



19 October 2023

National and International News

RapidX Train or NaMo Bharat



In news:

- PM Modi to inaugurate RapidX on 20th October.

Key points:

- RapidX or NaMo Bharat is India's first semi-high-speed **regional rail service**.
- 1st stretch → Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)
- Average speed → 100 km/hr
- National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)

Did you know?

- Women are expected to comprise 50% of the staff at all stations.

President launches 4th Krishi Road Map of Bihar



About:

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the 4th Krishi Road Map of Bihar.
- 2023-28 (5yrs road map)
- Outlay of ₹1.62 lakh crore
- Aim → increasing agricultural production; farmers' incomes
- Where → launched at Babu Sabhagar, Bihar

US's 31 MQ-9B drone

In News:

- India to conclude 31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) deal with the U.S.

Key points:

- Deal to be done through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route.
- India issued a Letter of Request to the US during the recent G20 Summit.



MQ-9B GUARDIANS OVER OUR SKY

With its long-endurance surveillance capability, SkyGuardians and SeaGuardians (in pic) will be the military's eyes. An MQ-9B's chief features include:



- 240 Knots True Air Speed (KTAS)
- 40 hours Maximum Endurance
- 40,000 ft MSL (mean sea level) service ceiling
- 11,112 km maximum range
- 1,746 kg payload capacity
- Operates 'on the horizon'

through satellite connectivity

- Nine hardpoints, or weapon stations—eight located on the wings and one on the centreline
- Can execute precision-guided ground bombing with GBU-12 Paveway II laser-guided bombs, GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits
- Can be armed with air-to-air

Sidewinder, surface-to-air Stinger missiles to target airborne objects; air-to-ground Hellfire missiles can target armour and other ground objects

- The US and its allies have extensively deployed MQ-9 series drones over Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Libya

MSP for Rabi crops

In News:

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all Rabi crops for the financial year 2024-25.

Key points:

- Rabi crops are sown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June.
- Major Rabi crops are wheat, gram, peas, barley, etc.
- MSP is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers.

Did you know?

- The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is an expert body that recommends the MSPs of the notified Kharif and Rabi crops to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
- CACP recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

CACP vs CCEA



<p>Yom Kippur War 2023</p>	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current Hamas-Israeli conflict is sometimes referred to as the Yom Kippur War 2023. <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 6, 2023, marked the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, also known as the Ramadan War. On October 6th, 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a coordinated attack on Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.
<p>Development of large language models (LLMs) in India</p>	<p>In news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India set up a “high-powered committee” to explore the development of large language models, or LLMs. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LLMs are tools that harness artificial intelligence to create applications that can understand and process human language. LLMs are a cornerstone technology underlying several pieces of ‘intelligent’ software and help make possible applications such as ChatGPT.
<p>Term: Deep Tech</p>	<p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep tech is those areas where you do cutting-edge research in all kinds of technologies, not just software or AI, but it also involves doing cutting-edge research in material sciences or in biotechnology. <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian govt has put out a draft National Deep Tech Start-up Policy for public comment
<p>Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation</p>	<p>In news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was convened in Beijing, China (October 17-18). <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The G-20 Delhi summit posited an alternative in the form of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) that seeks to link India, West Asia, and Europe through railways and shipping lines.



Kerala Regional News

<p>Department of Archeology to protect East Fort</p>	<p>In News: Department of Archeology to protect the fort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Archeology has come up with a plan to preserve the East Fort, a heritage monument in the capital city, which is decaying due to encroachment and age. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 383-meter stretch from Attakulangara to Simhakota is being rehabilitated in the first phase for Rs 75 lakh. In the second phase, the protection of the Vettimuricha Kotta will be done for 25 lakh rupees. Along with this, the East Fort door and the West Fort door will also be protected. T The Archeology Department's own funds are being used for the project.
<p>About East Fort</p>	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Fort is also known by its Malayalam name Kizhakke Kotta, It is located in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala, India. East Fort is home to many important historical and religious landmarks, including the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, the Kuthiramalika Palace, and the Anantha Vilasam Palace. The Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple is one of the most famous temples in India and is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
<p>Vizhinjam International Port will receive the 'Shen Hua 15' with a fountain</p>	<p>In News: Vizhinjam International Port will receive the 'Shen Hua 15' with a fountain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first vessel to depart Vizhinjam International Port with cranes will receive the 'Shen Hua 15' with a fountain. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shen Hua 15 is a Chinese cargo vessel that is carrying three cranes for the Vizhinjam port. These cranes are essential for the port to begin handling commercial cargo. The fountain that will be used to welcome the Shen Hua 15 is a symbol of the importance of the port to Kerala and India. It is also a sign of the state's commitment to developing world-class infrastructure.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a significant event, as it marks the beginning of commercial operations at Vizhinjam, India's newest and most modern deep-sea port.
<p>Inauguration of Millet planting</p>	<p>In News: Inauguration of Millet Planting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gram panchayat president Shailaja Rajeevan inaugurated the planting of major millets such as Bajra and Manicholam on the farm of farmer Balakrishnan Nair at Pavvathur Thotumpuram Arun Bhavan in Nandiyot Krishi Bhavan area It was inaugurated as part of the International Small Grains Year celebration. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023) to raise awareness about the nutritional and health benefits of millets, and to promote their cultivation and consumption.
<p>Two people have been diagnosed with brucellosis in Kerala</p>	<p>In News: Two people have been diagnosed with brucellosis in Thiruvananthapuram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two people were diagnosed with brucellosis at Jobi Bhavan in Vattapara Vetinad. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease caused by bacteria of the genus Brucella. It is a major public health problem in many parts of the world and is estimated to affect over 500,000 people each year. Brucellosis is primarily transmitted to humans through contact with infected animals or their products. <p>This can occur through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ingesting unpasteurized milk or dairy products from infected animals Consuming contaminated meat Direct contact with the blood, tissues, or fluids of infected animals Inhaling airborne bacteria from infected animals

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