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National and International News

In news: Phonotaxis



About Phonotaxis

- It is the movement by an animal in response to a sound.
- Eg- The **click of crickets** in the evening or **frogs croaking** during the monsoon
- It has mostly been observed among crickets, moths, frogs, toads, and a few other creatures.

Types of Phonotaxis

- There are two types of phonotaxis: **positive** and **negative**.
- The purpose of **positive phonotaxis** is attraction. It usually happens when the females of a particular species – including those of crickets and frogs – are attracted to the sounds made by the males.
- **Negative phonotaxis**, on the other hand, serves to repel or warn, such as when the sound of a predator nearby signals to an animal that it needs to move away.

Economics Nobel Prize 2023



Context

- The Nobel Prize for Economics was awarded to **Harvard University professor Claudia Goldin**
- She got this prize for her research that has advanced the understanding of the **gender gap in the labour market**.

Did you know?

- Ms. Goldin is just the **third woman** to win the prize out of 93 economics laureates.


India's Scheduled Areas

Key facts

- India's **705 Scheduled Tribe (ST)** communities — making up **8.6%** of the country's population — live in **26 States** and **six Union Territories**.
- **Article 244**, deals with administration of Scheduled and Tribal Areas. It is the single most important constitutional provision for STs.
- **Article 244(1)** provides for the application of **Fifth Schedule** provisions to



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

<p>Did you know? Scheduled Areas cover 11.3% of India's land area, and have been notified in 10 States: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh.</p>	<p>Scheduled Areas notified in any State other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sixth Schedule applies to these States as per Article 244(2). <p>How are Scheduled Areas governed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President of India notifies India's Scheduled Areas. States with Scheduled Areas need to constitute a Tribal Advisory Council with up to 20 ST members. They will advise the Governor on matters referred to them regarding ST welfare. The Governor will then submit a report every year to the President regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas.
<p>Multimodal artificial intelligence</p> 	<p>Context Google's new yet-to-be-released multimodal large language model called Gemini, is already being tested in a bunch of companies.</p> <p>About Multimodal AI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimodal AI is artificial intelligence that combines multiple types, or modes, of data to create more accurate determinations, draw insightful conclusions or make more precise predictions about real-world problems. Multimodal AI systems train with and use video, audio, speech, images, text and a range of traditional numerical data sets. Most importantly, multimodal AI means numerous data types are used in tandem to help AI establish content and better interpret context, something missing in earlier AI.
<p>Two State solution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two-state solution refers to a solution of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict which calls for "two states for two groups of people." The two-state solution envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, west of the Jordan River. The boundary between the two states is still subject to dispute and negotiation,



with **Palestinian and Arab leadership** demanding full Israeli withdrawal from territories it occupied in **1967**, which is rejected by Israel.

- The territory of the former Mandate Palestine (including West Jerusalem), which did not form part of the Palestinian State, would continue to be part of Israel.

Urban unemployment



Context

The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**, carried out by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**, has reported that unemployment rate in urban areas of the country has shown a decrease during the period April-June 2023.

Key facts

- UR in urban areas decreased from **7.6% in April-June 2022** to **6.6% in April-June 2023** for persons of age 15 years and above
- For men, it decreased from 7.1% to 5.9% during this period and for women, it decreased from 9.5% to 9.1%.
- There is an improvement in key **labour market indicators** in urban areas compared with those in pre-pandemic period

IRDAI issues norms on Bima Vahaks



Context

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued guidelines on **Bima Vahaks**, the **women-centric**, dedicated distribution channel to enhance insurance inclusion with a focus on rural areas.

Key points

- Bima Vahaks are the **women-centric, dedicated distribution channel** to enhance insurance inclusion with a focus on rural areas.
- This is a part of a **multi-pronged strategy** to achieve its **'Insurance for All goal'**.
- Bima Vahaks are expected to play a key role in taking **Bima Vistaar**, or **'affordable, accessible and comprehensive cover'** mooted by the regulator, to the target segment.



Indian Ocean Rim Association



Context

Sri Lanka to take over as Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association

About IORA

- It was established in **1997** as an **intergovernmental organisation** of states on the rim of the Indian Ocean.
- The IORA has members from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Oceania.
- The Association's membership has expanded to **23 member states and 11 dialogue partners**.
- Its secretariat is in **Mauritius**.

Dhole or Asiatic wild dog



Context

A new study has found that overlapping prey availability or habitat suitability could dictate a positive association between dholes and tigers, facilitating coexistence or even cooperative behaviours between the two species of carnivores

Dhole

- The **dhole or Asiatic Wild Dog** is found in three clusters across India namely the Western and Eastern Ghats, the central Indian landscape and North East India.
- The **Western and Eastern Ghats** is a stronghold regions for dholes.
- IUCN Red List: **Endangered**
- The Wildlife Protection Act 1972: **Schedule II**
- CITES: **Appendix II**

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