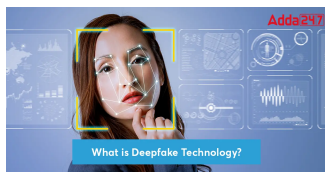## 16 November 2023
National and International News

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 What is Deepfake Technology? **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 was illegal under **Section 66D of the Information Technology Act of 2000.**	**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 image

168 villages along China border to get road connectivity in a year	**Context** ● 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.**
U.S. approves first vaccine against chikungunya virus for those over 18	**Context** U.S. health authorities approved the world's first vaccine for **chikungunya,** a virus spread by infected mosquitoes. **Key points** ● 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.**
Chikungunya virus 	● 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.
'2+2' ministerial dialogue 	**Context** ● 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 **About** ● 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.