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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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>
<p><b>The 14 sectors under PLI</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components</li> </ol>



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2. Critical Key Starting Materials/Drug
3. Intermediaries & Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
4. Manufacturing of Medical Devices
5. Automobiles and Auto Components
6. Pharmaceuticals Drugs
7. Specialty Steel
8. Telecom & Networking Products
9. Electronic/Technology Products
10. White Goods (ACs and LEDs)
11. Food Products
12. Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles
13. High efficiency solar PV modules
14. Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Drones and Drone Components.

### The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative

In news

- **Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar** says, IPMDA initiative proof of our commitment to a **free Indo-Pacific Region**.

#### Key fact about IPDMA

- The IPMDA was announced by the **Quad grouping**, comprising India, **Australia, Japan and U.S.**, at the **Tokyo summit in early 2022**
- Aim to track “dark shipping” and build a “faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners’ waters”.
- **Integrating three critical regions** in the Indo-Pacific — the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Become a critical platform for fostering **cooperation** and addressing **maritime security** challenges in the IOR.
- “**Sharing of intelligence and information** also contributed to enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness [MDA].
- **Navy’s Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** located at **Gurugram**, had greatly improved the situational awareness in the IOR region.



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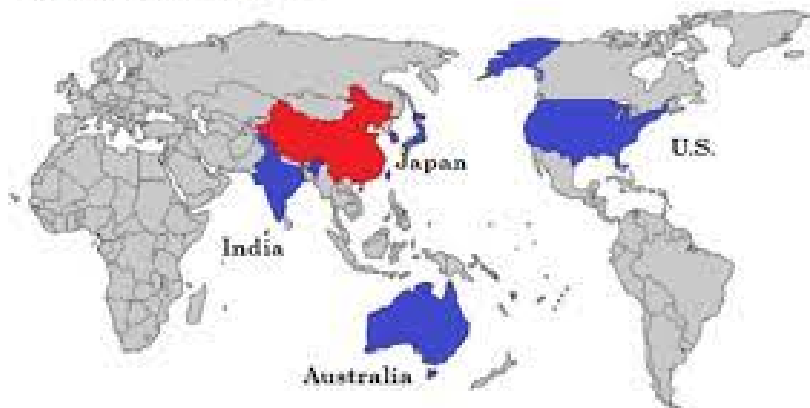
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The "Quad" Counter to China



### 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 centres located in India.
- The bill also gives the **government the power to direct decryption and block information**



<p><b>Bihar seeks to raise reservation to 65%</b></p> <p><b>Report Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34% of households in the State earn ₹6,000 or less each month.</li> <li>Among the upper castes, who make up about 15.4% of the population, the Bhumihars (2.9%) are poorer than others</li> <li>the Yadavs (14.3%) are poorer than other OBCs, who make up about 27% of the population.</li> <li>Overall, the State has <b>94 lakh poor families</b>.</li> <li>The State's <b>literacy</b> rate has increased from 61.8% in 2011 to <b>79.7%</b> now.</li> </ul>	<p><b>In news</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bihar Cabinet has approved a proposal to increase reservations in the State for SCs, STs, OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes EBCs to 65%.</li> <li>Decision comes after caste survey report published.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key point</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reservation for <b>SCs, STs, OBCs and EBCs to become 65%</b>.</li> <li>Including 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), quota will go up to <b>75% crossing the ceiling set by the Supreme Court</b>.</li> <li><b>Currently 50% quota in the state.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>According to survey</b></p> <p><b>SCs:-</b> 19.7% population, should get a quota of 20%, higher than the current 16%.</p> <p><b>STs:-</b> 1.7% share in population, should get reservation doubled from 1% to 2%.</p> <p><b>OBCs:-</b> 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%.</p>
<p><b>Bharat Atta</b></p>	<p><b>In news</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With wheat flour (<b>atta</b>) becoming <b>costly around the festival season</b>, Govt. expands 'Bharat Atta' sale.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry</b> released more stocks of the 'Bharat' brand atta for <b>moderation of prices</b>.</li> <li>Bharat Atta will be available at <b>₹27.50 a kg</b> to increase supplies in the market at affordable rates.</li> <li><b>100 mobile vans</b> used for distribution</li> <li>Other <b>outlets</b> of at <b>Kendriya Bhandar</b>, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (<b>NCCF</b>), and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (<b>NAFED</b>).</li> </ul>



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### Kerala Regional News

<p><b>The Kerala Private Forests (Vesting and Assignment) Amendment Act, 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Kerala Private Forests (Vesting and Assignment) Amendment Act, 2023</b> is a legislative measure that <b>modifies the existing Kerala Private Forests (Vesting and Assignment) Act, 1971.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose and Preamble:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amendment <b>aims to enhance and update the provisions related to private forests in Kerala.</b></li> <li>It was enacted in the 74th Year of the Republic of India.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Amendment of Section 3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amendment <b>introduces changes to Section 3</b> of the Kerala Private Forests (Vesting and Assignment) Act, 1971.</li> <li>It <b>adds two new sub-sections, (5) and (6)</b>, which address specific scenarios related to land ownership and cultivation.</li> <li><b>Sub-section (5) clarifies that a certificate of purchase issued under **Section 72K of the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963, is not conclusive proof for determining personal cultivation or intention to cultivate.</b></li> <li><b>Sub-section (6) exempts private forests up to an extent of twenty acres</b> with a house standing thereon, held by an owner for residential purposes, from certain provisions.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><b>The Kerala State Housing Board (KSHB)</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kerala State Housing Board (KSHB) is a governmental agency in Kerala, India, responsible for directing and planning housing initiatives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Establishment and Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The KSHB was <b>established in 1971</b> under Act 19 of 1971.</li> <li>Its <b>primary purpose is to execute housing development and loan projects to address the housing needs</b> of people from all walks of life in Kerala.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



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### 2. Functions and Structure:

- The KSHB directs and plans the preparation and execution of housing schemes in the state.
- The Board operates **under the guidance of a Director Board**, which includes a Chairman, government-appointed officials, and non-officials nominated by the government.
- Innovative Initiatives:
  - In connection with the golden jubilee of its establishment, the KSHB implemented an innovative self-financing housing loan scheme in 2021.
  - This scheme aims to enhance housing security for the community by encouraging public participation.

### Community Development and Panchayats in Kerala

#### Key Points:

#### 1. Decentralized Structure:

- Kerala houses 1,200 local self-government bodies, including:
  1. 941 gram panchayats (village councils)
  2. 152 block panchayats
  3. 14 district panchayats
  4. 87 municipalities
  5. 6 municipal corporations

A hallmark of Kerala's decentralized structure is its formula-based resource allocation, which eliminates arbitrary discretion<sup>12</sup>.

#### 2. Historical Evolution:

- In 1994, Kerala enacted the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and the Kerala Municipality Act.
- These acts established a three-tier system of local government:
  - Gram panchayats: At the village level.
  - Block panchayats: At the block or taluk level.
  - District panchayats: At the district level.
- These tiers work together to address local needs and promote inclusive development<sup>2</sup>.

#### 3. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee:

- The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee recommended a uniform three-tier system of rural local government.
- Panchayati Raj in India was inaugurated based on these recommendations.
- The system empowers local communities to actively participate in decision-making and development<sup>3</sup>.



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### The Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 2021

#### Context:

- The **Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 2021** is a legislative measure aimed at further modifying the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963.

#### Key Points:

##### 1. Purpose and Preamble:

- The amendment seeks to address specific objectives related to land reforms in Kerala.
- It was enacted in the 73rd Year of the Republic of India.

##### 2. Amendment of Section 102:

- The amendment specifically modifies Section 102 of the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963.
  - In the original Act, Section 106 or Section 106A dealt with certain matters.
  - The amendment **replaces these references with "Section 106, Section 106A, or Section 106B"**.
  - This change **expands the scope of appeal provisions related to orders by the Land Tribunal.**
- Statement of Objects and Reasons:**
  - The existing Act allowed appeals against various Land Tribunal orders but did not cover orders under Section 106B.
  - The amendment rectifies this gap by introducing provisions for appeal in cases related to deemed tenants under Section 7E of the Act.
  - The primary objective is to ensure a comprehensive and effective legal framework for land reforms.

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