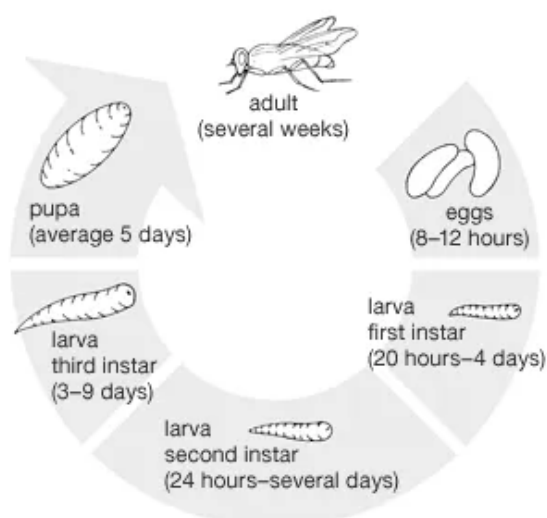


Maggot

- Project Cheetah is India's cheetah relocation program.
- The attempt is to, over the next decade, bring in 5-10 animals every year until a self-sustaining population of about 35 cheetahs is established.
- One of the cheetahs, nicknamed Surya, was found dead in Kuno National Park last week.
- Veterinarians examining the animal saw a wound on its neck, infected with maggots.
- A maggot is the larva of a fly; it is applied in particular to the larvae of Brachycera flies, such as houseflies, cheese flies, and blowflies, rather than larvae of the Nematocera, such as mosquitoes and crane flies



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- The larvae of the maggots were also found on the radio- collar fitted onto the cheetah's neck.
- While officials say that there is enough space and prey in the Kuno reserve, there are plans to develop a second reserve in Gandhinagar, Madhya Pradesh, and also establish a cheetah rehabilitation center.

THE HINDU

Endometriosis

- Endometriosis, a reproductive disease affecting one in 10 women worldwide, involves the growth of lesions on pelvic organs such as the ovaries.
- These lesions are composed of endometrium, a layer of tissue lining the uterus.
- It causes infertility, chronic pain during periods, pelvic pain, bloating, nausea, and fatigue, and is also associated with depression and anxiety.



- A new study points to a link between a bacterium associated with infections in the oral cavity, and endometriosis.
- A study has found a correlation between the presence of Fusobacterium and endometriosis, opening the door for researchers to potentially develop non-invasive tests for the condition as well as treat its severity with antibiotics
- payments, including those involving the two countries' exporters and importers, and certain "permitted" capital account transactions could be settled using either the rupee or the dirham.
- To facilitate settlement, the two banks are set to put in place a Local Currency Settlement System and likely, at a later date, interlink their payments messaging systems.

THE HINDU

Payments in the Indian rupee and the UAE dirham

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of the UAE agreed on July 15 to establish a framework for enabling the use of the two countries' local currencies for cross-border transactions.
- The move towards permitting payments in the Indian rupee and the UAE dirham is aimed at promoting their use bilaterally, thus reducing the dependence on a third country's currency such as the U.S. dollar as an intermediary for settling transactions.
- An immediate beneficial consequence of the establishment of the settlement mechanism would be the development of a rupee- dirham foreign exchange market that would help in pricing the two currencies independent of their exchange rates with other currencies such as the dollar and the euro.
- Indian and Emirati businesses would not need to factor in exchange rate risks when quoting to supply goods or services to buyers in the other country, improving the ease of doing business and boosting trade.
- Its actual success will hinge on the extent of adoption by businesses in both nations.
- As per the memorandum of understanding between the two central banks, all current account payments, including those involving the two countries' exporters and importers, and certain "permitted" capital account transactions could be settled using either the rupee or the dirham.
- With the UAE's trade surplus with India widening in the months since the bilateral Comprehensive

Economic Partnership Agreement came into effect in May 2022, Emirati businesses need to see remunerative avenues to deploy the potential rupee flows should they opt to receive payments in the Indian currency.

- One possibility, as the RBI indicated, was a stepped-up investment by UAE-based firms.
- The other possibility is of the UAE coming to serve as a currency entrecote by enabling Indian businesses, dealing for instance with Russian suppliers, to use the West Asian country and dirham as a gateway for such transactions

THE HINDU

UCC

- Personal laws in India are boxed according to the religion or social origins of the citizen.
- However, it does not take much to see a fearful symmetry between them. This is their unmistakably patriarchal framing, whereby men are privileged at every turn
- During the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly, B.R. Ambedkar is said to have expressed surprise that religion was being given

as much importance when choosing India's political arrangements

- Democratic principles of liberty, equality, and dignity. It is entirely possible to draft a civil code that preserves these ideals without any reference to religious practices
- What is relevant here is not parity among men of different religious groups when it comes to marriage, it is the rights of women within every religious grouping.
- Democracy guarantees them liberty and equality in all spheres of life, including access to the rule of law, freeing them from arbitrary governance

THE HINDU

DATA PROTECTION BILL

What Does Personal Data Mean?
 According to the Personal Data Protection Bill, 'personal data' refers to information, characteristics, traits or attributes that can be used to identify an individual. This includes:

 Financial data	 Biometric data
 Data about caste, religious or political beliefs	 Any other category of data specified as personal by the government

- Draft Bill on personal data protection proposes a hefty increase in penalty amounts up to ₹500 crore, while also easing rules on cross-border data

flows', in a big relief for large tech firms.

- The revised draft now called The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 comes just over three months after its earlier avatar was withdrawn from Parliament
- Narrows down the scope of the data protection regime to personal data protection, leaving out non-personal data from its ambit a move welcomed by the industry
- The Bill proposes to impose a penalty of ₹10,000 on individuals providing unverifiable or false information while applying for any document, service, proof of identity or address, or registering a false or frivolous complaint with a Data Fiduciary (who collects and processes the data) or with the Board.
- The government, which is hopeful of introducing the Bill in the Budget session in February 2023, has introduced the concept of 'Consent Managers' in the Bill.
- Pointing out that it is not always possible to keep track of the instances in which one has given consent to the processing of personal data, the government said that a consent manager platform will enable an individual to have a comprehensive view of her interactions with Data Fiduciaries and the consent given to them
- The Bill requires the consent of the individual to be the basis for the processing of their personal data, except in certain circumstances where seeking the consent of the Data Principal is "impracticable or inadvisable due to pressing concerns".
- Every request for consent will need to be presented to the Data Principal in clear and plain language, and an option to access such a request for consent in English or any language specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- The Data Principal shall have the right to withdraw her consent at any time, the Bill stated.
- Data Fiduciaries collecting personal data from individuals will need to provide "itemized notice" in clear and plain language containing a description of the personal data sought and the purpose of the processing of such personal data.
- The Bill also gives the power to the government to offer exemption from its provisions "in the interests of

sovereignty and integrity of India” and to maintain public order.

- While the earlier version of the draft Bill had recommended that a Data Protection Authority be set up to prevent the misuse of personal information, the revised Bill has proposed a Data Protection Board of India, which will be notified by the Central government.
- The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, released on Friday, has used the pronouns ‘she’ and ‘her’ to refer to all individuals, as against the use of ‘he’, ‘him’, and ‘his’.

The Big Picture

What's Good About the Draft Bill

- It requires those collecting data to **provide notice for data collection and obtain informed consent**
- Those using personal data must **adhere to principles of data collection, purpose and use limitation; ability to retain personal data is limited**
- It **prescribes security safeguards**, institutes grievance redressal mechanism to address complaints
- It gives **individuals the right to obtain information** on how data has been processed
- **People can seek correction or erasure** of inaccurate, incomplete or out-of-date personal data
- People **can restrict continuing disclosure of personal data** and withdraw consent
- The Bill **establishes a Data Protection Authority** to address matters containing data privacy
- It **lays down norms for social media intermediaries**, cross-border transfers

SOURCE: Draft Personal Data Protection Bill, Live Law

Where Action is Needed

- **Broad exceptions are made for government and law enforcement agencies.** Crucially, requirements for government processing only “necessary and appropriate” data has been cut
- The Bill **reduces the powers and independence of the data protection authority** by weakening the commission that will appoint the chairperson and members
- The Bill’s **Social Media Verification provisions** require users to voluntarily verify their identities on social media. This would entail users sending photos or government IDs to companies, incentivising collection of sensitive data
- **Forced transfer of non-personal data** provision for “public good and policy planning” could constitute protected trade secrets of companies. Collection of non-personal data could also be used to draw inferences regarding caste, religion and sexuality of users

There is **implementation ambiguity**; with no references to timelines, enforcement is at the complete discretion of the central government
SOURCE: Mozilla blog post by Jochai Ben-Avie and Udbhav Tiwari, Dec 2019

THE HINDU

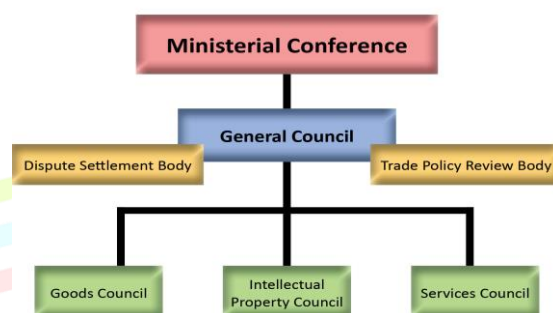
Bilateral dispute settlement and WTO

- One of the significant outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s

official state visit to the U.S. was the decision of the two countries to end six long-standing trade disputes at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

- The WTO Appellate Body has been redundant since 2019, and disputes filed into the ‘void’ will not be considered for adoption

Structures of WTO



- India can also breathe a sigh of relief from settling the challenges involving some of its foreign trade policy schemes, including the special economic zone (SEZ) and export-oriented unit schemes.
- In particular, certain corporate tax deductions provided under the SEZ scheme faced an uncertain future.
- While India’s appeal to the defunct Appellate Body would have kept the dispute dormant, India had voluntarily removed some controversial schemes, including the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme.

- India also initiated a comprehensive process to reform its SEZ law.
- In return for committing to the stated proportions of approval rates for steel and aluminum, the U.S. has received an assurance from India that it would remove the additional duties, which were retaliatory in nature, on certain U.S. agricultural imports which had suffered certain collateral damage on account of the Section 232 measures.
- India will now revert to the currently applied 'most favored nation' (MFN) rate for eight products
- Finding mutually agreed solutions to long-standing disputes is not unfamiliar in the WTO.
- However, reaching a deal on six separate disputes covering a range of sectors and products is unprecedented.
- A greater use of diplomacy and bilateral negotiations can be more practically useful when adjudicatory outcomes are not immediately available or politically infeasible

THE HINDU

Black sea grain initiative withdrawn

- The Kremlin on Monday said it was exiting a major agreement allowing Ukraine grain exports hours after drones struck Russia's only bridge connecting its mainland to the Crimea peninsula.
- Moscow said the deadly Kerch bridge attack had nothing to do with its withdrawal and for months has complained about the implementation of the pact, which was designed to ease fears of food shortages in a vulnerable country



- Black Sea Grain Initiative to allow ships to safely export grain, other foodstuffs, and fertilizers, including ammonia, from Ukraine via a maritime humanitarian corridor.
- The UN plan, which is linked to efforts to ensure Russian food and fertilizer reach global markets, supports the stabilization of spiraling

food prices worldwide and stave off famine, affecting millions.

- The Initiative specifically allows for commercial food and fertilizer (including ammonia) exports from three key Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi.
- The Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) was established to monitor the implementation of the Initiative. The Joint Coordination Centre is hosted in Istanbul and includes representatives from Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Nations. The UN acts also as the Secretariat for the Centre.

THE HINDU
