



19/05/24 - 25/05/24



C.A. SHORTS

GAGAN - THE DESERVING INDIA





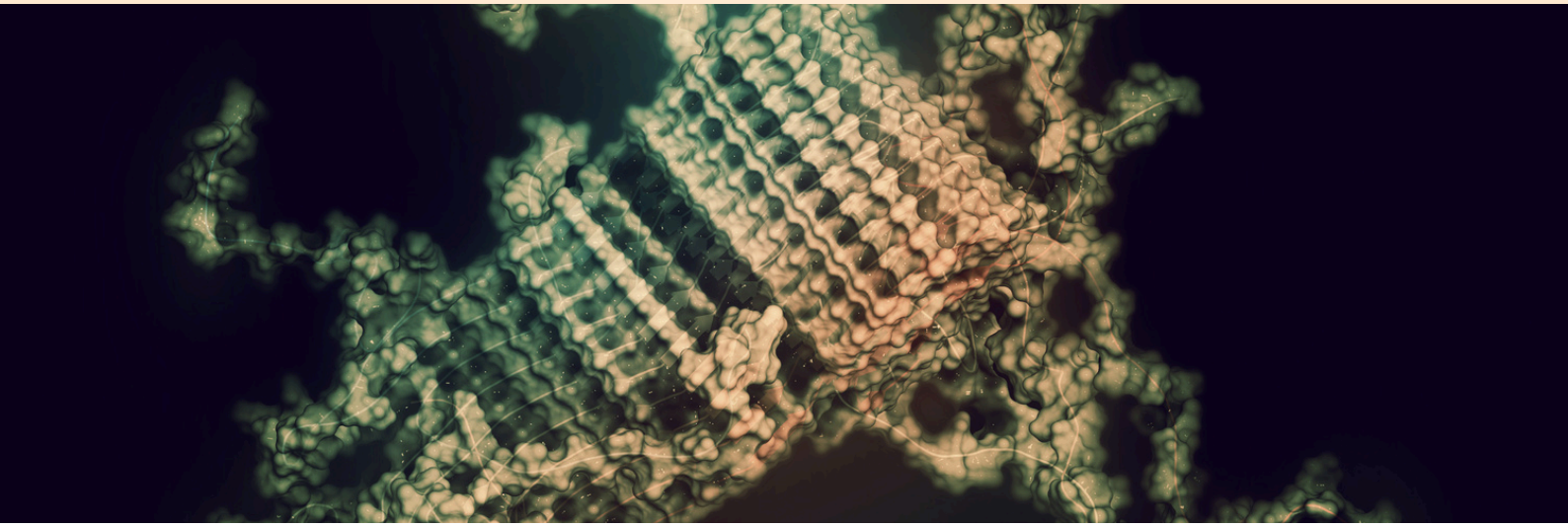
WITH FOOD SCARCE, LION-TAILED MACAQUES LEAVE FOREST CANOPIES FOR THE URBAN JUNGLE

- The endangered lion-tailed macaque is increasingly scavenging for food in Valparai town due to a lack of natural food in their forest habitat, showing significant behavioural changes.
- Habitat loss, road construction, and human activity are driving these primates into towns, increasing risks of roadkill and conflict with humans. Measures like canopy corridors and preventing public feeding are being used to help.
- Conservation efforts, including a new Tamil Nadu fund and further studies, aim to improve habitat connectivity and waste management to reduce human-primate interactions.



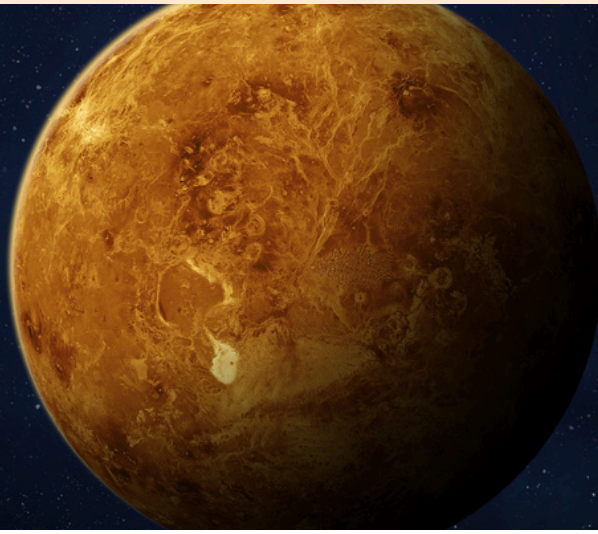
NO VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIANS IN KYRGYZ REPUBLIC: OFFICIALS

- There have been no reports of attacks on Indian students in Kyrgyz Republic recently, despite videos showing attacks on Pakistani students in Bishkek; 17,000 Indian students and businessmen reside in the country.
- Authorities in Bishkek stated that the videos were spread by "destructive forces" and assured that measures are in place to maintain security and stability.
- Indian officials, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, have advised Indian nationals to stay in touch with the embassy for safety updates, and local MPs have urged the government to ensure student protection.



BALANCING TWO FORMS OF SNCA PROTEIN COULD HELP MANAGE PARKINSON'S

- **SNCA is abundant in neurons, especially in dopaminergic ones, and is located near the cell nuclei and neuron junctions. It can misfold and form filamentous structures, leading to malfunction.**
- **A study found that SNCA exists in two forms: one damages cell nuclei and is linked to diseases, while the other helps degrade misfolded proteins and is crucial for healthy cells.**
- **Reducing SNCA levels means fewer misfolded proteins. Researchers achieved this by blocking the SNCA gene or destroying SNCA inside cells. However, this must be done selectively, as completely removing SNCA would be fatal.**



AN OVERLOOKED MOLECULE COULD SOLVE THE VENUS WATER MYSTERY

- Venus once had enough water to cover its surface with a 3 km deep ocean, but now only has enough for a 3 cm deep ocean. A new study may explain the previously unaccounted-for water loss.
- The study found that a chemical reaction involving the formyl cation (HCO^+) could have significantly speed up hydrogen escape, doubling the water loss rate and explaining Venus's current dryness.
- Though past missions offer indirect evidence, the existence of HCO^+ on Venus isn't confirmed. Future missions focused on Venus's upper atmosphere could provide the needed proof and insights into its water history.



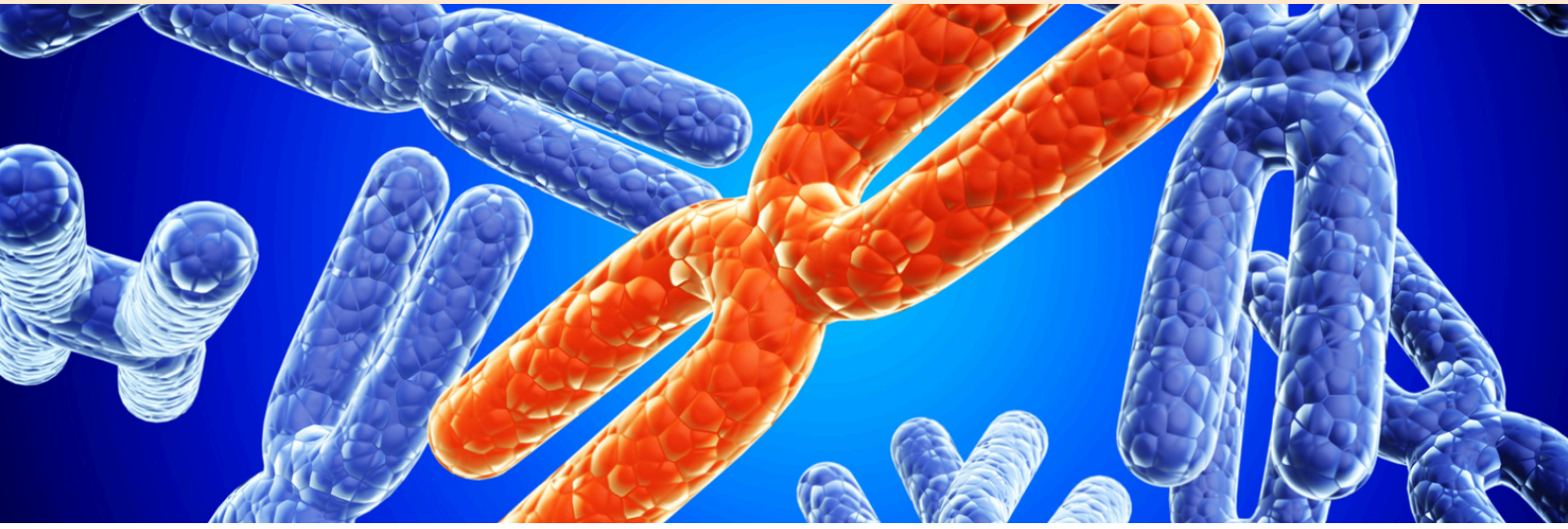
SEAT OF THE CORRIDORS OF POWER, NEW DELHI LS CONSTITUENCY PAINTS A PICTURE OF STARK DIVIDES

- **Different Living Conditions:** Savitri Devi, a domestic worker, points out the big difference between the luxurious areas and the rundown places where workers live. She pays more rent in Kotla Mubarakpur but earns more there.
- **Ignored Poor Areas:** Residents like Kamlesh Devi and Sarvar Kumar are frustrated with the neglected state of areas like Ranjit Nagar and Inderpuri, which lack proper maintenance and political attention, unlike the nearby posh neighbourhoods.
- **High-profile Constituency:** The constituency includes upscale areas like Chanakypuri and Connaught Place and has been represented by famous leaders. Currently, BJP's Bansuri Swaraj and AAP's Somnath Bharti are competing, with local issues and high rents being major concerns for voters.



T.N. WILL PROTECT ITS RIGHTS IN INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTES

- **Protecting Water Rights:** Tamil Nadu's Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan pledged to protect the state's rights in water disputes with Karnataka and Kerala, using legal and other measures.
- **Monitoring Projects:** Tamil Nadu officials will keep a close watch on water projects by neighbouring states to ensure compliance with the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal verdict.
- **Political Responses:** Duraimurugan defended the DMK government's actions against criticisms from AIADMK's Edappadi K. Palaniswami and BJP's K. Annamalai, who urged action to stop Kerala's check-dam construction affecting Tamil Nadu farmers.



X CHROMOSOME REVIVAL IN OLDER WOMEN INCREASES RISK OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE

- There are over 500 X-linked genetic diseases, mostly affecting males. Some, like red-green colorblindness, are fairly common and affect about 8% of males.
- Researchers discovered X inactivation through a gene called Xist, which, along with Tsix, helps deactivate one X chromosome by coating it with Xist RNA.
- When French researchers altered Xist in female mice, previously inactive genes on the deactivated X chromosome became active again, causing lupus-like symptoms in the mice.



ANALYSING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINTS

- A recent study shows that wealthy people, especially those who consume more than they need, have a big impact on the environment.
- Eating out at restaurants is a major factor in increasing the environmental impact, especially among the richest households.
- The study also points out that while sustainability efforts often focus on global climate change, the environmental impact can vary at local and regional levels.



GDP GROWTH EASED TO 6.7% IN Q4: ICRA

- GDP growth is expected to slow to 6.7% between January and March, the lowest in four quarters, but average 7.8% for 2023-24 due to slowdowns in industry, services, and a contracting agriculture sector.
- The NSO projected a 7.6% GDP growth for 2023-24, with a 5.9% increase in the final quarter compared to 8.4% in the third quarter.
- ICRA expects GDP and GVA growth to be 7.8% and 7%, respectively, with Q4 GVA growth at 5.7%, down from 6.5% in Q3, noting lower volume growth and reduced commodity price gains affecting profitability in some industrial sectors.



HC CANCELS OBC CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN BENGAL SINCE 2010

- **The Calcutta High Court cancelled all OBC certificates issued in West Bengal since 2010, affecting about five lakh certificates.**
- **The ruling does not impact individuals who secured employment using these certificates, and it coincides with the ongoing Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal.**
- **The court instructed the West Bengal Backward Class Welfare Department and the State Backward Class Commission to prepare a report with recommendations for changes to the State's list of OBCs.**



LEOPARD DIES AFTER GETTING TRAPPED IN BARBED WIRE FENCE

- A four-year-old female leopard died after getting trapped in a barbed wire fence at Alappuzha, Kollengode, near Palakkad.
- Forest officials, called by local people, sedated and rescued the leopard, but it died about an hour later.
- The barbed wire fence was on private property owned by Unnikrishnan Vazhappuzha, and the incident was confirmed by K. Vijayananthan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Circle.



WHAT IS THE VALUE OF ATTRIBUTING EXTREME EVENTS TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

- **Advances in Attribution Science:** The IPCC now attributes some extreme weather events to climate change, despite ongoing scientific and data challenges.
- **Legal and Policy Challenges:** The use of attribution science in courts and climate negotiations is debated, with developed countries resisting legal accountability for extreme events to avoid lawsuits.
- **Practical Concerns:** A recent report linked Asian heatwaves to climate change, but data limitations and complexities in attributing events like extreme rainfall highlight the need for more reliable methods and their integration into climate policy.



SEVEN NAXALS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER IN CHHATTISGARH

- At least seven alleged Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces on the border of Narayanpur and Bijapur districts in Chhattisgarh on Thursday.
- The encounter began around 11 a.m. when a security team, including Bastar Fighters, District Reserve Guards (DRG), and Special Task Force (STF), was searching for Maoists and was fired upon.
- The security forces responded, leading to the recovery of seven uniformed Naxalites' bodies, according to a police statement.



THE 'CHILLING COVER-UP' OF THE U.K.'S CONTAMINATED BLOOD SCANDAL

- The inquiry revealed a coverup intended "to save face and to save expense," with the calamity worsened by the government's defensiveness and decades-long refusal to hold a public inquiry.
- Between these decades, over 3,000 people died due to infected blood, with the Haemophilia Society estimating 680 deaths since the inquiry began. One estimate suggests an infected person still dies every four days in the U.K.
- People repeatedly failed: patient safety was ignored, decision-making was slow, autonomy and privacy were neglected, clinical freedom was abused, and the lack of transparency and accountability amplified the injustice to victims.



CHINA HOLDS DRILLS AROUND TAIWAN, VOWS 'PUNISHMENT FOR SEPARATISTS'

- **China's Military Drills Around Taiwan:** China encircled Taiwan with naval vessels and military aircraft in war games on Thursday and Friday, part of escalating intimidation, following the inauguration of Taiwan's new President, Lai Ching-te, who China accuses of promoting independence.
- **China's Statements:** China's military stated the drills, called "Joint Sword-2024A," are a strong punishment for Taiwan's separatist acts, while Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin used harsh rhetoric, warning that Taiwan independence forces would face severe consequences.
- **Taiwan's Response:** Taiwan deployed air, ground, and sea forces in response, with President Lai pledging to defend Taiwan's freedom and democracy against external threats, emphasising the commitment to regional peace and stability.



46TH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

India supports a regulatory framework for Antarctic tourism at the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting to protect the continent's environment, while ensuring future tourism opportunities are preserved.

Delegates from over 60 countries gathered in Kochi, Kerala, for the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), which includes 29 voting 'Consultative Parties' and non-voting observers. This year's key agenda focuses on introducing a regulatory framework for Antarctic tourism, a proposal backed by 'like-minded' countries, including India. Antarctica, devoid of indigenous populations, has seen a surge in tourism, with visitor numbers rising from 8,000 in 1993 to 105,000 in 2022, surpassing the number of scientific personnel. Concerns over the environmental impact of increased tourism, such as pollution and accidents, have been raised since 1966. These issues threaten the continent's unique biodiversity. Despite the minimal number of Indian tourists currently visiting Antarctica, the potential for increased tourism due to growing prosperity remains. India supports the regulation of tourism to protect the continent's pristine environment but must ensure that future opportunities for tourism are not compromised. The overarching anxiety among nations is the potential influence of increased presence from one country on future territorial claims, despite the treaty's commitment to non-territorial claims.