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National and International News

<p>RapidX or Namo Bharat</p>	<p>Context High-speed train, RapidX, is all set to be inaugurated.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has named India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services as 'RAPIDX'. • These trains will operate on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, which are being constructed to link important urban nodes across the National Capital Region (NCR). • The brand aims to incorporate green energy into its operations by installing solar panels at stations and depots and gradually increasing the use of blended power in traction. <p>About NCRTC The NCRTC is a joint venture company between the Union government and the states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.</p>
<p>Namo Bharat</p>	<p>Context The Prime Minister flagged off the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), the Namo Bharat train.</p> <p>About the train</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RRTS is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system. • With a design speed of 180 kmph, it is a regional development initiative, which is designed to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes, going up to a frequency of every five minutes when required. • The train will allow a commuter to travel between Delhi and Meerut in less than an hour.
<p>'Tej'</p>	<p>Context A low-pressure area over the southeast and the adjoining southwest Arabian Sea is about to develop into a depression. It has the potential to impact Mumbai, Pune, and other regions of Maharashtra and the Konkan area.</p> <p>About Cyclone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere. Cyclones are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.
<p>Mehrauli Park Structures</p>	<p>Context Major restoration and conservation works have been done at Mehrauli Archaeological Park</p> <p>About Mehrauli</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is spread over 200 acres. Mehrauli Archaeological Park is adjacent to Qutub Minar It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is home to 55 historic structures built by various empires — including the Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Lodhis, Mughals, and the British These include the Jamali Kamali Mosque, Metcalfe House, Rajon ki Baoli, as well as the tombs of Mamluk king Ghiyas-ud-din Balban and Mughal governor Shah Quli Khan.
<p>Dhordo in Gujarat</p>	<p>Context Dhordo in Gujarat has made it to the United Nations World Tourism Organization's best villages list.</p> <p>About UNWTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It promotes responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism. It is headquartered in Madrid, Spain. UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability.
<p>Star rating energy efficiency scheme for solar panels</p>	<p>Context The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has expanded its scheme to solar panels. Starting in January 2024, solar panel manufacturers can apply to get their products rated for energy efficiency.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BEE manages the 'star rating' scheme and is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Power. A panel with an efficiency of 17% to 18% will be rated 1 star, 18% to 20% 2-star, and so on. Panels will be rated 5-star for efficiency greater than 22%.



<p>China to curb graphite export</p>	<p>Context China will require export permits for some graphite products to protect national security</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China is the world’s top graphite producer and exporter. • It also refines 90% of the world’s graphite into the material that is used virtually in all EV battery anodes, which is the negatively charged portion of a battery.
<p>President launches fourth Krishi Road Map of Bihar</p>	<p>Context The President launched the fourth Krishi Road Map (2023-28) of Bihar with an estimate of ₹1.62 lakh crore.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The map focuses on increasing agricultural production, while also increasing farmers’ incomes in the five years. • The road map, the fourth of its kind, focuses on storage, processing, and expansion of seed and irrigation along with crop diversification and improved agriculture marketing.
<p>Ayodhya Ram Temple Trust receives FCRA license to accept foreign donations</p>	<p>Context The Ayodhya Ram Temple Trust, known as the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra, has received a license to accept foreign donations under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).</p> <p>About FCRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) was enacted in 1976 to regulate foreign donations and ensure that such contributions do not adversely affect the internal security of the country. • The FCRA applies to all associations, groups, and NGOs which intend to receive foreign donations. • All such NGOs must register themselves under the FCRA. • This legal Provision is not only meant for NGOs but also for Political Organisations and Political Parties. • Moreover, the 2010 Amendment Act has also included electronic media companies and “organizations of a political nature” to the list.



Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala cabinet gives nod to IT Park in Kannur</p>	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala Cabinet has given the administrative nod for setting up the IT Park in Kannur. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cabinet meeting approved making use of a portion of the 5,000 acres of land to be acquired by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for the park's construction. • Furthermore, KIIFB funds will be utilized for the park's construction, with Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited serving as the special-purpose vehicle.
<p>17 judges appointed in eight high courts; 3 additional judges for Kerala</p>	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleven judicial officers and six advocates were appointed as judges in eight high courts, including Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four advocates were appointed as additional judges in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, and three judicial officers were elevated as additional judges in the Bombay HC. • Three judicial officers were appointed as additional judges in the Kerala HC, and two others as additional judges in the Delhi High Court. • The judicial officers appointed as additional judges in the Kerala HC are Johnson John, Gopinathan U, and C Pratheep Kumar.
<p>ESAF Small Finance Bank receives SEBI nod for IPO; another 4 Kerala firms in pipeline</p>	<p>In News: ESAF Small Finance Bank receives Sebi nod for IPO; another 4 Kerala firms in pipeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESAF Small Finance Bank Ltd, the Thrissur-headquartered small finance bank, has received the approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO) <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By doing so, it is among a half a dozen Kerala-based firms to hit the capital markets in the coming 12-18 months. • ESAF's IPO includes a fresh issue of up to Rs 486.74 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 142.30 crore by promoters and other selling shareholders. • The offer for sale comprises up to Rs 119.26 crore by ESAF Financial Holdings Pvt Ltd, up to Rs 12.67 crore by PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Ltd, up to Rs



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	<p>10.37 crore by Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company had refiled preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in July 2023
<p>State Sports Meet: Palakkad</p>	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65th State Sports Meet at Palakkad <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the first day of the sports meet, a total of 33 events were charted. The event began with the 3,000 m race of junior girls. Gopika Gopi, of GVHSS Sports, Kannur, won the first gold medal in the 3,000 m sprint. Meanwhile, Servan K C of GHSS, Kuttamath, set a state record in discus throw (1.5kg).
<p>Kollam's 'The Citizen' catches Karnataka's fancy</p>	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'The Citizen', a groundbreaking campaign that resulted in Kollam becoming the first constitutionally literate district in India, is now set to be replicated in Karnataka. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The campaign, organized by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), the district planning committee, and the Kollam district panchayat, educated approximately 7 lakh families in the district on the Indian Constitution. Now, Gadag district in Karnataka is gearing up to launch a similar campaign on November 26. This follows a visit by representatives from the neighboring state to KILA's headquarters in Thrissur in September. The visitors interacted with the KILA faculty and learned about 'The Citizen' during their five-day visit.

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