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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

9 November 2023

International & National News

India Bhutan regional connectivity CHINA INDIA ANGLADESIT MYANMAR	 In news India and Bhutan agreed to discuss new routes of regional connectivity and upgrade border and immigration posts Key points A 58-km cross-border rail link between Gelephu and Kokrajhar in Assam is to be built by India. Agreed to explore a second rail link for about 18 km between Samtse in Bhutan and Banarhat in the West Bengal tea gardens area. Allows Bhutanese trade items to be carried further on from Haldibari in West Bengal to Chilahati in Bangladesh Agreed to designate the Darranga-Samdrup Jongkhar border crossing between Assam and Bhutan as an immigration check post, so as to allow third-country nationals to enter and exit as well "for enhancing connectivity, and promoting tourism" Bhutan plans for a smart city at Gelephu on the border between Bhutan and Assam, and to have an international airport and Special Economic Zone at Gelephu.
Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme	 About 80% of funds for semiconductor PLI remain unused. About \$8 billion of the \$10 billion allocated by the Centre for the production of semiconductors under the PLI. Key points Production-linked incentive scheme Aims to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and exports in 14 economic sectors The scheme comes under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt has allocated a \$26 billion fund. The PLI scheme is expected to have a cascading effect on the country's MSME ecosystem India is expected to raise bilateral trade with South Korea to \$50 billion by 2030 in battery storage solutions through the PLI scheme.
The 14 sectors under PLI	Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components Critical Key Starting Materials/Drug Intermediaries & Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients



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- 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

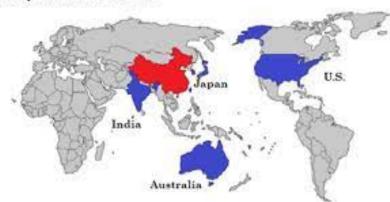
In news

Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar says the IPMDA initiative is 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 the 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].
- The Navy's Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) located at Gurugram, had greatly improved the situational awareness in the IOR region.







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Fact-Checking Unit (FCU) by the **Tamil Nadu government**

Do you know

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

In news

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

Key points

- Objective of FCU: The 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 about 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

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), the quota will go up to 75% crossing the ceiling set by the Supreme Court.
- Currently 50% quota in the state.

According to a survey

SCs:-

19.7% of the 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 gets a guota of 12%, while EBCs 36% of the population and get a quota of 18%; together should get a quota of 43%.



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Bharat Atta

In news

• With wheat flour (atta) becoming costly around the festival season, Govt. is expanding the 'Bharat Atta' sale.

Key points

- Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry released more stocks of the 'Bharat' brand atta for the 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 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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