

Daily Current Affairs

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Green Credit Initiative

- Prime Minister Narendra will launch the **Green Credit Initiative** at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai.
- This is an important event jointly hosted by **India and the UAE at COP28**. This collaborative endeavor aligns with the principles of the Green Credit program, introduced by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
- Unveiled on October 13, 2023, by the Union **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, the **Green Credit Program** is an initiative within the government's broader Lifestyle for Environment or Life Movement.
- In its initial phase, the Green Credit Program gives priority to two essential activities: **water conservation and afforestation**.



- At its essence, this innovative program serves as a pioneering **market-based instrument** meticulously crafted to encourage voluntary environmental actions across various sectors, involving individuals, industries, and local bodies.
- Operating as a domestic voluntary market mechanism, the program **utilizes green credits as distinctive units** assigned to specific environmental activities. These green credits function as tradeable commodities, which can be sold on a domestic market platform.



- The program identifies **eight specific activities**, encompassing tree plantation, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, waste management, air pollution reduction, mangrove conservation and restoration, Eco Mark (a government scheme for identifying environmentally friendly products), and sustainable building and infrastructure.
- Each activity is subject to predefined thresholds and benchmarks. The administration of the **Green Credit Program** is entrusted to the **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education**.
- This institute acts as the program's administrator, tasked with developing comprehensive guidelines, processes, and procedures for effective implementation. Furthermore, the institute will establish methodologies and standards, overseeing the registration process and associated measurement, reporting, and verification mechanisms.

Global Ayurveda Festival

- **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar** will inaugurate the 5th edition of **Global Ayurveda Festival in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala**.
- The Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) 2023 would be held in the state capital of Kerala from December 1-5, with **the theme 'Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda'**.
- The largest ever conclave on Ayurveda, GAF 2023 will witness the gathering of international practitioners of this alternative medicine, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore its impact in healthcare.



- Delegations from over **70 countries** will be present at the event, which underlines the growing recognition of Ayurveda's relevance in addressing global health concerns.
- The highlights of the festival include **experts-led scientific sessions** focusing on the latest scientific advancements in Ayurveda, high level industry and institutional participation showcasing innovative **Ayurveda-based products, services and research initiatives** as well as presentations of posters and papers.
- It also said that the **National Arogya Fair at GAF** will showcase a diverse range of medicinal plants and their utilisation in Ayurvedic preparations.
- GAF 2023 will also see **India's first dedicated Business-to-Business (B2B)** meet on Ayurveda medical tourism, connecting healthcare pioneers with worldwide buyers and showcasing the country's wealth of Ayurvedic healthcare resources.
- A free medical camp, with **25 specialty clinics, outpatient services** of top Ayurveda physicians on all five days at the venue, free distribution of medicines worth Rs 15 lakh and a spacious 'Ayurveda Aahar' food court serving a wide variety of healthy food are the other attractions of GAF 2023.

Greentech Environment Award 2023

- **NTPC Bongaigaon**, a key player in the power generation sector, has recently garnered significant acclaim for its exemplary contributions to **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** and Environment Protection.
- The power station proudly received **two prestigious awards** from the Greentech Foundation, underscoring its commitment to sustainable practices and social responsibility.
- The Greentech Environment Awards are a **hallmark for acknowledging** responsible and innovative practices that **champion sustainability**, minimize environmental impact, and create lasting benefits for society.



VR Lalithambika

- **Lalithambika VR**, a distinguished scientist and former Director of the **Human Spaceflight Programme** at the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, was honored with the prestigious **‘Légion d’Honneur.’**
- The award was conferred upon her by **Thierry Mathou, the Ambassador of France to India**, in a ceremony held in Bengaluru.
- She received acclaim for her instrumental role in the signing of the **first joint agreement in 2018**, focusing on human spaceflight and, specifically, the field of space medicine.
- The **Indo-French partnership** took a significant stride forward under her leadership.
- Acknowledging her continued dedication, Lalithambika coordinated another **critical Indo-French agreement in 2021**, centered around India’s astronaut program. This agreement entails the training of India’s flight physicians and

mission control teams at prominent French facilities, including the CADMOS center in Toulouse and the European Astronaut Centre (EAC) in Cologne, Germany.



SKOCH Gold Award 2023

- In a significant recognition of its excellence in the power sector, the **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)**, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power, has been honored with the prestigious **SKOCH Gold Award 2023**.
- The accolade was bestowed upon PGCIL for its groundbreaking Pugalur Thrissur **2000 MW Voltage Source Converter High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) System**.



Power Grid Conferred SKOCH Gold Award 2023

- The award ceremony saw the participation of Power Grid's Executive Director B. Anantha Sarma and Chief General Manager (Corporate Planning) Abhinav Verma.

- The **SKOCH Gold Award 2023** acknowledges the outstanding contributions and technological advancements made by PGCIL in the realm of power transmission and distribution.
- This accolade reflects the corporation's commitment to innovation, reliability and sustainable energy solutions.

1st Transatlantic Flight Using 100% Green Fuels

- Virgin Atlantic has made history with the **world's first transatlantic flight** powered by **100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**.
- The flight, named **Flight100**, departed from London's Heathrow Airport and is en route to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.
- The flight is operated by a **Virgin Boeing 787**, equipped with Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines.
- The SAF used in **Flight100** is a **"unique dual blend"** comprising 88% HEFA (made from waste fats) and 12% SAK (derived from corn waste).



- The use of SAF aims to significantly **reduce the carbon footprint of aviation**, contributing to efforts to combat climate change.
- While celebrated as a positive step, some environmental groups caution against **"greenwashing"** and emphasize the need to prioritize reducing flights and reliance on fossil fuels.
- The use of SAF, while promising, currently represents a small fraction of global jet fuel usage.
- The success of **Flight100** **contributes** to ongoing discussions about the aviation industry's transition to sustainable practices and the challenges associated with scaling up SAF production and adoption.

Empowering Women In Agriculture

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for a **Central Sector Scheme** aimed at **providing drones to Women Self Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- With an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crore for the period from 2024-25 to 2025-26, this visionary scheme seeks to empower women in agriculture through technological advancements.
- The scheme aims to provide drones to **15,000 selected Women SHGs** between 2023-24 and 2025-2026 for offering rental services to farmers for agricultural purposes.



- The initiative seeks to empower women SHGs and introduce new technologies in the agriculture sector through drone services.
- The **scheme integrates the resources and efforts** of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Department of Rural Development (DoRD), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), Women SHGs, and Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs).
- Central Financial Assistance of **80% of the drone's cost** and accessories/ancillary charges, up to a maximum of Rs. Eight Lakh, will be provided to women SHGs for drone procurement.
- The Cluster Level Federation (CLFs) of SHGs can raise the balance amount as a loan under the National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF) with a **3% interest subvention**. SHGs will rent out drone services to farmers for Nano fertilizer and pesticide applications.
- Envisaged to provide sustainable business and livelihood support, the scheme aims for SHGs to earn additional income of at least Rs. One lakh per annum.

'Insure India'

- **HDFC Life**, a leading life insurance provider, proudly announced its achievement of a new Guinness World Records title.
- The accolade was earned through the creation of the **largest online selfie mosaic**, a remarkable compilation of 19,097 photos contributed by individuals as part of the '**Insure India**' campaign.



- HDFC Life launched the 'Insure India' campaign with the aim of raising awareness about the significance of life insurance among the Indian population.
- The '**Insure India**' campaign embodies the concept of shared responsibility, involving employees, partners, and customers in driving positive change.
- The overarching goal is to ensure the protection and financial well-being of every Indian through the comprehensive range of life insurance products and services offered by HDFC Life.
- HDFC Life created an exclusive microsite encouraging everyone to join the movement and unite for a **Guinness World Records title attempt**. The insurer successfully achieved the title for the 'Largest online selfie mosaic with 19,097 photos,' serving as a powerful testament to their commitment to raising awareness about life insurance.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Green Credit Initiative Primarily Focuses On Which Activities

- A. Air Pollution Reduction And Mangrove Conservation
- B. Water Conservation And Afforestation
- C. Waste Management And Sustainable Agriculture
- D. Sustainable Building And Infrastructure

ANSWER: B

2. Where Is The 5th Edition Of Global Ayurveda Festival Being Held

- A. Mumbai
- B. Chennai
- C. Thiruvananthapuram
- D. Delhi

ANSWER: C

3. What Is The Theme Of The Global Ayurveda Festival 2023

- A. Advancements in Modern Medicine
- B. Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda
- C. Global Health Initiatives
- D. Ayurveda in Everyday Life

ANSWER: B

4. What Will Be Showcased At National Arogya Fair At GAF

- A. Ayurvedic Clinics
- B. Medicinal Plants And Their Utilization
- C. Modern Healthcare Equipment
- D. Traditional Ayurvedic Doctors

ANSWER: B

5. What Award NTPC Bongaigaon Receive Recently

- A. Greentech Environment Awards
- B. Nobel Prizes in Science
- C. UN Sustainability Awards
- D. Global Innovation Accolades

ANSWER: A

6. Insure India Campaign Is Launched By

- A. SBI
- B. HDFC Life
- C. IndusInd Bank
- D. RBI

ANSWER: B

7. Where Was 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise Conducted By Indian Coast Guard

- A. Vadinar, Gujarat
- B. Mumbai, Maharashtra
- C. Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- D. Kochi, Kerala

ANSWER: A

8. Which Airline Recently Completed World's First 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel Flight From London To New York

- A. British Airways
- B. Virgin Atlantic
- C. American Airlines
- D. Emirates

ANSWER: B

9. Who Launched Book Titled "India's Moment: Changing Power Equations Around The World"

- A. Vikram K. Doraiswami
- B. Mohan Kumar
- C. O.P. Jindal
- D. Narendra Modi

ANSWER: A

10. Which Country's Volcano, Anak Krakatau, Recently Erupted

- A. Thailand
- B. Indonesia
- C. Philippines
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: B

11. Which Space-tech Startup, Based In Chennai, Is Preparing To Flight Test World's First 3D-printed Engine Named Agnibaan

- A. Rocket Labs
- B. Agnikul
- C. SkySpace Innovations
- D. StarLaunch Dynamics

ANSWER: B

12. Which Indian State Launched The 'AMA Bank' Scheme To Provide Banking Services In All Gram Panchayats

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Odisha
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: C

13. Which Film Won The Golden Peacock Award At IFFI 2023

- A. Daughter
- B. Donbass
- C. Particles
- D. Endless Borders

ANSWER: D

14. OSATIP Regulation, Seen In News Recently, Is Associated With Which State

- A. West Bengal
- B. Odisha
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Goa

ANSWER: B

15. Which Is The Principal Regulator For Sale & Purchase Of Stressed Loans In India

- A. SEBI
- B. RBI
- C. IBBI
- D. NPCI

ANSWER: B

16. Kangla Palace Is A Historical & Archaeological Site Of Which State

- A. Assam
- B. Odisha
- C. Manipur
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: C

17. 'COSTA SERENA', Which Was Flagged Off In India, Is The International Cruise Liner From Which Country

- A. France
- B. USA
- C. Italy
- D. Spain

ANSWER: C

18. Srihari Nataraj, Seen In The News, Is Associated With Which Sports

- A. Cricket
- B. Swimming
- C. Chess
- D. Tennis

ANSWER: B

19. To Which State Does The Bagh Style Of Textile Art Printing Belong

- A. Telangana
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: D

20. Which railway station has been awarded the prestigious platinum rating by the Indian Green Building Council

- A. Chennai Central Station
- B. Vijayawada Railway Station
- C. Mumbai Local Station
- D. Delhi Junction Station

ANSWER: B