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National and International News

Bihar House passes Bill raising ceiling on caste quota to 65%

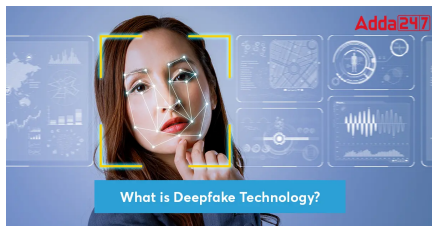
Context

The Bihar Assembly unanimously passed a Bill to increase reservation for Backward Classes, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes from the existing 50% to 65%.

Key points

- Together with the 10% Economically Backward Class (EWS) quota, the Bill will push reservation in Bihar to 75%, well past the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court.
- According to the Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill, quota for Extremely Backward Class (EBC) will be raised from the existing 18% to 25%; for Backward Class (BC) from 12% to 18%; for Scheduled Caste (SC) from 16% to 20%; and for Scheduled Tribe (ST), the quota will be doubled, from 1% to 2%.
- The existing 3% reservation for BC women has been scrapped.
- Bills providing for the same increase in reservation in educational institutions and government jobs, which were drafted based on the recent caste survey in the State, too were passed unanimously through voice vote in the State Assembly.

AI Deepfakes



Context

- The government instructed "social media intermediaries" to remove morphed videos or deep fakes from their platforms within 24 hours of a complaint being filed, in accordance with a requirement outlined in the IT Rules 2021.
- The instructions came as deep fake videos of actors Rashmika Mandanna and Katrina Kaif surfaced online within the span of one week.

About Deepfakes



- Deep fakes have been around since 2017.
- It refers to videos, audios or images created using a form of artificial intelligence called deep learning.
- Researchers have observed a 230% increase in deepfake usage by cybercriminals and scammers.
- The technology involves modifying or creating images and videos using a machine learning technique called generative adversarial network (GAN).
- The AI-driven software detects and learns the subjects' movements and facial expressions from the source material and then duplicates these in another video or

Laws in India about Deepfakes

- India's IT Rules, 2021 require that all content reported to be fake or produced using deep fake be taken down by intermediary platforms within 36 hours.
- The IT ministry has also issued notices to social media platforms stating that impersonating online

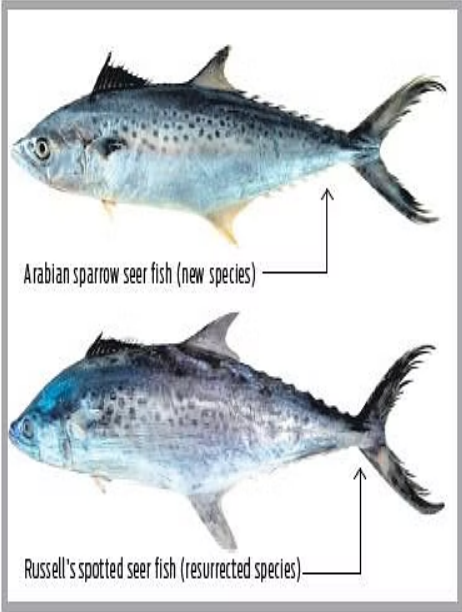


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<p>was illegal under Section 66D of the Information Technology Act of 2000.</p>	<p>image</p>
<p>168 villages along China border to get road connectivity in a year</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Home Minister informed that 168 villages along the China border that do not have any connectivity would be connected by road and other forms of communication in the next one year • This will be an important step towards border infrastructure.
<p>U.S. approves first vaccine against chikungunya virus for those over 18</p>	<p>Context U.S. health authorities approved the world's first vaccine for chikungunya, a virus spread by infected mosquitoes.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccine was approved for people 18 and over who are at risk of exposure. • It is developed by Europe's Valneva which will be marketed under the name Ixchiq.
<p>Chikungunya virus</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a viral disease transmitted to humans through the bites of mosquitoes infected with the chikungunya virus. • The word comes from the African Makonde language and means "bent over in pain." • It is most commonly transmitted by mosquitoes, Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti and Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus, which can also transmit dengue and Zika viruses. • It was first described during an outbreak in southern Tanzania in 1952 and has now been identified in nearly 40 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.
<p>'2+2' ministerial dialogue</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin arrived in India for the '2+2' ministerial dialogue • The '2+2' dialogue will enable a high-level review of progress being made in cross-cutting aspects of defence and security cooperation, technology value chain collaborations and people-to-people ties <p>About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2+2 meetings signify the participation of two high-level representatives, Ministers holding Foreign and Defence portfolios, from each of the two countries who aim to enhance the scope of dialogue between them.



Kerala Regional News

<p>Railway adopts AI-based cameras</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent unnecessary mishaps and detect signs of drowsiness of loco-pilots in trains, the Indian Railway has started to install AI-based cameras inside the crew cabins 'Crew Fatigue Sensing' devices, which can detect the drowsiness of cabin crew, are installed in trains falling under the Vijayawada Division of South-Central Railway. The cameras will record live feeds from the crew cabin as evidence before an alarm sounds to warn the loco-pilots if they fall asleep or get involved in any activity that breaches rules.
<p>2 new species of seer fish identified</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have identified two new species of seer fish: Arabian sparrow seer fish and resurrected Russell's spotted seer fish <p>Arabian sparrow seer fish (Scomberomorus avirostrus):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The species is found along the Arabian Sea coast north of Mangalore and its distribution extends up to the Arabian Gulf. Distribution of the other two was along the Bay of Bengal coast north of Nagapattinam, including the Andaman Seas, and China Sea. <p>resurrected Russell's spotted seer fish (Scomberomorus leopardus):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a complex of three distinct species. These include the newly discovered seer fish, the resurrected seer fish, and the existing spotted seer fish. Thus, the total number of top-demanding seer fish species in Indian waters is now six from the existing four
<p>222 flats inaugurated Under LADDER</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister VN Vasavan inaugurated the Capital Hill flat complex built by Kerala Land Reforms and Development Cooperative Society (Ladder) at Pangappara, Thiruvananthapuram.



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- This is Ladder's ninth project, with 222 flats spread over two towers.

About LADDER:

- The Land Reforms and Development Cooperative Society (LADCS), also known as Ladder, is a **Kerala-based non-profit organization**
- It works to **promote land reforms and agricultural development** in the state.
- It was **established in 1974** by the Kerala government with the goal of providing land to landless laborers and marginal farmers, and to help them improve their agricultural productivity.

Objectives of LADCS:

- To provide land to landless laborers and marginal farmers
- To help them improve their agricultural productivity
- To promote sustainable agriculture practices
- To empower farmers and improve their livelihoods

PMAY name and logo to be displayed on 'Life' houses



Context:

- The centre has instructed PMAY's logo and name to be displayed on houses as the subsidy allocated under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is also a part of the Life Mission project

About PMAY:

- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a flagship scheme of the Government of India launched in **2015 to provide housing for all by 2022.**

The scheme has **two components**:

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G):** This component aims to provide housing for rural households living in kutcha or dilapidated houses.
- A grant of INR 1.2 lakh is provided to eligible households to build or upgrade their houses.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U):** This component aims to provide housing for urban households living in slums or in kutcha or dilapidated houses.
- A grant of INR **1.2 lakh is provided** to eligible households to build or upgrade their houses.



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- PMAY-U provides a **subsidy of up to INR 2.67 lakh** to eligible households to buy a house or construct a house on their own land.

'Sagar Kavach' exercise conducted in Kerala

Context:

- The coastal security exercise '**Sagar Kavach**' was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard
- It is a **half-yearly exercise** with the **objective to check coastal security mechanisms** and validate standard operating procedures.
- The exercise is conducted and coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard with active participation from the Indian Navy, Coastal Police/State Police, Intelligence Bureau, Customs, CISF, Department of Port, Department of Fisheries, DGLL and Kadalora Jagiratha Samithi.

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