

Current Affairs (2023): Railways At a Glance

- * **Indian Railways Modernization**– PM Modi Inaugurated **2 New Amrit Bharat & 6 Vande Bharat Trains** in Ayodhya on December 2023. Amrit Bharat trains, representing a significant leap in India's railway system, emphasize safety, speed, and service.
- * **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor**– The EDFC, a mammoth project aimed at revolutionizing the country's freight transportation, spans approximately 1,800 kilometers from Punjab to West Bengal. It is also aiming to alleviate the burden on existing transportation networks and amplify the efficiency of goods movement across the eastern part of India.
- * **Namo Bharat**– India is set to mark a significant milestone in its transportation infrastructure with the launch of the country's first semi-high-speed regional rail service, known as "Namo Bharat." It facilitates the movement of goods and people, aligning with the Government's 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local' initiatives.
- * **Udhampur Railway Station Renamed**– Ministry of Railways recently made a significant announcement, renaming the Udhampur Railway Station in Jammu and Kashmir to the "**Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station.**"
- * **Jaya Verma Sinha**– Appointed as the first woman Chairperson of the Railway Board. She is set to **lead one of the largest and most complex railway networks in the world.**
- * **India's Largest Railway Station**– Vadodara Junction has recently claimed the title of being the largest railway station in India. The larger station is expected to **boost tourism and trade in the Vadodara region**
- * **Third Pink Station**– For gender inclusivity and women's safety, the Central Railway has marked another milestone by designating the newly inaugurated **Amravati railway station** as its third "pink station."
- * **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**– A significant move to modernize and improve railway infrastructure, launched the "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme" in 13 major railway stations across the country. This ambitious scheme aims to **transform railway stations into world-class facilities, offering better amenities and services to passengers.**
- * **India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train**– The first Hydrogen fuel-powered train in India is scheduled to operate along the **Jind-Sonipat route**. This strategic choice for the inaugural route highlights the commitment of Indian authorities to transform regional transport networks with sustainable alternatives.
- * **Railway Kavach System**– Kavach is a cab signaling train control system with anti-collision features developed by the Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) in association with three Indian vendors. It has been adopted as our **National Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System.**
- * **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor**– Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR) is a 508-kilometre-long and India's First High-Speed Rail Line project that will connect the cities of Mumbai and Ahmedabad. This project is implemented with the help of the Japan, and is expected to be completed by 2030.
- * **Project SMART**– Ministry of Railways has launched a new initiative called "Project SMART" for station area development. The aim of the project is to **transform railway stations and their surrounding areas** into vibrant and livable spaces for the benefit of passengers, visitors, and nearby communities.
- * **RVNL Navratna Status**– Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Government-owned public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has been granted the status of 'Navratana' by the Department of Public Enterprises. With this status, RVNL will have **greater operational and financial autonomy.**
- * **Garvi Gujarat**– Indian Railways has launched the "Garvi Gujarat" tour package under the "**Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**" scheme. The tour will showcase the **rich cultural and historical heritage** of Gujarat to the tourists. It is 5-day tour will cover prominent tourist destinations in Gujarat like Somnath Temple, Dwarka, Junagarh, and the Gir National Park.
- * **India's First Underwater Metro**– India's first underwater metro successfully runs under **Hooghly River, Kolkata**. The underwater metro runs between Kolkata and Howrah, making it a first-of-its-kind project in the country. Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL) is working on this ambitious project.
- * **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor**– Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the 77-kilometre New Bhandu-New Sanand section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. It will significantly **improve connectivity between major ports in Gujarat**, such as Pipavav, Porbandar, and Jamnagar, with Eastern and Northern India.
- * **Railways on track to achieve 100% electrification goal**– Railways has electrified more than 90% of its broad-gauge routes (BGR). As per recent data from the Railway Electrification Directorate, out of the broad-gauge lines of 65,350 route km, 59,096 route km has been electrified by June-end, or 90.43% of the broad-gauge routes across India.
- * **One Station, One Product (OSOP) Outlets**– As on 30.11. 2023, a total of 1189 OSOP outlets are operational at 1083 stations. The aim of the scheme is to provide enhanced **opportunities for livelihood to local artisans, potters, weavers /handloom weavers, craftsmen etc.**
- * **Indian Railway Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030**– The Indian Railways has set a target of becoming a **Net-Zero Carbon Emitter** by 2030 and is committed to taking steps for **energy conservation**, Railway Minister.
- * **Whitefield (Kadugodi) for Krishnarajapura Metro Line**– The Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura Metro Line was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He mentioned that this new metro line will enhance the '**Ease of Living**' for the people of Bengaluru, by improving transportation and connectivity in the region.
- * **Jan Aushadhi Train**– Jan Aushadhi Train was flagged off recently in New Delhi by union ministers under which Chhattisgarh Samparkranti Express, seeks to raise awareness about Jan Aushadhi **Generic medicines** that are available through more than 9,000 Kendras spread across India. It is wrapped with the branding of the Jan Aushadhi scheme
- * **Green World Awards 2023**– Chennai Metro Rail Limited has won the silver award in the **carbon reduction category** of the Green World Awards 2023 by Green Organization at London, United Kingdom. These awards are presented and organized by The Green Organization to recognize, reward, and promote environmental best practices around the world.
- * **Eastern Railway introduces GPS-based electronic lock**– Indian Railways has started the use of a GPS-based electronic lock system on a pilot basis on its goods and parcel trains instead of the conventional system. The new lock system was attached to the parcel van (four doors) of 12345 Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express.