

National and International Weekly Current Affairs 16 to 22 October 2023

National News

**Centre unveils tradeable Green Credit**

**Context**

- Govt introduced a special programme which allows an individual or entity to earn Green Credit and trade it on a dedicated exchange.

**Key points:**

- Green Credit refers to a unit of an incentive provided for specified activities that deliver a positive impact on the environment.
- Green credit initiative incentivises environmental actions of various stakeholders.
- This programme is a follow-up action of the 'LiFE'-(Lifestyle for Environment) campaign.

**Did you know?**

- Green Credit programme will cover eight types of activities — tree plantation, water management, sustainable agriculture, waste management, air pollution reduction, and mangrove conservation and restoration.
- Green Credit programme is independent of the carbon credit provided under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

**Red Fort to host India's maiden art, architecture and design biennale**

**Context**

- In December, Red Fort to host India's maiden art, architecture and design biennale.

**Key points**

- What → The India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale, 2023 (IAADB)
- Who organizes → Union Culture Ministry.
- Where → Red Fort, Delhi
- When → December 9 to 15

- Who inaugurates → PM Modi
- Attraction → replicas of some landmark Indian buildings and structures
- The themes are → new Indian Parliament, the Velankanni railway station and Shalimar Bagh in Srinagar, Doors of India, Gardens of India, Baolis (step-wells) of India, Temples of India, Architectural Wonders of Independent India, Indigenous Design and Women in Architecture and Design.

**Concerns regarding food security in India**

**Key Points:**

- Without adaptation measures, rainfed rice yields in India are projected to reduce
  - by 20% in 2050, and
  - by 47% in 2080 scenarios,
- while irrigated rice yields are projected to decline by
  - 3.5% in 2050 and
  - 5% in 2080 scenarios.
- Wheat yields are projected to decrease by
  - 19.3% in 2050 and
  - 40% in 2080,
  - while kharif maize yields could decline by 18% and 23%.

**Key Facts:**

- About 60% of India's net sown area is rainfed, contributing to 40% of the total food production.
- irrigated agriculture accounts for 72% of global freshwater withdrawals.
- About 40% of the planet's total land area is degraded, leaving farmers with less productive land.

**Measures taken for climate adaptation and food security**

**Key measures:**

- FAO supported the farmer water school programme in Uttar Pradesh, which helped smallholder

farmers.

- The Andhra Pradesh Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems project reached 638 habitations in seven drought-prone districts, which included a hydrological monitoring programme.
- IFAD-supported projects in Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Mizoram incorporate climate-resilient seed varieties and crops, including millets, and train farmers in climate-sensitive agricultural practices and soil management to cope with increased water stress.
- The WFP is collaborating with the Government of Odisha to develop solutions for smallholder farmers, focusing on women. The goal is to enhance resilience through solar technologies, establish community-based climate advisory services to help manage climate impacts and promote a millet-value chain that reduces water usage and improves nutrition.

#### Steps needed to achieve Food Security

- To achieve global food and nutrition security, political commitment is needed as much as concrete investment.
- The needed policies and investments must promote:
  - 1) Innovative and proven technologies
  - 2) viable irrigation and water management strategies;
  - 3) reduce climate footprint of agricultural production,
  - 4) bring sanitation and drinking water supplies closer to rural households;
  - 5) adopt efficient food and water recycling strategies.

#### Did you know?

- The UN's food agencies work closely with the Government of India and State governments on innovations such as Solar 4 Resilience, Secure

Fishing, and the revival of millets for renewable energy promotion, food security and nutrition.

#### Centre likely to raise age of retirement of scientists to 65

##### Context

The Science and Technology Ministry is working on a proposal to increase the retirement age of scientists to 65.

##### Key points

- **Purpose:** to stem the flight of its top senior scientists to universities and the Indian Institutes of Technology, where the retirement age is 65
- At present, scientists in most wings of the government retire at 60, while those working at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) retire at 62.

#### Kartavya Path giant pitcher

##### Context

In a grand finale to the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' (My Country, My Soil) campaign, a giant pitcher containing soil collected from across the country will be placed on Kartavya Path in New Delhi

##### Key points

- Approximately 8,000 urns carrying soil from all villages of the country are expected to arrive in New Delhi as part of the campaign.
- The soil will be blended and placed in the pitcher that symbolises the unity and diversity of the nation.
- It will then be ceremoniously positioned in the 'Amrit Vatika' (Garden of Nectar) at Kartavya Path.

#### AIIMS to have integrated health study centres

##### Context

The Ministry of Ayush, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have called for proposals to establish integrative health research centres at the All India Institutes

of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) under its extramural programme.

### Key points

- The Ayush-ICMR Advanced Centre for Integrative Health Research scheme is aimed at harnessing the mutual understanding and research environment between different systems of medicine.
- The proposal comes against the backdrop of the Centre's bid for traditional Indian medicine to be included on the WHO list.
- The inclusion of Ayurveda and related systems on the WHO list will provide them access to a common language that allows health professionals to share standardised information.

### RapidX or Namo Bharat

#### Context

High-speed train, RapidX, all set to be inaugurated.

#### Key points

- 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.

#### About NCRTC

The NCRTC is a joint venture company between the Union government and the states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

### Namo Bharat

#### Context

Prime Minister flagged off the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), Namo Bharat train.

#### About train

- 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.

### Mehrauli park structures

#### Context

Major restoration and conservation works have been done at Mehrauli Archaeological Park

#### About Mehrauli

- 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.

### President launches fourth Krishi Road Map of Bihar

#### Context

President launched the fourth Krishi Road Map (2023-28) of Bihar with an estimate of ₹1.62 lakh crore.

#### Key points

- 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.

### **Ayodhya Ram temple trust receives FCRA licence to accept foreign donations**

#### **Context**

The Ayodhya Ram temple trust, known as the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra, has received a licence to accept foreign donations under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

#### **About FCRA**

- 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.

#### **Maharashtra State News**

### **Maharashtra law University wins CNLU moot court contest**

#### **In News:**

- Maharashtra National Law University (Nagpur) team emerged the winners of the first edition of three-day National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)-Chanakya National Law University (CNLU) national moot court competition.

#### **Key Points:**

- The Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, team was declared the runners up.
- Giving away prizes to the winners, Justice (retired) Sanjay Kumar of Patna high court outlined the importance of human rights and universal access to justice

### **Person in News: Asif Qureshi is the new chairman of Bar Council**

**In News:** Asif Qureshi is chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa

- City's noted lawyer Asif Shaukat Qureshi has been unanimously elected as the chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, marking a remarkable milestone in his illustrious legal career.

#### **Key Points:**

- With a strong foundation in law, Asif Qureshi commenced his legal practice in 1994, showcasing an unwavering commitment to justice, inspired by the ideals of late Rajiv Gandhi.
- Over the years, Qureshi's dedication to the legal profession has shone through, having expertly handled over 500 cases.
- In 2014-15, Qureshi achieved a historic milestone by being elected as the youngest chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, representing a vast community of 1,65,000 lawyers.

### **Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras**

**In News:** Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde reviews preparations

#### **Key Points:**

- The Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras will conduct skill development training programs across various sectors to provide employment opportunities to rural youth.
- Each Kendra will train about 100 youngsters in at least two vocational courses.

- The training is being provided by empanelled industry partners and agencies under National Skill Development Council.
- Establishment of these Kendras will help the region attain significant strides towards developing a more competent and skilled manpower.
- 511 Pramod Mahajan Rural Skill Development Centers in the state will be inaugurated online by PM Modi on Oct 19th.

#### About Pramod Mahajan Rural Skill Development Centers

##### Key Points:

- The centers are named after Pramod Mahajan, a former Union Minister from Maharashtra who was known for his commitment to rural development.
- The centers will offer a variety of courses in different sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services.
- The centers are expected to benefit over 50,000 youth per year.

#### 141st International Olympic Committee Session

##### In News:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Mumbai to inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session at the Jio World Centre.

##### Key Points:

- Important decisions regarding the future of Olympic games are made at IOC sessions.

#### About International Olympic Committee Session:

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session is the supreme decision-making body of the IOC.
- It is held once a year, and is attended by all IOC Members, as well as representatives from the Olympic Games Organising Committees, the International Federations, and other sports organizations.

The IOC Session is responsible for making decisions on a wide range of matters related to the Olympic Movement, including:

1. Electing the IOC President and other members of the IOC Executive Board
2. Approving the Olympic Games Host Cities
3. Adopting and amending the Olympic Charter
4. Making decisions on the Olympic sports programme and competition rules
5. Overseeing the organization of the Olympic Games

##### Did you Know?

- India is hosting the IOC session for the second time and after a gap of about 40 years.
- The IOC's 86th session was held in New Delhi in 1983.

#### MH govt launches mobile application called Sahakar Samvad.

##### In News:

- Cooperative housing **society** members now have an online facility to file complaints with Maharashtra Cooperation department recently having launched a user-friendly website and mobile application called Sahakar Samvad.

##### Key Points:

- The platform has options for 24 types of complaints commonly raised by housing society members that include share certificates, misappropriation or misapplication of funds, failure to conduct elections and failure to convene general body meetings among others.
- Individuals filing complaints on this new platform will be required to pay a nominal fee of Rs 50 for each complaint.

#### Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj airport

##### In News:

- The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) will temporarily close both of its runways.

#### Key Points:

- The closure is part of CSMIA's annual post-monsoon preventive maintenance schedule.
- As part of this scheduled temporary closure, airport maintenance and repair activities will be undertaken to ensure airport infrastructure remains in the best condition.
- Meanwhile, PM Modi will inaugurate the third edition of the three-day Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS), which will be held in Mumbai, via video-conferencing today and unveil "Amrit Kaal Vision 2047".

#### 14,000 strays vaccinated in rabies-mukt Mumbai campaign

##### In News:

- Over 14,000 strays vaccinated in rabies-mukt Mumbai campaign
- In a commendable effort to combat rabies, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) collaborated with NGOs to vaccinate a total of 14,191 strays between September 29 and October 10.

##### Key Points:

- This initiative, known as the 'Rabies Free Mumbai Campaign,' is part of the Central government's larger mission
- According to reports, the drive primarily targeted densely populated areas in Mumbai, including Dahisar, Kandivali, Borivali, Malad, Powai, Kanjurmarg, Bhandup, Nahur, and Mulund.
- Fifteen teams were deployed for this campaign, with each team comprising members responsible for vaccine administration, data collection, and process monitoring.

#### Koparkhairane and Vashi residents are breathing benzene

#### and toluene chemicals

##### In News:

- Residents of Koparkhairane and Vashi in Navi Mumbai are breathing toxic air, containing benzene and toluene chemicals according to a report by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

##### Key Points:

- The report also identified dust and smog as primary causes of concern, as well as the stench from a common effluent treatment plant.
- Toxic gasses in air is due to pollution caused by 100-odd chemical factories in the vicinity.
- Authorities have been instructed to take action to address the pollution, including the use of fogger machines, closure of open tanks, and maintenance of leaking pipes.

#### Pune startup is generating 1.5 million leads for over 600 top tech brands

##### In News:

- From offices in Las Vegas and Koregaon Park, Pune startup Flexisales, is generating 1.5 million leads for over 600 top tech brands

##### Key Points:

- Flexisales, a leading B2B company from India, was started by two people in their twenties, Nupoor Ganesh and Ganesh Rajasekaran, in 2010.
- A team of over 400 sales and marketing professionals are working for some of the top global tech names in the US and Europe.
- They generate more than 1.5 million leads for over 600 brands every year.
- The company is now entering health tech and fintech while retaining old clients.
- Offices will be opened in tier-II and tier-III cities of India as well.

#### About Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Diwas

##### Key Points:



- Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Diwas, also known as Dharmachakra Pravartan Din or the Day of the Turning of the Wheel of Dharma, is a Buddhist festival
- It is celebrated on the full moon day of the Ashadha month in the Hindu calendar.
- The festival commemorates the Buddha's first sermon, which he delivered to five ascetics at the Deer Park in Sarnath, India, after his enlightenment.
- In this sermon, the Buddha taught the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, which are the foundations of Buddhism.
- The Four Noble Truths are
  - The truth of suffering (dukkha)
  - The truth of the cause of suffering (samudaya)
  - The truth of the end of suffering (nirodha)
  - The truth of the path to the end of suffering (magga).

#### Did you Know?

- The Eightfold Path is the path of ethical conduct, mental discipline, and wisdom.

#### Bhide Wada in Pune to be turned into national monument

##### In News:

- After over 13 years of legal dispute, the first school for girls in the country - the historical Bhide Wada in Budhwar Peth - will be redeveloped as a national monument.

##### Key Points:

- The school was founded in 1848 by social reformers Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule
- They were running three schools with over 150 students by 1851.
- The school's curriculum was designed to provide girls with a well-rounded education.

- Students learned reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, and science.
- They were also taught about social issues such as caste discrimination and widow remarriage.

#### Wine-based tourism and international tourist flow can improve Maharashtra's GDP by nearly 20%

##### In News:

- A report by the International Spirits & Wines Association of India (ISWAI) said that Nashik received more than 3.5 lakh visitors every year as wine tourism here has benefitted nearby villages creating new opportunities to improve state GDP by nearly 20%.

##### Key Points:

- ISWAI is the apex body of the premium AlcoBev sector
- An astounding 1.8 lakh foreign tourists visit the state, with domestic tourists exceeding 4.3 crore, report added.
- In the economic value of the Indian alcoholic beverage industry Maharashtra has been ranked the fifth state after Tamil Nadu, UP, Telangana and K'taka with Nashik emerging as the 'Wine Capital of India'.
- Maharashtra has the largest installed capacity in the country for the production of Alcoholic spirits from molasses and grain.
- Maharashtra has the added advantage of having around 90% of liquor manufacturers in the country establishing their manufacturing units within the state itself.

#### SC grants Maharashtra Speaker final opportunity to set fresh time schedule for disqualification hearings

##### In News:

- The Supreme Court of India has given Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar a final chance to provide a realistic timeline for deciding the cross-petitions filed by rival factions of the Shiv Sena,

seeking the disqualification of each other's MLAs following a party split.

#### Key Points:

- The court emphasized the need for a speedy resolution of the disqualification petitions.
- A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud noted the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that he will personally engage with the speaker during Dussehra vacation and indicate a firm set of modalities.

#### State News

##### Chungthang dam of Sikkim

#### In news:

- Chungthang dam of Sikkim was in news as the dam fell due to floods.

#### Key points:

- Chungthang dam is on the Teesta River.

It had hydroelectric projects which benefitted northern and eastern States of India and also Bhutan.

##### Kaziranga sanctuary reopens

#### Context

The **Kaziranga National Park** and Tiger Reserve reopened with a literary tribute to a British-era forest officer who rid its name from any hunting connotations.

#### Key points

- **Patrick D. Stracey** was born in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada, served as an Indian Forest Service officer in Assam.
- He played a key role in renaming the Kaziranga Game Sanctuary as a wildlife sanctuary in 1950.

#### Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve

- It is located in the State of Assam and covers 42,996 Hectare.
- It is the single largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley

floodplain.

- It was declared as a National Park in 1974.
- It has been declared a tiger reserve since 2007.
- It has a total tiger reserve area of 1,030 sq km with a core area of 430 sq. km.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.
- It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.
- It is the home of the world's most one-horned rhinos.

##### Drone delivers drugs across Himachal terrain

#### Context

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) successfully transported more than 100 units of essential medications for 20 kilometres in Lahaul and Spiti district using a drone, reducing travel time from 120 minutes to 26 minutes.

#### Key points

- The feasibility study in Himachal Pradesh is part of the national mission to advance India's drone ecosystem to explore the transportation of vital medical resources.
- In this first high-altitude, low-temperature venture, the ICMR's endeavor in the long run is to streamline the distribution of essential medical provisions.

##### Dhordo in Gujarat

#### Context

Dhordo in Gujarat has made it to the United Nations World Tourism Organization's best villages list.

#### About UNWTO

- 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.

## International News

### World Food Day

#### Key points:

- Celebrated on → October 16
- Reason → to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945.
- 2023 Theme → 'Water is Life, Water is Food'
- It calls for urgent action in managing water wisely.

#### Did you know?

- 2022 Theme → "Leave No One Behind"
- 2021 Theme → "Safe Food Now for A Healthier Tomorrow"
- 2020 Theme → 'Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future'
- 2019 → 'Zero Hunger'

### International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2023

#### Key points:

- Theme: 'Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All.'
- United Nations officially designated October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
- It recognizes and acknowledges efforts of people in poverty, amplifies their concerns, and honors their role in poverty alleviation.

### Person in news: Daniel Noboa

#### Context

- Banana empire heir Daniel Noboa, became Ecuador's youngest-ever President-elect. (33yrs)
- He vowed to "restore peace" to a country ravaged by a bloody drug gang war.

### China to curb graphite export

#### Context

China will require export permits for some graphite products to protect national security

#### Key points

- 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.

## Economy News

### Modi unveils long-term blueprint for India's maritime economy

#### Context

Prime Minister unveiled the 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047' while inaugurating Global Maritime India Summit 2023 in Mumbai through video conference.

#### Key points

- Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 is a long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy.
- Blueprint focuses on port enhancement, sustainability, and global cooperation.
- Emphasizes sea routes in global trade and reliable supply chains.
- Major ports' capacity doubled; big vessel turnaround time reduced.
- Foundation stone laid for ₹23,000 crore projects in alignment with blue economy.

### India's share of growth to rise to 18%

#### Context

- India's contribution to global economic growth will rise by 2 percentage points in 5 years as the Indian economy is projected to grow faster in the coming

years, as per International Monetary Fund (IMF) senior official.

#### About IMF

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 member countries each of which has representation on the IMF's executive board in proportion to its financial importance, so that the most powerful countries in the global economy have the most voting power.

#### Agreement news

##### High-speed craft Cheriya pani

#### Context

- Indian PM launched the passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai.
- Ferry to Sri Lanka plies after 40 years.

#### Key points:

- Cheriya pani → high-speed passenger ferry service between India and Sri Lanka
- Nagapattinam → located on the eastern coast of Tamil Nadu
- Kankesanthurai → located in the northern province of Sri Lanka

##### India and U.K. discuss Indo-Pacific and trade

#### Context

Reaffirming mutual commitment to maritime freedom, India and the U.K. discussed the situation in the Indo-Pacific region.

The discussion was held during the inaugural "2+2" Foreign and Defence Dialogue.

#### Key points

- The two sides also discussed possibilities for further collaboration in trade and investment, defence, critical and emerging technologies, civil aviation, health, energy, and strengthening peoples connect.
- They discussed ideas regarding counterterrorism,

HADR and maritime security.

#### Summits & Conferences News

##### Sri Lanka and Bangladesh moves towards RCEP

#### Context

- Four years after India walked out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, neighbors Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are now considering their chances of membership in the 15-nation trading bloc.
- Sri Lanka has already applied to join the RCEP.

#### About RCEP

- RCEP: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- ASEAN initiated RCEP in 2011
- Includes 10 ASEAN members + Aus, China, Japan, S.Korea, NZ
- Anticipated 30% global GDP, largest free trade agreement
- Facilitates cross-border trade, promotes regional commerce

#### Schemes and Committees News

##### Scheme for Street vendors: Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

#### Key points:

- The UPA government passed the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.
- The current NDA regime launched the PM SVANidhi scheme in June 2020.

#### About PM SVANidhi

- Govt initiative launched as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
- Beneficiary: Street Vendors
- Objective - to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the Covid-19

pandemic.

- Aims to provide financial support to street vendors to resume their livelihoods and help them become self-reliant.
- The scheme provides collateral-free working capital loans up to Rs. 10,000 for a 1-year tenure. Street vendors can get an interest subsidy at 7% per annum.
- Incentives are given to those who make timely repayment of loans.

#### Did you know?

- Govt. aims to provide benefits under the PM SVANidhi Scheme to a total of 42 lakh street vendors by December 2024.
- The scheme is expected to provide a significant boost to the street vending sector in India and help street vendors overcome the economic challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### Awards News

#### Waheeda Rehman gets Phalke Award

##### Context

- President gave away the national film awards for 2021 under various categories at the 69th edition of the ceremony
- The prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award was conferred on veteran actor Waheeda Rehman.

#### Other Award recipients (in table below)

Award	Film or Actor
Best Feature Film	Rocketry: The Nambi Effect
Best Male Actor	Allu Arjun for Pushpa (The Rise Part 1)
Best Female Actor	Alla Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Female Actor	Kriti Sanon for Mimi
Best Feature Film on National Integration	The Kashmir Files
Best Debut Film of a Director	Meppadiyan
Best Direction	Godavari (The Holy Water)
Best Popular Film providing Entertainment	RRR

#### EU human rights prize

##### Context

Mahsa Amini, Kurdish-Iranian woman who died in police custody in Iran last year, sparking worldwide protests against the country's conservative Islamic theocracy, was awarded the European Union's top human rights prize

##### About Award

- The EU award was created in 1988 to honour individuals or groups who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- It named for Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov
- Sakharov was a Nobel Peace Prize laureate

#### Sports News

**2024 Olympics: Paris**

**2028 Olympics: Los Angeles**

**2032 Olympics: Brisbane**

**2036 Olympics: India?**

##### Context

- PM Modi confirms India's bid to host the 2036 Olympics.
- India will become the only fourth Asian country to host the Games.

##### Did you know?

2036 is the earliest available slot to host the Summer Olympic Games as the next edition will be held in Paris in 2024 followed by Los Angeles in 2028 and Brisbane in 2032.

#### Wankhede Stadium to have Sachin Tendulkar statue

##### Context

- The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) will inaugurate a life-size statue of former India captain Sachin Tendulkar in the Wankhede Stadium premises

##### About Stadium

- Wankhede Stadium is an international cricket stadium in Mumbai

- It is owned and operated by Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) and is the home ground of the Mumbai Indians.
- It houses the headquarters of MCA, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), and the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- The stadium has been hosting to numerous high-profile crickets matches in the past, most notably the 2011 Cricket World Cup Final, in which India defeated Sri Lanka and became the first country to win the Cricket World Cup on home soil.
- It hosted the last match of Sachin Tendulkar's international career.

### Science and Technology News

#### World Health Organization (WHO)'s International Classification of Diseases (ICD)

##### Key points:

- The ICD provides a common language that allows health professionals to share standardized information across the world.
- It is the foundation for identifying health trends and statistics worldwide, containing around 17,000 unique codes for injuries, diseases and causes of death, underpinned by more than 120,000 codable terms.
- By using code combinations, more than 1.6 million clinical situations can now be coded.

##### Did you know?

Currently 35 countries are using ICD-11.

#### Railways develops anti-freeze flushes and fuel tanks for journeys in J&K

##### Context

- Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project(USBRL) links Kashmir to Kanyakumari via challenging terrain.
- Maintaining liquid water and fuel in sub-zero

temperatures is crucial.

- Engineers at RCF Kapurthala innovated to prevent freezing issues.
- Indigenous solutions implemented for toilets and fuel tanks.
- Overcoming the freezing challenge is essential for successful project completion.

#### About Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project

- USBRL: Links Udhampur to Baramulla, integrating Kashmir with Indian Railways.
- Objective: Foster Kashmir's development and national connectivity.
- Designation: Declared a "National Project" in 2002.
- Engineering Challenge: Involves intricate tunnel and bridge construction in rugged Himalayan terrain.
- Milestones: Includes India's longest transportation tunnel and first cable-stayed bridge at Anji Khad.

#### Modi 'directs' ISRO to land man on moon by 2040

##### Context

- The Indian Prime Minister instructed ISRO for indigenous space station by 2035.
- Aims for landing an Indian on the Moon by 2040.
- Plans to establish "Bharatiya Antariksha Station" by 2035.

##### About ISRO

- ISRO is the space agency under the Department of Space of Government of India, headquartered in the city of Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Its vision is to harness space technology for national development, while pursuing space science research and planetary exploration.
- Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL) is a Marketing arm of ISRO for promotion and commercial exploitation of space products, technical consultancy services and transfer of technologies developed by ISRO.

- Shri S. Somanath is the incumbent chairman of ISRO.

### redRail makes real-time train info accessible via WhatsApp

#### Context

- redRail, a rail ticketing platform, offers journey updates, including live train status and PNR status, via WhatsApp.
- Passengers can access information by sending 'Hi' to redRail's Railbot number on WhatsApp (+91 9538039911).

### AI applications in ophthalmology

- **Retinal disease diagnosis:** AI algorithms can analyse retinal images, such as fundus photographs and optical coherence tomography (OCT) scans, to detect and classify various retinal diseases
- **Automated screening:** AI-powered screening programmes can assist in the early identification of eye diseases by analysing large datasets of retinal images. This can be particularly useful in regions with limited access to ophthalmologists, and in mobile medical camps.
- **Glaucoma diagnosis and management:** AI can aid in monitoring glaucoma progression by analysing visual field tests and OCT scans. It helps ophthalmologists in making more informed decisions about the treatment and management of glaucoma patients.
- **Customised treatment plans:** AI can recommend personalised treatment plans for patients with conditions like AMD. AI can assist in tailoring treatment strategies to maximise effectiveness.
- AI is also being used regularly by ophthalmologists in surgical assistance.
- AI is also used to diagnose and stage Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a blinding disease affecting premature & low birth weight babies and in telemedicine

- AI is also being used to discover new drugs for ophthalmic conditions by analysing vast datasets to identify potential therapeutic targets and compounds
- the smart vision glasses provide a range of features aimed at improving the visual experience for those with vision challenges.

### Star rating energy efficiency scheme for solar panels

#### Context

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has expanded its scheme to solar panels. Starting January 2024, solar panel manufacturers can apply for getting their products rated for energy efficiency.

#### Key points

- BEE manages the 'star rating' scheme and is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Power.
- A panel with efficiency of 17% to 18% will be rated 1-star, 18% to 20% 2-star and so on.

### Miscellaneous News

#### FCRA-listed NGOs

#### Key points

- Registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, is mandatory to receive donations from outside India.
- For this, the NGO or association must have a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious, or social programme, and can register under multiple categories.

#### Did you know?

- As on September 29, there were 16,686 NGOs with active FCRA registration in India.
- The Home Ministry informed that in the past five years, it has cancelled the registration of 1,827 NGOs.

### Selfie points to showcase 'good work'

### Context

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has directed its departments to set up geotagged selfie points to “showcase good works done in the Defence” sector.

### Key points

- The Ministry of Defence directs the setup of 822 geotagged selfie points.
- Points showcase achievements in the Defence sector, possibly featuring PM Modi.
- Aim is to make people feel part of the Defence initiative.
- Themes include Atmanirbhar Bharat, empowerment, research & development, etc.