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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

01 April 2024

### Maharashtra State Specific News

<p><b>Blindness Prevention Week</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Blindness Prevention Week</b> is observed annually from <b>April 1st to 7th</b>.</li><li>• It is an <b>initiative by the Indian government</b> to raise awareness about preventable causes of blindness and promote eye care.</li><li>• <b>Aim:</b> Educate the public about eye health, early detection of eye diseases, and the importance of regular eye checkups.</li><li>• <b>Significance:</b> India has a high prevalence of blindness, and many cases are preventable. This week aims to address this issue.</li><li>• <b>Activities:</b> Eye screening camps, awareness programs, and distribution of informative materials are organized during this week.</li></ul> <p><b>Theme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theme for 2024 Blindness Prevention Week is <b>“Taking timely treatments for age-related eye conditions”</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Rly achieves 100% electrification of tracks in Nanded division</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>South Central Railway (SCR)</b> achieved a significant feat by <b>completing the electrification of all existing broad gauge (BG) tracks in the Nanded division of Maharashtra</b>.</li><li>• This accomplishment marks a major step towards the <b>national mission of railway electrification</b>.</li><li>• This project involved electrifying the final stretch <b>between Mirkhal and Maltekdi, covering 43.3 kilometers</b>.</li><li>• With this addition, the <b>Nanded division now boasts 100% electrification</b> for its broad gauge network, excluding recently converted meter gauge lines.</li></ul>
<p><b>Santosh Kumar Jha to assume role as chairman and managing director of Konkan Railway on April</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Santosh Kumar Jha</b>, an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) officer of the <b>1992 batch</b>, assumed the role of <b>Chairman and Managing Director of Konkan Railway on April 1, 2024</b>.</li><li>• Jha brings a wealth of experience to the position, with a background in operations, infrastructure planning, and business development. He previously served as the <b>Director (Operations &amp; Commercial)</b> at Konkan Railway.</li></ul>



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### Neonatal mortality drops in Maharashtra

#### Context:

- The state of Maharashtra has seen a **positive decline in neonatal mortality rates**.
- This encouraging trend is **attributed to a focus on providing high-quality early care for newborns**.
- **Early care encompasses various aspects crucial for a baby's well-being in the first 28 days of life**.
- This includes access to **skilled medical professionals, proper monitoring, and ensuring mothers receive guidance on breastfeeding and newborn care**.
- These improvements in **early care likely play a significant role in reducing deaths among newborns**, leading to a brighter future for Maharashtra's infants.

#### About:

- **Neonatal mortality refers to the death of a newborn baby within the first 28 days of life**.
- Each neonatal death can be **further clarified into viable and non-viable deaths** depending on the **gestational age at which they were born, and where they were born**.

### International Day of Zero Waste



#### Context:

- **International Day of Zero Waste** is celebrated annually on **30th March**.
- It highlights the importance of bolstering waste management globally and the need to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- It was adopted by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 2nd March 2022**.
- **The theme for the International Day of Zero Waste 2024 is "Towards a Circular Future."**

#### About:

- Zero-waste initiatives can foster sound waste management and minimize and prevent waste generation.
- To eliminate the WastePollution, one must bolster waste management while improving resource recovery and substantially reducing waste generation.
- Prevention, reduction, reuse, repurposing and recycling are critical to this endeavor.

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