





19 October 2023

National and International News

<p><b>RapidX Train or NaMo Bharat</b></p>  <p>INSIDE INDIA'S 1ST 160 KMPH REGIONAL RAPID TRAIN</p>	<p><b>In news:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM Modi to inaugurate RapidX on 20th October.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RapidX or NaMo Bharat is India's first semi-high speed <b>regional rail service</b>.</li> <li>1st stretch → Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)</li> <li>Average speed → 100 km/hr</li> <li>National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women are expected to comprise 50% of the staff at all stations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>President launches 4th Krishi Road Map of Bihar</b></p>  <p>Bihar Krishi Roadmap</p>	<p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Droupadi Murmu launched the 4th Krishi Road Map of Bihar.</li> <li>2023-28 (5yrs road map)</li> <li>Outlay of ₹1.62 lakh crore</li> <li>Aim → increasing agricultural production; farmers' incomes</li> <li>Where → launched at Babu Sabhagar, Bihar</li> </ul>
<p><b>US's 31 MQ-9B drone</b></p>	<p><b>In News:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India to conclude 31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) deal with the U.S.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deal to be done through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route.</li> <li>India issued a Letter of Request to the US during the recent G20 Summit.</li> </ul>



**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.

**CACP vs CCEA**

**Did you know?**

- 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.

**Yom Kippur War 2023**

**Key points:**

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



	<p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 6, 2023, marked the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, also known as the Ramadan War.</li> <li>On October 6th, 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a coordinated attack on Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.</li> </ul>
Development of large language models (LLMs) in India	<p><b>In news:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India to set up “high-powered committee” to explore the development of large language models, or LLMs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LLMs are tools that harness artificial intelligence to create applications that can understand and process human language.</li> <li>LLMs are a cornerstone technology underlying several pieces of ‘intelligent’ software and help make possible applications such as ChatGPT.</li> </ul>
Term: Deep Tech	<p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 bio-technology.</li> </ul> <p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian govt has put out draft National Deep Tech Start-up Policy for public comments</li> </ul>
Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation	<p><b>In news:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was convened in Beijing, China (October 17-18).</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

**Copyright © by Adda247**

All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of Adda247.