



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

The Phonotaxis Phenomenon

Recently, it has been discovered that certain creatures like Insects, Bats exhibit **positive and negative phenomena of Phonotaxis** in response to the existing environmental and anatomical conditions.

- **Phonotaxis** is the movement by an animal in response to a sound. It has mostly been observed among crickets, moths, frogs, and toads, among a few other creatures.
 - 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. **Mediterranean house geckos** (*Hemidactylus turcicus*) use positive phonotaxis.
 - **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. **Crickets** in particular have been found to steer themselves away from low-intensity ultrasound typically associated with bats (which use it for echolocation).

Read More: [Dolphins](#)

Establishment of an Autonomous Body Mera Yuva Bharat Approved

Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of an **autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** to serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development and youth led development.

- MY Bharat, an autonomous body will benefit the **youth in the age-group of 15-29 years**, in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the [National Youth Policy](#). In case of programme components specifically meant for the **adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age-group of 10-19 years**.
- Under this new arrangement, with access to resources & connection to opportunities, **youth would become community change agents and nation builders** allowing them to act as the Yuva Setu between the Government and the citizens.
- The Body will improve leadership skills through experiential learning by **shifting from isolated physical interaction to programmatic skills and Create a centralized youth database**.

Read More: [Youth In India Report, 2022](#) , [National Youth Day,2022](#)

Indian Army's Strategic Transition

The [Indian Army](#) is undergoing significant transformation, with the potential conversion of its **logistics and transport units into the Territorial Army (TA)**.

- The TA is not only expanding its role but also bolstering its capabilities by recruiting **Chinese language** interpreters for border personnel meetings and [cybersecurity](#) experts to assist the Army.
- The TA's primary function is to relieve the regular army of static duties and **provide crucial support during emergencies and disasters**.

Read more: [Indian Army](#)

USS Gerald R Ford

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In light of recent [conflict escalation in Israel](#), the US has deployed the **USS Gerald R Ford carrier strike group (CSG)** to the [Eastern Mediterranean](#), demonstrating its support for Israel and the carrier's role in military operations.

- The **USS Gerald R Ford (CVN 78)**, commissioned in 2017, bears the name of former U.S. President **Gerald R Ford**, who served from 1974 to 1977.
 - It is considered as one of the **largest warships ever constructed**. It displaces **100,000 tonnes at full load**. It can achieve a top speed of over 30 knots, equivalent to 56 kilometers per hour.
- **Aircraft carriers**, including the **Gerald R Ford**, are both offensive weapons and symbols of a nation's military might. Consequently, they always operate as part of a [carrier strike group](#).

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