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09 November 2023

National and International News

<p><b>India Bhutan regional connectivity</b></p> 	<p><b>In news</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>India and Bhutan agreed to discuss <b>new routes of regional connectivity and upgrade border and immigration posts</b></li></ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>58-km cross border <b>rail link between Gelephu and Kokrajhar in Assam</b> to be <b>built by India</b>.</li><li>Agreed to <b>explore a second rail link</b> for about <b>18 km</b> between <b>Samtse</b> in Bhutan and <b>Banarhat</b> in West Bengal tea gardens area.</li><li>Allows Bhutanese <b>trade items to be carried</b> further on from Haldibari in West Bengal to Chilahati in <b>Bangladesh</b></li><li>Agreed to <b>designate the Darranga-Samdrup Jongkhar border crossing</b> between Assam and Bhutan as an <b>immigration check</b> post, so as to allow third country nationals to enter and exit as well “for enhancing connectivity, and promoting tourism”</li><li>Bhutan plans for a smart city at <b>Gelephu</b> on the border between Bhutan and Assam, and to have an <b>international airport and Special Economic Zone at Gelephu</b>.</li></ul>
<p><b>Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme</b></p>	<p><b>In news</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>About <b>80% funds for semiconductor PLI</b> remain <b>unused</b>.</li><li>About \$8 billion of the \$10 billion allocated by the Centre for the production of semiconductors under the PLI.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <p><b>Production-linked incentive scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Aims to enhance India’s <b>manufacturing capabilities and exports in 14 economic sectors</b></li><li><b>Scheme</b> comes under Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry</li><li>Govt has allocated a <b>\$26 billion fund</b>.</li><li>PLI scheme is expected to have a cascading effect on the country’s <b>MSME ecosystem</b></li><li>India is expected to raise bilateral trade with South Korea to \$50 billion by 2030 in battery storage solutions through PLI scheme.</li></ul>



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<p><b>The 14 sectors under PLI</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components</li> <li>2. Critical Key Starting Materials/Drug</li> <li>3. Intermediaries &amp; Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients</li> <li>4. Manufacturing of Medical Devices</li> <li>5. Automobiles and Auto Components</li> <li>6. Pharmaceuticals Drugs</li> <li>7. Specialty Steel</li> <li>8. Telecom &amp; Networking Products</li> <li>9. Electronic/Technology Products</li> <li>10. White Goods (ACs and LEDs)</li> <li>11. Food Products</li> <li>12. Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles</li> <li>13. High efficiency solar PV modules</li> <li>14. Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Drones and Drone Components.</li> </ol>
<p><b>The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative</b></p>	<p>In news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar</b> says, IPMDA initiative proof of our commitment to a <b>free Indo-Pacific Region</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key fact about IPDMA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The IPMDA was announced by the <b>Quad grouping</b>, comprising India, <b>Australia, Japan and U.S.</b>, <b>at the Tokyo summit in early 2022</b></li> <li>● Aim to track “dark shipping” and build a “faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners’ waters”.</li> <li>● <b>Integrating three critical regions</b> in the Indo-Pacific — the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).</li> <li>● Become a critical platform for fostering <b>cooperation</b> and addressing <b>maritime security</b> challenges in the IOR.</li> <li>● <b>“Sharing of intelligence and information</b> also contributed to enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness [MDA].</li> <li>● <b>Navy’s Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)</b> located at <b>Gurugram</b>, had greatly improved the situational awareness in the IOR region.</li> </ul>



The "Quad" Counter to China



### Fact Checking Unit (FCU) by the Tamil Nadu government

#### Do you know

- **Center govt** proposed to constitute a FCU under the **Information Technology Act, 2020**, was challenged before the **Bombay High Court** which reserved its verdict.

#### In news

- The PIL in High Court challenges **formation of Fact Checking Unit by the government.**

#### Key points

- **Objective of FCU:** Fact Check Unit is to act as a **deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news & misinformation** and to provide people with an easy avenue to report suspicious and questionable information pertaining to the Government of India for fact-checking.
- The **Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2020** ensures that all **electronic documents, records, and information of Indian citizens** are retained in data centers located in India.
- The bill also gives the **government the power to direct decryption and block information**



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

**Bihar seeks to raise reservation to 65%**

### Report Findings

- 34% of households in the State earn ₹6,000 or less each month.
- Among the upper castes, who make up about 15.4% of the population, the Bhumihars (2.9%) are poorer than others
- the Yadavs (14.3%) are poorer than other OBCs, who make up about 27% of the population.
- Overall, the State has **94 lakh poor families**.
- The State's **literacy** rate has increased from 61.8% in 2011 to **79.7%** now.

### In news

- The Bihar Cabinet has approved a proposal to increase reservations in the State for SCs, STs, OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes EBCs to 65%.
- Decision comes after caste survey report published.

### Key point

- Reservation for **SCs, STs, OBCs and EBCs to become 65%**.
- Including 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), quota will go up to **75% crossing the ceiling set by the Supreme Court**.
- **Currently 50% quota in the state.**

### According to survey

#### SCs:-

**19.7%** population, should get a quota of 20%, higher than the current 16%.

#### STs:-

**1.7%** share in population, should get reservation doubled from 1% to 2%.

#### OBCs:-

**27%** population to get a quota of 12%, while EBCs 36% of the population and get a quota of 18%; together should get a quota of 43%.

**Bharat Atta**

### In news

- With wheat flour (**atta**) becoming **costly around the festival season**, Govt. expands 'Bharat Atta' sale.

### Key points

- **Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry** released more stocks of the 'Bharat' brand atta for **moderation of prices**.
- Bharat Atta will be available at **₹27.50 a kg** to increase supplies in the market at affordable rates.
- **100 mobile vans** used for distribution
- Other **outlets** of at **Kendriya Bhandar**, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (**NCCF**), and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (**NAFED**).



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