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19 October 2023

International & National 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.



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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

Yom Kippur War 2023

Key points:

- Current Hamas-Israeli conflict is sometimes referred to as the Yom Kippur War 2023.

Did you know?

- 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.



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<p>Development of large language models (LLMs) in India</p>	<p>In news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India to 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 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"> 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.

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