



10 October 2023

National and International News

In the news: Phonotaxis



About Phonotaxis

- It is the movement of 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 labor 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 the 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 Scheduled Areas notified in any State other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- The **Sixth Schedule** applies to these States as per **Article 244(2)**.



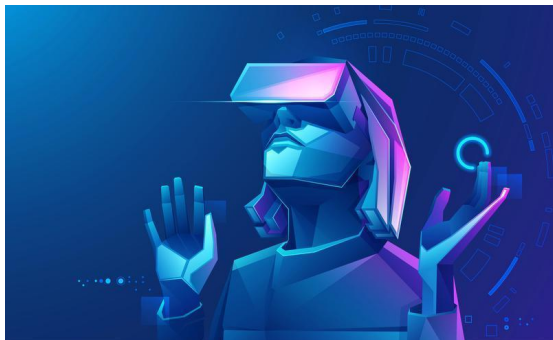
Did you know?

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.

How are Scheduled Areas governed?

- 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.

Multimodal artificial intelligence



Context

Google's new yet-to-be-released multimodal large language model called **Gemini**, is already being tested in a bunch of companies.

About Multimodal AI

- 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.

Two-state solution

- 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 the unemployment rate in urban areas of the country has shown a decrease during the period of 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 the 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 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 organization** of states on the rim of the Indian Ocean.
- The IORA has members from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and 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 behaviors 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** are stronghold regions for dholes.
- IUCN Red List: **Endangered**
- The Wildlife Protection Act 1972: **Schedule II**
- CITES: **Appendix II**

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