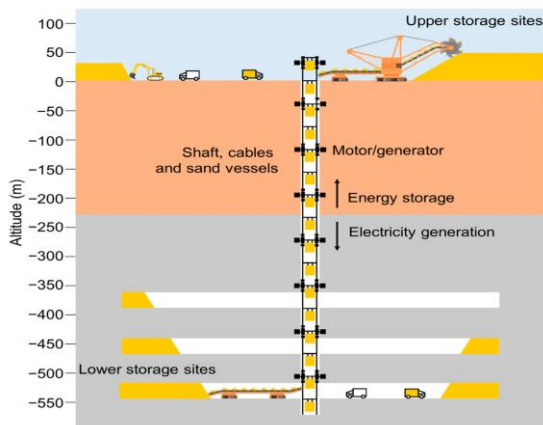
- Threat the cheetahs can face from tigers. If a tiger does catch up to an oblivious cheetah, the chances of the latter coming unharmed are next to nil.
- However, since these are wild, they must have faced competition from leopards, spotted hyenas, and lions in their African home. Hence, one should expect a cheetah's instinct and speed to keep it one step ahead of the tiger.
- The second is the suitability of the habitat. The habitats must have changed a lot last since cheetahs roamed this landscape

THE HINDU

UGES

- The proposed technology called Underground Gravity Energy Storage (UGES) has a zero self-discharge rate, unlike BESS.
- Further, the technology uses sand which eliminates the prospects of contamination of underground water resources as opposed to the pumped hydro storage system (PHS).
- The UGES technology in the vertical mine shafts would use electric motors and generators for lifting and dumping large volumes of sand.

- It can discharge electricity by lowering large volumes of sand into an underground mine through the mine shaft.
- When there is excess electrical energy in the grid, UGES can store electricity by elevating sand from the mine and depositing it in upper storage sites on top of the mine



- It added that the cost of installed energy storage for UGES is estimated to vary from \$1–10/kWh, assuming an average height difference between the upper and lower storage sites of 1500 and 200 meters, respectively.
- Further, the study also said that the project is less expensive the more significant the height difference. The power generation capacity varies with the mine's depths, the mine shaft's diameter, and the sand moving speed.

THE HINDU

BRI

- The BRI is an ambitious plan to develop two new trade routes connecting China with the rest of the world.
- But the initiative is about far more than infrastructure.
- It is an effort to develop an expanded, interdependent market for China, grow China's economic and political power, and create the right conditions for China to build high technology.
- There are three main motivations for the BRI. The first, and most discussed internationally, is China's rivalry with the US
- The Belt and Road framework provides an alternative market for China's vast state-owned companies beyond the borders of China.
- The Belt and Road are seen as a crucial element in the Chinese government's efforts to stimulate the economies of the country's central provinces, which historically lag behind richer coastal areas.



THE HINDU

Vaccination Hesitancy

- Vaccine hesitancy refers to the delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite the availability of vaccination services.
- Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context-specific varying across time, place, and vaccines. It includes factors such as complacency, convenience, and confidence.
- The most salient factors related to vaccine hesitancy are structural and include:
 - Healthcare and socioeconomic inequalities and inequities
 - Lack of effective public health messaging
 - Unethical research involving ethnic minority groups as well as structural racism
 - Social disadvantages i.e., lower levels of education and access to high-quality, accurate information
 - The growing spread of misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy theories, and rumors through online platforms
 - Barriers to access ability, including vaccine delivery time, location, and cost related to socio-economic inequalities and marginalization.

THE HINDU
